

**TOWN OF SCOTLAND
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
September 22, 2022**

A Special Town Meeting was called to order by First Selectman Gary Greenberg at 7:09 P.M. Present were First Selectman Gary Greenberg, Selectman Wendy Sears, Administrative Assistant Wendy O'Connor, Acting Town Clerk Barbara McKinney, and members of the audience:

1. To elect a moderator

First Selectman Gary Greenberg called for nominations.

Motion to nominate Michael Laws was made by Ashley Kammer, 2nd by Camden Kammer. There were no other nominations. **Motion Passed Unanimously**

Moderator Michael Laws read the call for the meeting.

Moderator Michael Laws began by thanking the citizens of Scotland for coming and reviewed 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.

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

*The Moderator asks for the comments to be limited to two minutes.

He also explained people would have an opportunity to vote tonight on Item 2 and that Item 3 would be voted on at a Referendum on October 11, 2022.

2. To consider and act upon a request from the Scotland Volunteer Fire Department for \$50,000 to purchase ambulance equipment.

Motion was made by Gary Bowers, 2nd by Steve Kurcinik to consider and act upon a request from the Scotland Volunteer Fire Department for \$50,000 to purchase ambulance equipment.

SVFD Deputy Chief Mike Gurnack gave a power point presentation regarding the \$50,000 request to purchase ambulance equipment. The presentation outlined the importance of the need to purchase the equipment and explained where the funds were coming from for the purchase. He also answered questions from the audience with regards to the life expectancy of the Power Load Stretcher and the mobility of the unit.

Deputy Fire Chief Gurnack noted the department is always in need of volunteers and invited anyone wishing to volunteer to attend their meetings on Monday nights at 7:00 P.M.

In addition, Deputy Fire Chief Gurnack noted an Open House will be held at the Fire Department on October 8, 2022, from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. and a Banquet will be held on November 5th at the Elks Club in Willimantic in honor of the department's 75th Anniversary.

Motion was made by Bob Brautigam to move the question, 2nd by Dan Syme.

Motion Passed Unanimously to move the question

Motion Passed Unanimously on original motion.

3. To consider and act upon a request for an advisory, non-binding vote from the Hampton/Scotland Ad Hoc Committee for Interdistrict Cost Sharing, as to whether the Scotland Board of Education should negotiate and enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the Hampton Board of Education to open and operate a Hampton/Scotland Cooperative Elementary School, to commence at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. **The Board of Selectmen has removed this item for submission to the voters at a referendum to be held on October 11, 2022, with polls to be open at the Scotland Community Hall from noon to 8 pm.**

First Selectman Gary Greenberg spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Hampton/Scotland Ad Hoc Committee for Interdistrict Cost Sharing. A power point presentation was given. First Selectman Gary Greenberg and Selectwoman Wendy Sears explained the proposal and answered questions and concerns that came before the Board. Hampton First Selectman Alan Cahill also addressed questions and concerns.

Henry Bowers, 204 Station Road, thanked the Committee for their hard work and excellent summary. He stated he is shocked that the State is dropping the ECS funding, and he spoke in favor of the Cooperative Agreement.

Lisa LaBelle, 352 Pinch Street, and member of the Board of Education, asked the following questions: will there be a place to leave comments at the polls, is there money in the Capital Improvement Plan for the project, if the cost of maintenance was calculated if Hampton School was used and if there were enough classrooms to accommodate students if a grade or two was added.

Ashley Kammer, 16 Palmer Road, questioned whether there has been talk about splitting money if the school building was rented.

Hampton First Selectman Alan Cahill explained it would depend on how the building was repurposed.

First Selectman Greenberg noted both Towns could benefit.

Kim Martin, Brooklyn Turnpike, shared her concerns and feels the cost should be split. She spoke against the Cooperative Agreement and believes Regionalization is better.

First Selectman Greenberg explained there is a difference between Capital Cost and Maintenance.

Alain Bourassa, 569 Kemp Road, stated he agrees with Kim Martin and thinks the Cooperative Agreement is flawed. He questioned the cost for keeping a building open and the cost of transportation needed.

Selectwoman Wendy Sears noted those issues would be addressed through the Committee.

Joe Savino explained how the cost of busing is incurred.

Jayme Horton, 25 Littlefield Road, shared her concerns with transportation and doesn't think parents are being given an opportunity to voice their concerns.

First Selectman Greenberg noted anyone can attend the Board of Education meetings and encouraged all to do so.

Peter Reardon, 369 Pudding Hill Road, questioned the reason for the vote, how much the tax reduction will be and what it will be applied to.

First Selectman Greenberg explained the vote is to let the Board of Education know what the residents want.

Selectwoman Wendy Sears noted everything would go through the budget process and stated the Town is always trying to save taxpayer dollars.

Tara Falck, 74 Kemp Road, is concerned that residents are not always heard by the Board of Education. She asked if there is a plan to bring families to Town.

First Selectman Greenberg encouraged individuals to run for office.

Juan Arriola, Hampton resident, thanked First Selectman Gary Greenberg and Selectwoman Wendy Sears for their hard work and answers on the Cooperative Agreement proposal.

Grace Martin, Brooklyn Turnpike, shared her concerns with the short window of time to transition to a Cooperative Agreement and believes it will be disruptive to the children, unions, and others.

First Selectman Greenberg noted it was incumbent on the Board of Education not to do that.

Ashley Kammer, 16 Palmer Road, questioned Hampton's budget. She also shared her concerns with the decision making if a Cooperative Agreement is instituted. In addition, Ms. Kammer noted the elimination of positions last year and the impact the Agreement will have on the students.

Kathy Donahue, Board of Education member, explained the increase in the Hampton budget was due to mainly contractual obligations.

Selectwoman Wendy Sears spoke about the Board of Education budget and the need to support the budget.

First Selectman Greenberg noted the tremendous job the Board of Education does in the budget process.

Hampton First Selectman Alan Cahill responded to the elimination of positions, combining grades (structural reform) and explained how it will offset budget increases.

Cassidy Martin, Chair of the Board of Education, spoke as a resident. She noted the Board of Education does listen to parents concerns and spoke about seniority for labor contracts.

Selectwoman Wendy Sears spoke about the pay rates for teachers.

First Selectman Greenberg explained there is a statutory requirement when hiring teachers with a Cooperative Agreement.

Carol Sweat, 57 Cemetery Road, shared her concerns with the cost savings, the impact on the children and the time frame for the transition.

First Selectman Greenberg explained the Committee was sensitive to the cost and noted it will need to be amortized. He noted he wants the best for our children as well as the taxpayers.

Alain Bourassa, 569 Kemp Road, questioned who makes the decision on what school would be used.

Lisa LaBelle suggested individuals email the Board of Education with their concerns and questions.

Wendy O'Connor, Administrative Assistant, noted the Board of Education could have an exit poll the day of the Referendum.

Moderator Michael Laws asked for a motion to adjourn to Referendum.

Motion was made by Dan Syme, 2nd by Bob Brautigam to move the question to Referendum. **Motion Passed Unanimously**

4. To transact any other business proper to come before this meeting.

No other business was transacted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara J. McKinney
Acting Town Clerk