

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
THREE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2015**

First Selectman Kuhnly called the special meeting of the three boards to order at 7:02 p.m. and thanked those in attendance for coming.

PRESENT:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: B. Scott Kuhnly, First Selectman; Ronald Desrosiers, Sally King, and Edward Ohannessian

BOARD OF FINANCE: Michael B. Guarco, Jr., Chairman; Gordon Bischoff, Francis Brady, Kelly Rome, and Alfred Wilke

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Ronald Walther, Chairman; Jenny Emery, Mark Fiorentino, Lynn Guelzow, Melissa Migliaccio, Benjamin Perron, and Rosemarie Weber

ALSO PRESENT: William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager; Roger Hensdorf, Treasurer; and Alan Addley, Superintendent of Schools

I. Opening Remarks – B. Scott Kuhnly, First Selectman

First Selectman Kuhnly opened the meeting by stating the Board of Selectmen are convening a meeting of the Board of Education, Board of Finance, and Board of Selectmen (Three Board Meeting) per Charter, Chapter 4, Section 4-7. He reviewed the agenda, indicating that public comment can be made under Agenda Item V.

First Selectman Kuhnly reported on the Intra-Board Advisory Committee (IBAC) activities. Highlights from the Committee's preliminary summary report were:

- The Committee reviewed the town and Board of Education (BOE) operations to discover areas of potential duplication and opportunities for further collaboration that might provide the town with opportunities for consolidation, improved services, and cost savings. The operations they reviewed were information technology, BOE maintenance activity, town buildings and grounds activity, finance and accounting, and solar power prospects.
- The Committee concluded that the overall buildings and grounds maintenance service, provided through Facilities and Public Works, has efficiently assumed increased responsibilities with increased community resources.

No other comments were made by the other members of IBAC.

II. Ronald S. Walther, Chairman

a. Review of Plus-One Budget (Board of Education)

Chairman Walther stated the Board of Education Plus-One budget represents a 3.4% increase for FY 2016. The BOE budget base increase is 2.2% and the remaining 1.2% increase accounts for modest program expansion and increased special education commitments.

Funded priorities include completing implementation of World Language K-12 and extending 1-to-1 computing to grades 11 and 12. The budget also supports program expansion for the Arts, STEM, and SPED.

The Pre-K program expansion is being driven by an increasing population of 3 and 4 year old special needs children who, by statute, must be serviced by the district.

There are 4.1 full time employee additions for SPED, Math/Science, and Arts in FY16. A staffing reduction of 3.0 full time employees is planned for FY16 and various staff reductions will continue through 2020.

The Granby School District student population is decreasing and the trend is to continue into the future. An estimated \$800K savings for potential school re-alignment is included as a placeholder for FY2019 to address this matter.

Completion of improved school physical safety is planned and hopefully will be funded through the large capital project program in the future.

A high priority large capital improvement is an emergency portable generator to protect school systems during power loss.

The BOE adopted a process to hold the Quality and Diversity (Q & D) fund balance sufficient to cover commitments for 5 years. Quality and Diversity income remains a resource for funding appropriate programs; however, programs funded from this resource are increasing over time. Some programming funded using Q & D will need to be moved into the operation budget over the long term or will be lost.

III. B. Scott Kuhnly, First Selectman

a. Review of Plus-One Budget (Board of Selectmen)

First Selectman Kuhnly reported minimum requirements for existing operational needs in 2015-2016 are \$327,600, a 3.34% increase. The amount identified in the Plus-One Budget is 3.72%, including two add-back items amounting to \$364,700 above the present operating budget. Wages and salary for full and part time employees would be an overall increase of 3%. Existing fringe benefits are up \$82.5K.

As a third year renewal, a 10% increase in the insurance business package is planned. A 7.5% increase for workers compensation is expected because of the recent events of the Granby Ambulance Association. Contract obligations with Lost Acres Fire Department (LAFD) are \$231.1K or \$1.4K increase. Health services for Farmington Valley Health District, CMED, and EMD are expected to increase \$3K. An increase of \$17.5K and \$17K respectfully for the purchase of salt and equipment parts is due to demand and price. Money to maintain town building repairs is estimated at an additional \$10K. We are estimating an increase of \$5K for Mid-CT tip fees. Final increases for miscellaneous contract services are unknown at this time. General & Equipment Maintenance Maintainer II and Library Services are the two add-backs the town would like to restore at a cost of \$37.1K. It is recommended that at least a fair portion of these needed items be endorsed and referred to the Board of Finance for inclusion into the budget.

IV. Michael Guarco, Chairman

a. Board of Finance Comments

Chairman Guarco thanked the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education for their submissions. He said the Board has not set a guideline. They are still waiting to hear what the Governor has to say when he presents his budget on February 18, 2015. The grand list growth will be identified by the end of the month. Subsequently, the Board will be able to make a more informed decision on the budget guidelines for Granby later next month. Given the economic situation and past years' budgets, the Board would like to see the mill rate increase under 2%.

V. Discussion and Items of Interest Concerning the 2015-16 Budget

a. Questions and Answers

No comments were made.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

William F. Smith, Jr.
Town Manager