

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING – BUDGET WORKSHOP II
MINUTES
March 10, 2025**

PRESENT: Mark Fiorentino, First Selectman; Margaret Chapple, Frederick Moffa and Kelly Rome

ABSENT: Mark Neumann, Vice-Chairman

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Guarco, Board of Finance Chairman; Kimi Cheng, Director of Finance; Mike Walsh, Town Manager; Kevin Hobson, Board of Finance Vice-Chairman; William Kennedy, Board of Finance and Ben Perron, Board of Finance

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting of the Town of Granby Board of Selectmen (Budget Workshop II) was called to order by First Selectman Mark Fiorentino at 5:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Parks & Recreation Event Fund

Town Manager Mike Walsh provided a brief overview of the fund which is a self-balancing fund. Revenue taken in supports the delivery of the Parks and Receptions programs and services with little funding from the General Fund.

Community Services Director Sandy Yost highlighted the following line items related to the program fund:

- Granby Travel Basketball decided to manage their program independently and the associated costs were removed from the Youth Sports line.
- There is a slight increase in Youth Sports Clinics due to the addition of new programs such as Mountain Biking.
- The department is no longer managing the elementary after-school program resulting in a decrease in Youth Activities expenses.
- Holcomb Farm Revenue increased due to the successful marketing and booking of special events.
- The department discontinued the Preschool Camp program and the extra S'more week of summer camp.

Community Services

Director Yost reported on the remainder of the Community Services departments including Senior Services, Social Services and Youth Services.

FY25 Noteworthy Accomplishments

- Renovated the Senior Center kitchen through STEAP, SUA Covid Relief and NCOA Vaccine Initiative grant funding.
- Purchased a 2023 Chevy 14-passenger, lift-equipped vehicle.

- Completed the Walking Path at Salmon Brook Park through STEAP and ARPA grant funding.
- Hosted over 1,600 events at the Senior Center with over 3,400 attendees since July 1, 2024.
- Offered several community events through Parks & Recreation including Family Day, Trunk or Treat, Comedy Night, Holiday Marketplace, and Breakfast with Santa.

FY26 Goals & Objectives

- Review and update policies and procedures for Community Services departments.
- Implement regional CLEAR program.
- Make building improvements to the Senior Center/Youth Services building.
- Increase storage capacity for event equipment at the North Barn Pavilion.
- Enhance the Walking Path experience at Salmon Brook Park.
- Establish an improved media presence for the Community Services department.
- Introduce new programs and opportunities to encourage participation from new demographic groups.

FY26 Capital Improvement Requests:

- Purchase and install generators for the Park House at Salmon Brook Park and the North Barn Pavilion at Holcomb Farm to address safety concerns in the event of a power outage.
- Dredge the pond at Salmon Brook Park for the health of the pond and to remove excess sedimentation.
- Purchase and install a digital display sign for Salmon Brook Park to announce real time events, classes, and notices.

Library Services

Director of Library Services Amber Wyzik presented the organization and budget for the public libraries.

FY25 Noteworthy Accomplishments

- Replacement of sidewalks at Cossitt Library.
- Significant increase in the use of Cossitt Library since the introduction of the Maker Space.
- Implemented a new online library event calendar registration system/meeting room reservation system.
- Completed library renovation with new carpet, paint, and lighting.
- Replaced all staff and patron computers with funds from a PEGPETIA grant.
- Updated staff performance evaluation tools and protocols.
- Created a five-year long-range strategic plan for the library.
- Completed a library space feasibility study as well as a capital feasibility study to measure potential community support for a library expansion project.
- Reviewed and updated all policies more than five years old.
- Developed and implemented a homebound delivery service.
- Refreshed library staff onboarding and training practices.

FY26 Goals & Objectives

- Successfully implement a library management system.

- Initiate and complete Phase 3 of the Cossitt Restoration Project.
- Complete the capital campaign planning phase to raise funds for future library expansion and renovation.
- Successfully organize and host the annual Granby Children's Book Festival.
- Increase awareness of library programs and resources within the community.
- Enhance overall patron experience by ensuring timely assistance and knowledgeable staff.
- Assess progress towards the library's long-range strategic plan.

FY26 Budget Requests

- Increase part-time wages to industry standards, ensuring fair compensation and supporting the long-term sustainability of our workforce.
- Add eight part-time hours either through a new staff member or an increase in current staff hours to further support library programming.
- Increase the Special Events budget to support one or two major events at the library such as the Summer Reading program kickoff or the finale. Currently 100% of the programming is supported by the Friends of the Library.

Department of Public Works

Director Kirk Severance presented an overview of the department and budget for Public Works.

- The budget was held flat in as many areas as possible with a slight increase overall. Adjustments will be made as necessary between DPW line items to cover shortfalls.
- Areas of concern include the increased cost of salt and higher pricing for repainting the lines on town roads.
- Savings were realized by collaborating with the Board of Education on pricing for diesel fuel, gasoline, and home heating oil.
- Staff training expenses were increased to meet annual mandated training for existing staff and new employee onboarding. Additional training is also needed for the new supervisors in the department as a result of the reorganization.
- Harness Way is currently going through the Planning & Zoning process to be an approved road. Once it is approved, the road will be added to the list of roads to be maintained by the Town.
- The Town was in the final year of a very beneficial contract for electricity which expired as of December 2024. The Town Manager worked with CRCOG on a collective bid and signed a new four-year contract with BP. Although the new contract is good for the current market, it still represents a significant increase compared to the last contract.
- Paine's Recycling & Rubbish Removal was recently taken over by USA Hauling & Recycling. The Town has a written proposal from the new company to continue the collection service in Granby with no change in the drivers, vehicles, routes, etc. The Waste Collection line item reflects the new proposal.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Flanigan, 24 Woodcliff Drive, inquired about the cost and use of Public Works trucks and equipment as well as the hiring of an SRO for the Board of Education.

5. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by K. Rome, seconded by F. Moffa, the Board voted (4-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Mazzotta", is written above the typed name.

Betsy Mazzotta
Recording Secretary