TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR BOARD OF FINANCE MINUTES
MAY 11, 2026

PRESENT: Michael Guarco, Chairman; Toby Proctor, Vice-Chairman, David Demchak, Kevin Hobson, Kent McCord, and William Kennedy

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: First Selectman Mark Fiorentino and Board of Education member Andrew Billig

CALL TO ORDER:
Chairman Michael Guarco called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. **OVERVIEW OF FURTHER CHANGES TO THE FY2026-27 BUDGET**
   Board of Finance Chairman Michael Guarco welcomed the public, introduced the board members, and provided an overview of the additional reductions to the FY2026-27 budget in response to the results of the referendum. The budget failed to pass for a second time at the referendum on Monday, May 4, 2026. Pursuant to the town charter, a third public hearing and subsequent vote are required.

   At their May 5, 2026, meeting the Board of Finance voted to further adjust the total budget by $500,000, reducing the Board of Education by an additional $300,000 and adding $200,000 in revenue from the supplemental education aid from the State.

   Following Mr. Guarco's presentation, the First Selectman and the Board of Education addressed the public and the meeting was opened for public comment. The chairman closed the public hearing after public comment and the Board of Finance met to consider the comments and make a final decision on a budget proposal to forward to the Town Referendum on Monday, May 18, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

   The new FY2026-27 annual budget proposes an increase of 2.68% resulting in a mill rate change from 34.21 to 34.47 or 0.76%.

2. **BOARD OF SELECTMEN FURTHER CHANGES TO THE FY2026-27 BUDGET**
   First Selectman Mark Fiorentino addressed the public hearing and appealed to the community to move beyond the divisiveness that arose throughout the budget process, to work collaboratively toward balanced and reasonable compromises, and to remain focused on what is best for Granby.

   The First Selectman acknowledged the desire of residents to significantly reduce education expenses by focusing on administrative costs and avoiding reductions to teachers and programs; and to utilize reserves and new revenue to reduce the mill rate.

The Board of Selectmen is committed to focusing on the following budget related issues:

- Strong schools and increased support for teachers in both competitive pay and resources
- Strong municipal services, especially public safety
- Minimize the tax burden on residents
- Long-term financial and mill rate stability

The Board of Selectmen is also committed to improving coordination and communication between the boards through IBAC, open houses and three-board meetings. Additionally, the Town will look to increase grand list growth while preserving the essential character of Granby by updating the Plan of Conservation and Development; implementing recommendations from the Granby Center Advisory Committee; and reviewing the T-1 district zoning regulations.

3. BOARD OF EDUCATION FURTHER CHANGES TO THE FY2026-27 BUDGET

Andrew Billig presented the Board of Education comments at the public hearing.

The Board of Education is committed to addressing the following issues:

- School Climate Issues: Working on a comprehensive strategic plan establishing educational guidelines across all four Granby schools that fosters supportive actions to optimize every student's learning potential in a healthy school climate.
- Fiscal Responsibility and Transparency: The Board of Education is committed to supporting and upholding the terms of the three-board resolution to improve transparency and consistency in the budget process.
- Superintendent's Contract: The Board of Education met with the district's attorney who is conducting a review of the ratification of the 2025-2026 addendum to the superintendent's contract. Once all information and legal guidance is considered on the matter, the board will make take appropriate action to address the issue at a future meeting.

The Board of Education was directed by the Board of Finance to reduce the budget by an additional $300,000 after the budget failed at the second referendum. Combined with earlier cuts, the total impact on the Board of Education budget is $525,000. A reduction of this magnitude requires thoughtful and careful consideration of union contract obligations and the broader, lasting consequences across the district. These critical decision impact the overall success of the education system and will take time. At this time, the Board of Education is not prepared to identify specific reductions until a full review and evaluation process has been completed.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following residents commented on the budget and related issues.
Michael Dombrowski, 7 Farmview Lane, Granby
Curt Johnson, One Fielding Woods Lane, West Granby
Herbert Hulbert, 168 Hungary Road, Granby
Ben Perron, 25 Archie Lane, Granby

Christine Chinni, 51 Pheasant Run, North Granby
Lynn Krauss, 20 West Granby Road, Granby
Joseph Wardrop, 430 Salmon Brook Street, Granby
Mike Kramarenko, 150 Notch Road, Granby
John Morrone, 15 Maple Hill Drive, Granby
Maureen Eberly, 37 Silkey Road, North Granby
Jess Atkinson, 8 High Ridge Drive, Granby
Bruce Sullivan, 21 Kelly Lane, Granby
Joel Danke, 87 Barn Door Hills Road, Granby
Robert Flanigan, 24 Woodcliff Drive, Granby
John Spatcher, 22 Round Hill Road, Granby
Rebecca Mikus, 14 Stonewall Drive, West Granby
Jerry Ledger, 89 Bushy Hill Road, Granby
Beth Norris Neu, 6 Stonewall Drive, West Granby
Bill Gleick, 18 West Granby Road, West Granby
John Mahoney, 16 Maple Hill Drive, Granby
Toni Flanigan, 24 Woodcliff Drive, Granby
Mark Garlasco, 23 Granby Farms Road, Granby
Ali Zafar, High Ridge Drive, Granby

5. ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Michael Guarco closed the Public Hearing at 8:54 p.m.

6. RECESS

7. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Michael Guarco called the regular meeting of the Town of Granby Board of Finance to order at 9:05 p.m.

8. APPROVAL OF BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - MAY 5, 2026

ON A MOTION by W. Kennedy, seconded by T. Proctor, the Board voted (5-0-1) to approve the public hearing and regular meeting minutes of May 5, 2026. D. Demchak abstained due to his absence from that meeting.

9. CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 ANNUAL BUDGET TO BE VOTED ON MAY 18, 2026

The Board considered the Town of Granby FY2026-27 adjusted budget which was presented at the third public hearing.

General Fund	**Recommended at Public Hearing 5/11/26**
Town Operations	$ 14,479,306
Debt Service	$ 1,836,073
Capital (Including $1M for BOE)	$ 2,550,000
Board of Education OPEB	$ 160,000
Board of Education	$ 40,391,434
Total General Fund	**$ 59,416,813**

Other Funds	
Education Quality & Diversity	$ 1,123,769
Capital Equipment/Improvement Fund	$ 3,641,960
Recreation Events Fund	$ 1,009,313
Sewer Utility Fund	$ 385,200
Solid Waste Fund	$ 224,750
Dog Fund	$ 25,800
Current Tax Levy	$ 47,097,854
Grants and Other Revenues for BOE	$ 8,358,197
General Fund Other Revenues	$ 1,975,762
Fox Fund Transfer	$ 60,000
General Fund Transfer	$ 1,925,000
Mill Rate	34.47 (0.76% increase)

The third FY2026-27 Budget Referendum will take place on May 18, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

ON A MOTION by T. Proctor, seconded by W. Kennedy, the Board voted (6-0-0) to approve the Town of Granby Fiscal Year 2026-27 adjusted budget as presented at the Public Hearing and forwards the budget to the referendum on May 18, 2026.

10. CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Board of Finance will meet on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 7:00 at the Senior Center to review the results of the budget referendum and determine next steps. If the budget is not approved, the board will consider further adjustments. If the budget is approved, the board will set the mill rate.

11. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

ON A MOTION by D. Demchak, seconded by W. Kennedy, the Board voted (6-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

BMazzotta

Betsy Mazzotta
Recording Secretary