

TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

Page 1

March 6, 2023

Members Present: First Selectman Mark H. Fiorentino
 Selectman Kelly O. Rome
 Selectman Margaret Q. Chapple
 Selectman Mark C. Neumann
 Selectman Frederick A. Moffa – Via Zoom
 Charles Orluk, Student Liaison

Others Present: Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager
 Kirk A. Severance, Public Works Director
 Kimi Cheng, Finance Director
 Scott A. Nolan, Town Clerk

The Hon. Mark H. Fiorentino, First Selectman called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Charles Orluk, Student Liaison led members of the Board of Selectmen in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MINUTES

A. Approval of Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectman Kelly O. Rome made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Granby Board of Selectmen hereby approves the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting of February 21, 2023, with the approved amendment to correct a typo on Page 1, Article II – the motion should have read:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Granby Board of Selectmen hereby approves the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting of February 6, 2023;

and a typo on page 3 “contract” to “contractor”. The motion was seconded by Selectman Mark C. Neumann and after discussion the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote (5/0/0) **MOTION CARRIES.**

III. APPOINTMENTS

First Selectman Mark H. Fiorentino noted that the Board of Selectmen had received a recommendation to fill a vacancy on the Library Board.

(Continued on Next Page)

Page 1 of 7

TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

Page 2

March 6, 2023

Selectman Mark C. Neumann made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Granby Board of Selectmen hereby appoints Paul R. Willis (R) to the Library Board for a full three-year term beginning January 9, 2023, and ending January 13, 2026, as recommended by the Republican Town Committee.

The motion was seconded by Selectman Margaret Q. Chapple which passed by a unanimous voice vote (5/0/0) **MOTION CARRIES**.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Continued Discussion of Amendment for Street Light Repair

Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager updated members of the Board of Selectmen about the street light repair along the Route 10 sidewalks as it was determined that the poles were leaking voltage and the power needed to be disconnected, and the lights repaired. Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager informed members of the Board of Selectmen that throughout the troubleshooting process, the town's electrical contractor along with Eversource tried to find the reason for the voltage leaking to the exterior of the light poles but found no easy explanation. Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager went on to further explain once the polls are disconnected, we can determine what corrective work is required. Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager Indicated that additionally, this project connects with a local volunteer effort to install electrical outlets on the poles for holiday lights in the center to be efficient it has been proposed that the contractor will install outlets on the light poles while they do this work to include a total of 28 outlets that will be installed which is an estimated \$6,000 to include the cost of the outlets. Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager Explained that adding the outlets to the electrical poles would allow volunteer organizations in town to able to hang lights in the center during the holidays.

Mary Jo Toczydlowski (*7 Eastwood Drive*) spoke on behalf of the volunteer organization that committed to helping raise \$6,000.00 to help offset the cost of the additional outlets to the poles and explained that she was part of a hardworking and dedicated group of individuals who are trying to spread holiday cheer.

Selectman Kelly O. Rome made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Granby Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes an additional appropriation not to exceed \$27,000 from the Capital Nonrecurring Expense Fund Balance to fund repairs along the route 10 sidewalks and to install electrical outlets on the poles and forwards this request to the Board of Finance to approve.

(Continued on Next Page)

Page 2 of 7

TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

Page 3

March 6, 2023

The motion was seconded by Selectman Mark C. Neumann which passed by a unanimous voice vote (5/0/0) **MOTION CARRIES.**

V. BUSINESS

A. Holcomb Farm Annual Report

Jenny Emery, Executive Director of Holcomb Farm began by thanking Bob Bystrowski, President of the Board for the Friends of Holcomb Farm and went on to highlight many of Bob Bystrowski's successes and thanked him for all his hard work, which was echoed by members of the Board of Selectmen.

Bob Bystrowski informed members of the Board of Selectmen that a new lease and agreement is in place which was approved by the Board of Selectmen in October 2022, and now also calls for an annual report. Mr. Bystrowski informed members of the Board of Selectmen that the Farm is operating without burden to the taxpayers and that due to the recent activity of securing a permanent conservation easement 277 of the 312 acres of the Farm are preserved, due to the tremendous partnership of the Granby Land Trust, and the First Selectman, which prompted the Board of Selectmen to act this past October.

Bob Bystrowski informed members of the Board of Selectmen about the Farming operation and noted that the Holcomb Farm has one full-time employee, Joe O'Grady who lives with his family in the Farmhouse, which is rented from the Town. Mr. Bystrowski noted that the Farm sales generated \$450,000 in 2022 and that from mid-June through the end of October they operated a 22-week Summer "CSA" program, which sold out last year. Mr. Bystrowski went on to further explain that the farm also operates a farm store, where non-CSA members can buy their produce, as well as other products from other agricultural producers in Granby and the neighboring region.

Jenny Emery, Executive Director of Holcomb Farm informed members of the Board of Selectmen that they are having a full audit done and that the Farm has done better with grants and brought in more than \$600,000 in income. Ms. Emery went on to further explain that the Farm is in the process of putting on a new roof on the CSA Barn this spring at a cost of \$60,000 and that they will soon be adding solar through a Power Purchase Agreement that is expected to bring their annual electric down from \$6,000 to \$5,000.

Following the presentation, members of the Board of Selectmen thanked Mr. Bystrowski & Ms. Emery, and the Friends of Holcomb Farm for all their hard work and dedication and for all that they do for the Town of Granby.

(Continued on Next Page)

Page 3 of 7

TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

Page 4

March 6, 2023

B. Consideration of Friends of Holcomb Farm By-Laws

First Selectman Mark H. Fiorentino informed members of the Board of Selectmen that a few requests have come in asking to table the conversation of the Friends of Holcomb Farm By-Laws and that some members of the Board of Selectmen would like more time to review them. First Selectman Mark H. Fiorentino felt that it might be a good idea to table this discussion to the next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting to allow more time to review the By-Laws proposed.

C. FY 2023-24 Town Manager Budget Presentation

Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager noted to the members of the Board of Selectmen that the budget workshops are coming up and begin on Thursday, March 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., in the Town Hall meeting room. Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager further explained that the current budget being presented is more of a maintenance budget and that there was not much of an increase in services as she would have liked. Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager encouraged members of the Public to attend the budget workshops to learn more about what is in the budget.

D. Website Upgrade – Report on Summary of Changes

Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager updated members of the Board of Selectmen about the coming updates to the Town Website and specifically thanked, Betsy Mazzotta for all her hard work and for helping lead the initiative. Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager explained that the website revision project has made tremendous progress in the last few weeks getting closer to our launch date in March, and that civic plus has completed the migration of the content from our old website to our new website including the department header page for the library and over 20 end users and two systems administrators were trained over three days to update and maintain the new website. Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager noted that residents will immediately notice the aesthetic changes to the website in the colors, photos, and layout of the home page.

VI. TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager reported to members of the Board of Selectmen about the Board of Assessment Appeals noting that the town has received approximately 40 appeals which is a much higher number of appeals than usual mostly due to the recent state-mandated revaluation representing fair market values as of October 1, 2022.

Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager reported to members of the Board of Selectmen that the Charter Revision Commission has been working diligently on preparing a draft of the recommended revisions to the Town Charter and they are on track to submit their recommendations to the Board of Selectmen by the May 20, 2023, deadline. Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager also noted that the Commission has had many meaningful discussions and that they will continue to meet on the second Thursday at

(Continued on Next Page)

Page 4 of 7

TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

Page 5

March 6, 2023

6:30 PM and the 4th Wednesday at 6:00 o'clock PM each month in the town hall meeting room to continue their work and that their second public hearing is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 6:30 PM to receive citizens input and to solicit feedback regarding the proposed revisions to the Granby Town Charter draft.

Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager also informed members of the Board of Selectmen that we are currently looking for a new Library Director as Amy McCue's last day was Monday, February 20, 2023. Town Manager, Erica P. Robertson explained that a panel was being organized to review and meet with viable candidates on March 9, 2023, which consists of the Library Board Chair, a neighboring Library Director, and selected Granby department heads and that approximately a dozen applications have been received.

Erica P. Robertson, Town Manager informed members of the Board of Selectmen about the Municipality Building Permit Software explaining that currently lacks a software package to receive, process and issue permits and that all building permits currently must be filled out by applicants in the office or mailed in and that by purchasing the Municipality software this will lead to increased efficiency in the building department while reducing manual data entry and tracking and will also enable enhanced reporting capabilities which are currently lacking.

VII. FIRST SELECTMAN REPORT

First Selectman Mark H. Fiorentino thanked the department of public works for all their hard work this season keeping our roads in good shape and clear from snow and hears nothing but praise and complements for what a great job they do. First Selectman Mark H. Fiorentino reminded members of the Board of Selectmen that he will be traveling out of state for work in the coming weeks and that our Vice-Chair will be stepping up to help run the meetings.

VIII. SELECTMAN REPORTS

Selectman Mark C. Neumann informed members of the Board of Selectmen about an event that was recently held in the library called music in the stacks which was very well attended so much so that the event needed to be moved to the Senior Center to accommodate the audience.

Charles Orluk, Student Liaison informed members of the Board of Selectmen about the new cafeteria in the High School and how wonderful it came out. Charles Orluk, Student Liaison informed members of the Board of Selectmen about an event called *Empty Bowls* run by the national honor society, which is scheduled for March 24, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and that they have currently made 70 bowls and that they expect to make 150 bowls. Charles Orluk, Student Liaison also informed members of the Board of Selectmen about the upcoming play which is going to be held March 17 – March 19, and that they are performing the Little Shop of Horrors. Charles Orluk,

(Continued on Next Page)

Page 5 of 7

TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

Page 6

March 6, 2023

Student Liaison also informed members of the Board of Selectmen that the Girls' Basketball team has won their last two games at home.

IX. PUBLIC SESSION

No Public Input was offered.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Consideration of a Personnel Matter

First Selectman Mark H. Fiorentino made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. to discuss a Personnel Matter as permitted by Connecticut General Statutes § 1-225(a) for the purposes as allowed by C.G.S. §1-200(6) and invited the Town Manager, Erica Robertson, and members of the Board of Selectmen into Executive Session.

The motion was seconded by Selectman Kelly O. Rome which passed by a unanimous voice vote **(5/0/0) MOTION CARRIES.**

Following Executive Session, Members of the Board of Selectmen resumed their meeting at 8:25 p.m.

(Continued on Next Page)

Page 6 of 7

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING**

Minutes

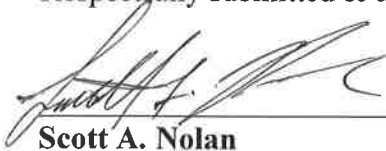
Page 7

March 6, 2023

B. ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business to come before the meeting, Selectman Mark C. Neumann made a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 8:30 p.m., which was seconded by Selectman Kelly O. Rome and passed by a unanimous voice vote. **(5/0/0) MOTION CARRIES.**

Respectfully submitted & attested,



Scott A. Nolan
Town Clerk

Received for Record March 13, 2023, at 8:57 AM
By SCOTT A. NOLAN, Town Clerk