

TOWN OF SCOTLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Scotland Town Hall - 9 Devotion Road, P.O. Box 288 Scotland, CT 06264
(860) 456-7797 x 101



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

October 7th, 2025 – 7:00pm

Location: Scotland Volunteer Community Hall

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

This Special Town Meeting was called to order by Dana Barrow, Jr. First selectman at 7:04 pm. Present was Dana Barrow Jr. First Selectman, Mike Gurnack, Selectman, Bart Laws, Selectman, David Zito, Treasurer, Wendy O'connor, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman, Sharon George, Town Clerk and members of the audience.

1. To elect a moderator. First Selectman, Dana Barrow Jr. called for nominations
Motion to elect Wendy Sears as moderator made by Clark Stearns, 2nd by Jeff Jakubowski (No other nominations)
Motion carries
Moderator Wendy Sears reads the call for the meeting.
Moderator begins by thanking the citizens of Scotland for coming and wishes to review the meeting rules before proceeding.
 - *Individuals wishing to speak must stand and state their name and address for the record
 - *All questions and comments should be directed to the Board of Selectman and not addressed to other members of the audience
 - *Please keep comments brief and on topic with what is being discussed.
 - *Please keep comments limited to 3 minutes.
 - *To vote, please hold up the colored voting slip.
2. To Consider and Act on a bond resolution of up to 16.9 million dollars for the design, acquisition, repair, and placement of various bridges; renovations to the Public Safety Complex and Town Hall Renovations.

Motion to consider and act on a bond resolution of up to 16.9 million dollars for the design, acquisition, repair, and placement of various bridges; renovations to the Public Safety Complex and Town Hall Renovations made by Charlene Perry, 2nd by Jennifer Nelson.

Discussion: David Zito, Treasurer, gave a Power Point presentation showcasing how the funds were going to be distributed and what the plan was for paying back the bonds with expected time frames. Essentially, the town would be paying for the projects up front and using the grant funds from the state for reimbursement. This is for each of the 4 bridges, the Public Safety Building repairs and the Town Hall renovation.

Mary Pietrowski asked if the amounts go over the 16 million dollars, will the town be responsible for the difference?

David Zito stated that the bridges will be reimbursed at 100%, the Public Safety Building has a set amount which is around \$235K and the Town Hall project is still being figured but if it comes in over the 3.6 million that we estimated, then yes, the town would be responsible for paying the overage.

Charles Lasch wanted to know why the cost for the Town Hall renovation had gone up so high. The last time it was presented to the town it was 1.8 million.

Dana Barrow stated that if we don't have the funds for it, we will not be signing a contract.

Bart Laws stated that the plans could be modified and then presented at a Town Meeting

David Zito spoke to this and the additional requirements that have since come to light such as the parking lot and ADA requirements for the building. Even though the cost has gone up we are receiving additional grant funding.

Clark Stearns wanted to know what we are getting for the money that we are spending on the buildings.

Mike Gurnack explained that this was a STEEP grant and would be used at the Public Safety Complex for the garage, OSHA compliance, exterior doors, HVAC, furnace, hot water heater, sign and storage shed. They will also utilize some of the funds for an auto switch generator and to remove an old oil tank.

For the Town Hall it would be used to update and bring the building into code. Things like ADA compliance with a power lift and better entrance access, offering privacy for meetings, insulation (of which there is none currently), heating and cooling system, moving town officers to more appropriate locations, and dealing with the encroachment on state land.

Carol Withington asked if the federal funds were secured

Dana Barrow Jr. said that we have a contract, so the funding is there.

Doug George asked about lead paint and the water quality in the Town Hall building and how that would affect the renovation.

Dana Barrow Jr. stated that the water, although it has a strong odor to it, has passed as safe and to his knowledge, there is no lead paint.

Jennifer Nelson expressed concern over prepayment penalties and/or using the funds for other projects.

Dana Barrow Jr. explained that these funds can be used however needed on these specific projects only.

David Zito mentioned that we cannot increase the borrowing if the contract comes in higher.

Clark Stearns asked for clarification for the reimbursement. Would it be 100% or 90%?

David Zito said that he would double check, but he believes it will be 100% apart from the Kemp Road bridge which per prior agreement will be 50/50.

At this time the Moderator called for a vote.

Motion carries with 34 "yes" and 2 "no" votes

3. To Consider and Act on Speed Camera Ordinance.

Motion To Consider and Act on Speed Camera Ordinance made by Charleen Perry 2nd by John Beck

Discussion: Dana Barrow Jr. gave background on the proposed ordinance with a Power Point presentation. This would not be a "ticket" that could affect ones' license but would be a fine from the town. There was a speed study conducted in May of 2025 that indicated that in a weeklong period, there were 31k vehicles that passed through the center of town on Rt. 14. Of those, 4,053 were speeding at a rate of 11+ mph over the posted limit, which is an average of 12.9%. Looking further into this study it was shown that 2544 cars were in the 11-14 mph overage, 1180 in the 15-20 mph overage and 329 at 21+ mph over the posted speed limits. Similarly, Rt. 97 was also studied on the same dates and resulted in the following information. 13,980 cars, 4,564 speeding (11+ mph over the posted limit) which is an average of 32.6%. And again, 2742 cars were in the 11-14 mph overage range, 1517 in the 15-20 and 2742 in the 21+ mph overage for posted limits. The presentation also showed how this program worked. There would be no cost to the town. If fines are not collected the town does not owe the company any funds. They only collect when the fines are paid. The fine is \$75 plus a \$15 processing fee. This

further went on to explain the next steps should the town decide to move forward with the ordinance.

Charlene Perry wanted to know if there were any fees other than the fines that the town would incur such as for the equipment itself

Dana Barrow Jr. again reiterated that there is no cost to the town

Jennifer Nelson expressed concern that “personally identifiable information” could be obtained from these cameras.

Barbary Syme stated that every day as you drive the same information is gathered on a multitude of cameras throughout the state.

Dana Barrow Jr. stated that the only information that is recorded in the license plate if it can be seen

Shannon Howe wanted to know what the town would do with the revenue that is generated.

Dana Barrow Jr. explained that it could only be used for the safety of the roads, things like crosswalks, and guard rails for example.

There was some difference in information between Shannon and Dana and Dana did inform her that he would be happy to share his sources of information in a follow-up email.

Doug George wanted to know who would be responsible for processing these fees?

Dana Barrow Jr. said that although it would go out to bid, the information presented this evening was from a company called Blue-Line.

Brynn Lipstrew wondered if the owner of the vehicle is the one to receive the fine is there a process for appeal if the owner was not the driver.

Dana Barrow Jr. Yes, there would be a process, but we haven’t gotten that far with the planning at this time, the first step is to approve the ordinance.

Mary Pietrowski asked about the possibility of getting a State Police in these areas.

Dana Barrow Jr. said that it’s best of individuals from town to call their legislators to complain about the speeding problem in town. Due to the number of troopers and the size of the area that Troop D oversees that would be nearly impossible. We could pay overtime for someone to monitor those locations but at a hefty fee to the town. Just four hours would cost somewhere around \$550.

John Beck asked if these funds could be used to fix/replace the town’s guardrails and if the Board had considered installing a state-approved crosswalk from the Green to the Town Hall for use during events there.

Dana Barrow Jr. Yes, these would be things we can use the funds for.

Bill Adams wondered what the actual dollar amount/percentage was that the company retained.

D. Barrow Jr. was not sure, other than the fact that the town gets most of the fines and the company gets a small amount. He would look further into this.

Charles Lasch asked what happens to the leftover funds that the town collects. He also inquired about the signs and the drop in speed coming down the hill on Rt. 14.

Dana Barrow Jr. informed the audience that the town keeps these funds and there will be several projects over the years that the funds could be applied to but that they can only be used for increased safety of the roads. They cannot be used for another purpose. As for the signs, Dana did inquire with the DOT and because the drop is only 5mph (40-35) it does not qualify for another sign.

Ted Decyk inquired if the funds could be used to hire a State Trooper

Dana Barrow Jr stated that it was a good question, and he would inquire with the DOT to find out.

Jeff Jakubowski asked what happens if the funds are not paid.

Dana Barrow Jr answered that there is no guarantee that they will collect the funds

Beth Delaney inquired about who would oversee the review of these fines.

Dana Barrow Jr. stated that they would hire someone for that, and fire personnel would be exempt if they were reporting for a call.

Kevin Ring asked if it would be Town Hall employees.

Dana Barrow Jr stated that they have not gotten that far in the planning process yet, the first step is to approve the ordinance.

Charleen Perry asked about the first 30-day warning period.

Dana Barrow Jr stated that for the first 30 days a written warning only would be issued.

Jim Troeger wanted to know about other town's success with this program regarding their collection rates.

Dana Barrow Jr did not have this information at this time.

Jessie Barrow asked if there would be signage ahead of the cameras

Dana Barrow Jr yes

Wendy Sears asked if the funds could be used to put in bike lanes

Dana Barrow Jr said yes at it was a safety improvement.

At this point discussion was closed and Moderator, Wendy Sears asked for a vote

Motion does not carry, tie vote 18-18

4. To Consider and Act on a Blight Ordinance

Motion to Consider and Act on a Blight Ordinance made by Jennifer Nelson, 2nd by Charleen Perry.

Discussion: Moderator, Wendy Sears read the purpose of this ordinance to the audience and Dana Barrow Jr spoke to the "why".

Jeff Jakubowski stated that P&Z had no power in the state of CT which is why they are coming to the town for this.

Charleen Perry asked if the town would be hiring a "Blight Officer"?

Dana Barrow Jr. let everyone know it would be up to the Zoning Officer

Clark Stearns stated that the state has regulations regarding this and wonders why we can't just use those.

Dana Barrow Jr. indicated that this ordinance would be more in line with what the town needs, it's more than the state mandates.

Barbara Syme the purpose of this was to act as a deterrent before things got that bad.

Brynn Lipstrew wanted to know if there would be exemptions and who would determine that

Dana Barrow Jr. stated again that this would be decided by the P&Z officer

Bart Laws said there would be an appeal process

Gerry Nelson asked if there could be a lien put on a property that didn't comply with it.

Dana Barrow Jr. said that was not the plan, it should not happen

Bart Laws stated that it would be up to the court

Motion to table the discussion to allow time to further review made by Jim Troeger

Wendy Sears said there is a motion on the table that needs to be finished first

Jim Troeger withdrew his motion

Bart Laws explained that the process would be as follows: complaint, inspection, appeal, officer decides, a fine could be issued, compliance (or waived), if not compliant it could go to court and then the court would decide.

No further discussion, Wendy Sears calls for a vote

Motion fails, 15 yes, 21 no

5. To Consider and Act on the purchase of a new \$54,000 tractor for the Department of Public Works

Discussion: Dana Barrow Jr spoke about the need for this new tractor for the DPW as the 2 previously purchased mowers cannot be used with what we currently have. One causes the user to mow in an unsafe position, and the other is too heavy and breaks the arms on what we currently have. Without this purchase, the town cannot mow the sides of the road. This new tractor can use the mower that was purchased with no issues, and we can get this at a discount from a State Bid Contract. Normally the cost would be \$68529.00, with the discount it will only be \$54,000.

The old tractor can still be used for the Brush Hog for intersection mowing.

We also have the option of adding a bucket to this new tractor at the discounted price of \$4,500 (normally over \$8k).

Motion to consider and act on the purchase of a new \$54,000 tractor for the Department of Public Works made by Rob Brautigam, 2nd Monica Lindsay.

Discussion:

Dan Syme asked if it would handle the equipment purchased and what the specs were.

Bill D'Appollonio confirmed that it has thicker bars that can handle the mower. He believes it's 75HP.

Jeff Jakubowski asked what else it can be utilized for, and would the town be selling what we currently have

Bill D'Appollonio stated that the town would not be selling the tractor we have as it's still in good condition and we can use it for the Brush Hog. The new tractor will be used mainly for mowing

Motion to amend the previous motion to increase the amount requested to \$58,500 to include the purchase of the bucket made by Clark Stearns, 2nd by Charleen Perry

Charles Lasch asked what the warranty was

Dana Barrow Jr stated that it was for 1-year

Motion carries unanimously

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

Jim Troeger asked if we were going to replace the "Welcome to Scotland" signs

Wendy Sears said that the town held a fundraiser for the original signs and that they were vandalized and destroyed. She mentioned that the metal signs we should use were very cost prohibitive but that it could be investigated.

Dana Barrow Jr thanked the members of the community for attending

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 made by Clark Stearns, 2nd by Jeff Jakubowski.

Motion carries

Respectfully submitted by

Sharon George, Town Clerk