



BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday July 28, 2021
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 at the Town Hall Meeting Room. First Selectman Hayden called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Selectman Doering and Selectwomen Wimpfheimer were present.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None
3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Selectwomen Wimpfheimer made a motion to move into Executive Session at 6:32 pm with the Town Attorney Derek Donnelly and Assessor Mary Ellen Brown to discuss Floydville Road Property Tax Negotiations. Seconded by Selectman Doering **Motion Approved Unanimously**. The Board of Selectman exited Executive Session at 7:10 pm. No votes were taken.
4. **PRESENTATION BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY ON THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE CANNABIS ACT ON MUNICIPALITIES** – Town Attorney Derek Donnelly discussed the ramifications of the recently passed Cannabis Act on municipalities. There have been major changes to the criminal laws, which essentially legalizes for a vast majority of groups, recreational marijuana. Possession became legal on July 1, 2021. The bill was signed on June 21, 2021, which gave little time to towns to deal with the impact.

Cannabis sales can be approved and regulated by a Municipality either by a zoning regulation or by Municipal Ordinance. The newly signed Cannabis Act makes numerous changes related to criminal justice, licensing, employment, tax, traffic enforcement, and other laws to establish legal adult recreational use of cannabis. Municipalities retain the ability to control cannabis production, retail sale and consumption in certain areas through a combination of zoning regulations and specific municipal ordinances. Zoning regulation can regulate the growing of cannabis, its manufacturing processes, packaging, processing, delivery, and retail sale. Local ordinance changes can be used to regulate the recreation consumption of cannabis on public property.

Due to the short time frame between passage of the act and legalization, the Town Attorney said the legislation allows towns the ability to declare a moratorium for a

specified amount of time while the town decides what it would like to do. The bill also authorizes a 3% municipal tax on cannabis in addition to the State 6.5% sales tax which must be used for community reinvestment.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE** – Southwick Citizen Group on Carvana, Police Position Posting, Granby Ambulance Association Call Volume, Eversource 1768 Tower Project, CT Stopransomware.gov

6. **MINUTES** – Selectwomen Wimpfheimer made a motion to accept the July 14, 2021 minutes as presented. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously.**

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. **School Town Building Committee Report** – First Selectman Hayden stated DPW has completed 13 roads to date in 2021. It is anticipated that DPW will complete a couple of more roads than originally scheduled for this year. The Air Conditioning project at Allgrove School is on schedule.

b. **Economic Development Report** – The July 27th public hearing for Lot 44 Seymour Road Planning and Zoning Commission Application and Zoning map Change to adopt Commerce Park Transitional Zone B was postponed until public workshops are held to solicit resident feedback. Pioneer Optics have taken out a building permit to add a 7,634 sq foot 2nd floor. Pride Gas Station site work is still in progress.

c. **Back Office Shared Services Opportunities** – tabled

d. **“Draft” Tax Incentive Report from Economic Development Officers and Director** – Per request of the BOS, Town Attorney Derek Donnelly is drafting an Ordinance for Commercial Construction and Lease Abatement programs. The BOS will consider the draft and then take it to Town Meeting consideration in October or November.

e. **Long-Term Recovery Committee Report** – No new information.

f. **American Rescue Plan Protocols and Controls** – Waiting for suggested best practices from CCM and COST.

Selectman Doering made a motion to add 7(g) Farmington Valley Health District to the agenda. Seconded by Selectwomen Wimpfheimer. **Motion Approved Unanimously.**

g. **Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD)** – Selectman Doering is the town’s representative to the FVHD. He provided a COVID update which discussed the doubling of new cases in some locations of the country. The Northeast is categorized at having moderate community transmission and vaccinations are still considered the most important strategy.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. 5-Year Capital Plan – First Selectman Hayden is working with department heads to discuss anticipated capital needs to make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

b. Holcomb Street Turtle/Wildlife Crossing – First Selectman Hayden and Selectwoman Wimpfheimer have been approached by concerned citizens in the Holcomb Street area regarding turtles crossing near the marsh area and getting hit by cars. First Selectman Hayden reached out to DEEP and our Animal Control Officer for best practices and potential signage. The BOS will discuss at its next meeting.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT – First Selectman Jim Hayden said that after serving seven terms, he is retiring and is not running for re-election. He mentioned that he was impressed by the residents of our wonderful community and the dedication of the town employees and their service to the town. He stated that together we have accomplished things that leave East Granby well positioned to continue to be our community of choice including responsiveness to residents' needs, fiscal responsibility, infrastructure improvements and response to emergencies such as the storms of 2011 & 2012 to COVID and to everything in-between. He concluded by saying that there has not been one moment in his almost fourteen years of service where he has not been proud and grateful for the opportunity to be East Granby's First Selectman.

10. ADJOURN – Selectwomen Wimpfheimer made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously** at 8:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole Sokolowski