

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

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

PRESENT: B. Scott Kuhnly, Sally King, James Lofink, Edward Ohannessian, William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager, and Student Liaison Mark McDermott

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. PUBLIC SESSION

Jerry Ledger, 89 Bushy Hill Road asked the Selectmen to consider extending voting hours for the annual budget vote; starting at 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. instead of 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. He went on to comment on proposed improvements to intersections at Route 10, East Street, and Notch Road, as well as the center intersection of Route 10, Route 189, and Route 20. He is also looking to have a divider line painted on the bike/walking trail.

John Horr, Granby Fire Chief presented to the Selectmen challenges the fire department faces in an effort to keep up with the ever increasing cost of running the fire department. Town Manager Smith indicated the fire department's funding depends on Grand List growth. Their needs have gone beyond that support. Chief Horr reported the increased support from the town is at 24% vs an increase in actual costs at 52%. Some of the challenges of increased costs are state mandates, new exposures such as CO detection, newer building materials that burn faster and hotter, as well as increasing response calls to Enders Falls. The cost to replace aging trucks and outdated communication systems is more than their current funding can handle. The cost of personal protection equipment per firefighter has risen to a minimum of \$2,200. Fuel, parts, and electricity costs also continue to rise. Some of the activities they do to minimize costs include in house maintenance, discounts from suppliers, mutual aid agreements with surrounding towns, and bulk buying of equipment. Funding opportunities include grants and gifts. All of these are already included in the previously stated numbers. The department is looking for an additional \$70,000 to help manage expenses. Operational costs are \$301,130.

Selectman King thanked Chief Horr for an excellent presentation. Town Manager Smith indicated we are one of the lowest paying towns to support their fire department. Lost Acres Fire Department does an exceptional job with an all-volunteer staff. We need to keep an eye on that and not let things get out of hand. First Selectman Kuhnly thanked Chief Horr for all the fire department does to keep us safe.

III. MINUTES

ON A MOTION by Selectman Ohannessian, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 21, 2015.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Ohannessian, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of the Workshop Meeting of January 13, 2016.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Ohannessian, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of the Three Board Meeting of January 25, 2016.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to add an agenda item V. E. Holcomb Farm to be discussed after Resignations and Appointments.

IV. UNFINISHED OR TABLED BUSINESS

No unfinished or tabled business was before the Board.

V. BUSINESS

A. Resignations and Appointments to be Considered

ON A MOTION by Selectman Lofink, seconded by Selectmen King, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to accept, with regret, the resignation of Michael Ortengren from the Commission on Aging.

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

Kathryn M. Miller (D) to the Commission on Aging, filling a vacancy for a term through January 9, 2017.

Barry K. Avery (D) to the Conservation Commission, filling a vacancy for a term through January 8, 2018.

Peter L. Jalbert (D) to the Conservation Commission for a four year term through January 13, 2020.

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

Peter E. Barwick (U) reappointed to the Commission on Aging for a two year term through January 8, 2018.

Shirley W. Ryan (R) to the Commission on Aging for a two year term through January 8, 2018.

Mark D. Higby (R) to the Agricultural Commission, filling a vacancy for a term through January 14, 2019.

William J. Sleavin (R) reappointed to the Conservation Commission for a four year term through January 13, 2020.

Martin F. Schwager (R) and Henry F. Garrett Jr. (U) reappointed to the Development Commission for two year terms through January 8, 2018.

Wayne J. Cahoon (U) reappointed to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission for a four year term through January 13, 2020.

Robert P. Donna (R) reappointed to the Library Board for a three year term through January 14, 2019.

Jennifer P. Bilodeau (R), L. Squire Bressor (R), and Susan M. Lasota (Turcotte) (R) reappointed to the Park and Recreation Board for two year terms through January 8, 2018.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the appointment of Attorney Richard Roberts of the firm Halloran and Sage as our new Town Attorney.

First Selectman Kuhnly recessed the meeting at 8:00 p.m. to go to a Town Meeting.

The Board of Selectmen meeting resumed at 8:25 p.m.

B. Consideration of Capital Lease Purchase Program for 2015-16

The 2015-16 Town Budget includes approval for the lease purchase of a tractor and technology equipment, as recommended by the Board of Education for small capital purchases.

The municipal capital plan for 2015-16 includes the purchase of a payloader and tax and assessor software.

It is recommended by the Board of Finance that the town spread purchase costs over several years and the lease program allows them to do that. Simsbury Bank has come in at the lowest rate of 2.70% for a five year lease agreement and is recommended.

In addition the town is asking for approval for a three-year lease program through the Q&D fund for the Board of Education's one-to-one computing program for the purchase of chrome books for students in the amount of \$179,000 at a rate of 2.37%.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Ohannessian, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to adopt the resolution below:

WHEREAS, the Town of Granby has entered or is entering into Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreements ("Promissory Notes") and Loan Agreements in an amount up to \$627,594 for five years and \$179,000 for three years, with The Simsbury Bank and Trust Company;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that these Agreements are hereby approved, and that the action of the official of the Town of Granby in signing these Agreements on behalf of it be, and is hereby, ratified, confirmed, and approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager of the Town of Granby, be, and is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to sign on its behalf the Agreements and any addenda, schedules, notes, UCC financing statements, or other instruments issued under the provisions of the Agreements, and any other instruments or documents which may be necessary or expedient in connection with agreements upon or in fulfillment of the provisions of the Agreements.

C. Consideration of Board of Selectmen Assignments and 2016-17 Budget Workshop Dates

Budget workshop assignments are as follows;

Administration - Ed Ohannessian
Personal and Property Protection - Sally King
Public Works and environment - B. Scott Kuhnly
Libraries, Rec., and Social Services - Mark Neumann
Capital Budget and Debt Service - Jim Lofink
Revenues - All
Other Funds - All

No date assignments were made at this time. Review dates will be March 7 and 10, 2016. All meetings will start at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. At least two sections will be discussed at each workshop session.

D. Consideration of Approval to Receive CERT Equipment Through a Donation to the Capitol Region Citizen Corps Foundation

At a meeting of the Capitol Region Citizen Corps, it was determined that each CERT is eligible to receive equipment through a donation made by Eversource to Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). The allotment for each CERT group is \$1,400, and is 100% reimbursable. Our equipment supply is depleted. Joseph Killen our Emergency Management Director will create a list of items to be purchased and sent to CRCOG shortly.

Town Manager Smith reported the CERT group has 28 active members, with 26 having been trained since 2010. They are a very active and helpful group. The group has 1,841 hours of documented training, and 584 "activated" hours. They have worked traffic accidents, community events, and the 10 day operation of our emergency shelter in 2011.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve to receive the CERT grant from CRCOG to be spent from the Emergency Management Fund.

E. Holcomb Farm

Eric Lukingbeal, Holcomb Farm Board member, proposed to the Selectmen the idea of the possibility of creating an arboretum at the Holcomb Farm. Mr. Lukingbeal has contacted UCONN and they have a class that is interested in studying the sight and soil, along with giving recommendations for trees and shrubs for this proposal. UCONN would like \$1,000 for travel aid. It was noted Holcomb Farm will donate the \$1,000. An approval is just to proceed with the study. Anything further would be reported to the town as it comes along. First Selectman Kuhnly asked if there would be a contract with the town. The reply was yes, and First Selectman Kuhnly responded it would have to be reviewed by the Town Manager before proceeding. Selectman King indicated there are no strings attached. Selectman Ohannessian asked if they have a specific spot in mind. It was noted there are a couple of possibilities. The size of the arboretum has not been determined yet. The purpose of the proposed arboretum is to visit, view, and congregate. There may be walking paths as well.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the request by Holcomb Farm, Inc. to arrange for a study to be done by UCONN, researching the possibility of an arboretum at Holcomb Farm.

VI. TOWN MANAGER REPORTS

A. Budget Operations – December 2015

Town Manager Smith reported tax collections to be slightly below last year at this time, which was at 65%. Education Cost Sharing had a reduction of \$42,000 which will be covered by surplus from other accounts. Selectman Ohannessian questioned why we have not been paid yet for tuition from other towns. Town Manager Smith replied we may have already received payment but not in time to report in this month's operation report. Everything else seems to be on target.

B. Plus One Budget Update

We are looking at the up keep costs of Kearns School once it is closed. The Lost Acres Fire Department is requesting additional funding to maintain services and the reduction of \$30,000 in Existing Health Benefits. We hope to at least continue to sustain things as they are. We do not want to have to reduce services or staff. We are already running on bare bones. We are waiting for a final budget guideline from the Board of Finance.

C. Grand List for October 1, 2015

The Grand List is complete and has been filed with the state. The total shows an increase of 0.58%. This is slightly higher than expected. At the current mill rate, it will generate about \$197,000 in new revenue.

VII. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORTS (B. Scott Kuhnly)

A. The next session of "Koffee with Kuhnly" will be held on Monday, February 22, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Room.

VIII. SELECTMAN REPORTS (Sally King, Vice Chairman; James Lofink, Mark Neumann, and Edward Ohannessian)

No reports.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by Selectman Ohannessian, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Smith, Jr.
Town Manager