

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2013**

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

PRESENT: John Adams, Ronald Desrosiers (via speaker phone), B. Scott Kuhnly, Sally King, Mark C. Neumann, and William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager and Student Liaison, Sarah Wutka

I. PUBLIC SESSION

Resident Richard Berry, 33 Windmill Drive, addressed the Board and spoke in support of long time friend Jim Warnke who had applied for the full-time dispatcher position with the Granby Police Department.

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

ON A MOTION by Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted 4-0-1 (abstention Selectman Desrosiers) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 4, 2013 as presented.

III. UNFINISHED OR TABLED BUSINESS

No unfinished or tabled business was before the Board.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Resignations and Appointments to be Considered

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to appoint Maureen Eberly (D), 37 Silkey Road, to the Library Board. Her term will expire January 11, 2016.

First Selectman Adams mentioned the Commission on Aging has two vacancies, the Development Commission has one vacancy, and the Employee Health Benefits Fund Advisory Committee has one vacancy. Anyone interested in serving on any commission should contact the Town Manager's office.

B. Consideration of Connecticut Department of Transportation Grant Application

Town Manager Smith reported Kerry Kielbasa, Director of Human Services, has requested permission to apply for a grant from the State Department of Transportation for transportation services for seniors and disabled residents. The Town of Granby has been awarded this grant since FY 2006-07. The grant funds combined with municipal dollars are used to employ a full-time senior van driver. The grant request for FY 2013-2014 will be \$20,593 and requires a 50% match that will be met by the current budget for Senior Van Services. The grant application is due on April 3, 2013.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the request to apply for the grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation for transportation services for seniors and disabled residents in the amount of \$20,593.

C. Consideration of Older Americans Act Grant

Town Manager Smith reported Kerry Kielbasa, Director of Human Services, has requested permission to apply for a grant from the North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (NCAAA) for FY 2013-14 programs that serve older persons. The town has received funding by them for the past 13 years. The application is due on March 15, 2013. The "Grandparent's Support Group" and "Senior Outreach Program" will continue to be funded under this grant, as well as a request for a subsidized dental cleaning program. The additional amount for the grant request will be for \$2,500 to cover the sliding fee scale subsidies for those older adults who meet income guidelines for the dental cleaning program. The approximate grant total is \$6,500 and requires a 50% match that will be met through the 2013-14 municipal budget and in-kind services.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the request in the amount of \$6,500 to apply for the grant from the North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (NCAAA) for town senior services under the "Grandparent's Support Group" and the "Senior Outreach Program", as well as a request for a subsidized dental cleaning program.

D. Budget Presentation 2013-2014

As required by Charter, Town Manager Smith presented the 2013-2014 Proposed Budget to the Board and proceeded with some highlights.

Town Manager Smith wanted to first thank all those who worked hard on getting this year's budget together, including Administration Finance Officer Barbarajean Scibelli, Director of Community Development Francis Armentano, Patricia Chieski, Susan Christian, and all department heads.

The Town Operations Proposed Budget has increased \$422,518, a change of 4.61%. Debt Service has an increase of \$162,133, a change of 4.9%. Capital Budget (General Fund contribution), CNEF, and Economic Development has decreased \$195,000, a change of -16.2%. The total proposed budget for FY 2014 is \$14,072,968, an increase of 2.8% over last year.

The guideline amount set by the Board of Finance was 3%. The Board of Finance indicated general government amounts above the 3% guideline limit that are offset by revenues would not be counted in meeting the guideline. The General Fund Offsets are Open Farm Day: \$1,000, Police Dispatch Grant: \$45,000, Solid Waste Fund Revenue: \$75,000, and Holcomb Farm and Town Land Rental: \$30,000 all totaling \$151,000, which is an increase of 1.65%. The net increase totals 2.96%.

New debt issued in February will cost \$255,225 in FY 2014. Existing debt decreased in FY 2014 by \$93,092 therefore the net increase is \$162,133. However, debt is being offset by bond premium proceeds of \$255,225. All town debt has been issued.

New unfunded and underfunded mandated regulations will continue to be a challenge. Granby has been able to hold down personnel increases during the past decade even with modest inflation, new state mandates, population growth, and capital facility expansions. Holding down personnel has been done by sharing of services within departments, purchases of improved equipment, regional cooperation, and some outsourcing of services to the private sector. The proposed 2013-14 budget seeks to increase some staffing.

Property taxes will likely increase every year. Several reasons for the increase are inflation, population growth, contract wage adjustments, and new state and federal unfunded or partially funded legal mandates. Compared to many towns, Granby has been able to keep its annual tax increases low.

Significant changes in Fringe Benefits include increased costs in the Health Plan with Stop Loss at \$38,738, Pension at \$31,259, and State Treas./FICA at \$13,904. Total increase is \$83,901.

Capital Budget for FY 2013-2014 is \$1,328,324. The amount requested from the General Government Budget is \$1,000,000; from Town Aid Road Fund (TAR) - \$135,000; LoCIP Fund - \$85,000; Communications Fund - \$40,000; and Capital Equipment/Improvement Fund Balance - \$68,324.

The total appropriation amount of \$1,328,324 for 2013-2014 amounts to \$728,324 for the town, and \$600,000 for the Board of Education.

Town Manager Smith indicated there will be more in depth discussions with regard to individual department budgets at the upcoming workshops. He is always available to answer questions in regard to the budget. First Selectman Adams also reminded everyone the Budget Workshop meeting dates are March 7, 2013 and March 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

First Selectman Adams reviewed the budget process beginning with the budget being approved by the Board of Selectmen at the upcoming March 18, 2013 meeting and forwarded to the Board of Finance for review on March 25, 2013. The budget will be available for general distribution on April 4, 2013 and the Board of Finance will hold a public hearing on April 8, 2013 at the Granby Memorial High School Auditorium. A town meeting is no longer required as part of the budget process. The Annual Budget Machine Vote will take place on April 22, 2013 from 12:00 noon - 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. A simple majority will approve the budget. Absentee ballots will be available April 9, 2013 at the Town Clerks office.

V. TOWN MANAGER REPORTS

A. Budget Operations Report – January 2013

Town Manager Smith reported tax collections are up slightly higher compared to the same time last year. They are at 96% now. Also reported are several State Municipal Revenue accounts that have balances over what was budgeted due to collections or payments. They are Veterans Exempt GT - \$75, Misc. State - \$201,934, State Revenue Sharing - \$90,541, Elderly Tax Relief - \$7,226, and SS Dist Tax Relief - \$392. Local Municipal revenues with excess balances are Snow Plow and Grading - \$274, Police Photo/Lic/Permits - \$5,357, and Miscellaneous - \$17,108. It was noted there might be a need for a transfer for legal fees and Police overtime. Snow removal is getting very tight but still within budget.

VI. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORTS (John Adams)

A. Budget Workshop Dates

Dates for Budget Workshop meetings are March 7, 2013 and March 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Room.

First Selectman Adams announced the joining of the Granby Recreation, Social Services, Youth & Senior Services Departments along with the Granby Public Library to promote the 26 Acts of Kindness Movement in Granby this spring and summer to honor the lives and memories of the 26 children and school faculty who died in the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy on December 14. Beginning March 1, those interested in taking part may register at the Granby Public Library or the Granby Youth/Senior Center. Forms may also be found on the Granby Recreation Dept. website at www.GranbyRec.com.

VII. SELECTMAN REPORTS (Sally King, Vice Chairman, Ronald Desrosiers, B. Scott Kuhnly, and Mark C. Neumann, and Casey Buchholz and Sarah Wutka Student Liaisons)

No reports.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Smith, Jr.
Town Manager