

**RECORD  
TOWN OF GRANBY  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 30, 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 September 30, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

The Moderator, Lynn Snopek Mercier opened the Special Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m. She then calls for a short recess to let those still checking in for this meeting to get settled into the gymnasium. The STM was officially called to order at 7:07 pm a quorum was present (30 or more) 158 were in attendance at the time of opening.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was lead by the Select Board Chair, Louis Barry and the 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 Special Town Meeting was declared to be in order.

The Committees and Boards present at this STM:

Select Board: Chair, Louis M. Barry, Members, Mary A. McDowell, and Mark L. Bail, All Present sitting with the Select Board was the Town Counselor, Edward Ryan, Jr. and Town Administrator, Christopher Martin.

Finance Committee: Chair, John Libera, Jr., Members, Robert Cannon, Robert Glesmann III; James Hartley, and Scott Wilson All Present.

School Committee: Chair, Michael Quesnel, Members, Emre Evren, Arthur Krulewitz, and James Pietras Not Present was member Kathleen Moriarty.

School Building Committee: Chair, Mark Bail, Vice Chair, Joseph Rokowski, Members, Jonathan Cavallo, Emre Evren, Andrea Kennedy, John Libera, Jr., Christopher Martin, Lynn Snopek Mercier, James Morrissey, James Pietras, Kenneth Scully and Isabelina Rodriguez All Present.

Vote Counters & Checkers: Maureen Costello, Richard Gaj, Sr., Jeanne Merrill, Debra Plath, and Nancy Sedlak.

Microphone Runner- Charley Mercier

Police Officer: Michael Ulmer

*The Moderator Lynn Snopek Mercier announces that she will abstain from this vote being that she is a member of the School Building Committee she will only vote if it were to break a tie.*

*She now recognizes Select Board Member and School Building Committee Chairperson, Mark Bail.*

*Mr. Bail introduces all the members of the School Building Committee and continues to speak on why this committee was form and how important we all need to act on this situation.*

*John Libra, Jr. Chair from the Finance Committee and Isabelina Rodriguez, School Superintendent both members of the School Building Committee also express their concerns and how they support this project.*

The Moderator Lynn Snopek Mercier calls for Article 1 of the STM at 7:15 P.M.  
Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>

**ARTICLE 1:** move the Town vote to transfer from the Municipal Building Stabilization Fund the sum of \$800,000 to be expended under the direction of the West Street School School Building Committee for a feasibility study which will include a K-3 and K-6 enrollment study at the West Street School located at 14 West Street, Granby, MA, for which feasibility study the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The Town acknowledges that MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town incurs in connection with the feasibility study in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town.

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Before a vote is taken there is a lengthy discussion with the voters on this feasibility study.*

The following is what was in a brochure put out by the School Building Committee regarding the feasibility study at West Street School these questions were addressed and answered before a motion was made to move the previous question.

#### **THE FUTURE OF WEST STREET SCHOOL**

*The Town of Granby has started the process of finding a solution for the problems of the West Street School facility. While well maintained for many decades, West Street School no longer meets the needs of the elementary school population. Classroom sizes do not meet current standards, and the heating, electrical and plumbing systems are past their usefulness.*

*The Town Select Board has appointed a School Building Committee (SBC). This committee will determine the extent of the problems at West Street School and make recommendations so the Town can continue to provide a facility to educate our elementary school children. The SBC is working with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) so Granby can qualify for financial subsidies for any solutions to the problems.*

**What is a feasibility Study?**

*A feasibility study is an in-depth analysis completed by a team of credentialed building specialists and architects. This team, along with a town's school building committee, has as its goal the assessment of various options so that the school building committee can select the most appropriate solution for a school facility.*

**Who will do the feasibility study?**

*Under the rules of the MSBA, the SBC will need to hire an MSBA-approved architectural firm and an approved building project manager to work with the SBC. The SBC has yet to decide who will be hired.*

**Why is a feasibility study necessary?**

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through the MSBA, provides funding and grants for cities and towns to renovate and build school facilities. For a city or town to qualify for this funding, the MSBA requires that an authorized and official feasibility study be completed.*

**Didn't we already do a feasibility study? How is this proposed study different?**

*A feasibility study, focused primarily on the Granby Jr. Sr. High School, was completed several years ago. The current proposed study is focused only on the elementary school; it will not include a study of the High School.*

**Why is the focus on West Street?**

*West Street is one of the oldest functioning schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The MSBA is willing to work with Granby on this particular project. Furthermore, the overall costs associated with addressing the needs for the elementary school children will be a level that the Town can afford and will be willing to support.*

**What will the feasibility study cost?**

*The MSBA has indicated that the net cost to the Town will be about \$343,000.*

**If I vote to approve money for the feasibility study, will my taxes go up?**

*The committee is planning to present a motion that would enable the Town to fund the study with available dollars from a Stabilization Fund. If the study is paid for from a Stabilization Fund, then no property tax override will be required; and so property taxes will not go up.*

**When will the feasibility study start, and when will it be finished?**

*Granby residents will be asked at Special Town Meeting, scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>, to vote on a motion to fund a feasibility study for the elementary school. Provided that voters at the Special Town Meeting approve the motion to fund, we expect the feasibility study will begin in the first quarter of 2014 and will conclude approximately six months later.*

**If we vote to do the feasibility study, does it mean we are voting to approve a new school?**

*No, it does not. The purpose of the feasibility study is only to examine options for an educational facility and to allow the committee to make a recommendation to the Town. Additional votes are required to accept a recommendation and to fund any solution.*

**What is the next step upon completion of the feasibility study?**

*An in-depth report will be issued to the SBC. It will include information on and costs for the various options and scenarios included as part of the study. We expect there will be several presentations made to the community to provide information and answer questions. Ultimately, after careful deliberation, the SBC will need to select an option to present to the Town. Town voters can then decide if they will support a property tax override to address the physical needs of the elementary school.*

**If we build a new school, will the Commonwealth of Massachusetts contribute to the cost?**

*Whatever option the SBC recommends to the Town at the conclusion of the feasibility study, the Commonwealth has made an initial commitment to reimburse Granby 57.11%. Additional credits are available to further defray Granby's costs. Those credits are variable but could be as much as an additional 5%.*

**How can I find out more information about the feasibility study or about West Street School?**

*You may get in touch with anyone on the School Building Committee. Any committee member will be able to provide you with additional information and pass along to the SBC any concerns you may have. You can also visit the SBC blog at <http://granbysbc.wordpress.com> for more information.*

**A motion is made to move the previous question, by Albert Bail, 40 North Street.**

**The Moderator instructs the voters that in order to move to the previous question and discontinue any more discussion a 2/3 vote is required.**

**The Moderator calls for a Motion to move the previous question. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>  
2/3 - Vote Required Passed: Unanimous- Show of Hands**

**She now calls on Article 1 for a vote a 2/3 vote is required for this to pass.**

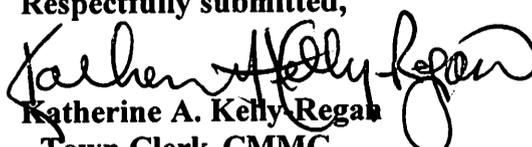
**ARTICLE 1: move the Town vote to transfer from the Municipal Building Stabilization Fund the sum of \$800,000 to be expended under the direction of the West Street School School Building Committee for a feasibility study which will include a K-3 and K-6 enrollment study at the West Street School located at 14 West Street, Granby, MA, for which feasibility study the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The Town acknowledges that MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town incurs in connection with the feasibility study in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town.**

**Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>  
2/3<sup>rd</sup> Vote Required Passed: Unanimous- Show of Hands**

**The Moderator motions to adjourn this STM Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>  
All in favor to adjourned: Passed: Unanimous- Show of Hands**

**The business for this STM held on September 30, 2013 has been completed, all Articles have been voted on and the Moderator officially Dissolves this STM at 7:53 P.M.**

**There were 167 voters and 06 non-voters who showed up to support and participate in this Special Town Meeting.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
  
Katherine A. Kelly-Regan  
Town Clerk, CMMC**