



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday May 12, 2021**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting – 6:30 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – A meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on Wednesday May 12, 2021 at the Town Hall Meeting Room. First Selectman Hayden called the meeting to order at 6:47 pm. Selectman Doering and Selectman Ziobro were present.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**– None
3. **CORRESPONDENCE** – April General Government Financials, CCM Legislative Update, COST Legislative Update, GAA Tax Abatement Program, April Treasurer Report, Tax Collector Report, ARP, Referendum Results
4. **MINUTES** – Selectman Doering made a motion to accept the April 28, 2021 minutes as presented. Seconded by Selectman Ziobro. **Motion Approved Unanimously.**
5. **OPEN SPACE FUND EXPENDITURE REQUEST** – Rosalie McKenney and Alicia Van Neil from the Park and Recreation Commission made the following report and requested approval to spend an amount not to exceed \$21,000 from the Open Space fund for a new out-building for Granbrook Park. Several years ago, per a new State Statute, the Parks & Recreation Commission applied to the Planning & Zoning Commission to change the zoning regulations to allow for open space to be required with a subdivision application. The P&R Commission comments to the PZC on any subdivision application. The applicant can offer land or fee in lieu of. All monies in the fund are from developers and there are no tax dollars involved. The funds can only be spent on parks, playgrounds or to purchase land for open space.

The Town currently has over 2,000 acres permanently preserved as either open space (mostly State or Land Trust), agricultural (development rights purchased by the State) or the Town. The Town alone currently has approximately 650 acres of open space and parks. Parks & Rec strongly feels that the Town has plenty of "open space" and they are looking to expend some of the funds for our Parks. The fund currently has

approximately \$32,000. Parks & Rec is looking to enhance Granbrook Park by adding an additional building. This type of facility is needed for several reasons. Summer camps are held at the park and one of the biggest costs to us is the bus service. This can get very expensive, approximately \$250 per event, when the campers need to be moved elsewhere due to inclement weather. With an enclosed building, this would no longer be necessary and would reduce expenses.

The proposed building would allow additional space for campers for arts & crafts. It would be a safe haven for other issues that might occur at the park, whether it's a thunderstorm or a bear/other wild animal as examples. It can also be used like the rec center for meetings, party rentals etc. which would bring income to the Town. It also provides another facility for use by local groups for meetings. New construction costs are soaring. When the sub-committee went to "just look" to see what was available in prefab buildings, they found an incredible bargain at the Barnyard in Ellington. The other shed companies do not make units as large as this or you would need to custom order at a much greater price and wait for months.

The building is 14'x36' with a garage door at one end (on the 14' side) windows and a set of barn doors. As this was an in-stock building the price was reduced to \$16,345. This includes the ramps, and a small storage loft area at one end. Public Works would be available to prep the area - so no additional cost there. We would also like to include some electrical work to install lights, outlets for fans etc. The electrical costs are estimated at \$3,950. We are asking to expend an amount not to exceed \$21,000. The more the park has to offer, the more it will be used, and this will be a great plus for the June through August summer camps.

Selectman Ziobro made a motion to approve a sum not to exceed \$21,000 from the Open Space Fund to purchase and equip an all-purpose, prefab building for Granbrook Park. This purchase would be contingent on approval by the Fire Marshall of the building use and subsequently would require approval by the Board of Finance and Town Meeting. All unexpended funds would be returned to the Open Space Fund. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously.**

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **School Town Building Committee Report** – The Allgrove Air Conditioning project is still on track with an anticipated completion date of August 1<sup>st</sup>. Paving is going well. School Street paving is complete, and paving should be completed this week at the Huckleberry neighborhood. Hatchet Hill Road is being completed by the State. First Selectman Hayden spoke with DOT about RT. 187 last year and was told they will looking to do temporary repairs. He will reach out to them again to see the status of their plans.
- b. **Economic Development Report** – First Selectman Hayden mentioned that the Rally for Retail Program went over very well. The Economic Development Commission wanted to focus on small businesses and reinforce shopping local. If you made (2) \$20 purchases at an East Granby businesses you were put in a drawing each week to win a \$40 Gift Card. Selectman Doering asked if there has been any more discussion

regarding the Village District Study. First Selectman Hayden said there has been a couple discussions this week with the Community Development Director who will put together an RFP for the project. The Village Center Plan is on the Capital Plan and it is anticipated that the BOS will request funding for the project in June.

- c. **Tax Incentives** – No new information.
- d. **Back Office Shared Services Opportunities** – No new information.
- e. **General Government FY22 Budget** – Budget was approved by the Town at the Referendum on May 11, 2021. The Board of Finance set the mill rate at 33.6 mills, an increase of 0.4 mills or +1.19%
- f. **Long-Term Recovery Committee Report** – No new information.

7. **NEW BUSINESS** –

- a. **5-Year Capital Plan Update** – First Selectman Hayden reviewed the first draft of potential capital items based on feedback from Department Heads. Further discussion will be had at the next couple meetings. Selectman Ziobro asked about Town Hall insulation which had been previously approved by the town. First Selectman Hayden said that the work will be completed by the fall. Selectman Ziobro also mentioned putting a roof over the proposed compactor pad at the RCC to keep water out.
- b. **Refunds** – Selectman Ziobro made a motion to accept the Tax Refunds as presented. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously.**
- c. **Appointments and Resignations** – Selectman Doering made a motion to appoint Maureen Terry as a Full Member to the Commission on Aging and to accept the resignation of Lucia Ziobro from the Commission on Aging and thank her for her service. Seconded by Selectman Ziobro. **Motion Approved Unanimously.** The First Selectman mentioned that Mark Porter will take over as Board of Finance Chair. Former Chair, Natalie Welsh will remain on the Board of Finance. He thanked Natalie for her dedicated service to the town as BOF Chair.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Resident Patrick McKenney expressed his concern in the number of voters who came out to vote at the Referendum this year. Since 2013 he mentioned being on a steady decline. He wondered if there was a way to find out why residents are not voting. First Selectman Hayden replied that for years the Budget was held at a Town Meeting but back in 2008, due to a difficult economy, the Board of Selectmen chose to change that to a Referendum. The Board of Selectmen have two choices, either to have a referendum or not to have one. If the Referendum were continued, the hours could revert back to State Statute times of 12 pm to 8 pm. If the referendum was not held, the budget would be decided by Town Meeting. The First Selectman mentioned that for most of the 163 years that the town has been in existence, the annual budget has been decided by Town Meeting. Mr. McKenney complimented the

presentation made by the Park and Rec Sub-Committee and supported the project at Granbrook.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Selectman Ziobro made a motion to move into Executive Session at 7:44pm to discuss staffing, personnel, and pending litigation. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously**. The Board of Selectman exited Executive Session at 8:09 pm. No votes were taken.
  
10. **ADJOURN** – Selectman Ziobro made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously** at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nicole Sokolowski