



# 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 September 22, 2021 7:00pm

### Meeting Audio Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uXGS3cloLIAPriFVqdN7TUOyqXPd5q0/view?usp=sharing>

## MEETING MINUTES

- I. The meeting was called to order 7:00pm
  - Gary Greenberg, First Selectman stated this is a virtual meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Present is Selectman Wendy Sears, Selectman Rob Keator, Wendy O'Connor, Administrative Assistant, John Beck, Emergency Management Director and members of the public.
- II. Additions to Agenda:
  - Gary would like to add John Beck regarding Emergency Notifications.
  - **MOTION:** Robert Keator made a motion to add John Beck, Emergency Management Director regarding emergency notification systems, seconded Wendy Sears, motion carries unanimously.
  - **MOTION:** Wendy Sears made a motion to discuss adding the Pledge of Allegiance to Board of Selectman meetings, seconding by Rob Keator, motion carries unanimously.
- III. Approval August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 BOS Meeting Minutes:
  - **MOTION:** Robert Keator made a motion to approve the August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting Minutes, seconded Wendy Sears, motion carries unanimously.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: First Selectman Gary Greenberg gave the treasurer's report. Discussion was held. Treasurer's Report can be found on here:  
  
<https://municipal-documents.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/scotland-ct/finance-department/documents/reports/32414/Treasurer%27s%20Report%20-%209-22-21.pdf>
- V. Hiring of New Wetlands Enforcement Officer – Isabelle Kisluk. John Valente is retiring by the end of the year. She is an earth scientist; Inland Wetlands Commission has recommended hiring Isabelle. John will continue to work with Isabelle until the end of the year. Gary would like to hire Isabelle as Assistant Wetlands Officer at the salary of the Inland Wetlands Officer that is in the budget, at the end of the year when John retires promoting Isabelle to Inland Wetlands Officer. We will be paying 2 salaries until the end of the year, which will cost roughly \$1,200.
  - **MOTION:** Robert Keator made a motion to hire Isabelle Kisluk as the new assistant Wetlands Officer, seconded by Wendy Sears. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. Highway Use Permit for 11/21/2021 Annual Scotland Scoot Race
  - **MOTION:** Rob Keator made a motion to approve the highway use permit for the Scotland Scoot, seconded by Wendy Sears. Motion passed unanimously.
- VII. Approval of Tax Refunds
  - **MOTION:** Robert Keator made a motion to approve tax refund in the amount of \$53.85 to Milton & Jacquelyn Moffitt, seconded by Wendy Sears. Motion passed unanimously.
  - **MOTION:** Robert Keator made a motion to approve tax refund in the amount of \$47.39 to Bertrand & Suzette Cyr, seconded by Wendy Sears. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. John Beck, Emergency Management Director

- John Beck did some research on burning brush after storm damage. John contacted DEEP to see if we can take to our DPW garage instead, DEEP has stated that no this is not possible, it is only allowed at certain facilities. Hampton has obtained a permit to burn brush legally at the landfill.
- Mass Emergency Notification Systems – web based program that you sign up and pay for. Notifications can go out via household phones, cell phones, texts, emails, social media and town website. John is meeting with 4 vendors, has talked to two and has meetings with 2 others. Discussion was held.

IX. Pledge of Allegiance

- Wendy Sears would like to see the Pledge of Allegiance recited before Board of Selectmen Meetings. Wendy feels strongly this should be done, Robert Keator is in agreement. Discussion was held.

X. Report of Selectmen

- Fire Chief Jason Beaumont's mother, Joyce Beaumont passed away last week, calling hours will be Friday from 5-7pm at Potter's Funeral Home and graveside service will be at 10am on Saturday.
- MaryAnn's husband is very sick and she will not be able to work as much as she has been. Kylee will be helping with taking on some of MaryAnn's responsibilities.
- Affordable Housing Plan – We have a contract with John Guskowski to carry this out and PZC have met with him. Project is underway. PZC will be forming a subcommittee; looking for at large members of the community to join, Rueben Manning will be heading this.
- Received 2 proposals from architects for town hall renovations. Need to decide scope of work and what cost will be. Gary will evaluate and meet with architects to discuss what needs to be done to make the town hall a functional building. Discussion was held.
- Hampton/Scotland Adhoc Committees met. On the Governance side, we have a lawyer who is available to work for us. Hiring a lawyer is going to be discussed at the next meeting. The committee will be asking the towns to pay for the lawyer. A lawyer is needed to help ask the questions, find out what we are after and how to make it work. There is no conflict with this law firm with the towns and Regional District 11.
- Programming Subcommittee had a productive meeting. Going to look at current school staffing of the 2 schools and how that would work if we become 1 school. In addition have been provided with other studies that have been done to look at combining schools. Gary has been told there are deep concerns among mostly residents of Hampton that this investigation is the latest in a series of attempts to close down Hampton Elementary School. It is very important to be aware that this committee is not deciding which school would be closed, but rather seeing if we could operate as one school.
- Gary attended the first negotiation meeting last night regarding the new teacher's contract. The negotiations may or not be affected by the combining of schools. It may affect the length of the contract. Discussion was held.
- Chief Beaumont met with Gary to discuss an increase in pay for the paid staff program. They are having problems retaining employees. Surrounding towns are paying more. Would like to increase pay rate effective immediately to \$18.00/hour with an ultimate increase to \$22.00/hour. MaryAnn and Gary met with the Fire Departments Board of Director's last week. This cannot happen without a town meeting, the numbers are just too high. There was no way the town could agree to do this indefinitely into the future. Gary strongly suggested that they work with other towns in the region to develop a regional approach to this. If this is a crisis the Town can provide some money toward an increase but the fire department has to put some money in. This is only a temporary solution and will be revisited in the spring. We need a systematic solution to this problem. The Fire Department agreed to pay half the cost of the increase to \$18.00/hour which would have been \$8,000-9,000 each for the rest of the year. ARPA money we have in the bank can be used for premium pay for emergency personnel for this temporary situation.

- Gary has met with contractors, another engineer, John and Isabelle on best alternatives for the bridges. Working toward establishing priorities and perimeters for addressing the bridges as much as we can this year.

XI. Audience for Citizens

- Jeffrey Jakubowski asked if we are looking at dissolving the school system, have we looked at marketing our school or has Hampton looked at this. Gary said the nature of a cooperative agreement is nothing gets dissolved; we would still have 2 Boards of Educations for each school if we combined the schools. Jeff also asked if we could make part of the elementary school the town Hall. Gary stated putting the town hall into the school is very complicated. Discussion was held.
- Wendy Sears asked about the property on Ziegler Road. The person who was interested has not contacted him. Gary stated this property is not on the market, it is not a usable piece and has no access.

XII. Motion to adjourn at 8:26pm made by Wendy Sears, seconded by Rob Keator. Motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy O'Connor  
Administrative Assistant