

**RECORD
TOWN OF GRANBY
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 13, 2013**

In accordance with the foregoing warrant, the inhabitants of the Town of Granby qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, met at the Granby Jr. Sr. High School on East State Street on May 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

The Moderator, Lynn Snopek Mercier opened the Annual Town Meeting at 7:04 p.m. with a quorum present (30 or more) 48 were in attendance at the time of opening. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was lead by the Select Board Chairman Louis M. Barry the Town Officials and residents joined in.

The Moderator calls on the Town Clerk, Katherine A. Kelly-Regan, to certify that all the warrants were posted in accordance with the law.

The Clerk responds they have. The warrant for this Annual Town Meeting was declared to be in order.

Committees and Boards present at this ATM:

Select Board: Chair, Louis M. Barry, Members, Mark L. Bail and Mary A. McDowell, All Present.

Finance Committee: Chair, John Libera, Jr., Members, Robert Glesmann, III, Dana Ritter and Scott Wilson, Present, not in attendance member James Hartley.

Others in attendance: Town Counselor, Edward Ryan, Jr., Town Administrator, Christopher Martin, Town Treasurer, Steven Nally and School Superintendent Isabelina Rodriquez.

Vote counters and checkers: Jeanne Crosby, Richard Gaj, Sr., Jeanne Merrill, Debra Plath, and Nancy Sedlak.

Floor runner: Charles Mercier, III

Police Officer; Jason Richard

Filming: Dr. Herbert Abelson

**The Moderator calls for Article 1 of the ATM at 7:06 P.M.
Motion 2nd**

**ARTICLE 1. move the Town vote to conduct the business of the meeting as follows; on May 13, 2013 consider articles two through thirteen and on June 17, 2013 consider articles fourteen through forty-one.
Motion 2nd**

Passed - Unanimous- Show of Hands

**ARTICLE 2. move the Town vote to hear the reports of Town Officers and all standing and special committees.
Motion 2nd**

Passed – Unanimous-Show of Hands

The Finance Committee announces they will do their report on the second half of town meeting that will be held on June 17, 2013.

Mark L. Bail gives the Select Board report:

Fellow citizens, distinguished guests, colleagues, friends, welcome to 2013 annual town meeting. You came tonight—not to miss the Red Sox continue to slump, though that reason has its merits—but because you care enough about your town to take part in its government. Democracy guarantees us the right to participate in the running of our government, but it also burdens us with a responsibility to be informed, decide on what we think is best, and most importantly, show up. By being here tonight, you are serving your community and yourselves.

The sentence "May you live in interesting times" was once said to be a Chinese curse. The origins of those words are under dispute, but, like it or not, we are cursed to live in interesting times. The world, not just Granby, Massachusetts, or the United States, is in a depression, a prolonged economic downturn that is making life difficult for us. A poor economy means lower tax revenue and less money for our town. Our fiscal problems, however, are not merely economic. In the late 1990s, we decided to cut the taxes at the state level. Our income tax rate was reduced almost 1 percentage point. Capital gains taxes were slashed by more than 70%, and the personal tax exemption was doubled. The result is an annual loss of \$3.8 billion in revenue for the Commonwealth. As a result of these factors, aid to cities and towns, also known as Chapter 70 funds, has dropped by 46%. Granby has a revenue problem, but a major cause of that problem is the Commonwealth's revenue problem. There is no way Granby or scores of other communities across the Commonwealth can ever make up for the decrease in state aid. Cities and towns cannot raise enough revenue on their own. It doesn't take a village; it takes a Commonwealth.

In spite of our financial situation, Granby has continued to make progress, most concretely in our town buildings. Ten years ago, we were cramming our highway department into a crumbling cinderblock building; five years ago, our police department was housed in a former dinosaur museum that was outdated, unhealthy, and didn't even belong to us. Our general government may be housed in two locations, but our office workers no longer work in unhealthy, inaccessible conditions where the wind blows through the closed windows and record-seekers need hazmat suits to access records. Our seniors no longer play cards in a building held up with two-by-fours, house jacks, and wishful thinking. They no longer contend with a periodically polluted water supply and failing septic system. Five months from now, our library, which, for almost 100 years, has been housed in a lovely, but completely unsuitable Greek revival building gifted to the town by the philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie and the hard work of our Granby forebearers. In ten years, Granby will have replaced all of its municipal buildings without relying on a property tax override or the money spent on department operations.

That's progress—and it didn't come easy. It was decades in the making. It took countless hours of work by appointed and elected members of our community. There were steps forward and steps backward, but in the end, we moved forward. Without the good decision-making of town meeting, we would not have accomplished this monumental feat. At the end of Fiscal Year 2013, the Town of Granby has much to be proud of.

In comparison to the last ten years, this year's accomplishments have been relatively modest. We have completed the purchase of 150 acres of land by Forge Pond. With the help of grants and the generosity of Joseph Partyka, the cost was modest, and this open space will now remain open forever. In conjunction with The MacDuffie School, we are currently evaluating a proposal to bring in sewer from Belchertown. Costs may turn out to be prohibitive, but because there are issues with septic at the high school and East Meadow campus, we have yet to eliminate it as an option.

As part of the ongoing effort to improve the running of our town government, we have created and appointed a new committee to oversee all of our public parks, and athletic fields. In the future, we hope to bring forward a bylaw change that would replace the Recreation Commission with a Parks and Recreation Commission. We are also asking voters to change the treasurer position from elected to appointed and looking at financial services with the schools.

After Kellogg Hall was closed, we wanted to make sure the plaques commemorating our veterans were preserved. Our town administrator floated the idea of creating a Veterans Park on the Aldrich Hall property. As a result, we appointed a committee that is now working hard to develop a memorial. The plaques once situated in town hall, now in storage, will eventually be displayed there with more added to commemorate those who have served since the 1960s.

In the next year, we face some prominent financial challenges. Waste Management has told us that our dump will close in December. To the best of our knowledge, this date is real. Based on previous discussions with Waste Management, the possibility of continuing our current drop off seems unlikely, but we will explore that option along with town-wide and private pickup. This morning we received an invitation to join a consortium of communities to leverage our bargaining power. For the record: Granby neither owns the landfill or the land on which it is located. We receive tipping fees a host community. Once the landfill closes, those fees and our cheap place to dump will be gone.

At our last town meeting, we voted to file special legislation to remove 140 residences from South Hadley's Fire District 2. It's unlikely that town meeting would have taken this drastic measure, or that the affected Granby residents would

have requested help, had it not been for the state of democracy in Fire District 2. Taxation without representation, as we know, is illegal, but taxation without good representation is a major problem in Fire District 2. The Prudential Committee of Fire District 2 has operated in a bubble, raising fire taxes by 78%. If the Granby select board had the authority to raise taxes beyond 2 ½ percent without the consent of the Granby voters, and if we raised taxes by 78%, the best that would happen is that we wouldn't be re-elected. Fire Districts, however, can increase taxes by more 2½ percent. Taxes, however, are only the symptom of a system that has outlived its usefulness for Granby citizens. The disease is poor government. The Prudential Committee, and the coterie of South Hadley people who run the district, may refer to the "Granby issue," but the problem is Prudential Committee. And the issue is good governance. Town government in Granby is not perfect, but it is accountable. You know where we meet. You know where to find our agenda. You can watch us on television after we meet. On taxation, you, not us, have the last word. Granby residents in Fire District 2 deserve effective, accountable governance, and responsible taxation, and unfortunately, that means trying to dissolve a 100 year-old relationship.

Let me warn you now, I'm going to use an f-word when I refer to Granby's next project. You'll be asked to vote on this f-word in October or November. I think we'd all rather chew glass than pay for another study of a building, but when it comes to large state grants, we don't make the rules. The MSBA has invited us to the first stage of the school building process for West Street School. We've appointed a school building committee that will convene soon. That committee will do the preliminary work to renovate or replace West Street School. When this work is complete, town meeting will decide deciding whether or not to enter the feasibility study phase of the process. We will do our utmost to keep the Town in the loop, so when we come before you this autumn, you have everything you need to make an informed decision.

Well, that's about it. If you have questions, please feel free to come up after the meeting.

ARTICLE 3. move the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to conduct the following activities for fiscal year 2014:

A. To sell, after first giving notice of time and place of sale by posting such notices of sale in some convenient and public place in the Town 14 days at least before the sale, property taken by the Town under tax title land of low value procedure, provided the Selectmen or whomever they authorize to hold such public auction, may reject any bid they deem inadequate.

No discussion

B. To apply for and accept Federal or State grants or monies as may be made available and to allow the Selectmen to expend any funds received as set forth in the appropriate application.

No discussion

C. To enter into a contract with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation-Highway Division for the construction and maintenance of public highways for the ensuing year.

No discussion

*There was no discussion on any of the above and a vote is called. Motion 2nd
Passed- Items A-C- Unanimous-Show of Hands*

ARTICLE 4. move the Town vote to authorize the various departments to receive compensation for services rendered for fiscal year 2014 as follows:

A. The Cemetery Commissioners to dig graves and maintain the equipment and grounds in the cemeteries at a wage rate that is no less than the minimum wage.

No discussion

B. The members of the Board of Assessors to be compensated \$15 per parcel for necessary fieldwork and data collection for services rendered in connection with the revaluation and re-certification process involving one-sixth of the improved parcels in town.

No discussion

- C. The members of the Board of Health, or their consultants, to receive compensation at a wage rate of \$35 per inspection or specific required activity.

No discussion

- D. The members of the Planning Board, or their appointees, to receive compensation at a wage rate of \$65 per inspection.

No discussion

*There was no discussion on any of the above and a vote is called. Motion 2nd
Passed - Items A-D- Unanimous-Show of Hands*

ARTICLE 5. move the Town vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to charge a fee of \$65 for each site inspection deemed necessary by a quorum of the Commission. Fees shall be payable to the Town of Granby Conservation Commission and deposited in the Conservation Hatch Fund. Motion 2nd

Passed- Majority-Show of Hands

ARTICLE 6: move the Town vote to accept the following gifts in calendar year 2012 for perpetual care of cemetery lots:

Monique L. & James P. Curran	\$ 165.
Carolyn & Wilfred Messier	\$ 565.
Shirley R. Duval	\$ 565.
Yvonne Anderson	\$1,155.
Alice W. Convery	\$1,155.

Motion 2nd

Passed- Unanimous-Show of Hands

ARTICLE 7. move the Town vote to authorize the following Revolving Funds in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 44, Section 53E½ and to authorize expenditures from these funds for fiscal year 2014 without further appropriation:

- A. An Inspections Revolving Fund that may be spent by the Inspector of Buildings to pay for the wages, expenses, and contracted services required for the operation of the preventive inspections-selectmen department. The Inspections Revolving Fund is to be credited with all revenue received from building, electrical, and gas fees, licenses and permits in fiscal year 2014 and with the remaining balance of the fiscal year 2013 Inspections Revolving Fund. The Inspector of Buildings may spend \$53,288 in revolving fund monies in fiscal year 2014.

No discussion

- B. A Recreation Revolving Fund that may be spent by the Recreation Commission to pay for the wages, expenses, contracted services and capital improvement required for the operation of the recreation department programs, activities, events and services. The Recreation Revolving Fund is to be credited with all non-athletic program fees received in fiscal year 2014 and with the remaining balance of the fiscal year 2013 Recreation Revolving Fund. The Recreation Commission may spend \$5,000 in revolving fund monies in fiscal year 2014.

No discussion

- C. A Parks Revolving Fund that may be spent by the Parks Oversight Ad-Hoc Committee to pay for the wages, expenses, contracted services and capital improvement required for the operation of the Town parks. The Parks Revolving Fund is to be credited with all reservation and security deposit fees and contributions received in fiscal year 2014 for the use of the Town parks. The Parks Oversight Ad-Hoc Committee may spend \$25,000 in revolving fund monies in fiscal year 2014.**
No discussion
- D. A Charter Day Revolving Fund that may be spent by the Charter Day Committee to pay for the wages, expenses and contracted services required to celebrate Charter Day. The Charter Day Revolving Fund is to be credited with revenue and contributions received in fiscal year 2014 from Charter Day activities and with the remaining balance of the fiscal year 2013 Charter Day Revolving Fund. The Charter Day Committee may spend \$25,000 in revolving fund monies in fiscal year 2014.**
No discussion
- E. A Planning Board Fees Revolving Fund that may be spent by the Planning Board to pay for any or all expenses or contracted services of the Planning Board. The Planning Board Fees Revolving Fund is to be credited with all application fees and charges received in fiscal year 2014 and with the remaining balance of the fiscal year 2013 Planning Board Fees Revolving Fund. The Planning Board may spend \$50,000 in revolving fund monies in fiscal year 2014.**
No discussion
- F. An After School Activities Program Revolving Fund that may be spent only upon authorization of the Superintendent of Schools to pay for maintenance, supply and operation, including wages of personnel of the After School Activities Program. The After School Activities Program Revolving Fund is to be credited with all revenues generated by the After School Activities Program in fiscal year 2014 and with the remaining balance of the fiscal year 2013 After School Activities Program Revolving Fund. The Superintendent of Schools may spend \$20,000 in revolving fund monies in fiscal year 2014.**
No discussion
- G. A Dog Revolving Fund that may be spent by the Police Department to pay for any or all expenses or contracted services of the Canine Control Bylaw. The Dog Revolving Fund is to be credited with all dog licensing fees and any other charges received in fiscal year 2014 and with the remaining balance of the fiscal year 2013 Dog Revolving Fund. The Police Department may spend \$11,418 in revolving fund monies in fiscal year 2014.**

Pam Maheu, of 326 Batchelor Street, "What happen to the dog officer?"

Select Board member, Mark Bail,

"We do still have our dog officer Gordon Landry and he is doing a great job but because he is working a full time job and can't be here for all calls the police fill in. It was decided that the dog officer position should fall under the department of the police instead of the Select Board's department.

- H. A Library Revolving Fund that may be spent by the Library Commissioners to pay for any or all expenses or contracted services for the repair and maintenance of the Library pavilion and to provide library services. The Library Revolving Fund is to be credited with all pavilion user fees and any other charges received in fiscal year 2014 and with the remaining balance of the fiscal year 2013 Library Revolving Fund. The Library Commissioners may spend \$2,000 in revolving fund monies in fiscal year 2014.**

No discussion

Motion 2nd

Passed: Items A – H - Unanimous- Show of Hands

**ARTICLE 8. move the Town vote to transfer the remaining balance in the Dufresne Revolving Fund as of June 30, 2013 to the Parks Revolving Fund. Motion 2nd
Passed- Unanimous- Show of Hands**

*A question is asked on how much money is left in the Dufresne Revolving Fund?
Lou Barry, Select Board Chairman, \$1,500.*

**ARTICLE 9. move the Town vote to transfer from Account #30-192-5806-ART STM 11/19/01 #04 Athletic Fields the sum of \$47,944.85 to the Parks Revolving Fund. Motion 2nd
Passed- Unanimous- Show of Hands**

Lou Barry, Select Board, Chair, "This is to consolidate the Dufresne Revolving Fund and the Athletic Field Account to make one account". The Parks Revolving Fund will take care of all the parks, Dufresne, Brown & Ellison and Forge Pond".

**ARTICLE 10. move the Town vote to accept M.G.L. c. 64L, § 2(a) to impose a local meals excise to take effect on July 1, 2013. Motion 2nd
FAILED: Majority- Hand Count
Yes- 24 to No- 26**

There is a short discussion on this and some residents feel we don't have enough food businesses in town and it would hurt the small business owners that we should bring this back at a later time when the town has more businesses to make this worth while. A majority is what is required to pass and the Moderator calls for a hand count. The count is 24 YES to 26 NO- Article 10 FAILS by majority count.

**ARTICLE 11. move the Town vote to authorize Town departments to enter into agreements in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40 Section 4A for the fiscal year 2014. Motion 2nd
Passed: Unanimous- Show of Hands**

ARTICLE 12. move the Town vote to amend the Bylaw of the Town of Granby, Volume II, Chapter XIX Personnel Bylaw, APPENDIX C Classification Plan Grade Assignments by inserting Nutrition Site Coordinator Grade 4. Motion 2nd

Passed- Majority- Show of Hands

**See Appendix C*

Albert Bail, Personnel Chair, tells the voters that this is a new job description it is rated on the degree of difficulty, and that this position will help with the senior lunch program and work with the volunteers.

APPENDIX C

CLASSIFICATION PLAN GRADE ASSIGNMENTS JULY 1, 2013

<u>TITLE OF POSITION</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
Council On Aging Van Driver	1
Lawn Service and Maintenance	1
Custodian/Craftsman	2
Transportation Dispatcher	2
Library Assistant	2
Assistant Librarian	3
Treasurer's Clerk	3
Cataloging Services Assistant	3
Children's Librarian	3
Grave Development, Excavation and Interment	3
Light Equipment Operator/Laborer	3
Assessors' Clerk	3
Firefighter/EMT/Basic	3
Landfill Monitor	3
Accounting Clerk/Assistant Town Accountant	4
Community Development/Selectmen's Secretary	4
Police Secretary/Dispatcher	4
Firefighter/EMT/Intermediate	4
Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer	4
Nutrition Site Coordinator	4
Town Administrator Secretary	4
Mechanic/Light Equipment Operator/Laborer	5
Director of Assessments	6
Director of Senior Services	6
Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic	6
Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer/Assistant Foreman	6
Health Agent	7
Director of Recreation	7
Library Director	8
Inspector of Buildings/Zoning Enforcement Officer	8
Highway Foreman	8
Town Accountant	9
Police Lieutenant	9
Highway Superintendent	10
Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen	11
Fire Chief	11
Chief of Police	12

ARTICLE 13. move the Town vote to amend the Bylaws of The Town of Granby, Volume II, Chapter XIX Personnel Bylaw, APPENDIX D Compensation Plan Pay Schedules, and substituting a new APPENDIX D, showing the twelve pay grades and ten steps with a 3% increment between steps to be effective July 1, 2013.

Motion 2nd

****See Appendix D***

Passed- Majority – Show of Hands

There is a proposed amendment the Moderator asks the voters if they are willing to vote on this amendment. Motion 2nd

A show of hands is taken and it is agreed to take a vote on this amendment.

Amendment:

Pam Maheu, 326 Batchelor St calls for an amendment on Article 13:

I move the town vote to Amend the Bylaws of the Town of Granby, Volume II, Chapter XIX Personnel Bylaw Appendix D Compensation Plan Pay Schedules, and substituting a new appendix D, showing the twelve pay grades and ten steps with a 2 % increment between steps to be effective July 1, 2013. Motion 2nd

A vote is taken and this amendment FAILS by Majority. Only two voters were in agreement for this amendment.

Article 13 is called back to the floor to be voted on as originally presented.

A motion is called to vote and the Motion is 2nd

Article 13 as originally presented PASSES by Majority Vote.

Only two were in disagreement on this article.

APPENDIX D COMPENSATION PLAN PAY SCHEDULE

July 1, 2013

	STEP									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	11.92	12.28	12.65	13.03	13.42	13.82	14.23	14.66	15.10	15.55
2	12.87	13.26	13.66	14.07	14.49	14.92	15.37	15.83	16.30	16.79
3	13.90	14.32	14.75	15.19	15.65	16.12	16.60	17.10	17.61	18.14
4	15.01	15.46	15.92	16.40	16.89	17.40	17.92	18.46	19.01	19.58
5	16.21	16.70	17.20	17.72	18.25	18.80	19.36	19.94	20.54	21.16
6	17.51	18.04	18.58	19.14	19.71	20.30	20.91	21.54	22.19	22.86
7	18.91	19.48	20.06	20.66	21.28	21.92	22.58	23.26	23.96	24.68
8	20.42	21.03	21.66	22.31	22.98	23.67	24.38	25.11	25.86	26.64
9	22.05	22.71	23.39	24.09	24.81	25.55	26.32	27.11	27.92	28.76
10	23.81	24.52	25.26	26.02	26.80	27.60	28.43	29.28	30.16	31.06
11	25.71	26.48	27.27	28.09	28.93	29.80	30.69	31.61	32.56	33.54
12	27.77	28.60	29.46	30.34	31.25	32.19	33.16	34.15	35.17	36.23

The Moderator, Lynn Snopek Mercier, motions to adjourn this portion of the Annual Town Meeting and to reconvened on Monday, June 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Granby Jr. Sr. High School to finish all the business pertaining to this Annual Town Meeting Articles 14 -41.

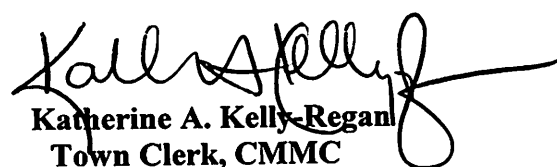
Motion 2nd

All in favor to adjourned this portion of the ATM: PASSED:

Unanimous- Show of Hands

This portion of the ATM held on May 13, 2013, adjourned at 8:11 pm. There were a total of 56 registers voters and 5 non-voters who attended this Annual Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,


Katherine A. Kelly-Regan
Town Clerk, CMMC