

**TOWN OF GRANBY  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 2, 2016**

The special 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, James Lofink, Mark Neumann, Edward Ohannessian, William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager, and Student Liaison Alex Domanico**

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. PUBLIC SESSION**

Peggy Lareau, Granby resident and former member of the Town Owned Land Study Committee, reminded the Board of a recommendation that was made for the 107 East Street property (Evonsion Farm). Although the study committee suggested that the property remain as agriculture, there were several additional recommendations. One of those was a perimeter trail. Ms. Lareau would like the Board of Selectmen to consider this recommendation.

Gerry Ledger, a Granby resident, made a presentation on the Transportation Action Program (TAP). This program was founded in 1967 and continues today providing transportation for doctor appointments and hospital treatments. The only restriction is that the rider must be mobile since volunteer vehicles are not handicap accessible. TAP provides 20 to 30 round trips per month and there are no time restrictions on requests. Many of these requests are a hand-off from the senior van service when they are not able to accommodate. The TAP program is always looking for more volunteer drivers. Those interested should call 860-264-6131.

The Granby Senior Van service is available for those that are 60+ or disabled. They also have a small annual fee of \$10.00. Their hours are 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday and Wednesday for local Granby, East Granby, and Simsbury. Out of area hours are 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Friday.

First Selectman Kuhnly thanked both residents for their information.

**III. MINUTES**

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 16, 2016.

**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 Neumann, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the appointment of David L. Watkins (R), to the Commission on Aging for a two year term. His term will expire January 8, 2018.

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

**B. Consideration of Older Americans Act Grant Application**

Town Manager Smith reported Sandy Yost, Director of Human Services, has requested to apply for a grant from the North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (NCAAA) for FY 2016-17 programs that serve older persons. The town has received funding from them for the past 15 years. Senior Services, under the Grandparent's Support Group and the Community Education Program, will continue to be funded under this grant. Funding will also be requested for Healthy Minds, a counseling service for older adults. Application is due March 18, 2016.

Approximate grant total amount is \$5,500, with a required grant match that would be met through the 2016-17 municipal budget and in-kind services.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Ohannessian, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve application for a grant from the North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc. for town senior services under the Grandparent's Support group and the Community Education Program in the amount of \$5,500.

Selectman Lofink inquired if the money comes from the General Fund. Town Manager Smith responded it comes from the Senior Activities Fund.

**C. Consideration of Connecticut Department of Transportation Grant Application**

Town Manager Smith reported Sandy Yost, Director of Human Services, has requested permission to apply for a grant from the Department of Transportation for transportation services for seniors and disabled residents. The Town of Granby has been awarded this grant since FY 2006-07. This funding is combined with municipal dollars to employ a full-time senior van driver. This transportation service is for seniors (60+) and disabled residents for medical and personal care appointments, grocery shopping, senior center programs, and community activities. This grant request for FY 2016-17 will be \$28,641. The grant requires a 50% match that will be met by the current budget for Senior Van Services. The grant application is due March 24, 2016.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Ohannessian, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the request to apply for the grant from the Department of Transportation for transportation services for seniors and disabled residents in the amount of \$28,641.

Selectman Lofink inquired where the money comes from to make the match. The response was the Senior Activities Fund.

#### **D. Budget Presentation FY 2016-17**

Town Manager Smith presented the proposed FY 2016-17 Budget to the Board of Selectmen. It began with a slide presentation showing examples of financial policies that are used to develop the budget. They include: General Fund Balance Reserves, Reserves in Other Funds, Revenues, Operating Budget, Capital and Financial Planning, Debt Management, Internal Control and Risk Management, Economic Development and Procurement.

Median household income in Granby is \$100,262, ranking 33<sup>rd</sup> of 169 towns in Connecticut. State median is \$69,899. Per pupil expenditure in Granby is \$13,268, ranking 144<sup>th</sup> of 169 towns in Connecticut. State average is \$15,178.

On a recommendation by the Board of Finance, the guideline was set at 2.5%, an increase of \$251,596. The guideline for the Board of Education was set at -1% over this year's operational budget. The Board of Finance guideline for the Board of Education budget was to reflect a budget savings of about \$900,000 accumulated from the closing of Kearns School.

Budget requests for FY 2016-17 from town departments totaled nearly \$800,000. This high dollar amount would not be nearly as significant were some of the requests met in previous years. The budget presented is below reasonable needs. It represents an amount of 2.5% or \$251,596 above the FY 2016 amount when our needs at base levels are closer to 3.5% or \$354,596. Some essential additions would be adding funds for Lost Acres Fire Department in the amount of \$70,000 (phasing in at \$23,000 per year), maintenance costs for the closed Kearns School, estimated at \$30,000, and providing various department items at \$50,000

In reviewing town operations, (Selectmen's budget), Town Manager Smith noted that the guideline increase is less than what can meet continued operations now in place. Operational increases in the town budget since FY 2011 - 2016, and now FY 2017 have been considerably less than requested to meet contractual mandates and our added expanded services. Also noted was that despite added facilities (parks, land purchases, and acquisitions), along with associated facility maintenance, these additions have barely been able to be maintained at expected service levels. In addition, no full-time staff has been added in over 15 years, except for the Police who were and still are understaffed. Aside from that, the Board of Selectmen and a dedicated staff, has continued to work hard in order to maintain high levels of service for residents.

Town Manager Smith indicated he has prepared a budget for the new fiscal year as required by Charter. It keeps all activity virtually below flat levels. Thus, the proposed budget at the guideline of 2.5%, if approved, will result in little or no return to surplus from town operations. A new budget Planning Model needs to be updated to reflect this, as it has an impact on Fund Balance reserves for emergencies. It will likely create a need for additional appropriations during the 2016-17 year. It will not provide for proper maintenance services, and it could also put our bond rating, now at AA+

(not easily accomplished) at some risk. We are already below recommended “best practices” levels.

Another way to meet this 2.5% guideline increase and include Lost Acres Fire Department (LAFD) and Kearns funding in the town’s operational budget, would result in severe reductions in the areas of non-mandatory, yet desirable services (i.e. Recreation, Library, Senior Services, etc.), some of which are partially self-supporting.

First Selectman Kuhnly thanked Town Manager Smith for all his hard work putting this budget presentation together.

**VI. TOWN MANAGER REPORTS**

No reports.

**VII. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORTS (B. Scott Kuhnly)**

**A. Important Budget Dates**

Workshops will be held on March 7, 2016 and March 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting – March 21, 2016 conclusion of budget items and transmittal to Board of Finance.

**B. The Connecticut Department of Transportation Will Conduct Two Public Informational Meetings Concerning the Proposed Major Intersection Roadway Improvements.**

March 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Center Community Room on the town center.

March 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Center Community Room on the roundabout (formerly 5 Points).

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

Selectman Neumann reminded everyone that community service awards will be coming up soon. Anyone who would like to submit a name, adult or student, that they feel should be recognized should do so. The award ceremony is usually in June.

Student Liaison Alex Domanico reported a loss for the boys basketball team. The National Honor Society is partaking in the “empty bowls” program again this year.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

ON A MOTION by Selectman Ohannessian, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Smith, Jr.  
Town Manager