TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING – BUDGET WORKSHOP I
MINUTES
March 5, 2026

PRESENT: Mark Fiorentino, First Selectman; Margaret Chapple, Vice-Chair; Kimberly Becker; Frederick Moffa (via Zoom); and Mark Neumann

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Kimi Cheng, Director of Finance; David Demchak, Board of Finance; Michael Guarco, Board of Finance Chairman; Kent McCord, Board of Finance; and Mike Walsh, Town Manager

The Regular meeting of the Town of Granby Board of Selectmen (Budget Workshop I) was called to order by First Selectman Mark Fiorentino at 5:00 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

2.I. Lost Acres Fire Department

Chief Tim Weber presented an overview of the Lost Acres Fire Department including the history of the department, apparatus and membership. The chief noted the following highlights for 2025:

- The department has had a tremendous upswing in volunteer firefighters and the membership is higher than it has been in over 20 years at 39 members.
- LAFD has been actively involved in the Town's ongoing Radio System project which will significantly improve the communications between the firefighters, dispatch and mutual aid towns.
- A UTV acquired as part of the radio project is now in service and will be used to access the new tower site and will also be used to expand other capabilities in town.
- Purchased 26 new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and a rapid intervention pack. Ninety-five percent (95%) of the $248,000 cost was covered by a grant from FEMA.
- Service calls have increased over the last three to four years from about 220 calls to 280 last year. This year is tracking to be about the same number. Contributing factors include the new apartment complexes in Town, working out the tweaks in a new alarm system at the elderly housing complex at 247 Salmon Brook Street, increased calls for mutual aid and regional task force activation.
- LAFD logged approximately 10,000 hours of service time including 6,800 man-hours at calls and 3,200 hours for training and other activities.
- The Town budget allocation is used for annual operating expenses and capital reserves. Due to higher expenses related to the increased call volume, only about 22% has been put aside for capital.

The fire department requested an increase of $15,000 in the Town allocation to cover increased medical costs and to fully fund the reimbursement program. Future capital needs will include apparatus replacement and station updates and enhancements.

2.II. Granby Ambulance Association

Town Manager Mike Walsh provided an overview of the Granby Ambulance Association and the current financial situation. In late 2025, the Town prepared a report on GAA ongoing operations to support a change in the operating agreement to increase the budget allocation from the Town. Currently GAA annually operates at a loss due to imbalance between charges for services and insurance reimbursements as well as bad debt. The Town is recommending an increase in the Town of Granby contribution to GAA from $20,000 to $80,000 to stabilize operations and preserve endowment funds and contributions for capital replacement. The additional $60,000 would come from the Fox Fund. Further discussion will be required to come to an agreement between the Town of Granby and the Granby Ambulance Association in order to support long-term financial sustainability.

2.III. Farmington Valley Health Department

Stephanie Johnson, Health Director of the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD), which serves as the municipal health department for the Town of Granby presented an overview of the organization and the services delivered to the Town. The FVHD provides highly skilled, experienced health professionals to prevent disease, promote health and protect against public health threats. The Town supports the FVHD through a municipal per capita charge of $7.73 for a total FY 2026-27 contribution of $90,835.

2.IV. Community Development

Director of Community Development Abigail Kenyon presented an overview of the Community Development department including Building Inspection, Fire Prevention and Emergency Management.

<u>Year in Review</u>

- This year, 1,148 building permits and seven new house permits were issued with a construction value of $21,308,303. Permit fees collected totaled $355,970 and 1,111 inspections were conducted.
- CERT held five meetings and was activated for various activities in Town including the Granby Road Race, Holcomb Farm Hoedown, and Granby Volunteer Day.
- The Fire Marshal issued 37 Burn Permits, conducted 146 fire code inspections and eight fire investigations.
- Thirty-two smoke alarms were installed and 15 were inspected as part of the Smoke Alarm Program through the Fire Marshal’s office.

<u>Looking Ahead</u>

- Update the Plan of Conservation and Development for adoption in September 2026.
- Review zoning regulations and incorporate recommendations from the Granby Center Study.
- Review all land use and building permit forms and revise as needed.

- Create new handouts for the public based on current building code requirements and zoning regulations and post updates on the Building Department webpage.
- Reorganize all files by property address and digitize when possible.
- Monitor and provide plan review on anticipated projects including the Kearns School housing development and the Broadleaf Solar project.
- Assess the Emergency Operations Center to determine needed upgrades and coordinate training for mass notification system.
- Oversee CERT training and increase outreach and recruitment efforts.

2.V. Police Department Administration, Operations and Communications
Chief Sansom presented an overview of the Police Department organization and budget, highlighting the following.

Noteworthy 2025 Accomplishments

- Created a new School Resource Officer (SRO) program within the school system and appointed an SRO.
- Awarded State Accreditation Tiers 1-3.
- Reviewed and updated critical policies.
- Held 3rd annual First Responder Camp.
- Completed capital improvement projects including the installation of a new evidence and property organization system, security cameras, animal shelter improvements and general office improvements.
- Renovated the Dispatch Center and installed a temporary dispatch center during the project.
- Procured and trained with new pistols with red dot sights and security holsters.
- Continued community outreach programs.

FY27 Goals and Objectives

- Complete the State accreditation Tier 1 compliance audit.
- Stay current with laws, mandates and policies through professional development.
- Implement investigative software tools.
- Build department Wellness Program.
- Train with new less-lethal Taser 10's.
- Promote roadway safety through education and enforcement.
- Complete radio system project.

FY27 Budget Changes

- Contractual increases for administrative and operational Uniform Allowance as well as Uniform Cleaning.
- Increase to Phone & Data Service to install FirstNet line in cruiser.
- CAD/RMS System Maintenance to purchase AXON complete bundle of services and annual licenses.
- Requesting one additional officer to increase coverage on day and evenings shifts.
- Increase to regional teams' dues to North Central Emergency Services consortium for services such as SWAT, Accident Reconstruction, Drone and Negotiators Team.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Spatcher, 22 Round Hill Road, Granby spoke in support of the police department and applauded the great work that they do for the Town.

4. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by F. Moffa, seconded by M. Neumann, the Board voted (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Betsy Mazzotta
Recording Secretary