



BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday April 15, 2020
Virtual Meeting – 5:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – A Virtual Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on Wednesday April 15, 2020. First Selectman Hayden called the meeting to order at 5:02pm. Selectman Doering and Selectman Ziobro were present. Guest – Town Attorney Derek Donnelly.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**– Resident Paul Oliva commented on the General Government Budget and questioned the Assessors line of the approximate \$1000 reduction from last year. He wanted to make sure there are still sufficient funding for Commercial Personal Property audits. First Selectman Hayden replied that the Town has \$5000 for audits, that may be reduced to \$3000. Mr. Oliva would like to not reduce that amount and he also commented that he fully supports the increase in the Economic Development department. Mr. Oliva also suggested that the RCC Permit Fee be increased from \$50 to \$60 due to additional tipping fee costs.

3. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Executive Order 7S Section 7, In-Person Voting Requirements** – Town Attorney Derek Donnelly discussed how the traditional Municipal Budget process has changed. Under Executive Order 7I the Governor ordered the BOS to give the Board of Finance, as the town’s budget making authority, the ability to approve the annual budget and to set the mill rate. Attorney Donnelly’s advice to the Board of Finance is to delay the adoption of the budget as long as possible. If the Governor gradually lifts the Executive Orders by May 20, 2020 there may be enough time to hold a Town Meeting and Referendum prior to the June 15, 2020 deadline.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. **Executive Order 7S Section 6 Municipality Program Election Regarding the Deferment and Low-interest Programs** – This Executive Order provides for two programs which can benefit communities. The BOS can choose one or both plans:

The Deferment Program adds a 60-day grace period to payment of FY20-21 taxes (due date of October 1st instead of August 1st). The Low Interest Rate Program reduces the interest penalty for not being current with taxes from 18% annually to 3% annually for the months of April, May, and June. The sense of the BOS was that the Deferment Program would assist more residents. Residents will have to apply and show a 20% reduction in income due to COVID-19 and businesses will apply and show a 30% financial impact as a result of COVID-19. Selectman Ziobro made a motion that the Town adopt the Deferment Program. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously.** If COVID-19 continues to effect residents, the BOS will consider a abatement plan in the fall.

- b. Teacher’s Contract** – Board of Education Chair Bob Paskiewicz discussed the proposed Teacher’s Contract which was approved by the BOE and the Teacher’s Union. The agreement was finished prior to the effects of COVID 19 with an overall increase of 9.35% over three years broken down into annual increases of 3.03%, 2.98% and 3.34% or similar to the statewide average. Both parties were ready for arbitration but came to an agreement at the last moment. The proposed agreement was filed with the Town Clerk on March 27, 2020. The BOS has thirty days from that point to take the contract to Town Meeting, East Granby’s legislative body for financial matters, or not take any action which would result in automatic ratification. Selectman Ziobro made a motion to bring the Teacher’s Contract to a Virtual Town Meeting on Thursday April 23, 2020 at 7:30 pm. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously.**
- c. Response to BOF Budget Questions** – First Selectman Hayden is finalizing the reply to the BOF regarding their four questions relating to the FY20-21 Budget. 1. He anticipates FEMA reimbursement on safety related COVID-19 expenses currently at \$14,000. Possible FY20 savings due to COVID-19 are estimated at \$10,000 to \$15,000. Overall, the First Selectman said the General Government Budget is trending towards a \$120,000 return and the BOS will try to return as much money as possible to offset potential COVID-19 financial impact. 2. The BOS had a discussion of potential “critical” or “less critical” FY20 and FY21 Capital Items. 3. The First Selectman reviewed items which reduced the proposed BOS budget increase to 0.9%. The BOF, prior to COVID-19, had instructed the BOS to come in with a 2.0% budget increase. 4. The First Selectman was supportive of a Grant-Writer who would work on a contingency basis.
- d. FY20 & FY21 Critical/Non-Critical Capital Items** – First Selectman Hayden said that he had requested the assistance of the Fire Chief prior to the BOS meeting so as to help prioritize capital requests since several of the FY20 items are Fire Department requests. The First Selectman reviewed the FY20 and FY21 Capital budget line by line with his recommendation regarding “critical” and “less critical” items.

e. **FY21 Budget** – First Selectman Hayden went over the proposed changes from the last proposed budget. The preliminary draft budget has been reduced from 1.86% to 0.9%. More work is being done on the budget to “sharpen the pencil” and Selectman Ziobro suggested some lines to review for additional savings.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Not needed.

7. **ADJOURN** – **Selectman Ziobro** made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously** at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole Sokolowski