

TOWN OF GRANBY

Intra-Board Advisory Committee Special Meeting

July 21, 2015

MINUTES

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

Ronald Walther, Board of Education Chairman, called the special meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made by First Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Mr. Ohannessian, to approve the minutes of July 7, 2015. Mr. Walther asked if there was any discussion of the minutes. Ms. Rome questioned the comment regarding providing the estimated cost of services offered by Blum Shapiro. It was discussed and decided to leave alone.

The Committee unanimously voted (5-0-0) to approve the minutes as presented.

The Committee discussed reordering the agenda to allow for sufficient time to discuss agenda items.

ON A MOTION by First Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Mr. Ohannessian, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0-0) to reorder the agenda switching Pension Discussion and Blum Shapiro Presentation Discussion.

BLUM SHAPIRO PRESENTATION DISCUSSION

Mr. Ohannessian commented that the Board of Selectmen were recently updated on some of the Intra-Board Advisory Committee activities. He indicated the Intra-Board Advisory Committee intends to provide a final report to the Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, and Board of Finance.

The Committee further discussed the combining of services between the town and school, in particular finance and human resources. The Committee concurred that the finance department is a major undertaking but perhaps the human resources component may have an opportunity to combine services. After discussion of pros and cons of combining services and the information provided by Blum Shapiro, the Committee requested Town Manager Smith and Superintendent Addley to explore the possibility for integration of human resources between the town and school. They will report following their review.

PENSION DISCUSSION

The Committee further discussed pension benefits for the town and school. Some highlights were:

- A recent trend is in a hybrid plan, which includes a modest defined benefit plan plus a modest defined contribution plan. The Committee wishes to examine a hybrid plan.
- Adding a sunset rule to a pension plan typically involves several changes in the plan, not just one sentence to the plan.
- A discussion of pension benefits and labor agreements might go hand in hand during labor agreement negotiations.
- The Committee concurred, regarding pension benefits, that the investment risk should lessen financial exposure from the employer.
- Private corporations have moved towards defined contribution (DC) plans.
- The negotiators are the persons who make bargaining proposals in labor agreements. An example of a bargaining proposal might be in pension benefits. It might include raising employer contributions on DC plans or closing defined benefit plans to new employees.

Town Manager Smith commented that the Board of Education needs to indicate to him as the pension negotiator what they want to do regarding pension benefits. Town Manager Smith would then raise the issue during labor agreement negotiations.

In conclusion, some Committee members concur in recommending to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education that the town moves toward a DC plan through the labor agreement negotiation process.

SOLAR DISCUSSION

Town Manager Smith reported he had conversations with a number of individuals, C-Tech representatives, Harry Traver (BOE Business Manager), Jim Hayden (East Granby First Selectman) and Andy Merola from CT Conference of Municipalities regarding Solar Virtual Net Metering. He was unsuccessful in receiving additional information from the Town of West Hartford regarding Virtual Net Metering. He mentioned there are concerns with the Letter of Intent provided by C-Tech regarding legal obligations.

The Committee suggests pursuing this further with West Hartford to obtain knowledge regarding the program so that, as a town, we would be ready for taking advantage of solar program opportunities that are introduced.

CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next special meeting of the Intra-Board Advisory Committee is September 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Manager's Conference Room. The tentative agenda items are human resources and solar discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by First Selectman Kuhnly, seconded by Ms. Emery, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia I. Chieski
Recording Secretary