

**TOWN OF GRANBY  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
APRIL 15, 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, B. Scott Kuhnly, Sally King, Mark C. Neumann, and William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager and Student Liaison Sarah Wutka**

First Selectman Adams asked that there be a moment of silence to recognize those involved in the bombing today in Boston, MA. Following this was the Pledge of Allegiance.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to reorder the agenda, placing item IV. B. to be discussed after Public Session.

**I. PUBLIC SESSION**

Joanne Clark, Manager at High Meadow and Jason Warnke, son of Jim Warnke, both spoke in support of Jim Warnke who had applied for a full-time Dispatcher position with the Granby Police Department.

First Selectman Adams responded the Board of Selectmen is unable to make any comments once it is in the litigation process.

Senator Kevin Witkos and Representative William Simanski were here this evening to give legislative updates to the Selectmen and those in attendance.

Senator Witkos complimented the town on their financial stability. He reported the state is finishing their budget process but they will not have a budget in place before Granby adopts their budget. Both Senator Witkos and Representative Simanski indicated they would like to see the state cut spending and not continue to ask for more revenue. The possible elimination of the car tax would be a great loss of revenue for towns and actually be an increase of revenue for the state.

The regular legislative session focused only on the gun control issue after the December 14, 2012 tragedy in Newtown and the upcoming budget.

First Selectman Adams has concerns of major loss of revenue for Granby if the car tax is eliminated. He would like to see the state eliminate just one unfunded mandate before he steps down from the position of First Selectman, and possibly get some legislation in place where the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRRA) is concerned.

The subject of GMO (genetically modified organisms) was introduced by someone in the audience. Senator Witkos and Representative Simanski were asked how they felt on the subject and it was indicated there needs to be more research done on the issue. It is a work in progress.

**II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING**

ON A MOTION by Selectman Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 1, 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**

There were no resignations or appointments.

**B. Legislative Update by Senator Kevin Witkos and Representative Simanski**

Reordered to Public Session.

**C. Recognizing Granby as a HEARTSafe Community and Granby Ambulance Association's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

First Selectman Adams presented a proclamation to Granby Ambulance Association (GAA) President Gretchen Wolf, in honor of GAA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The town extends its appreciation to all the personnel and volunteers of the Association for the vital services they perform. Ms. Wolf indicated GAA is a 24/7 organization. They have paid paramedics and three volunteer paramedics. She also commented, that for a town the size of Granby, it is almost unheard of to have a staff this size. Granby is very fortunate. The house across the street, that GAA purchased last year, will be torn down next year. A building will be built here, which will be their new training facility.

The Department of Public Health was in attendance to award Granby Ambulance Association (GAA) the HEARTSafe Community Designation. GAA previously made the application. To qualify as a HEARTSafe Community, Granby has 36 citizens who are trained in CPR and CPR/AED (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation/Automated External Defibrillator). Seven AEDs are in place throughout town and tracking information is done by GAA. Granby was congratulated for becoming a HEARTSafe Community.

**D. Consideration of Capital Project Activity – Athletic Fields**

The Athletic Fields project had been previously scaled down by eliminating many items including a scoreboard and new storage containers. These are much-needed items. The old storage containers were found to be rusty and leaking when they were moved to make room for constructing the new fields. The remaining project funds amount to under \$10,000. The scoreboard and storage containers will cost an estimated \$35,000. The bonded amount for all projects includes a contingency reserve that can accommodate funding to complete this project. It is suggested that \$25,000 be authorized to complete the High School Athletic Fields project and an

amount of \$25,000 that Town Manager Smith will control as a reserve contingency amount. Selectman Desrosiers asked if \$50,000 would be enough to cover expenses to finish the project. Town Manager Smith indicated there was no contingency. Usually there is a 10% contingency available. This should cover it. Selectman King asked if \$25,000 would remain as contingency, and Smith indicated it would.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve \$25,000 to complete the Athletic Fields project and an amount of \$25,000 to be kept as a reserve contingency amount.

**V. TOWN MANAGER REPORTS**

**A. Budget Operations Report – March 2013**

Town Manager Smith reported tax collections to be at 100%. The rest of the revenues are in excess in almost all categories. Telecommunication is short by \$10,000, although another payment may be due in April. Selectman Desrosiers questioned the 831% received in Police Photo/Lic/Permits. Town Manager Smith indicated it is for permits and fingerprinting, which they now charge for. It was also stated that maybe some of the permit activities might have previously been recorded in the miscellaneous category.

It is determined that a transfer will be needed for Legal Fees as well as Police Operations. They are still keeping an eye on Department of Public Works maintenance.

Selectman Desrosiers reported he has had people ask him when the town will repair damaged curbing due to snowplowing and will the town also repair damaged lawns from snowplowing as well? Town Manager Smith indicated repairs would be done later into summer. It is something that is contracted out. They would also repair lawns damaged from plowing.

**VI. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORTS (John Adams)**

**A. Town Budget Vote**

First Selectman Adams reminded residents to come out and vote on the budget on Monday, April 22, 2013, Noon – 8:00 p.m. at the Granby Town Hall Meeting Room. Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's office.

**A. Chamber of Commerce “Celebrate Granby**

First Selectman Adams announced the “Celebrate Granby” event is scheduled for Saturday, September 21, 2013 with fireworks as part of the finale. The money to fund the fireworks will come from the Celebrate Granby 225 event excess funds. Salmon Brook Park will be closed for some program activities on Friday, September 20, 2013 and Sunday, September 22, 2013.

**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 Desrosiers, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Smith, Jr.  
Town Manager