

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF FINANCE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

PRESENT: Michael Guarco, Chairman; Kevin Hobson, Vice Chairman, Jenny Emery, Benjamin Perron (via Zoom) and James Tsaptsinos

ABSENT: William Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT: Cheri Burke, Superintendent of Schools; Kimi Cheng, Director of Finance and Mike Walsh, Town Manager

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael Guarco at 7:30 p.m.

1. PUBLIC SESSION

- An email from John Heller, Jr., 138 North Granby Road, Granby was read into the record. The email expressed Mr. Heller's disapproval of the BOE Plus One budget increase proposal of 5.6% and suggested the Board look to reduce headcount to reduce expenses.
- Susan Regan, 62 Hungary Road, Granby commented that the Board of Education should consider zero based budgeting, find a way to reduce the number of special education students and base teachers' raises on merit and performance.
- Bill Regan, 62 Hungary Road, Granby commented that the Board of Education should work to improve test scores and base teachers' raises on merit and performance.
- Maureen Eberly, 37 Silkey Road, North Granby requested an update on the North Central Connecticut Consortium that was being formed last year to pool resources for Granby and surrounding towns.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 27, 2025 MEETING

ON A MOTION by J. Emery, seconded by J. Tsaptsinos, the Board voted (5-0-0) to approve the meeting minutes of January 27, 2025.

3. 2024 GRAND LIST

Town Manager Walsh reviewed the 2024 Grand List signed by the Assessor. The Town expected 1.25% growth in the grand list, however the increase was only .28% or just under \$3.9 million. Real estate increased by 1.6%; motor vehicles decreased by 12.36% primarily due to the new calculations required by the state; and personal property increased slightly by .89%. Mr. Walsh also reviewed the projections and cost to the Town for various tax relief programs. The largest being the new unfunded state mandate for the Veteran's 100% Service Connected and Permanently and Totally Disabled (APA).

4. BUDGET OPERATIONS GUIDELINES

Chairman Guarco reviewed the updated BOF Budget Worksheet FY26-B, which included the inputs from the Governor's budget and the Grand List. Board members discussed the process and the challenges this year for the operating budgets. In order to keep the increase in the mill rate below 4%, the Board agreed to a budget guideline recommendation of 2.40% for the municipal budget and 3.25% for education.

ON A MOTION by K. Hobson, seconded by B. Perron, the Board voted (5-0-0) to accept the Board of Finance Worksheet FY26-B and put forth the budget guideline of a 2.40% increase for the municipal budget and a 3.25% increase for education.

5. CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board of Finance is scheduled for Monday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. If the February meeting is cancelled, the next regular meeting will be Monday, March 24 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center when the operating boards will present their recommended budgets to the Board of Finance.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION by J. Tsaptsinos, seconded by J. Emery, the Board voted (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Betsy Mazzotta
Recording Secretary