

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2012**

First Selectman Adams called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

PRESENT: John Adams, B. Scott Kuhnly, Sally King, Mark Neumann, and William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager

Also present: Barbarajean Scibelli, Administration Finance Officer, and Michael Guarco, Board of Finance Chairman

First Selectman Adams began the review of Public Works and Environment. Categories under this section include Public Works Administration, General Maintenance, Solid Waste and Recycling, Equipment Maintenance, Street Lights and Signalization, Planning and Engineering Services, and Building Maintenance and Town Grounds.

First Selectman Adams reviewed a chart that was given to him by James Klase, Superintendent of Public Works. It was a seasonal calendar of what the Department of Public Works does during the year, not including the many hours of snow plowing they normally do during the winter months. Without much snow this year, they have kept busy with other projects that would normally get put off. They were able to continue with storm clean up and tree trimming.

Administration saw an increase of 0.3% in Regular Payroll due to longevity pay.

General Maintenance had an add back of \$61,472 for a Maintainer, including benefits, and there was a significant change of \$5,000 for road salt. The best price for salt continues to come from Argentina at \$77.10/ton. There was an overall increase of 1.2% or \$10,000.

Solid Waste and Recycling has an overall decrease of 1.7% or \$14,000, mostly coming from Mid-CT Tip Fees. There is litigation going on between CRRA and MDC, which could result in potential liability for Granby. Granby's share could amount to \$205,000 if the courts rule in favor of MDC.

Equipment Maintenance has a slight increase in payroll of 0.2% and significant changes of \$4,000 for the increased cost of diesel fuel.

Street Lights and Signalization has an increase of 4.4% under street lighting. The crosswalk signal at Salmon Brook Park has been approved. There will be a crosswalk and blinking light installed at the entrance to the park.

The reduction of \$4,000 from Planning and Engineering services is because some engineering activity will be paid from the recently approved projects. Eventually this account will have to be increased, once the projects are complete.

Building Maintenance and Town Grounds has significant changes of \$5,000 for fuel oil and \$5,000 for building repairs. There is an add back request of \$5,000 for the possibility of additional fuel oil increases. There was an overall 2.7% increase for this category.

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Selectman King was interested in how the town is doing with road repairs. Mr. Klase responded that Granby has over 90 miles of roads. They should be repairing three to four miles per year. In reality they are able to do approximately two and a half miles per year. They are always trying to play catch up and the cost factor is also an issue. Asphalt has doubled in cost in the last ten years and the product is not the same quality.

Selectman Kuhnly began the review of Capital Budget and Debt Service.

The budget summary for Capital Improvements includes Road Construction \$126,500, Overlay Roads \$250,000, Capital Equipment \$288,498, Educational Related \$625,000, Property Valuation, Acquisition, and Economic Development \$105,000 and Public Facilities and Re-Roofing \$50,000. Capital Fund sources are LOCIP, Town Aid Road Fund (TAR), Communication Fund, Capital Equipment/Improvement Fund Balance, and General Fund.

The amount included in the Capital Budget for 2012-2013 is \$1,444,998. The amount requested from the General Government Budget is \$1,100,000; from Town Aid Road Fund (TAR) - \$135,000; LOCIP Fund - \$85,000; Communication Fund - \$40,000; and Capital Equipment/Improvement Fund Balance - \$84,998.

The total appropriation amount of \$1,444,998 for 2012-2013 amounts to \$819,998 for the town, and \$625,000 for the Board of Education.

The overall Debt Service for 2012-2013 is \$3,305,410. This is a decrease of \$135,000. The reduction is from the fall off of interest payments. There will be an increase in 2013-14 with new debt service from the recent \$11,400,000 bond authorization.

No changes were made to the Capital Budget and Debt Service at this time.

First Selectman Adams began the review of Revenues. This includes Property Taxes, Intergovernmental Revenues, and Local Revenues and Fund Transfers.

The new mill rate, formally set following budget approval, will determine property taxes. Intergovernmental Revenues including Education Cost Sharing has an increase of 1.5%, School Transportation had decreased 18.8%, Special Education Excess Grant is an estimated decrease of 3.8%, the Federal Jobs Grant was a one time only grant, and Tuition-Other Towns is up 4.8%. The total overall revenues for Education have a decrease of 3.2%.

Municipal revenues show a slight decrease of 1.7% in Elderly Tax Relief as well as a 0.1% decrease in State Owned Property. Social Security Disability Tax Relief will increase 17.6% and the Pequot and Mohegan Grant Indian Funds will increase 7.4%. The overall increase for Municipal Revenues is 10.7% and the overall Intergovernmental Revenues show a decrease of 2.8%.

Short Term Investments are down 60.0% as well as a slight decrease in rents. The major decreases are Transfer from Fund Balance and Use of CNEF. The proposed 2012-2013 Local Departmental and Fund Revenue Total is a decrease of 12.1%.

Other Funds include Dog Fund, Recreation Program Events Fund, Sewer Utility Fund, Capital Equipment/Improvement Fund, and Education Quality and Diversity Fund.

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The Dog Fund and Recreation Program Events had no significant changes. Recreation Director Tom Tyburski reported he uses 10-20% of the user fees to pay part-time help and any overhead. Town Manager Smith and Tom both spoke of the need to keep the right balance between the cost of the program and the town portion to pay part-time help.

Town Manager Smith reported the Town of Simsbury has notified him that the Wolcott Road pump station, in Simsbury, needs to be replaced. This is the pump station that is used by Granby. This will require the town to reconfigure their sewer use fees. Mr. Smith indicated he still needs more details before anything is decided. Also mentioned was the need to look at emergency coverage for pump stations in town. Granby has a pump station by the Town Garage and Hunt Glen.

Capital Equipment/Improvement Fund request for 2012-2013 is \$1,444,998. The Education Quality and Diversity Fund request for 2012-2013 is \$693,890.

There were no changes made to Revenues and Other Funds at this time.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Smith, Jr.
Town Manager