



# 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Meeting Audio Link”

[https://scotlandct-](https://scotlandct-my.sharepoint.com/:u/g/personal/adminassist_scotlandct_org/EcJx1ob4KRdLnba6XvQ6HqkBopeH3SZdpoGRW1dYNhvfKA?e=V4kCJf)

[my.sharepoint.com/:u/g/personal/adminassist\\_scotlandct\\_org/EcJx1ob4KRdLnba6XvQ6HqkBopeH3SZdpoGRW1dYNhvfKA?e=V4kCJf](https://scotlandct-my.sharepoint.com/:u/g/personal/adminassist_scotlandct_org/EcJx1ob4KRdLnba6XvQ6HqkBopeH3SZdpoGRW1dYNhvfKA?e=V4kCJf)

### Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Gary Greenberg at 7:02pm. Present: Selectman Chris Demorit, Selectman Wendy Sears, Treasurer Jean LeFebvre; Wendy O'Connor, Administrative Assistant; members of the audience in person and virtually.
2. Audience with Citizens - None
3. Additions to Agenda – Discussion about town hall project and funding.
  - **MOTION: Wendy Sears made a motion to add Town Hall Project and Funding to the agenda, Chris Demorit seconded. Motion carried.**
4. Approval of minutes of the April 5, 2023 Special Meeting Approval of minutes.
  - **MOTION: Wendy Sears made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 BOS minutes with the following amendment: Correct the misspelling of First Selectman in Paragraph 3, Chris Demorit seconded. Motion carried.**
5. Town Hall renovations and funding: We have received a federal grant for \$700,000. Have been working with an architect on various possibilities all of which will cost over \$700,000. In the course of discussions, we have been looking at other funding options as one of the effects of the renovation will be to remove barrier to access for disabled individuals. Looking into the possibility of applying for a Community Development Block Grant. Have been in touch with Eastern Connecticut Housing Opportunities, a certified CDBG administrator. Andrew Woodstock of ECHO has been looking into this and has found that barriers to access while usually a high priority for this grant, are not this year. RFP was put out for the grant application; ECHO was the only proposal for \$9,000 to do just the application. It's a \$9000 bet that would be for the benefit of getting our name in front of the CDBG for next year. Andrew Woodstock explained why this is in the Town's best interest to do. Discussion was held.
6. Opening of Bids for the Bass Road Bridge Repair – 3 bids were opened. Bids came in as follows:
  - Suchocki and Sons, Inc.: \$269,842
  - Mattern Construction, Inc.: \$630,880
  - New England Infrastructure, Inc.: \$927,840

- Engineer Charlie Elias gave an update of his inspection of the Gager Hill Road Bridge. He looked at the state report on the bridge. It is an 84-year-old bridge, reinforced concrete that is getting salt put on it every year which has a bad effect on steel. There are cracks in the concrete, steel beams have rusted away at the abutments. Abutments are in very good condition. Bridge can be repaired. To repair would cost a very heavy fraction of the cost of a new bridge, when done with repairs, the bridge will show it will need more repairs in 5 years. In his opinion it is not a good use of money to repair the bridge. Discussion was held on replacement of bridge and funding of the project.
7. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jean LeFebvre presented the Treasurer's Report. Attached to minutes.
  8. Budget Discussion – Board of Education Chairman Cassidy Martin presented the Scotland Elementary School budget. There is a 0% increase. Gary discussed the audit contract which ends this year. Went out to bid and Mahoney/Sable were the only respondents. There will be a \$3,500 increase, the school's portion will be 40% or \$1,500. Superintendent went through the budget and was able to find money savings. Used up ESSER grants. Found savings in instructional supply spending with supplies on hand and allocated to different teachers. Will use shared services for speech with Andover for a cost savings. Are not patching things with band-aids, they are replacing them which will be a cost savings in the long run. Changed tech and oil contracts. Utilizing grants more efficiently. Will be adding a special education teacher. All employees are on one insurance plan now. Will have 10 students at STEM next year. Working on having kids stay. Gary asked why actuals are not listed on the budget. Cassidy stated that the superintendent thinks it is inappropriate. Discussion was held. Gary asked what the current enrollment was. Current enrollment is 97-98 of which 17-18 are preschoolers. Preschool is fully funded by the School Readiness Grant. They are projecting enrollment for next year to be 110 students. Gary asked what the plans for the BOE are to help bring down the cost of \$30,000/student. The superintendent is meeting with various other towns to discuss shared services. Working on bringing back Tri-Town Board meetings to discuss ways to lower costs. Looking into sharing staff to lower cost savings. Discussion was held. They are working on their Capital Plan.
  9. Cemetery Fee Increase -Full Burial Increase - \$900.00 to \$950.00
    - **MOTION: Chris Demorit made a motion to increase full burial fee from \$900 to \$950, Wendy Sears seconded by. Motion carried.**
  10. Report of Selectmen
    - Trees have been planted at the DPW garage to shield the view of salt shed along the Benito property. Project will be \$2,000 and will be paid out of grant money.
    - A lot of FD expenses are related to requirements by OSHA. There is a bill before the legislature that will require volunteer fire departments to be in compliance with OSHA. Gary thought his was already the case. Spoke with the head of CT OSHA. This varies by town. The liability for OSHA compliance lies with the Town not the Fire Department. The Town might want to have a say in the extent in which we comply. Towns are making a risk assessment. OSHA offers a service where they come in and talk to you about this. Gary will be talking to the Chief about this.
    - Have entered into a contract to have grass mowed by a contractor. It is with great regret that Willy will not be doing this anymore.

- Have taken a preliminary look at the bottom line of the budget. Given wage increases, insurance increases, etc. we are looking at a preliminary increase of 150,000 to 200,000 on the expense side. Discussion was held.
- Hired DPW, will start on May 8<sup>th</sup>. John Beck has been filling in.
- Had conversation with Insurance people on current policy. Will be switching over to another policy plan that will include an HSA. Waiting for details from insurance company.

11. Audience for Citizens: None

12. Motion to adjourn at 8:40pm made by Chris Demorit, seconded by Wendy Sears. Motion carries.