

**TOWN OF GRANBY**  
**THREE BOARD MEETING**  
**Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, &**  
**Board of Education**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

Minutes

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January 16, 2024

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Members Present: First Selectman Mark Fiorentino  
Selectman Mark Neumann  
Selectman Kelly Rome  
Selectman Margaret Chapple  
Selectman Frederick Moffa  
Monica Logan, Board of Education, Chairperson  
Cheri P. Burke, Superintendent of Schools  
Anna Robbins, Board of Education, Business Manager  
Rosemarie Weber, Board of Education  
David Peling, Board of Education  
Donna Nolan, Board of Education  
Heather Lombardo, Board of Education  
Liz Barlow, Board of Education  
Michael B. Guarco, Jr. Board of Finance, Chairperson  
Jenny P. Emery, Board of Finance -Via Zoom  
Kevin F. Hobson, Board of Finance  
James C. Tsaptsinos, Board of Finance– Arrived at 7:10 p.m.  
Alfred G. Wilke, Board of Finance  
William J. Kennedy, Board of Finance  
John Adams, Town Treasurer

Others Present: Scott A. Nolan, Town Clerk  
Kimi Cheng, Finance Director  
Kirk A. Severance, Public Works Director – Via Zoom  
Amber Wyzik, Library Director – Via Zoom  
Sandra Yost, Human Services Director  
Joel Skilton, Building Inspector – Via Zoom  
Abigail Kenyon, Director of Community Development – Via Zoom  
Scott Sansom, Chief of Police  
Kristine Vincent, Director of Recreation and Leisure Services

The Hon. Mark Fiorentino, First Selectman called the Special Three Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Granby Town Hall Meeting Room per Chapter 4, Section 4-7 of the Granby Town Charter.

**I. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Opening Remarks – Mark Fiorentino, First Selectman**

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First Selectman Mark Fiorentino gave an overview of the purpose of the meeting and explained that it was important to hear from the administrative teams and for the three various boards to hear from each other.

**B. Mark H. Fiorentino, First Selectman**

**1. Review of Plus-One Budget (Board of Selectmen) <sup>1</sup>**

First Selectman Mark H. Fiorentino explained that the Town of Granby works within a budget process that includes a call for a “Plus-One Budget and that this budget requires that the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education meet with the Board of Finance to review expenditure needs and fund balance expectations for the upcoming fiscal year. First Selectman Mark H. Fiorentino further explained that the Plus-One budget is a high-level view of big-ticket items such as contractual obligations, anticipated benefits and insurance costs, utilities, and other mandated expenses and that both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education Plus-One Budgets are presented to the Board of Finance at the “Three Board Meeting” held in mid-January. First Selectman Mark H. Fiorentino noted that the management team developed a Plus-One Budget that outlines budget expectations for salary and wages for employees, preliminary cost estimates for employee benefits, and items that are contractual in nature or that are deemed important to maintain operations adequately. First Selectman Mark H. Fiorentino further explained that the Plus-One Budget also addresses items that we believe are important to both maintaining service levels and addressing issues identified in our strategic goals and objectives which include modernizing IT infrastructure and systems, increasing investments in public safety, and addressing staffing/ human resource matters. Further discussion took place.

**C. Monica Logan, Chairman**

**1. Review of the Plus-One Budget (Board of Education)<sup>2</sup>**

Monica Logan, Chairman of the Board of Education gave a brief overview of the Board of Education budget and thanked Cheri P. Burke, Superintendent of Schools, and Anna Robbins, Board of Education, Business Manager along with members of the Board of Education for all of their hard work preparing the budget. Chairman Logan further noted that contractual obligations are up 4.34% which includes Salaries, benefits, health plan, transportation, fuel, oil, and electricity, and that special education is up 2.43% which includes Out-of-district tuition, out-of-district transportation, and personnel. Chairman Logan explained all other areas which gave an overall total reduction of 0.34%. Further discussion took place.

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the presentation is recorded hereafter the meeting minutes.

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**D. Michael Guarco, Chairman**  
**1. Board of Finance Comments**

Michael Guarco, Chairman of the Board of Finance noted that for the past decade, the budget has continued to improve and that this opportunity allows the Board of Finance an early opportunity to get a sense of what is coming. Chairman Guarco explained the worksheet that was presented at last FY's budget time and noted that the current sheet shows a mill rate change of 0.5% and that the revenue picture was strong due to the car tax money. Chairman Guarco further explained that the Grand List was due at the end of January and that the Governor would be addressing the legislature in the first week of February and at that time it is possible we will learn more about the state budget and what the Town of Granby can expect.

**E. Discussion and Items of Interest Concerning the 2024-25 Budget and Consideration of Public Comment**  
**1. Questions & Answers**

Susan Regan (*62 Hungary Road*) inquired about East Street Farm, Kearns School, and 137 Salmon Brook and that the Town needs to look at unloading these properties.

Bill Regan (*62 Hungary Road*) inquired about the school system noting that he felt the test scores were abysmal and that rewarding teachers who have not done their job, the kids are not being taught, and that we have a 40% math score, the reading scores are a little bit better, but that the kids were not learning up to where they should and that we have to hold the Board of Education and the Teachers accountable.

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**F. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no more business to come before the Special Three Board Meeting, Selectman Mark C. Neumann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m., which was seconded by Selectman Frederick A. Moffa and passed by a unanimous voice vote. **(5/0/0) MOTION CARRIES.**

Respectfully submitted & attested,

  
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**Scott A. Nolan**  
Town Clerk

Received for Record January 25, 2024 at 5:47 PM  
By SCOTT A. NOLAN, Town Clerk