

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
March 3, 2025**

PRESENT: Mark Fiorentino, First Selectman; Mark Neumann, Vice- Chairman; Margaret Chapple, Frederick Moffa, Kelly Rome and Zainab Zafar, Student Liaison

ABSENT: Ben Lavigne, Student Liaison

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Walsh, Town Manager

The Regular meeting of the Town of Granby Board of Selectmen was called to order by First Selectman Mark Fiorentino at 7:00 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. MINUTES

2.I. Approval of Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2025

ON A MOTION by M. Neumann, seconded by K. Rome, the Board voted (5-0-0) to approve the minutes of February 18, 2025, as presented.

3. APPOINTMENTS

There were no appointments presented.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

4.I. Library Long Range Strategic Plan Presentation

Library Director Amber Wyzik, Library Board Chairman Judy Guarco and Laurel Farrer from the Strategic Planning Committee presented the long-range strategic plan for the library. The plan was developed with input from many key stakeholders and reflects a comprehensive approach to addressing the current and future library services and needs for the Town of Granby. The presentation outlines key priorities, goals and proposed initiatives with long-term objectives. The complete presentation is included with the meeting materials.

4.II. Land Use Commissioner Training Notification

Community Development Director Abby Kenyon informed the Board that all members of the Planning and Zoning Commission as well as the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals have completed the annual training required by state statute.

4.III. Town Charter Section 10-2 – Town Manager Delivers FY 26 Board of Selectmen Budget

Town Manager Mike Walsh presented the FY 2025-26 Board of Selectmen Recommended Budget to the Board. Board members received the new ClearGov budget book as well as the budget workbook which included more detail and special

reports. The budget book and the departmental PowerPoint presentations are posted on the Town website on the Finance Department page.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.I. 83 Salmon Brook Street Lease

Further communication was received from the proposed tenant for 83 Salmon Brook Street that could potentially change the details of the lease that was posted. It is recommended that this agenda item be tabled to allow sufficient time for the First Selectman and Town Manager to review the changes and to also make the information available to the public before any action is taken.

ON A MOTION by F. Moffa, seconded by M. Neumann, the Board voted (5-0-0) to table this agenda item until the next meeting on March 17, 2025.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.I. Harness Way Road Acceptance and Referral to P and Z

A resident on Harness Way Road has requested further work be done on a driveway and Director of Community Development Abby Kenyon requested that this agenda item be tabled until that work can be completed.

ON A MOTION by K. Rome, seconded by M. Chapple, the Board voted (5-0-0) to table this agenda item until further notice.

6.II. Town Charter Section 7.4 – Appointments - Town Clerk

ON A MOTION by K. Rome, seconded by M. Chapple, the Board voted (5-0-0) to direct Town Manager Mike Walsh to extend an offer of employment to Jen Espinal for the Town of Granby Town Clerk position.

6.III. Parks and Recreation Rental Request – Special Permit for Alcohol Consumption

A formal request has been received for alcohol consumption at Salmon Brook Park on Saturday, May 10, 2025. The renter will provide the appropriate paperwork, permit and insurance coverage. The Town's policies on alcohol in the park have been reviewed and agreed upon by the renters. Since this event falls outside of the date range allowing alcohol consumption at the park, it must be approved by the Board of Selectmen.

ON A MOTION by M. Chapple, seconded by M. Neumann, the Board voted (5-0-0) to approve the formal request for alcohol consumption during the event rental at Salmon Brook Park on Saturday, May 10, 2025, from 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

7. TOWN MANAGER REPORT – PROJECTS AND FINANCIALS

7.I. Town Manager's Departmental Summary Report through February 28, 2025

The Town Manager presented his report on departmental activities for the month of February highlighting the following:

- Several staff members gathered to view Governor Lamont's budget address. Several items from the governor's budget will affect the Town FY26 revenues.
- The 2024 Grand List was signed and completed.

- The office moves and reconfigurations at Town Hall were completed.
- Required training on the prevention of sexual harassment was rolled out to all employees. The two-hour online course is conducted by the CT Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.
- The Building Inspector and Fire Marshal completed the inspection of Building 6 at Station 280 and issued a certificate of occupancy. The last building and several garages are currently under construction with an anticipated completion in the spring.
- The Fire Marshal is currently investigating three structure fires.
- Wiring is complete and A/V equipment installation has begun in the Community Room at the Senior Center.
- Detective Macaulay attended a two-day training session on social media investigations.
- DPW reported that to date there have been 14 snow and ice storms.
- Estimates for road overlay work to be done over the next three years is in place and a ten-year plan is being developed. The longer-range plan is subject to change as conditions change.
- The Seed Library at the Cossitt branch is being restocked for the 2025 growing season and will kick off its fourth year on April 1, 2025.
- The library is offering a new “Homebound Delivery” service which is available to all Granby residents that have difficulty leaving their homes permanently or temporarily due to disability, health issues, the inability to drive or similar reasons.
- February highlights at the Senior Center include the Valentine Luncheon; SAFE, a self-defense training class for seniors; Way of Listening, a music appreciation class; and Horizon Wing Birds.
- Camp season is underway at Park & Recreation including the selection of a vendor for the concessions.
- On Friday, March 2, 2025, WTIC AM 1080 will be broadcasting live from Drago’s Kitchen from 5:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Guests will include Town Manager Mike Walsh and First Selectman Mark Fiorentino as well as other notable residents and volunteers.

8. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORT (Mark Fiorentino)

First Selectman Mark Fiorentino provided the following:

- The negotiating team for the Kearns development project met with the developer and asked them to create high level options for the property for the team to consider. Mr. Fiorentino reiterated that the project is in the very early stages and no decisions have been made. Regular updates will be provided as the process progresses.
- The appeal of the decision by the Connecticut Siting Council on the KCE Battery energy storage project has been filed and served. The Town also enlisted the support of State Representative Anderson to propose a moratorium on these types of facilities until the State develops minimum standards which either currently do not exist or are applied inconsistently by the council. The First Selectman will be meeting with Representative Anderson for a debriefing on the hearing and to identify next steps.
- The First Selectman thanked the Finance Department for the work that went into converting to ClearGov and producing the new, improved budget book. Mr.

Fiorentino also thanked DPW staff and the first responders for their hard work during the recent winter storms.

- The BOS Budget workshops are scheduled for Thursday, March 6, Monday, March 10 and Thursday, March 13. All the workshops begin at 5:00 p.m. and will be held in the Town Hall Meeting Room. The budget will be reviewed in detail and all agenda items will be completed at each workshop.
- The April 7, 2025, meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be cancelled due to a conflict with the budget hearing. The April 21, 2025, meeting will be moved to the Senior Center to allow for voting in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

9. SELECTMAN REPORTS (Margaret Chapple, Frederick Moffa, Mark Neumann, Kelly Rome, Ben Lavigne and Zainah Zafar, Student Liaisons)

Selectman Chapple announced that Shirley Murtha, a long-time volunteer and staff writer for the Granby Drummer received a first-place award in the Connecticut Press Club's annual state-wide competition for her reminiscence of Tom Wutka in the February 2023 issue. She praised Mr. Wutka as a kind and gentle person who served his community in extraordinary ways. The Board congratulated Shirley on this well-deserved honor.

Student Liaison Zainah Zafar provided the following update from the high school:

- Members of DECA competed at the state conference in the first round of competition.
- The boys' basketball team has started tournament play.
- Read Across Granby Day will be held on March 5 to coincide with Read Across America.
- Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for March 10 and 11. National Honor Society members will be available to direct parents around the school.
- The Spring Fling Dance is scheduled for March 21, the first official day of Spring.
- Juniors will be taking the SATs on March 26.
- Empty Bowls, the largest fundraising event of the year for NHS will be held on March 28. Money raised at the event is donated to Food Share.
- Students attended the Junior Achievement Entrepreneur Academy. The JA Hall of Fame Event is April 1.

10. PUBLIC SESSION

Gerald Ledger, 85 Bushy Hill Road, provided a letter to the Board of Selectmen suggesting/requesting the following:

- Move the public session earlier in the agenda to allow more residents to participate.
- Plan and remedy emergency access to prevent potential disasters at the electrical storage station.
- Hire a realtor for the restaurant on the corner of Route 10/202 and Murtha's Way and improve the bus stop at this intersection.
- Work with the state to protect pedestrians on the east side of Route 10/202 between Murtha's Way and the Stop & Shop Plaza.
- Complete the sidewalk from Murtha's Way to the YMCA.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

12. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by M. Neumann, seconded by F. Moffa, the Board voted (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Town of Granby Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, March 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Mazzotta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betsy Mazzotta
Recording Secretary