

TOWN OF SCOTLAND



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES JUNE 2, 2022

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by First Selectman Gary Greenberg at 7:10 p.m. Present were Gary Greenberg, First Selectman, Robert Keator, Wendy Sears, Selectmen, MaryAnn Fitzsimmons, Treasurer, and Christine M. Bright, Town Clerk, and members of the audience.

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

Motion to nominate Tom McAvoy was made by Joe Savino, 2nd by Jason Beaumont.

No other nominations and nominations were closed.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

* Each individual wishing to speak must stand and state their name and address for the record.

* All questions and comments should be addressed to the Board of Selectmen and not other members of the audience. The Moderator may allow questions to be directed to any other appropriate person as is necessary.

* Please keep comments brief and germane to the topic being discussed.

* Please keep comments to no more than 3 minutes.

* We will utilize voice votes of “yay” or “nay” unless directed otherwise.

Moderator Tom McAvoy reads the call for the meeting. There has been a request to adjust the order of the agenda. The purpose of the change in the order is for items #4, 10 and 11. Eleven will be a split vote on the two properties so you can act separately on the proposals. Item #4 will become #8, item #5 will become #12, and item # 10 will become #9. Also a request to move item #14.

Motion to move the order of the agenda as indicated previously made by Terry Delaney, 2nd by Joe Savino.

Motion carried.

Moderator Tom McAvoy explained that there has been a request to move new agenda items #9, #10, #11 and #12 to paper ballot.

Motion to move new agenda items #9, #10, #11 and #12 to paper ballot was made by Terry Delaney, 2nd by Joe Savino.

Motion carried.

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 2022-2023 budget and to make such appropriations as are advisable;

Motion to consider and act upon the recommendations of the Board of Selectman that appropriations be made for the expenditure of Town Aid monies for fiscal year 2022-2023 budget and to make such appropriations as are advisable was made by Dan Syme, 2nd by Terry Delaney.

Discussion: First Selectman Gary Greenberg explained this item is simply to give the town permission to spend town aid road monies. This authorizes the town to get the money in the first place.

Motion carried.

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

Motion to empower the Board of Selectman to borrow a sum not to exceed \$500,000 in anticipation of tax revenue was made by Kim Martin, 2nd by Dan Syme.

Discussion: none

Motion carried.

4. (Formerly item #6) To elect a member to the Regional District 11 Board of Education for a term of three years;

Nominations: Cassidy Martin by Kevin Benito, 2nd by Gracie Martin.

There were no other nominations.

Motion carried.

5. (formerly item #7) To consider and act upon an Ordinance Regarding Zoning Fees;

Motion to table an Ordinance Regarding Zoning Fees was made by Terry Delaney, 2nd by Dennis LaBelle.

Discussion: First Selectman Greenberg explained that's it's not a debatable motion. The ordinance has certain technical problems that need to be fixed prior to discussion. It will be discussed hopefully at the next town meeting.

Motion carried.

6. (formerly #8) To consider and act upon the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan;

Motion to approve the Five-year Capital Improvement Plan was made by Bob Brautigam; 2nd by Terry Delaney.

Discussion: Maryann Fitzsimmons, Treasurer, gave a brief overview of the five- year plan and how that planning works.

Motion carried.

7. (formerly #9) To consider and act upon the 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Program Budget;

Motion to approve the 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Program Budget was made by Terry Delaney; 2nd by Bob Brautigam.

Discussion: MaryAnn Fitzsimmons, Treasurer, explained that this authorizes us to spend under the Capital Program and gave a brief explanation of the projects that are in progress this coming year.

8. (formerly #14) To consider and act upon the budget of the Scotland Board of Education and levy a tax on the Grand List of October 1, 2021 of \$115,647,441 for Scotland Elementary School, subject to state mandated tax rates for the Motor Vehicle Grand List of \$15,825,782;

Motion to approve a tax levy upon the budget of the Scotland Board of Education and levy a tax on the Grand List of October 1, 2021 of \$115,647,441 for Scotland Elementary School, subject to state mandated tax rates for the Motor Vehicle Grand List of \$15,825,782 was made by Dennis LaBelle, 2nd by Kevin Benito.

Discussion: Kristin Goyette asked what this means. First Selectman Greenberg explained this is voting to pay for the school out of the town budget. The school budget is a single line on the town budget. Moderator Tom McAvoy explained that this motion is doing two things – it is acting on the SES budget and to approve levying of the taxes.

Motion carried.

9. (formerly #4) To consider and act upon an Ordinance Regarding Tax Abatements for Volunteers;

Motion To consider and act upon an Ordinance Regarding Tax Abatements for Volunteers was made by Joe Savino, 2nd by Kim Martin.

Discussion: First Selectman Greenberg explained that we have an ordinance in place for the tax abatement for volunteers since 2001. It's an incentive and reward for participating in the Fire Department based on showing up for a fire or other emergency. Currently the limit is \$1,000; proposal is to increase to \$1,500 per volunteer.

Motion carried.

10. To consider and act upon the sale of town owned property located on Parish Hill Road, map 2, block 11, lot 3, to Donald Carignan for the consideration of \$9,000 and to authorize the first selectman to sign, execute and deliver such deeds and agreements needed to carry out the sale;

Motion to consider and act upon the sale of town owned property located on Parish Hill Road, map 2, block 11, lot 3, to Donald Carignan for the consideration of \$9,000 and to authorize the first selectman to sign, execute and deliver such deeds and agreements needed to carry out the sale was made by Joe Savino, 2nd by Ashley Kammer.

Discussion: First Selectman Greenberg explained that this is a 6 acre parcel on the Windham town line. It's landlocked and was taken by town in a tax foreclosure. It is only useful to people who live in Windham who abut it. One of the abutters approached us and asked to purchase it. The appraised value is \$9,000 and needs 8-24 approval from the Zoning Commission prior to the sale.

Vote was held by paper ballot. Yes 57; No 20. Motion carried.

11. To consider and act upon the leasing of Town Owned property on Pinch Street for the purpose of a solar farm to Santa Energy;

Motion to authorize a lease negotiation for leasing of Town Owned property on Pinch Street for the purpose of a solar farm to Santa Energy was made by Terry Delaney, 2nd by Joe Savino.

Discussion: First Selectman Greenberg explained this is a 14 acre parcel for potential leasing for a solar farm. There will be an annual lease payment to the town of no less than \$30,000 with a 1% increase per year for 25 years. The town cannot proceed with further discussions without approval to negotiate this lease.

Dan Syme made a motion to move to vote (which will be by paper vote as indicated earlier in the meeting), 2nd by Jason Beaumont.

Motion carried.

Vote was held by paper ballot. Yes 22; No 56. Motion denied.

12. (formerly part of 11) To consider and act upon the leasing of Town Owned property on Brook Road for the purpose of a solar farm to Santa Energy;

Motion to authorize a lease negotiation for leasing of Town Owned property on Brook Road for the purpose of a solar farm to Santa Energy was made by Joe Savino, 2nd by Jason Beaumont.

Discussion: First Selectman Greenberg explained that this is a parcel adjacent to the school. It is an open field. The annual lease payment would be approximately \$11,250 - \$18,750. School security issues and evacuation needs were brought up by members of the public.

Vote was held by paper ballot. Yes 12; No 65 Motion denied.

13. (formerly #5) To consider and act upon a motion to set a ceiling of \$15,000 on tax abatements for Scotland Volunteer Fire Department members;

Motion to consider and act upon a motion to set a ceiling of \$15,000 on tax abatements for Scotland Volunteer Fire Department members was made by Scott Cormier, 2nd by Bob Brautigam.

Discussion: First Selectman Greenberg explained that we need to set the limit on the tax abatement at every town meeting as per statute.

Vote was held by paper ballot. Yes 54; No 8 Motion carried.

14. (formerly #12) To consider and act upon the budget of the General Government and levy a tax on the Grand List of October 1, 2021, of \$115,647,441, subject to state mandated tax rates for the Motor Vehicle Grand List of \$15,825,782;

Motion to consider and act upon the budget of the General Government and levy a tax on the Grand List of October 1, 2021, of \$115,647,441, subject to state mandated tax rates for the Motor Vehicle Grand List of \$15,825,782 was made by Dan Syme, 2nd by Scott Cormier.

Discussion: MaryAnn Fitzsimmons explained that this budget reflects basically a zero increase in the mill rate. The motor vehicle mill rate will decrease per the State recently passing a mill rate on motor vehicles with a 32.46 rate cap. The State is going to give towns a grant to make up the difference in revenue loss for a lower motor vehicle mill rate.

Motion carried.

15 (formerly #13). To levy a tax upon the Grand List of October 1, 2021, of \$115,647,441 for the Regional School District 11 budget, subject to state mandated tax rates for the Motor Vehicle Grand List of \$15,825,782;

Motion to levy a tax upon the Grand List of October 1, 2021, of \$115,647,441 for the Regional School District 11 budget, subject to state mandated tax rates for the Motor Vehicle Grand List of \$15,825,782 was made by Scott Cormier, 2nd by Dennis LaBelle.

Discussion: None.

Motion carried.

16. (formerly #15) To Transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Discussion: None.

Motion to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. was made by Dennis LaBelle, 2nd by Dan Syme.

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Bright
Scotland Town Clerk