



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 Special Meeting June 28th, 2023 - 5:00pm

Meeting Audio Link:

[06.28.2023 BOS Meeting.mp3](#)

Special Meeting Minutes

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:13pm, present are Selectman Chris Demorit, Selectman Wendy Sears, Treasurer Jean LeFebvre, Administrative Assistant Wendy O'Connor and members of the audience.
- II. Approval June 1st, 2023, Meeting Minutes & Public Hearing, June 16th, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes and June 21st, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes
 - **MOTION:** Motion to approve the minutes of the June 1st, 2023 Board of Selectmen meeting and Public Hearing made by Wendy Sears, seconded by Chris Demorit. Motion carried.
 - **MOTION:** Motion to approve the minutes of the June 16th, 2023 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting made by Chris Demorit, seconded by Wendy Sears. Motion carried.
 - **MOTION:** Motion to approve the minutes of the June 21st, 2023 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting made by Wendy Sears, seconded by Chris Demorit. Motion carried.
- III. Discuss and act upon Additional Appropriations and Line-Item Transfers – Treasurer Jean LeFebvre went over line-item transfers. Breakdown of Line-Item Transfers attached to minutes.
 - **MOTION:** Motion to approve Line-Item transfers as presented made by Wendy Sears, seconded by Chris Demorit. Motion carried.
- IV. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Jean LeFebvre presented the treasurer's report. (attached to minutes)
- V. Discussion of EV Charging Station – Preliminary work for EV stations at the library has been completed and went flawlessly. Fred Spoerl and the town crew did the work. The rest of it is part of the project under the program, as of yesterday they have installed the conduit. Need to decide if we want to charge or not for charging vehicles. Most towns are providing charging stations to people to use for free except to the extent they contribute to taxes. We can or cannot do that. We can charge and the cost will be around \$2.65 per hour charging. Town can take a mark up if we so chose. It would work through an app, and there is a 10% markup for using the app. On top of that, the town can add its own markup. Options are we can let people use it for free; we can charge cost plus 10%; or we charge cost plus our own markup. Wendy Sears asked how they gain access to the station. Gary – as long as the 2 spaces are open they are able to use them. Wendy Sears read opinions on charging stations from members of the Republican Town Committee. Gary would like to get other opinions from members of the community. Discussion was held and will be further discussed at next Board of Selectmen meeting.

VI. Selectmen's Report:

- Bass Road bridge project has started and the bridge is closed.
- Block grant was submitted on June 24th. We received a good response from the community.
- Gary may put in for the Community Investment Fund Grant again.
- Will not know about grants until the fall.

VII. Audience with Citizens:

- Charlie Lasch asked who approached who for stations. Gary – will have to look to verify. Believes Eversource sent out notice this was available with a list of vendors to contact. Mr. Lasch would like to know where a gas pump will be put for his use. If his tax dollars are going to be spent on out of towners using the charging station all night, he would like to also benefit from this by adding a gas pump for use. Gary is aware of what his opinion is and would like to get other people's opinions also. Mr. Lasch does not see a reason to give away tax money to everybody because of the government's novel idea that this going to work great. Gary would like to get others' opinions on how they feel about charging stations and a decision will be made after this. If the consensus of the community is that they do not want it, then that's what we will do. Mr. Lasch would like to Board of Selectmen to know that it is his opinion is that he is against the EV charging stations.
- Diana Lasch asked who the vendors are? Gary – Eversource, under the state, PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority) created the program, then designate the vendors that can satisfy the requirements of the program. The town used Artis Energy. They put together the electrician, the supplier of the device and the contractor. The town was the contractor in our case. Diana Lasch – Gary is setting us up for a real problem. She travels a lot, and she just came back from a place where there were several Tesla charging stations. One thing in common is that every single one of those charging stations, whatever app they use is connected to your charge card and you are paying for that electricity. Diana Lasch is totally against electric vehicles. She has seen them catch on fire first-hand. She doesn't care what this government would like to have but electric vehicles, canceling pizza ovens in New York City to save energy is not what we should be focused on. Focus on out of the country, India, Japan, China and all their polluted mills and whatever it is they are making. They contribute more to pollution than people here in the USA. The town needs to charge for people who fill up here using the charging station otherwise people will charge their vehicles overnight on our dime. When Gary leaves, we are going to be held holding the bat once again on something that's not policeable. She has not heard one word about vandalism that runs rampant in this town and other towns. Once word gets out that Scotland has free charging stations you know what's going to happen. She doesn't care how much insurance we have, it's not enough to replace the library should a fire happen from the charging stations.

VIII. Adjournment

- **MOTION:** Motion to adjourn at 6:03pm made by Chris Demorit, seconded by Wendy Sears. Motion carried.

***Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy O'Connor
Administrative Assistant***

June 28, 2023 BOS meeting

Additional Appropriations/Transfers

Account #	Acct Description	Original Budget	Transfer	Addtl Appropriation	Final Budget	REASON
4141.51101	TOWN HALL: Office Supplies	4,000.00	3,500.00		7,500.00	Additional supplies for several organizing projects
4141.51108	TOWN HALL: Information Technology Support	9,600.00	3,500.00		13,100.00	Increase in monthly fees & computer purchase
4147.51511	TOWN CLERK: Town Clerk Asst Salary	-	5,000.00		5,000.00	Training and coverage due to employee turnover
4117.51710	FINANCE: Treasurer Salary	16,536.00	10,000.00		26,536.00	Duplicate salaries during transition to new treasurer
4117.51730	FINANCE: Financial Program/Training	1,800.00	2,500.00		4,300.00	Upgrade to Quickbooks 2023 required
4399.52807	BUILDING MAINTENANCE: Bldg Maint-Public Safety Bldg	2,500.00	7,500.00		10,000.00	Glyol in HVAC system & other repairs
4399.52800	BUILDING MAINTENANCE: Building Maintenance Salary	2,216.46	4,000.00		6,216.46	Additional hours needed during the year
8602.53003	UTILITIES-HEAT: Town Hall	3,900.00	2,500.00		6,400.00	Higher heating oil prices vs. rate used in FY23 budget
8602.53004	UTILITIES-HEAT: Public Safety Complex	7,150.00	7,000.00		14,150.00	
8400.53503	TRANSFER STATION: Container Transit	20,000.00	4,000.00		24,000.00	Increased costs on monthly basis
4300.52721	PUBLIC WORKS: LoCIP Projects	84,428.00	(10,000.00)		74,428.00	Not needed this year
4702.55001	PHHS-OTHER EXPENDITURES: Regional District 11	1,964,331.00	(33,500.00)		1,930,831.00	Not needed this year - RD11 budget reduced after Town budget finalized
9100.91000	DECLARED EMERGENCY EXPENSES-Declared Emergency unreimbursed	5,000.00	(5,000.00)		-	Not needed this year
4153.52105	PLANNING & ZONING: Zoning Enforcement Off Salary	9,540.00	(1,000.00)		8,540.00	Not needed this year

TOTAL REQUESTED

-

Treasurer's Report

June 28, 2023, Board of Selectman Meeting

MAY 2023 FINANCIALS

- Month end close is complete for General Fund, all other funds will be completed and reported in May.

Tax Collections for May totaled \$12k, with the year-to-date total at \$4.33M, or 98% of the full year budget, with \$72K remaining to hit the full year budget. Back tax collections exceed the full year budget by \$33k, with interest on back taxes at 168% of the full year budget.

- General Revenues totaled \$61k, 326% of the full year budget, due to the sale of land on Parish Hill Road, strong interest revenue (\$23.7k over full year budget). Departmental Revenues totaled \$90.6k, \$59.2k over the full year's budget. Conveyances now exceed the budget by \$16k.
- General Government expenditures totaled \$1.56M or 86.3% of the full year budget. This includes FY23 CNR contributions, fire truck lease payment and \$240k of debt payments on notes and bonds.
- Scotland Elementary School expense totaled \$2.2M (91% of full year budget) including the audit adjustment which moved \$23.5k out of last year and into FY23. Spend for RD#11 totaled \$1.8M (10 payments of 11 are reflected).
- General Fund cash on May 31 totaled \$1.06M of which \$502k was held in the STIF investment account and another \$3.21k in interest bearing accounts at Berkshire. There was another \$1.12M held in a STIF account for the investment and other funds (including ARPA and CNR funds). Between the two STIF accounts, the Town earned interest totaling \$6.5K in May.
- **CAPITAL:** spend in May was 1K, on the purchase of Mafia Blocks for the Salt Shed.

FY24 BUDGET

- The Final Budget was approved at the June 15 Town Meeting. Revenue of \$6.41M, expenditures of \$6.54M, a real estate mill rate of \$40 and a motor vehicle mill rate of \$32.46 was approved. The Capital Improvement Program Budget of 2.08M was approved at the June 15 Town Meeting. This includes funds for the Town Hall Project, payment for the Fire Truck Lease and repairs to the Bass Road bridge.

UPCOMING/ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- UCOA filing for YE 2022 (have not received a due date from the state as yet)
- Attempts to resolve ongoing "account ownership" issues with Intuit have been unsuccessful, and introduces risk in the payroll process. Will be exploring other options for payroll processing as a result.
- The auditing firm of Mahoney, Sabol & Company completed their interim audit and planning for the FY23 audit. The audit is scheduled for the beginning of September.