

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 April 21st, 2026 - 7:00pm Location: Scotland Volunteer Community Hall 47 Brook Road

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/953442325>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Access Code: 953-442-325 United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+18722403212)

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Additions to Agenda
3. Audience with Citizens
4. Approval of the March 17th, 2026 BOS Meeting Minutes
5. Treasurer's Report and Review of 26-27 Budget Draft
6. Discussion of bidding on a used bucket truck from Eversource
7. Discussion on sending Lawn Care Services out to bid
8. Approval of Resolution authorizing the Board of Selectmen to enter into an interlocal agreement with the Towns of Canterbury and Hampton regarding shared revenue collection services
9. Approval of dates for 2026 Public Information Session on the Budget and Annual Town Meeting: Public Hearing, May 26th and Annual Town Meeting June 9th.
10. Audience with Citizens
11. Selectmen's Report
12. Adjournment

Action Anticipated on any Agenda Items

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

March 17, 2026 - 7:00pm

Location: Scotland Volunteer Community Hall
47 Brook Road

Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by First Selectman Dana Barrow Jr. Present: Selectman John Aldrich; Selectman Michael Gurnack; Treasurer David Zito; Executive Administrator Wendy O'Connor (virtual) and members of the audience.
2. Additions to Agenda: None
3. Audience with Citizens:
 - John Beck of 54 Gager Hill Road and Emergency Management Director read a letter (attached to minutes) addressing his concerns regarding the Blizzard on February 22nd and 23rd.
 - Discussion was held on improving communications between with the Department of Public Works, the Emergency Management Director and the Fire Department during emergency situations.
 - A meeting will be scheduled with the Board of Selectmen, Department of Public Works Supervisor, the Emergency Management Director and the Fire Department to discuss ways to improve the way emergency weather situations are handled, and a Snow Policy will be implemented in the future to address emergency weather conditions.
 - Several residents in the audience expressed their concerns about how the DPW responded to the blizzard and how this will be addressed in the future.
1. Approval of previous BOS Meeting Minutes
 - **MOTION: Motion made by Michael Gurnack to approve the minutes of the February 17th, 2026 Board of Selectmen meeting, seconded by John Aldrich. Motion carried.**
4. Treasurer's Report
 - Treasurer David Zito presented the treasurer's report. Attached to minutes.
5. Discussion and possible action on Interlocal Tax Agreement
 - Jordan Lumpkins, Town Administrator for NECCOG presented the Interlocal Tax Agreement between the Towns of Canterbury, Hampton and Scotland. This has come about due to the lack of service with the Town of Windham due to being understaffed. Based on that, we have considered whether it would be more effective to establish a new regional tax collection office within the NECCOG region. Canterbury emerged as a strong candidate, as it is a neighboring town with an appointed tax collector. We spoke with Natalie, who also serves as Canterbury's Town Clerk, to assess capacity. She indicated that with the addition of one staff member, she

- would be confident in her ability to scale operations and effectively serve Scotland and Hampton as part of a regional model.
- To support this effort, we are exploring an application to the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP). This grant can fund up to 50% of costs associated with establishing regional programs. Additionally, under the regional town administration program, a portion of my salary would be covered for the first three years.
 - We developed a preliminary cost estimate to frame the discussion. Without grant funding, the first-year cost is approximately \$44,365, including implementation. The majority of this cost is driven by the addition of one full-time staff member to support the expanded service area.
 - We have also identified potential cost reductions, as some of the equipment currently used in Windham appears to be owned by the individual towns, which may reduce startup expenses.
 - If the RPIP grant is awarded, the projected cost-sharing structure would be:
 - Year 1: 75% grant-funded
 - Year 2: 50% grant-funded
 - Year 3: 25% grant-funded
 - After the grant period, Scotland, Hampton, and Canterbury would assume full responsibility for ongoing operational costs under the regional model.
 - Discussion was held with the audience.
 - **MOTION: John Aldrich made a motion to have a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 at 7:00pm for the purpose of an Interlocal Tax Agreement between the Towns of Canterbury, Hampton and Scotland, seconded by Mike Gurnack. Motion carried.**
6. Discussion on FEMA AFG Grant for Vehicle Exhaust System Reimbursement at Fire Safety Complex:
- The fire department received a FEMA AFG Grant for the vehicle exhaust system. Due to the government being shut down, the reimbursables that have been submitted to be processed are on hold until the government reopens. Most of the work has been completed by the electrician and it is not fair to make them wait until the government reopens. The Town will be reimbursing the electrician and when the government reopens the Town will be reimbursed.
7. Audience with Citizens: Bill Adams is concerned about Brook Road and the road being closed due to the bridge being out. What if a serious emergency arose and the end of Brook Road that is open was blocked and what is happening with the state getting something done for a bridge here? Dana gave an update on the bridge projects, the problems that have been encountered and the schedule moving forward.
8. Selectmen's Report
- Budget: The Town Departments are starting to work on next year's budget. We are very carefully trying to curb any increase in the previous year's budget because of the PHHS predicted budget increase due to the abnormally high student count this year. Note: in the past few years the number of Scotland Students has been going down so this is more of a normalization year.
 - State Mandates: No new mandates this month.
 - Zip Code Issues: The Selectman with Jacob Ecke, Senator's Murphy's Federal Strategic Engagement Director and Erin McBride one of Senators Murphy's aid. on March 11th at 9:00 AM at the Town Hall. We discussed number of issues including the Zip Code Bill. One item that was discussed is how the Town residents feel about the big divide in the national government. We all agreed that both political parties should work together like our own local parties. I explained to them that even during our town debates, never did either party say negative things about the other party, and we totally respected each other's opinions. We may have different priorities, but we still count on each other to help the residents of Scotland. I also stated I will not allow someone to start talking about politics at the Town Hall, that can be held in the parking lot.

- NECCOG: Representative Pat Boyle and Doug Dubitski did a short presentation on their take of the new bills that are being voted on at the State legislature. Both gentlemen respected each other's thoughts but didn't agree on what would be best for CT. Doug feels Hartford is getting too much into local authority. Pat agrees with most of the new Bills and admits most of them will never pass. He mentioned it's sort of like spaghetti; you throw a lot against the wall and see what sticks.
 - Council of Small Towns [COST]. Just updated on the slurry of new bills that are being introduced in State Legislation this year. Some of the bills are good but most are written to benefit the larger cities.
 - Connecticut Conference of Municipalities [CCM]: Numerous new proposed Bills are coming out from Hartford some are aimed at eliminating local control on Zoning, not Following the CDC Vaccine protocols, Charging Petroleum Companies a 33 cent Tax gas onto Clean up Air Pollution ETC. A lot of the new Bill are good, one particular bill to me is the Firefighter and Police retention Bill.
 - The Town Hall Renovation Project: We are very close to sending the project out for Bid. We retain the right to reject all Bids if we do not have the financing in place.
 - Roads / Public Works. As you all know we got hit pretty hard by Blizzard 2026 with probably 18 to 20 inches of snow. We have updated our heavy snow Protocol and review it with the town Public Works Supervisor Note: Salt for indivial use by residents can be picked up at the old salt shed at 7 Pinch street. Please bring your own bucket and shovel.
 - Bridges: The Inspection company has been chosen for the Brook Rd Bridges, SLR was chosen by a narrow margin.
 - Fire Department: The Fire Department applied and received Grants to install an Apparatus Exhaust System so when the diesel fuel Fire Apparatus start up the bays, they do not fill the station with carcinogenic smoke. The Fire Department also received a Grant to replace the 30-Year-Old Fire Alarm System. The Smoke Detectors needed to be replaced 20 years ago. The Town would like to thank the Volunteer Fire Department for their work, especially in inclement weather conditions.
 - Community Center: To rent the Community Center Hall, please contact Wendy O'Conner at the Town Hall during normal work hours. Please note: The Community Center is still run by a group of Volunteers that manage the Center for the use of the Town residents. Thank you to those volunteers.
 - STEAP Grant: The town was awarded the Grant to do Maintenance work at the Community Center / Public Safety. The Town has signed Contracts with three different Contractors for Construction. 1. Bay Door Replacement, 2. Furnace, AC Units, Underground Tank Removal, 3. Windows, Personal Doors Replacement, Installation of a Handicap button with automatic opener on the Front Door. The construction should start around April of this year.
 - Grange Hall: Farmers' Market is closed for the season.
 - Solar Project: The Town has received the building plans and a check for \$ 132,750.00 for the building permit. The Building Inspector and the Fire Marshal with the Fire Department will be reviewing the proposed set up.
 - 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 4th Wednesdays, I encourage all residents to come to the meetings.*
9. Motion to adjourn at 8:00pm made by John Aldrich, seconded by Mike Gurnack. Motion carried.

March 10, 2026

To the Board of Selectman,

I am speaking tonight as a resident and the Emergency Management Director for the Town of Scotland.

I would like to address a very serious situation that occurred during the blizzard on February 22nd and 23rd, 2026.

Starting Sunday night for the duration of the blizzard, I was scheduled as fire department staff from 6pm until 6am Monday morning.

On Monday morning from 600am until 330pm I maintained a presence at the fire department in the capacity of Emergency Management Director. It was necessary for me to coordinate with the Region 4 Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinator, Scotland Fire Chief Jason Beaumont, and Eversource regarding power outages in our community.

That morning at 830am I was informed that a tree had fallen across the area of 18 Gager Hill Road blocking any access to Gager Hill Road from the Route 97 end. The tree had broken the Frontier pole taking down the power lines and communication cables.

At 330pm I was heading home. I first decided to check the status of the damage on Gager Hill Road. I saw that 2 Eversource trucks had arrived and were parked on Route 97. They were unable to drive down Gager Hill Road because of the unplowed snow. While speaking with an Eversource crew member there, I asked if they needed any assistance from the town. He requested the road be cleared of snow to allow truck access to begin restoration of power.

I placed several calls to the Public Works Supervisor Bill D'Appollonia which all went to voicemail. I then called DPW crew member Mark Gale. He answered and I informed him that equipment was needed to remove the snow from Gager Hill Rd at the Route 97 end. It was at this time that Mark informed me, both he and Bill were clearing snow that had drifted across the road at the other end of Gager Hill. This was the first time I or the fire department had any knowledge of a blocked road.

I went to their location in the area of 235 Gager Hill. (This is the area on Gager Hill where the Bass Farm corn fields are on both sides of the road).

I observed the town tractor and backhoe in the process of clearing the road of snow drifts that were up to 5 feet deep. These snow drifts had completely blocked the road for the length of the hill. Thus, leaving 11 households stranded with no way in, out or access for emergency apparatus.

I have several questions and concerns:

When the blocked road was discovered why was the Fire department and I as Emergency Management Director not notified of the blocked road?

When was the last time a plow went down Gager Hill Road?

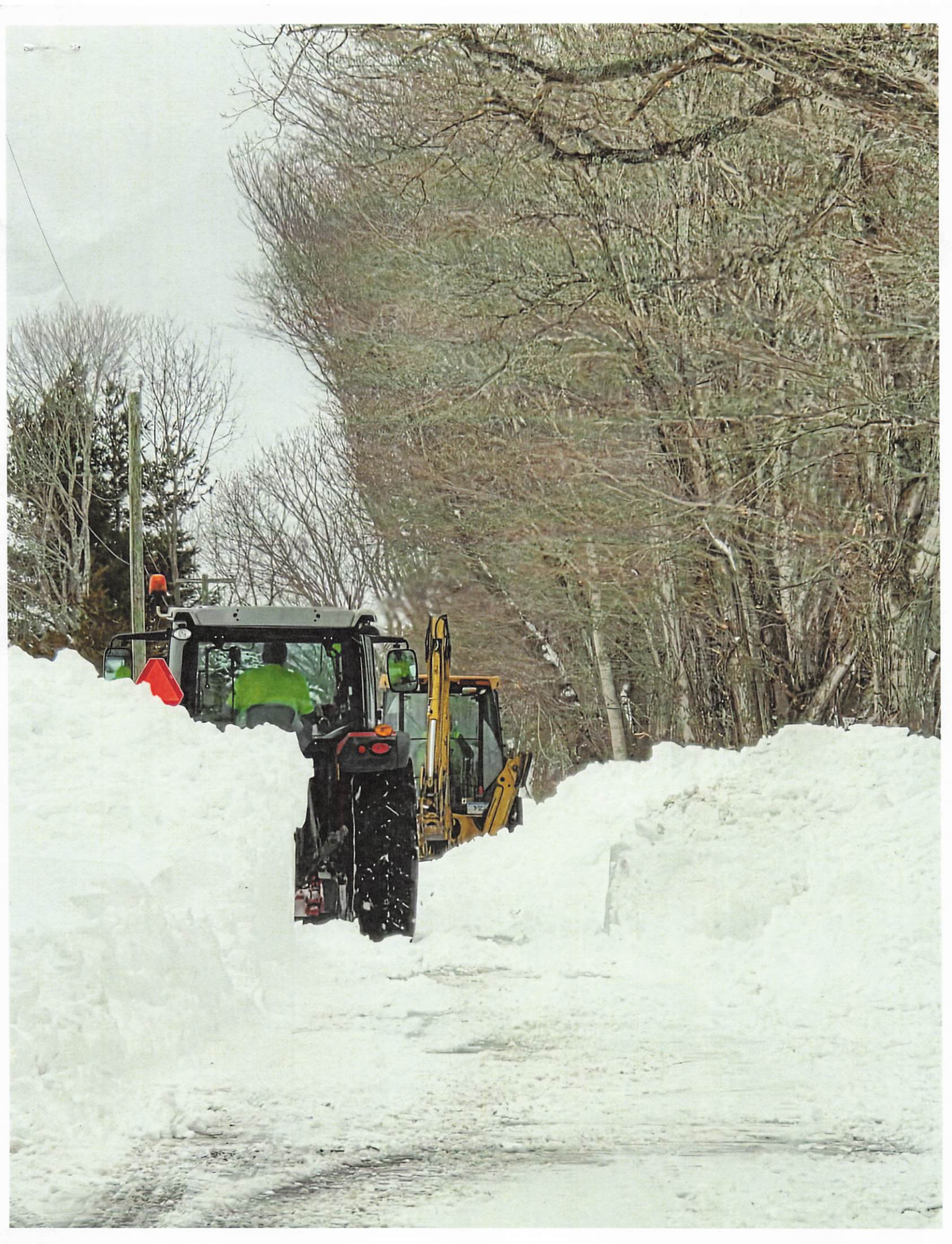
Speaking to residents, the last time a truck was seen on the road, was approximately 6am.

What was the reason if any for not clearing Gager Hill road along with the other roads? Especially knowing the areas with the open fields are prone to drifting snow.

While the two department of public works employees were operating the two loaders to clear the snow drift the other roads in town were neglected for over 2 hours in the blowing snow.

Lastly, what is the plan of action to insure communications and the safety of our residents in the future?


John D. Beck



Town of Scotland, Treasurer's Report March 17, 2026, Board of Selectmen Meeting

February 2026 Financials

- The month end close is partially complete for General Fund for February. Tonight's report includes the preliminary General Fund P&L through February 28, 2026. February bank statements (except for tax account) and some interfund reconciliations have been completed. Tax revenue/collections have not been reconciled since November due to no reports received from the Windham Tax Collector Office. A report for December was just received before this meeting. BOE expenses have been reconciled through January 31.
- Total Current Year Tax Revenue Collections (unreconciled) through December 31, 2025 totaled \$3.3M, which is 69.7% of the full year's budget. Back tax collections total \$45.5k. Current year interest totaled \$6.4K and interest on back taxes was \$10k. Total tax revenues are \$3.4M which is 69.9% of the full year's budget. Total collections for the months of January and February are unknown and unreconciled as collections have not yet been made available by the Windham Tax Collector.
- General Revenues totaled \$37.7K, 76% of the full year's budget. Departmental Revenues totaled \$175K, 323% of the full year's budget. Due to permit application for the proposed solar farm.
- State Grant revenues totaled \$678K, 50% of the full year budget.
- Total Revenues total \$4.3M, 67.9% of the full year's budget.
- General Government expenditures totaled \$1.4M, 63.3% of the full year's budget. This includes FY 26 CNR contributions for the year, the lease payment on the fire truck and 3 quarterly interest payments on the note payable to Beacon Bank.
- Scotland Elementary School expenses totaled \$1.4M, 60.1% of the full year budget. RD11 District School expenses totaled \$1.06M, 63% of the full year budget (7 of 11 payments are reflected).
- General Fund cash on February 28, 2026 totaled \$748K (per books) of which \$367k was held in the STIF investment account. There was another \$782K held in a STIF account for the investment and other funds (including CNR funds). Between the two STIF accounts, the Town earned interest totaling \$29.8K in FY 2026.

FY26 Capital Expenditures

FY 26 Capital Expenditures have been incurred through February 28, 2026, as follows:

- Kemp Road Bridge Fund - \$49.3K (Engineering Costs).
- Town Hall Renovation Fund – \$23.9K (FY 26). Through January 31, 2026, we have incurred \$289K in costs from the start of the project and \$241K has been received in reimbursements.
- Town Aid Road - \$96.1K (Paving Kemp Road)
- STEAP Public Safety Complex - \$31.5K
- CNR Public Works - \$124K (Pick Up Truck & Tractor)
- CNR Fire - \$72.6K (Extrication Tool, Hose, exhaust system)
- CNR Town - \$10K Septic Tank Replacement

- There is \$341K available to spend in CNR funds as of February 28, 2026.

Other Activities

- The Continuing Disclosure Report has been completed and filed on the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (EMMA System) regarding the Town's bonding for FY 25.
- Work has begun on the FY 27 Budget. It is expected that there will be a dramatic increase in cost for RD 11 as Scotland's student enrollment will be going from 35 to 49. There will be some savings from our Capital Budget as we budgeted \$160K for Town Hall Renovations in FY 25. It is expected that Preliminary Departmental budgets will be presented at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.