

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2013**

First Selectman Adams called the regular meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and thanked those in attendance for coming.

The Board of Selectmen is convening a meeting of Board of Education, Board of Finance, and Board of Selectmen (Three Board Meeting).

PRESENT:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: John Adams, First Selectman; Ronald Desrosiers, B. Scott Kuhnly, and Mark Neumann

BOARD OF FINANCE: Michael B. Guarco, Jr., Chairman; Alfred Wilke, Francis J. Brady, and Frederick A. Moffa, O.D.

BOARD OF EDUCATION: James C. Heminway, Jr., Chairman; Lynn Guelzow, Benjamin L. Perron, and Edward E. Ohannessian

ALSO PRESENT: William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager; Barbarajean C. Scibelli, Administration Finance Officer; Roger Hensdorf, Treasurer; Alan Addley, Superintendent of Schools, and Harry Traver, Business Manager

A. OPENING REMARKS – John Adams, First Selectman

First Selectman Adams opened the meeting by stating this is the fifth year of real uncertainty. We have essentially had four years of flat funding, which works out to be a ten to twenty percent cut. First Selectman Adams recently attended a meeting at which Governor Malloy spoke about the upcoming state budget. The Governor did not make any commitments to municipal aid at that time. February 6, 2013 will be when the Governor announces his budget and we will be waiting to hear what is in store for municipalities.

B. MINUTES – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 7, 2013

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 7, 2013

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to add an agenda item to B. as B. 1.

1. REAPPOINTMENTS

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to reappoint the following people:

Pamela D. Burek (D), 152 Silkey Road, to the Agricultural Commission. Her term will expire January 9, 2017.

Joanne R. Desrosiers (D), 16 Halwood Drive, Neil W. Kraner (D), 19 Glen Road, and Bruce W. Sullivan (D), 21 Kelly Lane, to the Commission on Aging. Their terms will expire January 12, 2015.

Kenneth O. Kuhl (U), 18 Moosehorn Road, to the Development Commission. His term will expire January 12, 2015.

Patricia (Pam) M. Jones (D), 43 Day Street South, to the Library Board. Her term will expire January 11, 2016.

Kathy D. Ungerleider (D), 12 Strawberry Fields, and Suzanne L. Yucha (D), 32 Buttles Road, to the Park and Recreation Board. Their terms will expire January 12, 2015.

C. James C. Heminway, Chairman

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

Chairman Heminway began by saying expenses have gone up, but revenue has not. Curriculum standards are being reviewed and updated without help from state funding. Right now the possibility of mandated increased security measures is up in the air. Security additions are presently being looked into with the help of the Granby Police Department. There are new mandated evaluations for teachers and school administrators without additional funding. Preschoolers attending out of town magnet schools may also require us to pay tuition in the future. At this point, school employees have had no increase in salary for one year, so that is not an area of savings that can be looked at. It is hoped that Small Capital Budget money will be available to help with the High School kitchen and facilities upgrade, as well as other school facilities in the near future.

D. John Adams, First Selectman

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

First Selectman Adams indicated that of all the requests for staff increases, the addition of an Investigator/Youth Officer at the Police Department is the most critical. He introduced Granby Police Chief Carl Rosensweig who spoke about the position. Presently there are fifteen sworn officers and eight civilians in the department. There is very limited investigative capability with two officers on most of the time. Investigations are much more complex and the Granby Police Department does not presently have the time and training. Under new law, eighteen-year olds are considered minors and require special handling from law enforcement instead of age 16. The goal is to prevent problems before serious issues develop.

First Selectman Adams indicated the last time there was an increase in staff in the Police Department was in 2002. They went from 13 to 15 officers through a declining grant. All other town departments have had level staffing

for the last 24 years. Library Services had the biggest cut in their budget. Over \$60,000 in part-time personnel and hours of operation were cut back considerably. Last year, some funds were added back. This year an additional \$10,000 will be used to add back hours of operation, hoping to eventually get back to where they were post 2009. The Library doesn't serve the public well if they are not open.

First Selectman Adams reviewed the Plus-One budget, which shows requirements that will sustain town operations. Those include expectations for salary and wages for employees including step increases, preliminary cost estimates for employee benefits, and items of a contractual nature or deemed important to properly maintain existing operations. Also, there are items previously presented to the Board of Selectmen called "Add Backs". They reflect identified town personnel service needs. It is hoped that a fair portion of these will be endorsed and referred to the Board of Finance to be included into the 2013-14 budget. Other needs include grant falloff for Senior Services at \$7,000, an Investigator/Youth Services Officer at \$75,000 and \$18,000 for benefits, restore cut backs to Library Services at \$10,000, building repairs at \$8,000, solid waste and recycling at \$14,200, and various contract services. Minimal requirements for existing town operational needs in 2013-14 are approximately \$331,300. The amount identified in the Plus-One budget is 4.73%, which includes the two add backs for Police Services and Library Services, amounting to \$434,300 above the present operating budget.

E. Michael Guarco, Chairman

1. Board of Finance Comments

Chairman Guarco indicated the Board has not yet set a guideline. They are still waiting to hear what the Governor has to say when he presents his budget on February 6, 2013. He stated he is not comfortable putting a budget to vote that is over 2%. If the state shorts us \$600,000 in municipal funding, we can't go to a mill rate increase of 4%. As pieces come together we will be able to make some decisions. The Board of Finance will set the guideline at their meeting in February. Chairman Guarco stated he doesn't think the Northeast is in much of a recovery yet.

Chairman Guarco mentioned that revaluation is done. The result being that some properties have decreased in value and others have increased. This means the tax burden is spread around differently, not necessarily raising residents' taxes. This does not generate an increase in revenue.

F. Discussion and Items of Interest Concerning the 2013-14 Budget

1. Questions & Answers

There were no questions.

First Selectman Adams talked about the town taking over Holcomb Farm and the responsibility of funding and maintenance. The town continues a relationship with Holcomb Farm, Inc. and is expecting to receive \$20,000 to help support the running of Holcomb Farm, which has a budget of approximately \$40,000. The rest has to come from the town.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be February 4, 2013.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

William F. Smith, Jr.
Town Manager