TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUDGET WORKSHOP II
MARCH 9, 2026
MINUTES

CERTIFIED TRUE ELECTRONIC COPY
From the Records of the
Town of Granby
as of 5:30 P.M.
April 9, 2026
Attested by:

PRESENT: Mark H. Fiorentino, First Selectman, Margaret Q. Chapple, Vice-Chair; Mark C. Neumann, Kimberly L. Becker, and Frederick A. Moffa.

ABSENT: None

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

CALL TO ORDER

Selectman, M. Fiorentino, called the Board of Selectmen Budget Workshop II to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Main Meeting Room, Granby, Connecticut.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Stuart Young, Public Works Operation Supervisor.

2. DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

2. I. Department of Public Works- Kirk Severance

Kirk Severance, Public Works Director and Capital Projects Management, alongside Stuart Young, Supervisor of Operations, gave a presentation on the Public Works Budget. Kirk brings historical knowledge, Stuart is now leading day-to-day operations and offering on-the-ground insight, particularly following a harsh winter that has impacted roads, equipment, and infrastructure. The team discussed ongoing and planned projects, including generator installations, park and facility improvements, senior center repairs, and the radio/dispatch upgrade, which is nearing completion. Additional topics included long-term capital planning for buildings and roads, potential upgrades at Salmon Brook Park, and routine responsibilities such as bridge inspections, sewer maintenance, and stormwater management. The department emphasized its commitment to maintaining services, controlling costs, and addressing challenges, while also acknowledging support from community volunteers.

The Public Works Department Operation side of the budget was discussed, highlighting a $31,000 reduction in part-time and temporary payroll due to transferring two transfer station positions to the solid waste fund, where related revenues are recorded. Overtime costs were significantly over budget due to an unusually harsh winter, reaching over $200,000 year-to-date, prompting a modest increase in the upcoming budget. Additional changes included reallocating training funds for supervisor development, applying 5% increases to materials and maintenance lines, and a roughly 10% increase in fuel oil based on historical trends. While gasoline and diesel prices are locked in through cooperative purchasing, electricity costs rose about 7.5% due to a state-approved pass-through charge despite prior rate agreements. Other increases reflected higher usage, HVAC service demands, and contractual waste collection costs.

2. II. Libraries- Amber Wyzik

Library Director, Amber outlined the structure, mission, and ongoing initiatives for the town's two libraries. The department emphasized its role as a community hub providing diverse resources, programs, and services for all ages, including expanding digital offerings and a "library of things." Updates included progress on a new library management system, catalog improvements, grant-funded technology upgrades, and the launch of a homebound delivery service and community-wide calendar. The Director also highlighted a feasibility study and active capital campaign supporting a potential library expansion project, with future steps dependent on voter approval and coordination with a building committee. Budget priorities include modest staffing increases to expand programming hours, particularly evenings and weekends. Usage data shows growing circulation, strong return on investment, and increasing demand for digital content, underscoring the library's continued value and efficiency within the community.

On the Library Operation side, director highlighted a modest increase in part-time payroll to support an additional eight hours for the children's library specialist and standard wage adjustments. A significant reduction in the public relations line was noted due to shifting responsibility for the program guide to the town manager's budget and consolidating its format, resulting in cost savings and improved efficiency. Other changes included increased costs for printing supplies due to rising toner prices, while savings were achieved by transitioning to a new all-in-one library system that eliminated separate services. It was also clarified that certain services, such as the makerspace and 3D printing, are fully funded through donations.

2. III. & 2. IV. Social/Senir/Youth Services and Parks and Recreation- Sandy Yost

Sandy Yost presented the budget presentation of Community Services Department, which integrates senior, youth, social services, and parks and recreation to deliver inclusive, community-focused programming. She outlined staffing, volunteer contributions, and a wide range of services, highlighting achievements such as expanded senior wellness and fall-prevention programs, enhanced lunch and travel offerings, successful community partnerships, and growth in recreational events and youth initiatives.

The Operation Budget discussions emphasized maintaining affordability while addressing rising costs, including competitive wages for specialized staff and transportation drivers. Revenue trends showed some declines due to increased competition and program changes, particularly in youth sports and camps, while efforts are underway to introduce new programming to offset losses. Also, Sandy noted the financial sustainability of the parks and recreation fund, noting concerns about declining balances and the need to balance expenses, adjust fees, or reallocate costs, with a broader goal of achieving a break-even or modest surplus.

3. PUBLIC SESSION

John Spatcher, 22 Round Hill Road raised questions on Parks and Recreation shortfall. The resident also asked about rising trash costs, noting their size within the public works budget. They noted reducing waste tonnage to lower costs, composting, and other initiatives should be explored.

4. ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY P. Chapple, seconded by F. Moffa the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Budget Workshop at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully Recorded & Attested,



Jen Espinal

Town Clerk

Received for Record: March 16, 2026, at 9:10 A.M.
By Jini Ruscitti, Assistant Town Clerk

The next Board of Selectmen Budget Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2026, 5:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.