




# TOWN OF GRANBY

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 30, 2025

**TO:** The Granby Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** Mike Walsh, Granby Town Manager 

**REGARDING:** **Town Manager's Report as of April 30, 2025**

Please accept the following summary of departmental activities underway throughout the town through the month of April, 2025 as detailed to me by the various department heads.

### Town Manager's Office

- Attending the standing meeting with 7-Summits/New Samaritan for Kearns Housing
- FY26 Budget – Public Hearing, BOF to set the budget and mill rate, the budget vote
- Participated in standing meetings with the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman, BOE, director's, staff, etc....
- Extended the Paine's Refuse Collection Contract for 5 more years at favorable terms
- Met with CNG and heard no infrastructure work to expand gas use will occur in town
- Met at the Public Works Garage to review the 10-Year CIP document with Kirk
- Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic may have a kiosk for Granby
- The Library held a fire drill under the watchful eye of Fire Marshal Brian Long
- Attended via remote, the monthly CRCOG Policy Board Meeting
- Planning with the GPD and American Legion for the Memorial Day Parade continued
- Met in person with some members of the Conservation Commission
- The Meadow Burn may occur on Saturday May 10. Sunday May 11 is the rain date

### Finance, Tax Office, Assessors Office

- Evaluated eShopping module for I-Vision software
- Continued Global Search software and processing configuration
- Completed BOE ledger reconciliation as of March 2025
- PO was scheduled to be closed on 4/17/25 but was pushed back to 4/28/2025
- Interviewed with a UV graduate, who is a Granby resident, on public finance
- Updated Fox fund trustees document
- Filed and submitted ARPA grant report as of 3/31/2025 to the US Treasury
- Worked with BOE and managers to finalized lease amount/interest quotes
- Assisted department managers to arrange payment for conference and filed cert-112
- Reached out to OPEB custodian for the new OPEB claim procedure
- Submitted Personnel rules revisions to HR
- Assisted in setting up in-person employee benefit meeting with MissionSquare
- Repriced All Motor Vehicles for the 2024 Grand List according to HB 7067 which resulted in an additional \$11,861,400 increase for the 2024 Motor Vehicle Grand List
- Reapply All the Motor Vehicle Exemptions for the 2024 Grand List (HB 7067)
- Accepting and verifying all State and Local Elderly Applications and Income for benefits for State Compliance.

- Working with the Board of Assessment to ensure compliance, proper filing, legal notices, and adherence to the new HB 7067, extending the Board of Assessment Appeals duties and dates in to April.

### **Community Development**

- The Emergency Management Director, along with several CERT members, attended the volunteer fair on April 26<sup>th</sup> to provide information and materials about the CERT program and to recruit additional members. Residents interested in volunteering can visit the webpage for more information <https://www.granby-ct.gov/194/Community-Emergency-Response-Team-CERT-P>.
- The Building Official consulted with the Department of Public Works to draft a preliminary design for a sidewalk and ramp to the bandshell at Salmon Brook Park. An invitation to bid is being developed, which will be issued soon.
- The Fire Marshal purchased additional smoke alarms as part of the Community Risk Reduction program, which provides free replacement of battery-operated alarms for one- and two-family dwellings. If residents are in need of smoke alarms, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office. See the Fire Marshal's webpage for more information <https://www.granby-ct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1997/Smoke-Alarm-Program-22021-PDF>.
- Proposals were received in response to an RFP that was issued for housing rehabilitation services. A&E Services was awarded the contract. The services are funded through Housing Rehab loan repayments.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission will be discussing the 2026 Plan of Conservation and Development update at their May meeting. Specifically, the Commission will be considering composition of a possible subcommittee to lead the plan update.

### **Information Technology**

- Replaced UPS in Town Hall data center which suffered damage from recent power surge and fluctuation issues coming from the street. Eversource has been notified
- Attended police department meeting regarding CISA and Homeland Security cybersecurity assessment
- Continue to work with GCTV to tweak video/broadcasting equipment at Senior Center
- Continue setup work and attendance of vendor / project meetings involved with Finance Department's Square 9 software project. (Paper to digital documents and workflow)
- Submitted PEGPETIA grant award compliance filings for additional microphones and studio equipment for GCTV. Draft grant decision states that Granby/GCTV will be awarded \$42,000
- Facilitating public safety fiber line repair to PD used for 911 services. Work has been partially completed. (State covers costs of repair)
- Continued updating virtualization software on all town servers and building additional redundancies into the network and systems
- Scheduled electrical installation for Library security cameras
- Working with DPW to increase security camera coverage at the Transfer Station

### **Police Department**

#### **Human Resources, Training and Community Outreach, Projects**

- Continuing to have one officer on light duty from a work-related injury, is listed to be out of patrol for 5 months due to surgery.
- An officer is on light duty from a non-work-related injury, should return in 4 weeks.
- Officer received an injury at training, assigned to light duty for two weeks. Officer returned to duty on 4/7/25.
- Granby Officers have been working with the B.E.A.R. Transition Academy and working with a student volunteering at the Police Department

- Officers Abalan and Walzak worked the Drug Take Back event and received 115.9 pounds of unneeded medication.
- Sergeant Joseph is attending the prestigious Criminal Procedure Academy
- Installation of the High-Density Evidence Storage units is completed.

#### **Crime/Noteworthy Items**

- An increase of Fraud/Scams complaints have increased for the month.
- Two motorcycles (dirt bikes) were stolen from a locked shed.
- Vape Shop was burglarized, suspect identified and juvenile arrested.
- Elderly female was scammed out of almost 100K, investigation ongoing.
- Numerous accidents reported due to late season snow.
- Granby High School seniors playing "Water Wars" has generated calls for service.
- Officer Dufresne interviewed and obtained a confession from a female who was committing larcenies throughout town.
- Juvenile was transported to the hospital due to cocaine use

#### **Public Works**

- Mowing, overseeding, fertilizing, water and irrigation startups.
- We are currently working on finding a water leak at SBP.
- Tree trimming / removal with an outside contractor.
- Started cut and patch program on several roads.
- Peck Orchard Road patching program completed.
- Phase 2 of the sewer study review continues.
- Meeting for the design for the dispatch area prior to going out to bid.
- Doherty Road Bridge, replacement approved. Will be submitting updated time lines and what ever the state requires.

#### **Human Service: Youth Services, Parks and Recreation, Senior Services, Social Services**

- The President's FY 2026 HHS (Health and Human Services) budget draft was reviewed last week and it shows the Administration's intent to impact OAA (Older Americans Act) and send them to two different agencies (CMS: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and ACF: Administration for Children and Families) in the wake of its HHS reorganization. The budget also calls for zeroing out several key OAA and other aging programs as follows:
  1. Transportation Services, funding from CT DOT Municipal Grant Program – Granby has nearly 200 registered van riders (\$29,000)
  2. Elderly Nutrition Program, OAA funding - Granby Community Café on Tuesdays and Thursdays (Impact TBD)
  3. CHOICES Program, OAA funding - provides in-depth and unbiased one-on-one insurance counseling and education to Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and their caregivers (Impact TBD)
  4. LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) – Granby processed 63 application for elderly residents this season (\$70,000)
- A successful Tulip Dinner celebrating Spring with a catered meal, entertainment, and service provided by the Flying Yankees based at Bradley.
- *Exercising Your Brain: Never Too Late* was presented at the Senior Center by University of Hartford experts who explored the link between mental health and exercise.
- The Parks & Rec Annual Easter Egg Hunt had to be cancelled due to snow, however, through good community relations work, arrangements were made with Valley Brook Community Church to direct registered participants to their event.

## Registrars

- The annual referendum on April 21 went smoothly. 1,145 Granby voters participated (13% of total registered, no out-of-town property owners). Both motions – approval of the annual budget and the Doherty Bridge Bonding Question - passed. Thank you again to all of our wonderful volunteers! All 1,145 voters were entered into the State Centralized Voter Registration System (CVRS).
- Ten new voting tabulators and boxes were delivered April 7, along with a dedicated standalone computer and printer to be used to consolidate and report results. They were tested prior to delivery by both the manufacturer (ESS) and the State. While we will use the new equipment for November's municipal election (and a primary this year if needed), we do not anticipate using the new system - which is intentionally isolated from external networks - to report results to the State until 2026.
- We will continue to store and maintain 3 of the old machines for future referendums or other Yes/No ballots, assuming Adkins printing can still provide us with paper stock for those votes. This saves us money by reusing memory chips we already own. Storage of all this is a challenge.
- Four people from our staff attended a seven-hour training session for the new equipment and software on April 3 in Farmington.
- Implementation of the new statewide computerized voter registration system ("Total Vote") has been delayed. The training class for May 2 will be rescheduled, possibly to late May. The expected start date for Total Vote has been moved to July.

## Election reform update: The Presidential Executive Order (EO) of 3/25 and the "SAVE Act"

- **Proof of citizenship requirements, including requiring in-person verification of voter eligibility** - A US District Court has put this on hold pending further court action. The Granby registrars are still coordinating voter registrations with online systems (eg, the CT DMV), and potential registrants can still initiate the process themselves without appearing in person.
- **Federal funding** - Typically Presidential EOs are not "law" per se, but States that do not comply can have election-related Federal funding reduced or withheld. The extent of requirements in the EO that would have to be met to allow such funding to continue is currently being challenged in court.
- **Congress is considering a law (the "SAVE Act")** that, while only explicitly affecting federal elections, will impact how prospective voters get registered and preempt state voter registration processes. In its current form, the SAVE Act would require everyone registering to vote to provide a document verifying their citizenship. As of April 21, it has passed the House but was not yet being considered in the Senate. The current bill has no provision for additional funding and no grace period for implementation if passed.
- Court challenges, personnel changes in the Federal Election Assistance Commission, and limited legal guidance from the State mean the impacts on Granby from these reforms will not be known for a while.

## Human Resources

- Secured Colonial Life as a vendor to offer supplemental benefits and insurances to staff. Open enrollment scheduled for mid-May.

If you have any questions on the aforementioned summary, I will be on hand to answer any questions. Thank you.