

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
APRIL 7, 2025**

PRESENT: Michael Guarco, Chairman; Jenny Emery, Kevin Hobson, William Kennedy, Benjamin Perron and James Tsaptsinos

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman Mark Fiorentino and Board of Education Chairman Monica Logan

CALL TO ORDER:

The Public Hearing was called to order by Chairman Michael Guarco at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING STATEMENT

Board of Finance Chairman Michael welcomed the public, introduced the members of the panel, and provided an overview of the proposed budget. Following Mr. Guarco's presentation, the First Selectman and the Board of Education Chairman presented their budgets. The meeting was opened for public comment following the presentations. The chairman closed the public hearing after public comment and the Board of Finance met to consider the comments and make a final decision on a budget proposal to forward to the Town Referendum on Monday, April 21, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

The FY25-26 annual budget proposes an increase of 3.24% resulting in a mill rate change from 33.13 to 34.21 or 3.26%.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN PRESENTATION:

First Selectman Mark Fiorentino presented the proposed FY 2025-2026 budget for the Board of Selectmen.

The Board of Selectmen strategic goals and objectives for the budget are:

1. Deliver and maintain excellent Town Services that benefit all residents while budgeting in a conservative and fiscally responsible manner.
2. Explore alternative methods of providing services and ways to expand revenue sources to minimize property tax increases.
3. Explore methods for creating efficiency and reducing costs.
4. Provide appropriate funding to maintain all Town assets and meet the long-term capital needs of the Town. Examine the current process for developing the Capital Improvement Program.
5. Explore alternatives to note payable direct borrowing, including cash purchases from the Capital Equipment/Improvement Fund, where appropriate and advisable.
6. Develop a multi-year plan to maintain unassigned fund balance reserves at a minimum of 15%.
7. Continually strive to improve and fund communication strategies with residents and businesses in all areas of government.

BOF Public Hearing Minutes

4/7/25

Page 2

Budget Summary:

GENERAL FUND	FY25 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)	% CHANGE
Town Operations	\$13,778,911	\$14,109,203	\$330,292	2.4%
Debt Service	\$ 1,746,458	\$ 1,731,368	(\$15,090)	-0.9%
Capital Budget	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 2,605,000	\$205,000	8.5%
TOTAL	\$17,925,369	\$18,445,571	\$520,202	2.9%

The Town Operations budget represents a 2.9% increase over FY 2024-2025, primarily due to these major cost drivers:

	FY25 ADOPTED	FY26 PROPOSED	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)	% CHANGE
Permanent Services	\$ 6,630,089	\$ 6,894,435	\$ 264,346	4.0%
Medical/Fringe Benefits	\$ 2,129,000	\$ 1,991,308	(\$137,692)	- 6.5%
Retirement Benefits	\$ 1,139,080	\$ 1,188,853	\$ 49,773	4.4%
General Government	\$ 3,880,742	\$ 4,034,607	\$ 153,865	4.0%
Capital Funding	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 2,605,000	\$ 205,000	8.5%
Debt Service - Bonds	\$ 1,746,458	\$ 1,731,368	(\$ 15,090)	- 0.9%
TOTAL	\$17,925,369	\$18,445,571	\$ 520,202	2.9%

The Capital Equipment/Improvement Fund breaks down as follows:

CAPITAL FUND	FY 2025 ADOPTED	FY 2026 PROPOSED
Road Maintenance/Improvement	\$ 1,040,000	\$ 1,000,000
Educational Related	\$ 1,050,000	\$ 1,000,000
Capital Equipment (Rolling Stock)	\$ 525,392	\$ 565,504
Facility Infrastructure Improvements	\$ 139,000	\$ 305,107
Granby Ambulance Capital Contribution	\$ 0	\$ 92,940
TOTAL	\$ 2,754,392	\$ 2,963,551

BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENTATION:

Chairman Monica Logan presented the proposed FY 2025-2026 budget for the Board of Education. The FY26 budget of \$39,418,142 represents a 3.41% increase over the FY25 budget, exceeding the 3.25% budget guideline set by the Board of Finance. The additional 0.16% is attributed to contract negotiations, special education costs and inflation.

Budget Summary:

Operating Budget Request (3.41%)	\$ 39,418,142
Quality and Diversity Fund	\$ 984,237
Small Capital Fund	\$ 1,000,000
FY26 Board of Education Budget Request	\$ 41,402,379

Budget highlights:

- Repurposed Small Cap and Q&D Funds to support SRO and critical positions.
- Delayed SRO start date to September 1, 2025.
- Renegotiated bussing contract to reduce costs.
- Reduced software and supplies purchases across the district.
- Postponed the replacement of laptop purchases for staff.
- Modified available grant funding to offset operating expenses.
- Worked with vendors to reduce cost of state-mandated HVAC assessments.
- Assumed reduction in force due to enrollment.

Capital Funding:

Transportation & Equipment	\$ 117,431
Building and Maintenance Projects	\$ 576,098
Technology	\$ 306,471
TOTAL	\$ 1,000,000

Notables in the Quality & Diversity Fund budget request:

- School Resource Officer salary
- Magnet and vocational school tuition
- Staffing (social workers, math interventionists, tutors, etc.)
- Summer school
- K-3 reading program
- Student enrichment and clubs

PUBLIC COMMENT

Herb Andrus, 94 Hungary Road, Granby inquired about the roles and responsibilities of the School Resource Officer and the status of the town-owned property on East Street.

Mike Kramarenko, 150 Notch Road, Granby commented that the police are doing well responding to issues at the school and questioned the benefits of an SRO over a police officer. Mr. Kramarenko also suggested that the BOE should find ways to cut spending in the schools.

John Mahoney, 16 Maple Hill Drive applauded the efforts of the boards on behalf of the residents and commented on several topics including: the KCE battery project, the schools moving from DRG B to DRG C, the adding of an additional police officer as well as an SRO and the efficiency of the number of school busses in the district.

Tony King, 80 Donahue Road, North Granby requested further clarification on the state special education reimbursement rate; commented on teachers' salaries in Granby and thanked Chief Sansom and the police department for the excellent job they do for the Town.

Beth Carroll, 10 Quail Lane, North Granby thanked the boards for their professional presentations and the budget articles in the Drummer. Ms. Carroll also commented on the annual transfers from the general fund to balance the budget and whether this practice will be continued in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Michael Guarco closed the Public Hearing at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Mazzotta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the last name being a large, stylized 'M'.

Betsy Mazzotta
Recording Secretary