TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2026
MINUTES

CERTIFIED TRUE
ELECTRONIC COPY
From the Records of the
Town of Granby
as of 3:50 P.M.
January 14, 2026
Attested by:
Jen Espinal

PRESENT: Mark H. Fiorentino, First Selectman, Mark C. Neumann; Margaret Q. Chapple, Kimberly L. Becker, Frederick A. Moffa, and Zainab Zafar, Student Liaison

ABSENT: Madeline Ayotte, Student Liaison.

ALSO PRESENT: Michael P. Walsh, Town Manager, Jen Espinal, Town Clerk, and members of the public.

REMOTE: Kimi Cheng, Director of Finance, Betsy Mazzota, Management Assistant, and members of the public.

CALL TO ORDER

Selectman, M. Fiorentino, called the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Main Meeting Room, Granby, Connecticut.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by First Selectman, Mark Fiorentino.

2. MINUTES

2. I. Approval of Town Meeting Minutes - December 3, 2025

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY M. Neumann, seconded by Peg Chapple, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the minutes from the Town Meeting on December 3, 2025.

2.II. Approval of the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2025

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY M. Chapple, seconded by M. Neumann, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting on December 15, 2025.

3. RESIGNATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

None.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

4.I. Granby Senior Tax Credit Program Analysis - December 31, 2025

Town Manager, M. Walsh presented an analysis of Granby's Senior and Disabled Tax Credit Program in response to inquiries. The program, authorized by town ordinance and based on state statutes, provides additional tax relief to eligible senior homeowners. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, 174 residents received credits totaling $314,500, with an average benefit of about $1,800 and a maximum benefit exceeding $4,900. Approximately one-quarter mill of the tax rate

supports the program. Comparisons with neighboring towns show Granby offers one of the most generous programs due to its sliding-scale, percentage-based credit rather than a capped benefit. Granby's per capita tax burden remains lower than many surrounding communities. The analysis will also be reviewed by the Board of Finance and the Commission on Aging, which may consider further evaluation.

4.II. Granby Ambulance Association Operations Report - December 1, 2025

The Board received an operations and financial report on the Granby Ambulance Association, prepared with assistance from ambulance leadership and staff. Granby Ambulance provides life-saving services across Granby, East Granby, and East Hartland, responding to approximately 1,900 calls annually, with 2024 being its busiest year. The report outlined rising operational and capital costs, including the high cost of ambulances and medical equipment, and highlighted financial strain caused by low Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates. While the organization maintains a stable operating revenue of roughly 1 to $1.1 million annually, current revenues do not fully cover operating and capital needs, resulting in annual losses that have been offset through endowment use. The town's current $20,000 annual contribution was identified as insufficient, with a recommended increase to approximately $80,000 to stabilize operations and preserve endowment funds for capital replacement. The report also included recommendations to separate operating and capital funding, improve revenue collection where possible, and update the existing operating agreement to support long-term financial sustainability.

This is a summary of the discussion that took place at the Board of Selectmen meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear a full report, please click the following link at Granby Community Television https://gctv16.org or access the Board of Selectmen packet.

4.III. Bond Issuance Narrative 2025

Town Manager, M. Walsh brief the board with a summary of the bond issuance process and capital bonding capacity, primarily for the benefit of residents who did not attend the recent CPPAC meeting. The presentation outlined the timeline for CPPAC to finalize bonding recommendations, followed by Board of Selectmen review and potential voter referenda later in the year. Maintaining stable annual debt service at approximately $1.8 million provides an estimated $13.5 million in bonding capacity. CPPAC is currently evaluating projects that exceed this capacity, and its role is to recommend project sizing to the Board of Selectmen, who will determine which items advance to the voters for final approval.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None

6. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

6.I Town Manager's Monthly Departmental Report - December

Town Manager, M. Walsh provided department updates highlighting key financial, operational, and community activities. The FY 2025 federal single audit was completed successfully, a cyber liability insurance policy was secured, and supplemental motor vehicle tax bills totaling approximately $570,000 were issued. Community Development reported progress on planning initiatives, new housing activity, and increased use of online permitting. Information Technology achieved ongoing cost savings through phone carrier changes and advanced the work at the Emergency Operations Center to the renovated dispatch space.

Public safety updates included new police hires, a retirement announcement, successful resolution of recent criminal incidents, and completion of several community outreach programs. Public Works was recognized for storm response efforts and facility improvements. Human and Social Services reported successful holiday events, senior programming, youth activities, and family assistance initiatives. The Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters provided updates on election preparations, records management, and voter registration activity.

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7. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORT (Mark Fiorentino)

First Selectman, M. Fiorentino reported on recent public open houses attended by approximately 30 residents, which focused on explaining the CPPAC process, the upcoming annual budget process, and opportunities for public input. Key feedback included requests for greater detail in the Town budget book regarding small capital projects, including clearer identification of planned projects and the status of non-recurring funds. Residents also asked for clarification that small capital items listed in both the Town and Board of Education budget books are not duplicative. Additional feedback included improving navigation and links between the Town and Board of Education websites, encouraging the Board of Education to align its budget format more closely with the Town's for clarity, and considering additional Board of Education budget workshops to increase public engagement.

8. SELECTMEN REPORTS (Margaret Q. Chapple, Kimberly L. Becker, Frederick A. Moffa, Mark C. Neumann; and Madeline Ayotte, Zainab Zafar, Student Liaison)

M. Neumann gave an update on Granby America 250 Committee, indicating that the committee meets on the third Thursday of the month, at the Senior Center.

Z. Zafar gave the board an update on school activities and athletics. The girls' basketball team won their away game against Somers and remains undefeated. Upcoming events include a home swim meet at the YMCA and indoor track meet. It was also noted that students will have exam days the week of January 12. The next school play is expected to take place in April, with details to be provided at a future meeting.

9. PUBLIC SESSION

Robert Flannigan, 24 Woodcliff Drive, raised concerns regarding the proposed bond for sewer pump station improvements, questioning cost estimates associated with pump station components, particularly valves, suggesting that sewer funds may be sufficient to cover needed repairs without bonding. He also commented on senior tax relief, advocating for property tax breaks for retirees.

Maureen Eberly, 37 Silkey Road, gave input on the town's current senior tax relief programs. She suggested the Board of Selectmen to authorize additional analysis to reassess and expand tax relief options, emphasizing that policies should better reflect the demographics and financial realities of local seniors.

Beth Carroll, 10 Quail Lane, advocated for equitable tax for retirees. She emphasized that long-term residents without children have contributed significantly to the town's school system through property taxes and suggested exploring alternatives. Beth encouraged the board to consider options that recognize the contributions of seniors, maintaining goodwill and fairness for long-standing community members.

Bill Glueck, 18 Barkhamsted Road, president of the Granby Taxpayers Alliance, spoke as a taxpayer, and addressed the board on financial oversight for two major upcoming budget items, the pump station project and the proposed library project. He requested the town obtained designs, estimates, and plans before taxpayer funding is approved. Mr. Glueck also acknowledged Mike Walsh's recent work on senior programs.

First Selectman, M. Fiorentino addressed the public comments, providing clarifications and correcting inaccuracies. He noted that pump station project estimates have been shared publicly on multiple occasions, and that potential library projects have also been presented with floor plans and cost estimates, while detailed architectural bids will be obtained only after voter approval to avoid unnecessary expenses. The sewer fund balance is regularly reported, and forward planning is necessary due to aging infrastructure. The memo on senior programs provided factual information for the Commission on Aging to review and make recommendations. Fiorentino emphasized the importance of relying on accurate information and following established public processes.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY M. Neumann, seconded by F. Moffa the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 8:42 p.m.

The minutes presented within this document are a summary of the discussion that took place at the Board of Selectmen meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports, please click the following link at Granby Community Television https://gctv16.org.

Respectfully Recorded & Attested,

Jen Espinal

Jen Espinal, Town Clerk

Received for Record: January 9, 2026, at 4:49 P.M.
By Laura Milne, Assistant Town Clerk

The next regular meeting of the Town of Granby Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in the Town Hall Meeting Room.