



BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday March 13, 2019
Town Hall Meeting Room – 6:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – A meeting of the East Granby Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on Wednesday March 13, 2019 at the Town Hall Meeting Room. First Selectman Hayden called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Selectman Doering and Selectman Ziobro were present.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None
3. **UPDATE ON KEARNS REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER** – Alicia Newton and Gennie Busse from Kearns Regional Community Center came to discuss the regional community center that they are developing in Granby. This center, to be located in a closed school building in Granby, would serve Windsor, Windsor Locks, Granby, East Granby, Simsbury, Hartland, Suffield, Barkhamsted and Canton. Ms. Newton and Ms. Busse reviewed the proposed usage of the building which is planned to include adult day care, a conference room, teen center, community café, wood shop, meeting spaces and an indoor park. The Kearns group is a 501(c)3 organization and is looking for community support and private funding. They ask that the East Granby BOS consider passing a resolution endorsing the plan. The BOS will put consideration of a resolution on the agenda for the next BOS meeting.
4. **CORRESPONDENCE** – CCM Capitol Report, CTANG Groundbreaking for Front Gate Project, Hartford Foundation Community Funds Feedback Session, General Government February Financials, February Treasurer’s Report, New Farmington River Watershed Association Executive Director, BOE Non-Lapsing Fund Request to BOF, Hartford Trash Plant, Farmington Valley Health District Newsletter, Vietnam Veterans Ceremony, Regional Government Op-Ed, Testimony on HB 7293 – An Act Concerning the Redevelopment of Certain Solid Waste Management Facilities, Municipal Aid Spread Sheets, Teacher Retirement Contributions, Prescription Savings, Financing Energy-Related Capital Projects, Tax Collector Report, CCM Governor’s Budget Impact, Opioid Cost to Communities, Testimony on HB 5125 An Act Increasing the Property Tax Abatement for Certain First Responders, COST on School Consolidation, CT DOH Affordable Housing, Bradley Airport Passenger Growth, Traffic Infrastructure Planning

Crash Data Route 20, February Police Blotter, Comptroller March Budget Report, Testimony on SB 738, SB457, SB874

5. **MINUTES** – Selectman Doering made a motion to accept the February 27, 2019 minutes as presented. Seconded by First Selectman Hayden. **Motion Approved.**
6. **OLD BUSINESS** –
 - a. **Seymour Road Traffic Signage** – Once the ground thaws, DPW will install the “No Thru Truck” signs on Seymour Road.
 - b. **Tax Incentives** – No new information.
 - c. **Copper Hill Terrace Cul-de-sac Property** – The Town Attorney sent another reminder to the individuals to have this resolved prior to June 30, 2019 so that they are not liable for additional taxes.
 - d. **FY20 Draft Budget** – First Selectman Hayden reviewed the BOS FY 20 budget and narrative with the board. The budget reflects the direction from the Board of Finance (BOF) which was to present a budget with a 1.0% increase over FY19. The draft budget is for \$4,826,000, a \$48,000 increase over the current budget of \$4,778,000. There is still uncertainty regarding what level of state grant funding the town will receive. Additionally, there is the unknown regarding several pieces of legislation aimed at school regionalization and towns sharing teacher pension costs. 49% of all town departments are at a 0% increase or less when compared to the current FY19 budget.

The Town continues to work with surrounding communities for shared services which results in efficiencies that help keep costs down. Currently the town is a member of the Farmington Valley Health District and the Tobacco Valley Probate Court. The town shares Youth Services programming/counseling and Fire Dispatch services with Granby and the Animal Control Officer and an Economic Development Specialist with Suffield. Emergency Services are provided by the Granby Ambulance Association. The town will continue to look for shared services opportunities with surrounding towns. The Shared Services Sub-Committee continues to work on maximizing school/town opportunities to work together in a “condo” approach with the town doing more exterior maintenance with the BOE responsible for interior maintenance. The town currently provides about \$275,000 of services to the schools.

\$123,000 was reallocated while remaining budget neutral. \$33,000 was reallocated from the insurance line, \$50,000 reallocated from the Town Aid Road Replacement fund, \$5,000 from the Treasurer for the one-time fraud analysis review and \$18,000 from Facility Maintenance as the job description was reclassified.

The BOS discussed items not funded in the 1% draft budget which included \$2500 for a general government grant-writer, \$5,000 for a fire apparatus grant-writer, \$2000 to replace two old desktop computers, \$10,000 to address ongoing building

maintenance concerns, \$2,5000 to replace a police vehicle laptop and \$8,000 to improve the quality of the MS/HS softball and baseball diamonds and to reseed/rejuvenate the main HS soccer field.

The First Selectman then provided detailed commentary on individual departments. He mentioned that the narrative and department specifics would be available on the town website. He also reviewed a significant change in structure for a combined Public Works/Buildings & Grounds department. The increase of \$70,633 or 11.1% would primarily be driven by the restructuring of management and staffing to combine public works and the building departments. \$50,000 of the funding for this restructuring came from the reallocation of this year's new Town Aid Road fund and \$18,000 was reallocated from Facility Management (line 4200). With unified leadership for building and public works we will be able to improve building/grounds maintenance, reduce the cost of outside vendors and increase the shared services provided to the schools. Current public works staffing is a Supervisor, 6 full timers, one three-month seasonal mower, and a nine-month seasonal. The proposed staffing would be a Director, 7 full timers, two three-month seasonal employees for lawns and a twenty-hour position for administrative support for a net addition of one and a half employees. This will allow the town building approach to be more hands on and utilize the skill sets of the DPW employees on a broader scale. We will also reduce our seasonal snow plow crew by one employee. The Buildings/ Public Works Director position will also supervise a revamped building maintainer/technician position, and one full-time and one part-time building employee. The town will continue to take over more exterior responsibilities in the upcoming year with a "condo" arrangement with the schools.

The First Selectman also reviewed ongoing concerns which included: increasing vehicle fuel costs, escalating snow removal costs may need to be increased. The BOS and Volunteer Fire Department are working on a plan to address future fire apparatus needs. New payroll and accounts payable software is needed and there may be an opportunity to share software with the school district. He also expressed a concern about the stability of State Aid and the shifting of expenses to the towns.

Selectman Doering made a motion to approved the draft budget as presented. Seconded by First Selectman Hayden. Selectman Ziobro said that he disagreed with the reallocation and use of the new Town Road Fund in the FY20 budget and he thought it was the equivalent of a 2% increase. **Motion Approved** – Hayden, Doering in favor. Ziobro opposed.

7. NEW BUSINESS –

- a. **Appointments** – Selectman Ziobro made a motion to reappoint Angela Ciottone to Youth Services Council, appoint Laura Namnoun to the Economic Development Commission, reappoint Paul Oliva to the Economic Development Commission, and appoint Cathy Delasco as Commission on Aging alternate, and thank all of them for their service. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion approved unanimously.**

- b. Resignation** – Selectman Ziobro made a motion to accept the resignation of Wynter Griffing from the Economic Development Commission, and thank him for his service. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion approved unanimously.**
 - c. Refunds** – Selectman Doering made a motion to accept the tax refunds as presented. Seconded by Selectman Ziobro. **Motion approved Unanimously.**

- 8. PUBLIC COMMENT** – Volunteer Fire Chief Kerry Flaherty thanked the BOS for their consideration and discussion of the overall budget including the Fire Department budget. The BOS thanked the Chief and the volunteer firefighters for their service to our community.

- 9. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Selectman Ziobro made a motion to move into Executive Session at 9:06pm to discuss pending negotiations, litigation and personnel matters. Seconded by Selectman Doering. First Selectman Hayden invited Chief Flaherty to join for a portion of the session. **Motion Approved Unanimously.** The Board of Selectman exited Executive Session at 9:30pm. No votes were taken.

- 10. ADJOURN** – Selectman Doering made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Ziobro. **Motion Approved Unanimously** at 9:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole Sokolowski