

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
DECEMBER 21, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by First Selectman B. Scott Kuhnly at 7:30 p.m.

For the record, First Selectman Kuhnly made two attempts and failed to reach Selectman Lofink by phone to connect as a conference call.

PRESENT: B. Scott Kuhnly, Sally King, Mark C. Neumann, Edward Ohannessian, William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager, and Student Liaison Alex Domanico

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. PUBLIC SESSION

No public addressed the Board.

III. MINUTES

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (3-0-1) (abstention Ohannessian) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 7, 2015.

IV. UNFINISHED OR TABLED BUSINESS

A. Consideration for Review of Board of Selectmen Rules of Procedure

First Selectman Kuhnly indicated the Rules of Procedure has been reviewed and there were no changes to be made. It was also noted that as part of the Rules of Procedure, the chairman of all Board of Selectmen meetings is the First Selectman. The Vice-Chairman shall be elected by the members of the Board of Selectmen. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall fill in as the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen meeting. It is First Selectmen Kuhnly's desire to nominate Selectmen King as Vice Chairman.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Ohannessian, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to appoint Selectman King as Vice Chairman.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to accept the Board of Selectmen Rules of Procedure.

V. BUSINESS

A. Resignations and Appointments to be Considered

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve endorsements by the Democratic Town Committee for the following reappointments:

Victoria K. Dirienzo (D), to the Conservation Commission for a four year term.

Daniel O'Connell (D), to the Development Commission for a two year term.

John L. Laudati (D), to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission for a four year term.

Maureen F. Eberly (D) and Patricia M. Jones (D), to the Library Board for a three year term.

Abigail D. Roughton (D), to the Park and Recreation Board for a two year term.

It was also noted for the record that Chairman Anna Sogliuzzo has decided not to seek another term of office on the Conservation Commission.

First Selectman Kuhnly reported there are vacancies available: Agricultural Commission (2), Commission on Aging (1), Conservation Commission (2), Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (1).

B. Consideration of Intra-Board Advisory committee's Final Report and Memo of Understanding

First Selectman Kuhnly reported the Intra-Board Advisory Committee was established in the spring of 2014 with a charge to explore opportunities and methods to improve town and school district services. Board members are: B. Scott Kuhnly, First Selectman; Ronald Walther, Board of Education Chairman; Edward Ohannessian, Board of Selectmen; Jenny Emery, Board of Education; Kelly Rome, Board of Finance; William F. Smith, Jr, Town Manager; Alan Addley, Superintendent of Schools. Areas researched were: Information Technology, Ground Maintenance Operations, Financial Operations, Solar Power, Human Resources and Retirement Benefits. It was concluded that further value will be realized with the continued collaboration and commitment of the town and Board of Education to operational coordination, collaboration, and integration as opportunities arise. It is thought that the best way to accomplish this is through a formal Memo of Understanding (MOU) between the three governing Boards; Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, and Board of Finance.

Selectman Ohannessian reported this committee has been meeting since 2014. They have had a lot of meetings. They have met with town employees to learn and understand how their departments operate. They also met with the Town of Mansfield's Town Manager to learn how they integrated town and school operations and where things worked and didn't. One of the recommendations that has come from this study committee is to combine Information Technology. Combining Human Resources was also suggested but because of some issues on the school side, it is recommended to put this on hold for now. It is recommended, both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education, adopt policies to migrate away from defined benefit plans and move to a defined contribution or hybrid retirement plan structure. This should be integrated now as we go forward. Solar power is highly recommended as a good thing for the town.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted (3-0-1) (abstention Ohannessian) to adopt these findings and to approve the Memo of Understanding.

Selectman Neumann inquired if this committee has now come to an end. First Selectman Kuhnly indicated it will be determined after the Three Boards Meeting.

This will now move forward to the Three Boards for each to sign. This Memo of Understanding is put in place for the future, where personnel changes like maybe the Town Manager or Superintendent may happen, the town and schools will work together. This collaboration will become normal. First Selectman Kuhnly also suggested a Leadership Council (so to speak) consisting of the First Selectman, Board of Education Chairman, and Board of Finance Chairman who would meet with the Town Manager and Superintendent on a quarterly basis. Each would report back to their respective Boards to keep them updated on major projects or anything else reported. It was noted that the Intra-Board Advisory Committee will be left as a standing committee for now.

Selectman King thanked everyone for a great job. First Selectman Kuhnly thanked everyone as well; there was a lot of discussion, a lot of thought, and a great group of people that made up this committee.

It was noted at 7:45 p.m. that Selectman Lofink sent First Selectman Kuhnly a phone number where he could be reached. The connection was made and Selectman Lofink is now present via conference call.

VI. TOWN MANAGER REPORTS

A. Talking Points on Connecticut Department of Transportation Roadwork

1. 5 Points – East Street, Notch Road, and Salmon Brook Street

Town Manager, William F. Smith, Jr., reported the Connecticut DOT is moving forward with the idea of establishing a roundabout at the intersection of Salmon Brook Street, East Street, and Notch Road. The installation of a stop light was initially recommended for this intersection but after so many years on hold, the DOT has decided it is no longer warranted and in its place a roundabout is recommended to help with the flow of traffic.

2. Center – Routes 10/202, 189, and 20

Town Manager, William F. Smith, Jr. reported the Connecticut DOT is moving forward with the beginning of a project to improve the intersections of the roadways in the Town Center. Smith indicated Fran Armentano, Director of Community Development could further explain, as he has been in close contact with the Connecticut DOT.

Fran Armentano reported he has been in contact with the DOT for quite some time to get these projects going. Good progress has been made in the last year. We are now in the pre-design stage. The roundabout will typically take five years before completion. A public hearing will take place probably sometime in January or February. Abutting property owners will be contacted to explain the process and they will be kept informed. The reconfiguration of the Town Center is also in the works. The idea is to “t” off the intersection so everyone can maneuver a turn. Tractor trailers are unable do that with the intersection the way it is today and therefore they are traveling residential roads all over town. Also a left hand turn lane will be added to alleviate the back up of traffic. It is thought some properties

will be cut into to straighten the intersection. Sometime in January and February Mr. Armentano will have a project design to show. He indicated the process to get anything like this done takes a long time. It is imperative to keep communications going with the state and to pay attention. It will be slow but it will get done.

Another proposed light in town is at the crossroad of Salmon Brook Street and Floydville Road. This is anticipated to happen sometime in 2017.

First Selectman Kuhnly thanked Mr. Armentano for his diligence with the DOT to help make these changes happen. Selectman Ohannessian asked how many calls he has received with regard to traffic backups in the center. Mr. Armentano indicated he gets calls occasionally, but is mostly confronted when he is out and about town.

VII. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORTS (B. Scott Kuhnly)

First Selectman Kuhnly announced the resignation of interim Registrar of Voters Peter Goff. The new Registrar of Voters to be sworn in is Paul Willis, who has had previous experience as Moderator in town elections.

A letter from James Hall of the American Legion was received. He reported the American Legion has completed the task of lighting the Christmas tree in the center. He wishes everyone a happy holiday. First Selectman Kuhnly thanked the American Legion and also wished everyone a happy holiday and a healthy and safe new year.

VIII. SELECTMAN REPORTS (Sally King, Vice Chairman; James Lofink, Mark Neumann, and Edward Ohannessian and Alex Domanico and Mark McDermott, Student Liaisons)

Student Liaison Alex Domanico reported the Nation Honor Society held a stocking drive to give gifts to children ages 1-16 years old within the community. It was very successful. Also, the first home basketball game will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, December 22, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Town Manager Smith announced the Board of Finance is suggesting a meeting of the Three Boards on January 19, 2016, which is a regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to hold a Three Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center Community Room.

It was also announced that budget workshop meetings will take place in March. First Selectman Kuhnly recommended anyone that has conflicts with that time should notify Town Manager Smith.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Smith, Jr.
Town Manager