



TOWN OF SCOTLAND

Scotland Town Hall - 9 Devotion Road - P.O. Box 288 - Scotland, CT 06264

Telephone: (860) 423-9634

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

June 5th, 2025

7pm

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, Dana Barrow, Jr. at 7:07pm. Present were Dana Barrow, Jr., First Selectman, Michael Guernack, M. Bart Laws, Selectman, David Zito, Treasurer, Wendy O'Connor, Admin to the First Selectman, Sharon George, Town Clerk, Ruben Manning and members of the audience.

1. To elect a moderator. First Selectman Barrows called for nominations.

Motion to nominate Ruben Manning was made by Jason Beaumont, 2nd by Linda Rollin.

No other nominations and nominations were closed.

Motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Rubin Manning begins by thanking the citizens of Scotland for coming and wishes to review the meeting rules before proceeding.

- Each participant wishing to speak should stand, state their name and address for the record
- All questions and comments should be addressed to the BOS and not to other members of the audience. The moderator may allow questions to be directed to another appropriate person as is necessary.
- Please keep comments brief and germane to the topic being discussed.
- Please keep comments to 1 minute.
- We will utilize a hand count of votes unless directed otherwise.

Moderator, Rubin Manning reads the call for the meeting.

2. To consider and act upon the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen that appropriations be made for the expenditure of Town Aid monies for fiscal year 2025-2026 budget and to make such appropriations as are advisable.

Motion to consider and act upon the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen that appropriations be made for the expenditure of Town Aid monies for fiscal year 2025-2026 budget and to make such appropriations as are advisable made by Wendy Sears, 2nd Dan Syme.

Motion carries

3. To empower the Board of Selectmen to obtain a short-term line of credit not to exceed \$2,000,000 in anticipation of the financing of reimbursable bridge construction costs.

Discussion: First Selectman Barrows explained that this is currently being reviewed by the lawyers.

Motion to table #3 made by Wendy Sears, 2nd by Carol Withington.

Motion carries

4. To empower the Board of Selectmen to borrow a sum not to exceed \$500,000 in anticipation of tax revenue.

Motion to empower the Board of Selectmen to borrow a sum not to exceed \$500,000 in anticipation of tax revenue made by Wendy Sears, 2nd Cassidy Martin

Discussion: Treasurer, David Zito, gave a Power Point presentation highlighting the FY 2026 budget. (attached)

Motion carries

5. To consider and act upon the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

Motion to consider and act upon the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan made by Rob Brautigam, 2nd by Peter Martin.

Motion carries

6. To consider and act upon the 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program Budget.

Motion to consider and act upon the 2025-2026 Capital Improvement Program Budget made by John Beck, 2nd peter Martin.

Motion carries

7. To consider and act upon an Ordinance Regarding Blight.

First Selectman D. Barrow informed the audience that this is still being reviewed by the town's legal counsel.

Motion to table #7 made by Wendy Sears, 2nd Chris Reddy.

Motion carries

8. To elect a member to the Regional District 11 Board of Education for a term of three years.

A call for nominations from the floor.

Motion to nominate Cassidy Martin for the Regional District #11 Board of Education seat made by Denis Labelle, 2nd by Gracie Martin.

Motion carries

9. To consider and act upon the budget of the General Government and levy a tax on the Grand List of October 1, 2024, of \$154,958,370. subject to state mandated tax rates for the Motor Vehicle Grand List of \$14,004,760. Real Estate and Personal Property are due in 2 installments over \$100 on July 1st and January 1st. Motor Vehicle bills are due July 1st. Motor vehicle supplemental bills are due January 1st.

Discussion was held. John Beck spoke on the "Code Red" system and his desire to not cut this valuable service to the town. This is currently costing the town \$4500 per year and only 500 residents have registered. Without this system there is no easy way to alert residents to any emergencies in town. Wendy Sears suggested that if political parties can locate individuals for free that there might be a way the town can do it as well. Jolene Bowers informed the residents that the town is working on an email database for all other information to get to residents.

Motion to keep the Code Red system running in the Town of Scotland made by Shannon Howe, 2nd Heather Hartley.

Motion carries.

Motion to consider and act upon the budget of the General Government and levy a tax on the Grand List of October 1, 2024 of \$154,958,370. subject to state mandated tax rates for the Motor Vehicle Grand List of \$14,004,760 made by Jason Beaumont, 2nd Barbara Syme.

2 opposed, motion carries

10. To consider and act upon the budget of the Scotland Board of Education and levy a tax on the Grand List of October 1, 2024, of \$154,958,370, for Scotland Elementary School, subject to state mandated tax rates for the Motor Vehicle Grand List of \$14,004,760. Real Estate and Personal Property are due in 2 installments over \$100 on July 1st and January 1st. Motor Vehicle bills are due July 1st. Motor vehicle supplemental bills are due January 1st.

Discussion: Sera Gadbois questioned the teacher student ratio in the classrooms and some of the statistics of test results of the students in Scotland. Valerie Bruneau, Superintendent, addressed these questions and explained that these numbers change based on grade. She also spoke about the benchmarks that the students have achieved and said they are not quite where they would like to be but are diligently working towards those goals. She also stated that they have had a 0% budget increase by eliminating 1 teacher and that is because grades 2/3 will be combined.

Motion to consider and act upon the budget of the Scotland Board of Education and levy a tax on the Grand List of October 1, 2024, of \$154,958,370, for Scotland Elementary School, subject to state mandated tax rates for the Motor Vehicle Grand List of \$14,004,760 made by Denis Labelle, 2nd Barbara Syme.

1 opposed, motion carries

11. To levy a tax upon the Grand List of October 1, 2024 of \$154,958,370, for the Regional School District 11 budget, subject to state mandated tax rates for the Motor Vehicle Grand List of \$14,004,760. Real Estate and Personal Property are due in 2 installments over \$100 on July 1st and January 1st. Motor Vehicle bills are due July 1st. Motor vehicle supplemental bills are due January 1st.

Motion to levy a tax upon the Grand List of October 1, 2024 of \$154,958,370, for the Regional School District 11 budget, subject to state mandated tax rates for the Motor Vehicle Grand List of \$14,004,760 made by Denis Labelle, 2nd by Gracie Martin.

Motion carries

12. To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

None

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:29 pm made by Wendy Sears, 2nd Heather Shead

Motion carries

Respectfully submitted by,

Sharon George

Town Clerk, Scotland