

TOWN OF SCOTLAND

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Scotland Town Hall - 9 Devotion Road, P.O. Box 288 Scotland, CT 06264
(860) 456-7797 ext.1



BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

May 28th, 2025 - 7:00pm

Location: Scotland Volunteer Community Hall

Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by First Selectman Dana Barrow. Present: Selectman Michael Gurnack; Selectman Bart Laws; Treasurer David Zito and Executive Administrator Wendy O'Connor (virtual).
2. Additions to Agenda
 - Motion made by Mike Gurnack to add approval of Suspense per recommendations from Lisa Madden, Regional Revenue Collector, to transfer uncollected property taxes to the Suspense Tax Book in the amount of \$13,994.25, seconded by Bart Laws. Motion carried
 - Motion made by Mike Gurnack to add approval of additional appropriations/transfers per recommendation of the treasurer, seconded by Bart Laws. Motion carried.
 - Motion made by Dana Barrow Jr. to add appointment of town historian to the agenda, seconded by Bart Laws. Motion carried.
3. Audience with Citizens:
 - Gary Greenberg to correct an error that he made when he left office regarding the Lasell property that was recently sold at a tax sale. He let negotiations drop that he was conducting with the State of Connecticut for DEEP to take over that parcel. Discussion was held on the best procedures for handling these situations and working on a policy for the Board of Selectmen to handle decisions on tax sales.
 - Henry Bowers, Scotland Historical Society, discussed Scotland cemeteries. Historical society is looking into possibly helping with the cemeteries, putting guidelines in place and maintenance. Henry asked about the cemetery fund that has roughly \$80,000 in the fund. Henry would like to get a detailed accounting of how it grew to that amount from the treasurer. Treasurer David Zito explained the breakdown of where the money goes when a plot was sold. A lengthy discussion was held on the cemetery and cemetery finances.
 - Henry Bowers asked about signs for the town. He would like to get a quote on what sign would cost for Bowers Park. Discussion was held. Henry will look into what the costs for signs will be.
 - Jennifer Nelson was very pleased about receiving an email from the town regarding the RD11 Referendum. She feels using the Scotland Residents Facebook page is discriminatory to people in town who are not on the Facebook page. Selectman Mike Gurnack stated all town meetings and events are posted on the town website for residents. Discussion was held on what is the best way to notify residents of upcoming events.

4. Approval of previous BOS Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2025 – Motion made by Mike Gurnack to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2025, Board of Selectmen meeting, seconded by Bart Laws. Motion carried.
5. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer David Zito presented the treasurer's report. (attached to minutes)
6. Treasurer David Zito presented the additional appropriations and transfers:
 - Motion made by Dana Barrow Jr. to approve the additional appropriations/transfers per recommendation of the treasurer, seconded by Bart Laws. Motion carried.
7. Motion made by Mike Gurnack to approve the Suspense List per recommendations from Lisa Madden, Regional Revenue Collector, to transfer uncollected property taxes to the Suspense Tax Book in the amount of \$13,994.25, seconded by Bart Laws. Motion carried.
8. Motion made by Bart Laws to appoint Kevin Ring Sr as town historian, seconded by Mike Gurnack. Motion carried.
9. Approval of Blight Ordinance to be presented at the Annual Meeting – Blight ordinance is not ready for approval at this time. Dana has made revisions. Blight Ordinance needs to go back to the town attorney for his review.
10. Report of Selectmen
 - Budget: David gave a good update on where the Town finances stand as of today. As mentioned before, we are facing major cutbacks from the State of Connecticut this year. The State Legislature is more focused on what the large Cities needs and ignore the problems we have in the small Towns.
 - State Mandates: No reimbursements for early voting or Veteran's Tax Exemption so far.
 - Zip Code Issues: Joe Courtney called me and conference call today The Bill passed a sub committee and could be brought up for a Vote next Month. I have not heard from Senator Murphy at all. We joined a collation of Cities fighting for one zip code. The group wants to hire a Lobbyist for \$ 21,000.00 per city. I told them Scotland cannot afford to pay for a Lobbyist.
 - NECCOG: No updates
 - Council of Small Towns [COST]: No Updates
 - Connecticut Conference of Municipalities [CCM]: The CCM continues to send out updates almost daily on the new Bills coming up for Testimony and Votes.
 - Road Safety: The new lower speed limit signs for Rt. 14 in the center of Town is posted soon. Public Works Department set up the "This is your speed" signs also warning people of the lower speed limit. We have This is your speed sign encroachment Permits for anywhere on Rt. 14 and Rt. 97 until expiration in November 2025. We are having a speed study done in the center of Town in case the Town want to move forward on a speed camera.
 - The Town Hall Renovation Project. The Civil Engineer has finished the Line of site and drainage study now the drawings are out for cost estimates.
 - Roads / Public Works. We are in the process of interviewing a new Public Works Employee.

- Bridges: Good news, The Bass Road Bridge (North) construction is scheduled to start February 2026 and be completed by November 2026. Brook Road is scheduled for July of 2026
- Fire Department. Reminder, Spring is Brush Fire Season, Reminder that in the State of Connecticut you need to obtain a Burn Permit anytime you want to burn a Brush Pile. A permit can be obtained through the Fire Marshals Office by calling the Town Hall. There is a \$ 10.00 Permit fee. Failure to obtain a permit could result in a \$ 200.00 Fine and or 6 felony convictions with a six (6) Month prison sentence.
- The Town of Scotland: The Town is still in need of a definite Republican registrar of Voters. We have one possible candidate, but it is not definite yet. If you may be interested, please contact the Chairman of the Republican Party Chris Reddy. * *The Blight Ordinance* was reviewed by the Zoning Commission. We have made most of the changes suggested. The proposed ordinance was written to respect the right of homeowners to do what they want with their land, but it also recognizes what negative effect it can have on the neighborhood. We hope to vote on it at next month's Town Meeting
- Grants: We received notice the Town has received 50 % of what we asked for. Scotland: \$248,651 in state funding is approved for Municipal Safety Complex and Community Hall repairs and upgrades. This will be matched by \$27,628 from the town.
- Solar Project would be named as additional insured (landlords, contractors, banks, etc.). Greenskies states they are working with individual neighbors to address their concerns. Tax. Greenskies does not want to discuss a Tax Stabilization agreement at this time, they want to wait to see what happens with the proposed bill at the state mandated \$ 12,000.00 per Mega Watt rising 2% a year until the project is offline.
- Landfill Permit: Sticker are available for purchase at a cost of \$ 25.00 per household from the Town Clerk Monday and Thursday from 9-3 PM and Wednesday from 1-7 PM.
- *Scotland residents: My door is always open to discuss anything, and the BOS meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, I encourage all residents to come to the meetings.*

11. Audience with Citizens: None

12. Motion to adjourn at 8:15pm by Bart Laws, seconded by Mike Gurnack. Motion carried.

Town of Scotland, Treasurer's Report June 25, 2025 Board of Selectmen Meeting

May 2025 Financials

- The month end close is complete for General Fund for May. Tonight's report includes the preliminary General Fund P&L through May 31, 2025. May bank statements, Tax revenue/collections and interfund reconciliations have been completed.
- Total Current Year Tax Revenue Collections for the 11 months ended May 31, 2025, totaled \$4.7M, which is 100% of the full year's budget. Back tax collections total \$80k. Current year interest totaled \$15.8k and interest on back taxes was \$21.8k. Total collections for the month of May totaled \$27.7K.
- General Revenues totaled \$71.8K, 188% of the full year's budget. Departmental Revenues totaled \$58K, 90.9% of the full year's budget.
- State Grant revenues totaled \$1.48M, 97.9% of the full year budget.
- Total Revenues total \$6.32M, 100% of the full year's budget.
- General Government expenditures totaled \$1.81M, 88.4% of the full year's budget. This includes CNR contributions for the year, the lease payment on the fire truck and 4 quarterly interest payments on notes payable to Berkshire.
- Scotland Elementary School expenses totaled \$2.17M, 88.1% of the full year budget. RD11 District School expenses totaled \$1.65M, 90.9% of the full year budget (10 of 11 payments are reflected).
- General Fund cash on May 31, 2025 totaled \$1.1M of which \$377k was held in the STIF investment account. There was another \$588K held in a STIF account for the investment and other funds (including CNR funds). Between the two STIF accounts, the Town earned interest totaling \$37.8K in FY 2025.

FY25 Capital Expenditures

FY 25 Capital Expenditures have been incurred through April 30, 2025 as follows:

- \$52.3K Fire Department (\$8.7K Network Upgrade, \$18.2K Air Packs, \$13.4k Thermal Camera, \$12K Gear extractor & dryer).
- \$23.6K Kemp Road Bridge Fund (engineering costs)
- \$20.1K Town Hall Renovation
- There is \$263K available to spend in CNR funds as of May 31, 2025.
- Town Hall Renovation Fund – Through May 31, 2025, we have incurred \$232K in costs from the start of the project and \$206K has been received in reimbursements. The Town portion of the project to date is \$26K.

Other Activities

- FY 26 Budget was approved at the Town Meeting on June 5, 2025.
- Adopted Budget Reporting and Municipal Spending Cap Reporting has been completed with the State OPM.
- The FY 26 Audit is underway. I have been working on audit requests. Fieldwork will start the week of 7-14-25.

- Treasurer has been exploring financing options for the upcoming bridge projects. I have spoken with our CPA and Bond Counsel. It is looking like the town will have to proceed with a RFP process and retain counsel to obtain the financing. Though the debt may not have to be bonded.
- Crime and Blanket policy renewal and questionnaire has been completed and submitted.

JUNE 25, 2025 BOS MEETING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS/TRANSFERS

Account #	Acct Description	Original Budget	Transfer	Final Budget	FY 26 Budget	REASON
4399 52811	BUILDING MAINTENANCE: Bldg. Maint. - New Town Garage	1,000.00	500.00	1,500.00	3,000.00	Furnace Repair
8601 52905	UTILITIES ELECTRIC - Library	9,500.00	1,000.00	10,500.00	12,500.00	Increased Electric Costs
4702 55000	PHHS - OTHER EXPENDITURES: Parish Hill Transportation	100,000.00	4,000.00	104,000.00	100,000.00	Actual cost
4200 53110	PUBLIC SAFETY - Ambulance Transport	192,326.43	5,000.00	197,326.43	205,976.45	Pay Raise after budget
4141 51107	TOWN HALL - Webpage	2,000.00	500.00	2,500.00	3,300.00	Actual Spent exceeded budget
8400 53502	TRANSFER STATION - Disposal - Willi Waste	63,000.00	7,500.00	70,500.00	65,000.00	Actual cost
4131 51907	ASSESSOR - Software	10,624.00	700.00	11,324.00	11,030.00	Actual Cost
4153 52100	PLANNING & ZONING - Counsel	8,000.00	(7,000.00)	1,000.00	8,000.00	Not Used
4153 52103	PLANNING & ZONING - Miscellaneous	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	-	1,000.00	Not Used
4300 52717	PUBLIC WORKS - Capital Improvement Roads	75,000.00	(11,200.00)	63,800.00	-	Not All Used