

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
MAY 5, 2014**

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, Ronald Desrosiers, Sally King, Mark Neumann, Edward Ohannessian, and William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. PUBLIC SESSION

Granby resident Mark Fiorentino, 296 Loomis Street, addressed the Board as a member of the Friends of Holcomb Farm Board, as well as a member of the Holcomb Farm Stewardship Committee. Mr. Fiorentino thanked the Board for taking the time to consider this item and also Town Manager Smith and Fran Armentano for their time on this as well. He spoke in favor of using a portion of the Holcomb Farm property, for cattle grazing, as suggested by the town. This supports the town and Holcomb Farm's goal for the farm to preserve and encourage agricultural use. This will maintain a valuable piece of property from being taken over by an invasive species of plant life. This area was used for grazing years ago and now it would either have to be mowed or it could again be used for grazing. This opportunity would be a good tradeoff for the town.

Mr. Fiorentino supports the approval of the license agreement and would like to make a couple of additions to the draft license. After the lease expires, the installed fence would become town property. Also, preserve and maintain an eight-foot wide path around the perimeter of the fence for other recreational users.

A. Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) Update Report

John Adams, former First Selectman and current Board member of Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA), indicated one of the goals of CRRA is to get public officials on the Board. It is felt they would have the best interest of the public in mind. The Board now consists of Selectmen and other various town officials.

The key budget drivers for CRRA are trash-to-energy operations and recycling operations. The plant processes approximately 711,000 tons of waste per year. Ninety-four percent of that is burned in the plant.

New contract options for towns to sign up for were the Tier 1 Long Term contract or the Tier 2 Short Term contract. Granby, as well as most other towns, chose the Tier 1 Long Term contract with a 15 year contract commitment. CRRA's tip fee in July will be \$62 per ton.

CRRA is still in arbitration with the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). The amount of liability is still to be determined if, in fact, CRRA is found to be liable.

It was noted that Granby still rates high in the amount of recycling done. It fluctuates, but overall they are high.

Town Manager Smith acknowledged Mr. Adams effort over the years with regard to making CRRA more transparent and getting more public officials on the Board.

First Selectman Kuhnly thanked Mr. Adams for his presentation.

First Selectman Kuhnly acknowledged Bob Bystrowski, Holcomb Farm President, and asked if he had anything to add with regard to cattle grazing at Holcomb Farm. He responded no.

III. MINUTES

ON A MOTION by Selectman Ohannessian, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 21, 2014 as presented.

IV. UNFINISHED OR TABLED BUSINESS

No unfinished or tabled business was before the Board.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to reorder agenda item V.E. to come before agenda item V.A.

V. BUSINESS

A. Resignations and Appointments to be Considered

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to reappoint Lana Torres (I), 12 Indian Hill Drive, to the Conservation Commission. Her term will expire January 8, 2018.

B. Consideration of Establishing an Intra-Board Advisory Committee

First Selectman Kuhnly and Board of Education Chairman Ronald Walther would like to have the Selectmen establish a committee to research matters of common interest. The idea is to promote efficiencies by working together. The name of the committee will be called "Intra-Board Advisory Committee".

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the establishment of the Intra-Board Advisory Committee, with the following charge.

- To explore opportunities and methods to improve Town and School District services.

- The Committee membership would consist of seven members. One member each shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Boards of Selectmen, Education, and Finance. The First Selectman and the Chairman of the Board of Education shall serve as ex-officio members. The Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members.
- Meetings would convene on the call of the First Selectman in conjunction with the Board of Education Chairman.
- Committee findings and any recommendations shall be reviewed by the represented boards and be presented for discussion at the annual Three Board meeting. A formal report documenting findings and recommendations would be subsequently submitted to the Board of Selectmen.

C. Consideration of Granby Water Pollution Control Authority (GWPCA) Setting Sewer Use Rates for 2014-15

First Selectman Kuhnly recessed as the Board of Selectmen and opened as the Granby Water Pollution Control Authority (GWPCA) at 8:03 p.m.

The GWPCA held a public hearing earlier to receive comments on the proposed sewer use rates for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. No written or verbal comments were received.

The proposed rates for residential users are: minimum \$181.50 per year for average residential gallons used per year (55,000 gallons) and commercial/industrial: minimum \$254.00 per year for up to 100,000 gallons. All gallon usage (residential and commercial/industrial) above the minimum is recommended to be charged \$.0059 per gallon.

ON A MOTION by Ms. King, seconded by Mr. Ohannessian, the GWPCA voted unanimously (5-0-0) to set the sewer use rates for residential users at a minimum of \$181.50 for average gallons (55,000 gpy) used per year and \$254.00 per year for commercial/industrial users (100,000 gpy). All gallon usage (residential and commercial/industrial) above the minimum will be charged \$.0059 per gallon.

Chairman Kuhnly adjourned as the GWPCA and reconvened the Board of Selectmen at 8:05 p.m.

D. Consideration of Transfers to Suspense

Town Manager Smith reported that each year taxes go unpaid (uncollected) for various reasons, for example people moving out of state, deaths, and property foreclosures. The Collector of Revenue prepares a list of potentially uncollectible taxes, which are recommended to be transferred to the Suspense Book to clean off the books for audit purposes. The amount to be transferred is \$20,395.19.

Taxes due on the list remain collectible if the parties can be found. Those who are on the list for motor vehicles will likely not be able to re-register their vehicles in Connecticut. This list is only for those that have not responded to bills through 2011 and they are all still accruing interest at 18%.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the transfer of \$20,395.19 to be moved to the Suspense Book.

E. Consideration of Eagle Scout Project Memorial

This item was reordered and discussed prior to item V. A., but is placed here for convenience.

Michael Caruso is an Eagle Scout candidate. He is looking to do a project that involves constructing a "Hero's Memorial" planting area in the center of town. He has contacted Town Manager Smith to help locate a site for the project. After contacting the American Legion to obtain their input, it was suggested the memorial be located on the Town Green next to the "War on Terror" memorial. The Legion has also offered to maintain the proposed garden area. The proposal includes a mulched planting area with a bench on one side and a shrub on the other side. There was also talk of a headstone with four symbols engraved on one side and a possible quote on the other side. Mr. Caruso is reaching out to companies for quotes on that cost.

The completion time for this project is said to be July 28, 2014. Selectman Desrosiers inquired if everyone involved is coordinating with DPW and Town Manager Smith with regard to safety, etc. Town Manager Smith responded all arrangements have been coordinated and the American Legion and DPW are working together on this project with safety in mind. Town Manager Smith thanked Mr. Caruso for his efforts with this Eagle Scout project.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve this Eagle Scout project to be installed on the Town Green.

F. Consideration of Grazing Grass-Fed Cattle at Holcomb Farm

Town Manager Smith reported the town is still working out final details of the contract. He thanked Mark Fiorentino for his comments during public session, stating they were helpful. The grazing of cattle at Holcomb Farm is being considered in an effort to keep the growth of invasive flora under control.

First Selectman Kuhnly inquired if the Friends of Holcomb Farm Board approves of this. Holcomb Farm President Bob Bystrowski spoke in favor of this and indicated it is a part of the "plan of use" for the farm that was initially discussed but never got underway. Selectman Desrosiers asked if this was put out to other farmers. Town Manager Smith responded it was put out to the Agricultural Commission as well as

all the farmers. The only response came from Steve Janeski who raises grass-fed beef cattle and agreed to use the fields at Holcomb Farm.

It is felt that the value of the preservation of the fields far exceeds any income that the town might receive.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve grazing of grass-fed cattle at Holcomb Farm on the designated approximate 12 acres.

VI. TOWN MANAGER REPORTS

No reports.

VII. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORTS (B. Scott Kuhnly)

A. Shredding Day on May 17, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon at the Public Works Facility, 52 North Granby Road

First Selectman Kuhnly announced the upcoming shredding day for Granby residents will be May 17, 2014, 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon, at the Public Works Facility, 52 North Granby Road. This is a secure process and you may watch as your documents are being shredded.

VIII. SELECTMAN REPORTS (Sally King, Vice Chairman; Ronald Desrosiers, Mark Neumann, and Edward Ohannessian; and Emily Jackson, Student Liaison)

No reports.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Smith, Jr.
Town Manager