



# Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

November 25, 2014

6:30 PM

Griswold Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room  
28 Main St, Jewett City, CT 06351



## AS CORRECTED 12/10/14 APPROVED MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order/Roll – Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman

**Members Present:** Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman  
Steve Mikutel, Second Selectman  
Philip E. Anthony, Third Selectman

**Others Present:** Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant  
Valerie Pudvah, Town Clerk  
Ryan Aubin, Director of Parks & Recreation/Youth Services  
Todd Babbitt – Road Superintendent  
Ricky Bevis – Recreation Assistant  
Tina Falck-Babbitt – Sr. Center Director  
8 other interested citizens  
1 member of the press

### 2. Approval of Minutes

- a. **October 28, 2014 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b. **October 30, 2014 – Special Meeting Minutes**
- c. **November 10, 2014 – Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve the October 28, 2014 regular meeting minutes, October 30, 2014 special meeting minutes and the November 10, 2014 special meeting minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### 3. Correspondence - Letter from Dean Rubino for resignation from the Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission – This letter was noted as received.

### 4. New Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on tax refunds as presented by Rich Grabowski, Tax Collector**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve the tax refunds as presented by Griswold Tax Collector, Rich Grabowski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. Discussion and possible action on request proposal by Ryan Aubin, Director of Parks & Recreation/Youth Services to move programs to school facilities – R.** Aubin reviewed information he supplied to the Board of Education for using the school facilities for both Parks & Recreation and Youth Services as well as after school programs, by renting the campus through their use of facilities process. The BOE is concerned the BOF is okay with the idea and would not cut the approximate \$18,000 from the budget. R. Aubin noted he approached the BOF and they were supportive of it, but want the BOS approval. R. Aubin noted there would no increase in his budget and would use the \$18,000 for after school programming. R. Aubin expressed the number of youth served would increase if moved to the school campus because the majority of parents he speaks with are hesitant to allow the kids to participate in programs now because of the current location. K. Skulczyck asked if R. Aubin has reached out to the parents of the 15 youth who are currently using the center. R. Aubin commented he has spoke to two of the parents, but feels the other youth are aware of the possibility. He also mentioned the target age group is Middle School students because that is where you make the biggest impact. S. Mikutel asked where, at the school, the programs would be held. R. Aubin noted the spaces would have to be reserved and would be based on availability and suitability. Programs and fees were discussed and R. Aubin noted the \$18,000 he would save would be used towards new programming costs. Having to be closed in accordance with the school calendar would be a disadvantage, but being able to have staff on site for supervision for activities such as basketball, would be a benefit. R. Aubin noted the lease at Slater Mill ends in June and he would contact them to let them know and also be responsible for relocating if the move were approved. S. Mikutel is supportive of the proposed move, but would highly recommend to the BOF that the \$18,000 not be cut and also feels there would be more participation if held at that site. P. Anthony concurred and noted R. Aubin would need a letter from the BOS to the BOF that they approve. K. Skulczyck noted it is a positive move, but is concerned about disconnecting with the students we are currently serving. R. Aubin noted there would most likely be a loss of four kids who come in to play video games. K. Skulczyck suggested getting an action plan in place to try to prevent losing the current youth being served. S. Mikutel noted you have to also weigh the benefit of positive youth development and the increase in participation.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, that the BOS support the Director of the Griswold Youth Services Bureau's efforts to move the programs to the school and write a letter to the BOF supporting this move with the request that they not cut funding to the program and leave the funding as it is.  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Benjamin Niedjadlo as an alternate member of the Recreation Commission for a one year term of 11/25/2014 to 1/24/2015 – B.** Niedjadlo was present and noted his address is 46F Main Street and is fifteen years old. L. Wood noted she could find anything written regarding a minimum age requirement for serving on a local Board or Commission and further research noted it is decided by the governing Board to their preference, unless there is an established ordinance. R. Aubin spoke in support of Benjamin

Niedjadlo who frequents the Youth Center and currently attends the Recreation Commission meeting, and that the other Board members are in favor of his appointment. All Board members commended him.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to appoint Benjamin Niedjadlo as an alternate member of the Recreation Commission for a one year term of 11/25/2014 to 11/24/2015. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. Discussion and possible action on request by Todd Babbitt, Road Superintendent, to extend snow plowing services with John Breen for roads within the Borough limits** – T. Babbitt noted Mr. Breen has been plowing the Borough streets. The agreement allows for a renewal for up to three years at the same price. This would be the third year and then would have to go out to bid.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to extend plowing services with John Breen for roads within the Borough limits for one more year. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- e. Discussion and possible action on Master Municipal Agreement “RESOLVED, that Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement entitled Master Municipal Agreement for Right of Way Projects** – T. Babbitt confirmed this is one of several Master Municipal Agreements that the State of Connecticut is encouraging to facilitate projects. T. Babitt noted he is not aware of losing any rights by signing the agreement and the officials dealing with our local bridge projects are in favor of these agreements. They are standard and are being asked of all municipalities. It allows for uniformity of the required documents.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to accept and authorize the First Selectman to sign a Master Municipal Agreement of Right of Way Projects with the State of CT Dept. of Transportation and we hereby resolve that the First Selectman is authorized to do so. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- f. Discussion and possible action on filling positions of Assessor and Assistant Assessor** – K. Skulczyck noted the selected candidate declined the offer of employment that was made. The BOS did not think that a part-time Assessor and full-time Assistant Assessor were in the best interest of the town. It was agreed to move forward with advertising for a full time Assessor. It was also noted the BOS might need to hire someone that has qualifications but is not certified and make it a condition of employment that they become certified within a certain amount of time. It was noted the starting salary may need to be adjusted. The plan will be to move forward with advertising for the full time Assessor with perhaps the Providence Journal and the New London Day.

**5. Old Business - None**

**6. Any Other Business that may properly come before the Board**

- a. **MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to bring up for discussion and possible action, the appointment to the Inland Wetlands Commission. **Motion carried unanimously.**

S. Mikutel noted that Gary Serdechny has been recommended by the chairman, Courtland Kinnie, to fill the new vacancy.

**MOTION:** Motion was made S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to appoint Gary Serdechny as a regular member of the Inland Wetlands Commission, as recommended by the Chairman of that Commission Courtland Kinnie, to fill the unexpired portion left by the resignation of Dean Rubino which was from January to 12/13/2016. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to add to the agenda for discussion and possible action, the RFP's received for ambulance services. **Motion carried unanimously.**

S. Mikutel noted there were two bids received and would like to schedule a meeting to discuss the RFP's with the two companies that submitted them. It was agreed that a meeting would be scheduled for 2 PM on Thursday.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to hold interviews for the two bidders for the Griswold Ambulance Services for Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 2 PM with a backup date of Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 2 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## 7. Public Forum

**Tina Falck** – T. Falck had questions regarding the move to the school, such as what will happen with the Juvenile Review Board and those youths that are required to spend time at the Youth Center; this is the fourth move for the Rec Center since she has been here and with moving to the school there would be no Youth Center and what happens to the staff, the Finance Director agrees they would become eligible for unemployment; custodial duties for night time programming if done by the Rec Center could cause a union issue; where is the liability if there is injury or damage; and what about background checks since they will be in the school facility. T. Falck mentioned her feeling that if you keep jumping you don't give it the chance to succeed. It was suggested a group meeting may be beneficial.

**Ricky Bevis** – R. Bevis thought a group meeting would be beneficial.

**Al Geer** – A. Geer noted that two blighted properties, one at Mechanic and one at Lennox and Faust, have been demolished.

**Norm Higgins** – N. Higgins agreed with the concerns T. Falck expressed about the Recreation Center moving to the school and also had a concern about the nutritional value that would be provided. He supports obtaining funds to build a separate youth center on school grounds.

**Betty Knox** – B. Knox made comments addressed to the Board of Selectmen with regard to a member of the Board..

\*Steve Mikutel left at 7:28 PM.

**Jim Barnie** – J. Barnie gave a brief update on the town's progress with the Solarize CT program. He briefly mentioned the financing, tax breaks, incentives and the December 8<sup>th</sup> kick off meeting.

**Dave Vieaux** – D. Vieaux was confused about the current status of an Assessor. K. Skulczyck commented there are two different people who have currently been helping out in the Assessor's office and we have been able to provide coverage most of the business hours.

**Philip Anthony** – P. Anthony commented in reference to the previous personal attack.

## **8. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Lisa M. Wood,  
Executive Assistant**