

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
April 21, 2025**

PRESENT: Mark Fiorentino, First Selectman; Mark Neumann, Vice-Chairman; Margaret Chapple, Frederick Moffa, Kelly Rome, and Ben Lavigne Student Liaison

ABSENT: Zainab Zafar, Student Liaison

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Walsh, Town Manager, Kimi Cheng, Director of Finance

First Selectman Mark Fiorentino called the Regular meeting of the Town of Granby Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. MINUTES

2.I. Approval of Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2025

ON A MOTION by M. Neumann, seconded by M. Chapple, the Board voted (5-0-0) to approve the minutes of March 17, 2025, as presented.

3. APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments presented.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

4.I. Introducing Jen Espinal – Granby's New Town Clerk

First Selectman Mark Fiorentino welcomed Jen Espinal and introduced her to the Board of Selectmen and the community. Ms. Espinal was sworn in as the Town Clerk on March 31, 2025.

4.II. Library Building Expansion Presentation and Discussion

Library Director Amber Wyzik provided an update on the potential expansion of the library including the results of the feasibility study, conceptual designs, space planning, budget projections and estimated funding. The entire PowerPoint presentation can be found in the agenda packet on the Town website.

The next steps for the Board of Selectmen will be to determine how the library expansion fits into the long-term capital plan and the costs associated with the project.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.I. Library Summer Intern Position 2025 – Budget Impact

In April 2025, the Granby Library Association and the Friends of the Granby Public Libraries agreed to provide \$5,722.50 for a temporary, full-time summer internship

position at the Granby Public Library. The position will be 35 hours a week for 10 weeks and will not include benefits. Upon approval of this funding, GLA and FOGPL will each provide a check for \$2,861.25.

Since these funds will increase revenue and expenditure line items in the General Fund, which was not budgeted in the FY25 & FY26 adopted budget, a budget amendment is required according to the Town Charter. Pursuant to section 10-6(e) of the Granby Town Charter, the request is forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for comment and will then be forwarded to the Board of Finance for approval.

ON A MOTION by K. Rome, seconded by F. Moffa the Board voted (5-0-0) to approve a budget amendment to increase the Misc. Revenue line item by \$2,289, the Payroll-Temp/PT line item by \$2,113.89, and the FICA & Medicare line item by \$175.11 in the fiscal year 2024-25 adopted General Fund budget for four weeks of the library summer intern position and forwards this request to the Board of Finance for approval.

And to approve a budget amendment to increase the Misc. Revenue line item by \$3,433.50, the Payroll-Temp/PT line item by \$3,170.84, and the FICA & Medicare line item by \$262.66 in the fiscal year 2025-26 adopted General Fund budget for six weeks of the library summer intern position and forwards this request to the Board of Finance for approval.

6.II. Library PEGPETIA Grant Award Acceptance and Budget Adjustment

On April 9, 2025, the State of Connecticut's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority awarded a grant to the Granby Public Library for \$7,344.28 to purchase two interactive displays, one for the Fox meeting Room and the other for the Children's Program Room. The grant does not require any matching funds from the Town.

Since these funds will increase revenue and expenditure line items in the General Fund, which was not budgeted in the FY26 adopted budget, a budget amendment is required according to the Town Charter. Pursuant to section 10-6(e) of the Granby Town Charter, the request is forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for comment and will then be forwarded to the Board of Finance for approval.

ON A MOTION by M. Chapple, seconded by M. Neumann, the Board voted (5-0-0) to approve an increase in the Library Automation line item in the FY26 General Fund Budget by \$7,344.28 and forwards this request to the Board of Finance for approval.

6.III. Valley Brook Community Church Donation Recognition and Associated Stipulation

The Town received a \$15,000 donation from Valley Brook Community Church to add ramps to the bandshell at Salmon Brook Park to improve access to the stage for the annual Live Nativity as well as other events in the park. Town staff believes the amount is sufficient to cover the entire cost of the construction and installation.

ON A MOTION by M. Neumann, seconded by K. Rome, the Board voted (5-0-0) to accept the \$15,000 donation from Valley Brook Community Church for the express purpose of providing the funding source for the planning, construction, and installation of a handicapped accessible ramp to be attached to the bandshell at Salmon Brook Park.

6.IV. CGS-29-260 – Appointment of Building/Code Official – Four-Year Term

ON A MOTION by F. Moffa, seconded by M. Chapple, the Board voted (5-0-0) to direct Town Manager Mike Walsh, based on the authority originating out of CGS Section 29-260 and the Granby Town Charter Section 7-4, to appoint Joel Skilton as the Building Official and Administrator of the (building) code for a term of four years, effective immediately.

6.V. Contract Extension – Paine's/USA Waste Including Market Conditions Discussion
Town Manager Mike Walsh discussed the history between the Town of Granby and Paine's Recycling and Rubbish Removal, which was recently taken over by USA Waste & Recycling. The Town Manager also discussed the current market conditions that solid waste is subject to in Connecticut and requested approval from the Board of Selectmen to extend the existing contract with USA Waste which will move forward under terms and conditions that are favorable to the Town of Granby for the next eight years. The agreement would increase the in-force contract by half the rate of inflation or 1.5% beginning on July 1, 2025 increasing the monthly solid waste collection charge from \$7.95 to \$8.07 per barrel collected weekly and the monthly recycling collection charges from \$2.79 to \$2.84 per barrel collected biweekly. Solid waste collection is based on 4,400 barrels monthly and recycling collection is based on 4,900 barrels monthly.

ON A MOTION by M. Neumann, seconded by F. Moffa, the Board voted (5-0-0) to direct Town Manager Mike Walsh to accept the Paine's/USA Waste contract extension offer of an increase based on 50% of the annual CPI-NE for the period beginning July 1, 2025, an increase based on the CPI-NE for July 1, 2026, an increase based on 50% of the CPI-NE for July 1, 2027, and an increase based on the CPI-NE for the periods July 1, 2028 and July 1, 2029.

6.VI. July 4, 2026, America 250 Granby Commission Creation

ON A MOTION by M. Chapple, seconded by K. Rome, the Board voted (5-0-0) to adopt the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Board of Selectmen, consistent with Charter Section 6-1, does hereby create the Granby America 250 Committee for the express purpose of planning, coordinating, facilitating, and publicizing any events deemed necessary and proper to appropriately recognize and celebrate America's 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026.

Vice-Chairman Mark Neumann has accepted responsibility for organizing the committee.

6.VII. Cider Mill Heights Parcel Sale Process begins – 8-24 P&Z Referral

In 2005, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved a special permit application for a Flexible Residential Development for Cider Mill Heights. At the time of approval, a need was expressed to have additional town property in the area for storage of DPW road materials. A 1.85-acre lot at 603 Cider Lane was deeded to the Town to be used for this purpose. The lot has not been used since it was deeded to the Town, and it is not expected that the Town will need this lot for municipal purposes. The town has received occasional inquiries about the purchase of the property. If the Town wants to

consider selling the property, Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that prior to the sale of any town property, the Board of Selectmen refer the proposal to the Planning and Zoning Commission for consideration. The Commission is to evaluate the proposal for its consistency with the Plan of Conservation and Development and report their findings to the Board of Selectmen.

ON A MOTION by K. Rome, seconded by F. Moffa, the Board voted (5-0-0) to refer parcel 603 Cider Lane to the Planning and Zoning Commission for consideration under CGS 8-24 and report back to the Board of Selectmen with their findings.

- 6.VIII. Sanitation Fund Expenditure Request – Barrels, Parts, and Recycling Printing/Postage
Director of Public Works Kirk Severance is requesting an appropriation of \$43,529 from the Solid Waste Fund for new trash barrels, replacement parts for barrels, and for the printing and mailing of an informational flyer. The Town Manager approves of the request and forwards it to the Board of Selectmen for consideration pursuant to section 10-6(e) of the Granby Town Charter. If approved by the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance will hear the request at their next meeting. The Solid Waste Fund has sufficient funds to cover this appropriation, with a balance of \$446,470 as of June 30, 2024.

ON A MOTION by F. Moffa, seconded by M. Neumann, the Board voted (5-0-0) to approve an appropriation of \$43,529 from the Solid Waste Special Revenue Fund to provide funding for new trash barrels, barrel parts, and for the printing and mailing of an informational flyer and forward this request to the Board of Finance for their consideration and approval.

- 6.IX. Right to Farm Ordinance Referral – P&Z and Development Commission Feedback
At their meeting on December 2, 2024, the Board of Selectmen referred a draft of a Right to Farm Ordinance that was prepared by the Agricultural Commission to both the Planning and Zoning Commission and Development Commission for review and feedback. The purpose of the local ordinance was to take steps to promote the Town of Granby as an agriculturally friendly town and a right to farm town. The recommendation of the Agricultural Commission was to adopt the state statute as the town code. Director of Community Development Abby Kenyon summarized the feedback from the commissions and presented them to the Town Manager who is seeking guidance from the board on next steps.

After a brief discussion and review of the feedback from the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Development Commission, the Board decided to recommend the topic be included as a part of the update of the Plan of Conservation and Development to explore other options to accomplish the goal of promoting Granby as an agriculturally friendly town and a right to farm town. The POCD will work the Agricultural Commission to include initiatives that will further their agenda.

- 6.X. Resolution and Compliance Statement and Policies Supporting Fair Housing
As a recipient of Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant funding, the Connecticut Department of Housing Program requires the Town of Granby to actively evidence its commitment to the principles and practices of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity and to take specific actions to support them.

To reaffirm the Town's commitment to fair housing and equal opportunity, it is recommended that the Board of Selectmen re-adopt the Fair Housing Resolution, Fair Housing Policy Statement, Compliance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Affirmative Action Policy Statement, Municipal Grievance Procedure, and ADA Notice as presented.

ON A MOTION by M. Chapple, seconded by M. Neumann, the Board voted (5-0-0) to re-adopt the Fair Housing Resolution, Fair Housing Policy Statement, Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Affirmative Action Policy Statement, Municipal Grievance Procedure and ADA Notice as presented.

7. TOWN MANAGER REPORT – PROJECTS AND FINANCIALS

Town Manager Mike Walsh provided an update of ongoing Town of Granby projects and other noteworthy items. The FY25 year-to-date March budget summary and Phase I and Phase II ARPA report through April 8, 2025, as compiled by Finance Director Kimi Cheng was also included. A few of the highlights of the report included:

- The Town Manager continues to meet regularly with the 7 Summits/New Samaritan developers on the Kearns housing project.
- Granby hosted the Farmington Valley Collaborative quarterly meeting.
- The Town Manager met with the chairman of the town Safety Committee to discuss panic buttons and speed bumps at Salmon Brook Park.
- Director of Finance Kimi Cheng attended the CIRMA Operations and Underwriting Committee board meeting.
- The Director of Finance worked with Amazon to take advantage of the Massachusetts Higher Education Purchasing Consortium contract, which offers up to 100 prime membership users for free, saves the Town \$1,299 per year and offers other discounts on eligible purchases.
- The Assessor repriced all motor vehicles and reapplied exemptions for the 2024 motor vehicle grand list according to the new legislation.
- The Fire Marshal received a grant award of \$500 to purchase a new camera.
- BFJ Planning is holding a public meeting on May 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center on the Granby Center Master Plan.
- The Senior Center A/V project is complete, and the equipment is working well.
- The police force is down three officers due to injuries.
- Captain LaFlamme visited the B.E.A.R. Transition Academy and is working to get students to volunteer with the Police Department.
- Salmon Brook Park was opened for athletic groups to start practicing.
- Estimates for road overlay work for the next three years are complete.
- The library was awarded a PEGPETIA grant to install interactive displays in the Fox Meeting Room and in the Children's Program Room.
- Social Services managed 77 applications for heating assistance this season.
- At the Senior Center, 180 seniors received assistance completing their tax return from AARP volunteers and 92 guests attended the St. Patrick's Day Luncheon.
- Transportation services is still in need of an additional senior van driver.
- The registrars of voters completed the Annual Canvass mailing; conducted a presentation at GMHS and registered 50 new voters; and will launch the new statewide voter registration system "Total Vote" in June.
- The Town Clerk's office completed all the statutory requirements to prepare for the budget referendum and bond resolution; implemented eRecordings in March to

improve the way business is conducted in the office; and entered a large volume of data in the Cott system to maximize efficiency in recording and proofing land records.

8. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORT (Mark Fiorentino)

First Selectman Mark Fiorentino provided the following:

- Members of the Senior Center staff visited Granby resident Mary Sullivan and presented a proclamation in honor of her 100th birthday.
- The Planning & Zoning Commission will begin the required review of the Planning of Conservation and Development at their meeting tomorrow night. The first step will be to define the framework and name a committee. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the process.

9. SELECTMAN REPORTS (Margaret Chapple, Frederick Moffa, Mark Neumann, Kelly Rome, Ben Lavigne and Zainah Zafar, Student Liaisons)

Kelly Rome attended the Junior Achievement dinner where Granby Memorial High School student and Board of Selectmen student liaison Zainah Zabar delivered an impressive speech and represented Granby very well.

Student Liaison Ben Lavigne provided the following update from the high school:

- The Empty Bowls event was a tremendous success, and the students appreciated the support from the community.
- Students attended presentations on topics such as social issues and screen time as part of Connect Days.
- Spring sports and Senior Water Wars are in full swing.

10. PUBLIC SESSION

Stephanie Harper, 48 Barn Door Hills Road, Granby expressed continued concerns with the farming operation in the area and had several questions for the board about the issue.

Lee Shaw, One Barn Door Hills Road, Granby expressed continued concerns on the use of pesticides on the farmland in the area and the Town's response to the concerns of the neighbors.

Maureen Eberly, Silkey Road, commented on several topics including the library expansion, large vehicles using the Route 20 parking lot, changes to state funding and the tax implications on residents and the status of the town-owned property on East Street.

Danielle Johnston, 42 Barn Door Hills Road commented on the frustration with the Town's response to the concerns raised by the neighbors about the farming operation in the area and requested the lease be terminated with the farmer for applying harmful chemicals.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

12. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by M. Neumann, seconded by M. Chapple, the Board voted (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Town of Granby Board of Selectmen will be held on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Betsy Mazzotta
Recording Secretary

