

TOWN OF GRANBY

Intra-Board Advisory Committee Special Meeting

May 5, 2015

MINUTES

PRESENT: B. Scott Kuhnly, First Selectman; Jenny Emery (BOE), Ed Ohannessian (BOS), Ronald Walther, Board of Education Chairman; Kelly Rome (BOF), (Ms. Rome arrived 6:10 p.m.)
Ex-officio Members – Alan Addley, Superintendent of Schools; and William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager (Mr. Smith arrived 6:15 p.m.)

Ronald Walther, Board of Education Chairman called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made by First Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Ms. Emery, to approve the minutes of March 23, 2015. Mr. Walther asked if there was any discussion of the minutes.

The Committee voted 4-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

First Selectman Kuhnly requested to make a correction regarding the agenda item “Solar Energy”. The committee concurred to change the agenda item to energy allowing for general discussion of energy efficiencies.

DISCUSSION ON JOINT PURCHASING, FINANCE OPERATIONS, PENSION AND SOLAR (ENERGY)

Mr. Ohannessian began the discussion regarding finance operations and joint purchasing. They discussed two plans for approaching the finance operations and joint purchasing. They are:

- 1 Hire an outside consultant to look over the operations and assess if there are benefits to combining the two finance operations into one.
- 2 Use existing staff to create an analysis and an approach to combining the two finance operations.

The committee further discussed the above two plans regarding its advantages and disadvantages for those approaches. Highlights were:

- There is cost involved for both approaches.
- Regarding #2 approach, staff is very close to the situation that may bring about bias comments in an analysis report regarding the finance operations being combined or not.
- A suggestion was made to speak with professional associates to get another perspective regarding combining town and school finance operations into one department.
- Ms. Rome indicated that some members of the Board of Finance have a tentative conference meeting scheduled with our audit firm to discuss this subject later this month.
- If the approach to hire a consultant to do this study is accepted, the scope of work of the consultant should be clearly defined. The policy for such engagement recommends that a thorough evaluation be made. A RFP may be developed to accomplish this requirement.

The committee then discussed the subject of pension, along with union contracts. Highlights were:

- Several contracts are up for negotiations, which the topic of pension may be discussed.
- The Town Representative (Town Manager) of the pension benefits is the person who can put a pension change proposal on the table at the time of negotiations or request an opener on a pension change proposal.
 - Town Manager Smith indicated when putting such a pension change proposal on the negotiation table, several elements are necessary as part of the negotiation process with bargaining unions.
- The committee members requested an outline of the pension benefits of Granby and surrounding communities.

Next discussed was (Solar) Energy. Highlights were:

- Consideration for an engagement of a knowledgeable, independent consultant is required. This consultant would take a look at our buildings and utilities to help identify energy efficiency opportunities that the town could participate in.
- There is a need to have a history report on energy use from the school and town.

Superintendent Addley commented that several topics are being addressed simultaneously which staff may have limited timeframes to manage such requests. Handling the issues separately may be more beneficial for all. The committee agreed that a few steps forward in all topics could be accomplished. The primary focus is the pension issue.

First Selectman Kuhnly recapped the topics and assignments.

- Pension – Town Manager Smith and Superintendent Addley will provide pension benefit information for Granby and surrounding communities.
- Finance operations – Ms. Rome will report on the outcome of the scheduled meeting with our audit firm. Ms. Glassman, Manager of CREC offices for Regional Efficiencies, may be contacted to discuss finance operations and energy initiatives.
- Energy – Mr. Ohannessian and First Selectman Kuhnly may contact consultants in the field of energy to seek information regarding energy initiatives that municipalities and schools might do to hopefully realize reduced costs and a green community.

CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next special meeting of the Intra-Board Advisory Committee is June 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Manager's Conference Room.

Continued discussion on the pension, finance operations including joint purchasing, and energy.

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ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by Mr. Ohannessian, seconded by First Selectman Kuhnly, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia I. Chieski
Recording Secretary