

TOWN OF GRANBY
Intra-Board Advisory Committee (IBAC) Special Meeting
February 3, 2015
MINUTES

PRESENT: B. Scott Kuhnly, First Selectman; Jenny Emery (BOE), Kelly Rome (BOF); and Ronald Walther, Board of Education Chairman; Ex-officio Members - William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager and Alan Addley, Superintendent of School.

Ronald Walther, Board of Education Chairman, called the special meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made by First Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Ms. Emery, to approve the minutes of January 14, 2015. Mr. Walther asked if there was any discussion of the minutes. The Committee voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the minutes as presented.

REVIEW OF FINANCE ISSUES PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED

Town Manager Smith presented a report to the IBAC members for review and discussion regarding finance issues. Highlights from the report and discussions were:

- Canton was unfamiliar with a reference of a “zero balance account” involving check balances.
- Canton and Plainville finance offices use two different databases similar to Granby’s. They have some problems balancing the ledgers, similar to Granby’s experience.
 - One of the problems is the crosswalk-connection not always working and having to manually balance.
- Mansfield has one finance department and database, which has been in place for some time.
 - A new software accounting system can be costly, likely in excess of \$150,000. Granby converted its previous accounting software at a high cost.
 - A lot of personnel time and expense is given to refashion a finance software system.
 - Not appropriate at this time but, when enough items are identified, it should be recognized and get accomplished.
- Uniform chart of accounts is an accounting system for revenues and expenditures. This system is being phased-in by the CT Office of Policy and Management for municipalities’ compliance.
 - Once the uniform chart of accounts is mandated, it may be the time to revisit the finance software system to determine if a more reliable software system is available.
- The town’s pension system as it compares to other communities is at or slightly below median in the categories of employee contribution rate, earnings, averaging period, normal retirement eligibility, and benefit formula.
 - A clear, consistent strategy on pension matters should be developed and may be used during contract negotiations with bargaining units.
- Outsourcing retiree health benefit services comes at a cost of money and supervision.
 - Keeping certain services in house is to the benefit of the town or school because of the staff experience to handle the routine and unexpected problems of benefit service.

Superintendent Addley commented it would be advantageous to get appropriate personnel together to talk about streamlining processes within the finance software system. Town Manager Smith concurred and stated that working together gets the job done more effectively.

Ronald Walther, BOE Chairman, commented upon review of the finance department, the findings from this Committee does not see a benefit to making any significant changes in the finance department. However, it is encouraged to get finance head departments, Town Manager, and Superintendent of School together to talk about streamlining processes within the finance software system and to prepare a clear, consistent strategy on pension matters that may be used during contract negotiations with bargaining units. The town side has addressed some of the pension concerns raised.

DISCUSSION OF OTHER ISSUES PERTAINING TO IBAC CONCEPTS

Ms. Emery mentioned again that a solar project seems to be a good opportunity for the town to explore and utilize.

She commented the solar project may be an example of borrowing money for an investment that would change the town and school operations paradigm. Some committee members concurred about the need to find an investment that would change the operations model.

First Selectman Kuhnly commented that a newly formed committee was meeting tonight to explore town-owned properties for possible usages of town land (example – solar farm).

CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE

The next special meeting of IBAC is scheduled on February 26, 2015 at 6 p.m. One of the agenda items will be Brainstorm Further Opportunities for Collaboration.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by First Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Ms. Rome, the Board voted unanimously (4-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia I. Chieski
Recording Secretary