



# TOWN OF SCOTLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 7:00 PM

### Meeting Audio Link:

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/ScmLPi4OvOS9SuDuxzvg8orER-haWP0EUeXlt\\_DVAne4U13cSXT2rQfvgaa3\\_iFd.uVI\\_XkxgYhVSIweU](https://zoom.us/rec/share/ScmLPi4OvOS9SuDuxzvg8orER-haWP0EUeXlt_DVAne4U13cSXT2rQfvgaa3_iFd.uVI_XkxgYhVSIweU)

## MEETING MINUTES

- I. Meeting was called to order 7:01pm
  - Gary Greenberg, First Selectman stated this is a virtual meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Present on screen is Selectman Wendy Sears, Treasurer MaryAnn Fitzsimmons and Wendy O'Connor, Administrative Assistant. And members of the public that will be able to join chat when it is Audience for Citizens.
- II. Additions to Agenda:
  - MOTION Wendy Sears made a motion for addition to agenda to change meeting schedule for 2021, seconded by Rob Keator. Motion carries unanimously.
  - MOTION: Wendy Sears made a motion to add meeting location address of 47 Brook Road to meeting schedule, second by Rob Keator. Motion carries unanimously.
- III. Approval of November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Minutes
  - MOTION: Wendy Sears made a motion to approve the November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting Minutes, with amendments, seconded by Gary Greenberg. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Approval of December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 Meeting Minutes
  - MOTION: Wendy Sears made a motion to approve the December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Rob Keator. Motion carries unanimously.
- V.
- VI. Approval of 2021 Town Hall Observed Holidays
  - MOTION: Wendy Sears made a motion to approve the 2021 Town Hall Observed Holidays Schedule, seconded by Rob Keator. Motion carries unanimously. Discussion followed.
- VII. Treasurers Update:
  - New bookkeeper has started and is working out really well. Glad to have Julie on board.
  - All October financials have been sent to department heads
  - Currently reconciling the tax accounts and will run the reports after next week's processing of payables.
  - New BOS meeting is not until January so MaryAnn will email November treasurer's report and financials out to all and will post on the new website under the finance departments page.
  - The audit is now complete. MaryAnn met with the auditor this afternoon to review the draft financials with any changes that we have. Some changes need to be made especially with the management and analysis section. She expects to have an electronic copy of the report if not the

end of this week then early next week. The official issuance date is December 4<sup>th</sup> and we will have 30 days to get a number of items done.

- We have received our reimbursement for Covid expenses from the State. The state has decided to take any remaining funds and distribute it to municipalities based on population. So we will get some money for the second half of the current calendar year without needing to submit reimbursements.

VIII. Appropriation of up to \$25,000 for the Scotland Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. from Capital Non-Recurring Fund to purchase Scott Air Bottles

- MOTION: Wendy Sears made a motion to approve the appropriation of up to \$25,000 from the Scotland Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Capital Non-Recurring Fund to purchase Scott Air Bottles seconded by Rob Keator. The motion passed unanimously.
- Chief Jason Beaumont gave a summary of why the air bottles needed. Air bottles are starting to expire and are past their dates to be tested. To replace with new ones would cost around \$120,000. We found a cheaper option to purchase with the Canterbury Fire Department to replace the bottles and extend full replacement of packs and bottles until 2028. Wendy Sears asked how many packs were in use. Chief Beaumont replied in service packs are 16. 40 bottles will be purchased from Canterbury Fire Department. Discussion followed.

IX. Tax Refund – David Gauthier \$30.00

- MOTION: Wendy Sears made a motion to approve tax refund in the amount of \$30.00 to David Gauthier, seconded by R. Keator. Motion passed unanimously.

X. Tax Refund – Jespet c/o John Grossman \$283.00.

- MOTION: Wendy Sears made a motion to approve tax refund in the amount of \$283.00 to JesPet c/o John Grossman, seconded by R. Keator. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. Tax Refund – Estate of Kevin Kimlingen, Suzanne Kimlingen, Executor \$29.18

- MOTION: Wendy Sears made a motion to approve tax refund in the amount of \$29.18 to the Estate of Kevin Kimlingen, Suzanne Kimlingen, Executor, seconded by R. Keator. Motion passed unanimously.

XII. Report of Selectmen

- Parish Hill Middle/High School is closed due to Covid 19. Town was not notified. Found out through newspaper. Our School Superintendent heard that the outbreak were from Hampton residents Scotland school has been closed and planning to reopen on Monday, the superintendent asked the nurse to contact the health district to find out if there are implications for the town of Scotland. The conversation was complicated by two factors; the three towns in the regional district are in two different health districts and the zip code problem. Gary is in touch with USPS every time there is an issue, at least once or twice a week and has not gotten anywhere. Has sent several emails with no response. Discussion followed
- Library is closed due to Covid, curbside pickup only.
- Building Inspector's term expires on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and he will not be reappointed. They have not been able to respond to the needs of the residents. Administrative duties will now be handled by first selectman's administrative assistant. Unfortunately we will be saying goodbye to John and Pauline who have worked for the town for a number of years.
- Fire Truck should ship in the next couple of weeks. Still trying to figure out the insurance and title and how it is all going to work.

XIII. Audience for Citizens:

- Jeff Jakubowski, great new website. Had trouble logging in after the meeting started. Meeting was not on front page of website. Meeting announcement disappears after 7pm. Gary will take care of this issue tomorrow.
- Jeff Jakubowski asked what money the town will be receiving back from both Parish Hill and Scotland Elementary School since they are closed. Should we have a plan in place for the upcoming school year since the governor's talking about school season number two for next year, both Parish Hill and Scotland Elementary School should have a plan for a cost each week in school and distance learning.
- Gary has asked for, only with respect to the buses, for the school board to figure out what, if anything, they're going to do in the event of extended closures for the school buses.
- MaryAnn stated in regard to Scotland elementary school is their expense runs directly through our general fund. If the incur lower costs as a result of the building itself being closed that then results in essentially a budget surplus at the end of the year. That budget surplus by default is really our budget surplus so we will run a surplus for fiscal year 2021 just like the school had a large surplus at year ending June 30, 2020. They are essentially our surpluses. MaryAnn would like to remind folks that although there are definitely some savings as result of not having people in the school, a number of the costs are fixed and they continue whether the school is open to students or not.
- Regional District 11 is a different situation. We fund based on their approved budget and any deficits or surpluses are maintained within the regional district itself. That's been the same as long as the regional school district has been operating. So if they if they run out of surplus they retain those savings. If they run at a deficit, they're responsible to figure that out themselves.
- Jeff Jakubowski asked how much money did the town receive back from the Scotland school surplus and they didn't spend on pet projects before sending the town their surplus. Are we looking at not renewing the contract service people's union contract for next year and go to a pay as you go instead of paying these people to stay home.
- Gary stated that this is a question for the school board.
- Jeff Jakubowski asked if we are engaging the school board as a town that if we go into the same program model we are in now with the on again and off again school system, are we looking at what we can do to save costs with these people that are saying home they got paid last year and now are getting paid this year that really aren't doing anything?
- Gary stated that last year, we asked to school board for 3% reduction and they provided. We can't tell them to throw away your union contracts or any of that stuff. Discussion followed.
- Jeff Jakubowski asked if the town has considered marketing the school, since we have a preK through eighth grade facility. Have we looked at potentially marketing that as a magnet school or charter school or to Woodstock Academy or any of the other ones that are buying these up, putting them into their own programs and farming our kids out
- Gary stated that is a question for the Board of Education.

XIV. Motion to adjourn at 8:00pm made by Wendy Sears, seconded by Rob Keator. Motion carries unanimously.