TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
July 7, 2021

The special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by First Selectman B. Scott Kuhnly at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENT: B. Scott Kuhnly, Sally King, Glenn Ballard, Mark Neumann, Edward Ohannessian and William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager

ALSO PRESENT: Kimi Cheng, Director of Finance

I. MINUTES

ON A MOTION by Selectman King seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted (4-0-1) to approve the minutes of the special meeting of June 8, 2021 with one correction. The minutes should reflect that First Selectman Kuhnly was not present at the meeting and the meeting was called to order by Selectman King. Mr. Kuhnly abstained from the vote.

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted (4-0-1) to approve the minutes of the special meeting of June 14, 2021. Selectman Ohannessian abstained.

II. UNFINISHED OR TABLED BUSINESS

None

III. BUSINESS

A. Resignations and Appointments to be Considered

None other than what is presented on the agenda.

B. Consideration of Additional Appropriation from Parks & Recreation Fund for the Small Playground at Salmon Brook Park.

Town Manager Smith provided background for the request. The Town budget appropriated $85,000 to improve the small playscape at Salmon Brook Park. Since the initial appropriation, the cost of equipment and services has increased significantly. Parks & Recreation is requesting an additional $5,000 to fund the remainder of the project.

ON A MOTION by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted (5-0-0) to authorize an additional appropriation of $5,000 from the Recreation Fund balance to fund the additional cost for the Salmon Brook Park Small Playground Project and forwards this request to the Board of Finance to approve.

C. Consideration of Action Pertaining to the Ordinance Prohibiting the Intentional Feeding of Bears
Town Manager Smith explained that the ordinance was prepared based on previous discussion from Board of Selectmen meetings and members of the public proposing that the Town act against the intentional feeding of bears due to the dangers involved. Amendments to the ordinance based on tonight’s public hearing and comments from the Board can be incorporated as an amendment to the proposed ordinance. The BOS can vote to approve the ordinance and if approved, the Ordinance to Prohibit the Intentional Feeding of Bears will become effective twenty (20) days after it is published.

**ON A MOTION** by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman Ohannessian, the Board voted (3-2-0) to amend the ordinance to Prohibit the Intentional Feeding of Bears. The last sentence in paragraph A under Exceptions should be changed to: Unintentional feeding **MAY** become intentional feeding if a written notice or warning is issued by any Authorized Enforcement Agent of the Town. Selectman Ballard and Selectman King voted no.

**ON A MOTION** by Selectman Ohannessian, seconded by Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted (5-0-0) to amend the ordinance to Prohibit the Intentional Feeding of Bears. First, correct typographical errors in paragraph B under Prohibited Activity. Second, remove the second sentence in paragraph A under Exceptions to exclude composting.

During discussion, Selectman Ballard expressed his concern over how the ordinance is written. He discussed the ordinance with the First Selectman of Simsbury who shared that enforcement agents respond to complaints of nuisance bears and do not actively go looking for violations. Selectman Ballard believes the ordinance should be better defined and provides a mechanism for enforcement. As written, he believes there are too many variations on what constitutes a violation and gives the enforcement agents complete discretion over what is intentional feeding.

Selectman King added that it is important to include the Exceptions section in the ordinance.

**ON A MOTION** by Selectman King, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted (4-1-0) to adopt the ordinance to Prohibit the Intentional Feeding of Bears as amended. Selectman Ballard voted no.

**D. Consideration of Establishing a Special Revenue Fund for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)**

Town Manager Smith reviewed the request to establish a special fund for the money the town was awarded as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Granby is entitled to $3,405,503.39 of which $1,702,751.69 was received on June 22, 2021. The remaining balance will be received in June of 2022. The funds must be accepted by the Town and spent in accordance with rules and regulations established by the federal government. The purpose of the funds is to recover losses to the Town which resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Selectman Ohannessian read the proposed resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Granby hereby establish a fund known as the ARPA Fund. Said fund shall be created to assist with tracking all eligible ARPA grant expenditures. The source of this fund shall be from the ARPA allocation.

The Granby Town Manager shall disburse the funds in accordance with procedures with Town of Granby policy and grant requirements.

Any balance remaining in said fund, should the fund be dissolved, shall meet the requirements of grant commitments, or be returned to the Town's General Fund as determined by the Board of Selectmen.

**ON A MOTION** by Selectman Ohannessian, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted (5-0-0) to establish a special revenue fund for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

During discussion, Selectman Neumann suggested the funds from ARPA be considered for recommendations from the Long Term Recovery Committee.

**ON A MOTION** by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted (5-0-0) to reorder the agenda to move Business Item E: Consideration of Personnel Matters (Items Deemed Appropriate for Executive Session) and Item F: Consideration of Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the United Public Service Employees Union and the Town of Granby Public Safety Dispatchers, after Item VI Selectman Reports.

**IV. TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

In response to an inquiry from Selectman Ballard, Town Manager Smith provided an update on the sale of Kearns School. There are currently two interested parties, and the Town is awaiting written communication from both.

In response to an inquiry from Selectman Ballard, First Selectman Kuhnly provided an update on the Town Manager search. The committee is in the process of reviewing applications from 18 individuals.

**V. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORT** (B. Scott Kuhnly)

Nothing to report.

**SELECTMAN REPORTS** (Sally King, Vice Chairman; Glenn Ballard, Mark Neumann, Edward Ohannessian)

Selectman Ballard reiterated his objection to the Ordinance Prohibiting the Intentional Feeding of Bears. Mr. Ballard believes further study and work should be done to address the issue.
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted (5-0-0) to recess the meeting to Executive Session at 7:48 p.m.

PRESENT: First Selectman Scott Kuhnly, Vice Chairman Sally King, Glen Ballard, Mark Neumann, Edward Ohannessian, Town Manager William F. Smith Jr., and Director of Finance Kimi Cheng.

First Selectman Kuhnly called the executive session of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:50 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss personnel matters.

First Selectman Kuhnly closed Executive Session at 7:57 p.m.

The Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen reconvened at 7:58 p.m.

VII. Consideration of Ratification Of Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the United Public Service Employees Union – Granby Public Safety Dispatchers and the Town of Granby

ON A MOTION by Selectman Neumann, seconded by Selectman King, the Board voted (5-0-0) to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the United Public Service Employees Union – Granby Public Safety Dispatchers and the Town of Granby.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by Selectman Ohannessian, seconded by Selectman Neumann, the Board voted (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Smith, Jr.
Town Manager