



# 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**  
**December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 7:00pm**

**Location: Scotland Volunteer Memorial Hall - Scotland, CT**

**Meeting Audio Link:**

[https://scotlandct-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/adminassist\\_scotlandct\\_org/EQBtGrEf\\_tJkFUIPauXGR4BDIhCVAPuUJ0W0aUSE85gkg?e=vwNNSD](https://scotlandct-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/adminassist_scotlandct_org/EQBtGrEf_tJkFUIPauXGR4BDIhCVAPuUJ0W0aUSE85gkg?e=vwNNSD)

## MEETING MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by First Selectman Dana Barrow Jr. Present were Selectman Michael Gurnack; Selectman Bart Laws; Administrative Assistant Wendy O'Connor and members of the audience.
2. Additions to Agenda: Michael Gurnack made a motion to add 3 tax refunds to the agenda item #6, seconded by Bart Laws, motion carried. Michael Gurnack made a motion to add discussion of the Highland Festival to the agenda after the audience with citizens, Bart Laws seconded. Motion carried.
3. Audience with Citizens: None
4. Update and discussion on Cyberattack: First Selectman Dana Barrow Jr. The money did not make it overseas. It is under investigation, so not much can be said. Dana is cautiously optimistic that all the money will be recovered. The State Police Major Crime Unit and the FBI are both investigating. Selectman Michael Gurnack added that new policies and procedures have been implemented. All town employees with email have already begun training and will continue with training. Discussion was held.
5. Highland Festival: The Historical Society in the past has allowed use of the Waldo House Property for the Scottish Highland Festival. With insurance costs they have decided not to have the Highland Festival at the Waldo House anymore. Dana has been contacted by the Highland Festival Committee to see if the town could host it about other properties in Scotland that would be able to host. He has talked to CIRMA about insurance coverage and because it is not a town sponsored event, there would be no insurance coverage. Paul Copenhagen, member of the Festival Committee, spoke. The festival will go on whether it is in Scotland or not. They are scoping out other places to have it but would like to keep it in Scotland. They are more than happy to discuss and work something out to keep the festival in town. Discussion was held with the audience.
  - Motion made by Michael Gurnack to explore with the Highland Festival Committee possible sites in town to host the Scottish Highland Festival, explore what contract arrangements would need to be made to ensure the town does not incur any unreasonable expenses, seconded by Bart Laws. Motion carried.
6. Discussion of town wide email system: Bart Laws would like to commend Jolene Bowers and Beth Troeger for taking this project on. Beth Troeger and Jolene Bowers presented their ideas for a town wide email system. Discussion was held.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY

OF December 20 23 AT 3:26 am/pm

Shawn George  
SCOTLAND TOWN CLERK



7. Approval of Tax Refunds:
  - Motion made by Bart Laws to approve eight tax refunds to Vanessa G. Martingano - \$276.23 & \$293.76; Alyson Paige - \$538.20; Douglas A. George - \$16.69; Lori Gauthier - \$25.79; Bonnie S. MacLachlan - \$50.00; Gerard Petrocelli - \$62.65; Daniel & Joseph Savino, Trustee - \$72.00, seconded by Michael Gurnack. Motion carried.
8. Approval of 2024 Board of Selectmen Meeting Dates:
  - Motion to approve the meeting dates for 2024 made by Michael Gurnack, seconded by Bart Laws. Motion carried.
9. Approval of Resolution for the Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way: Dana gave an overview of the Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Resolution.
  - Motion made by Michael Gurnack to approve the Resolution for the Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way for the four bridge projects, seconded by Bart Laws. Motion carried.
10. Appointment of Kevin Benito to fill a vacancy to Board of Assessment Appeals with a term of 11/21/23 - 11/16/27:
  - Motion made by Bart Laws to approve the Appointment of Kevin Benito to fill a vacancy to Board of Assessment Appeals with a term of 11/21/23 - 11/16/27, seconded by Michael Gurnack. Motion carried.
11. Discussion and possible action on removal of north bridge debris from Brook Road bridge. First Selectman Dana Barrow gave an update on the bridges. Discussion was held.
  - Motion made by Michael Gurnack to get estimates for removal of the north bridge debris from Brook Road, seconded by Bart Laws. Motion carried.
  - Motion made by Michael Gurnack to keep the Bass Road bridge closed until it is replaced by the state, seconded by Bart Laws. Motion carried.
12. Appointment of Jenna Aldrich to fill a Library Board vacancy with a 6-year term of 11/21/23 - 11/19/29 and Linda Segar with a 2-year term of 11/7/2023 - 11/19/2025:
  - Motion made by Michael Gurnack to appoint Jenna Aldrich to fill a Library Board vacancy with a 6-year term of 11/21/23 - 11/19/29 and Linda Segar with a 2-year term of 11/7/2023 - 11/19/2025, seconded by Bart Laws. Motion carried.
13. Report of Selectmen
  - Made an agreement with the DOT for a design management system for bridges. The State will design the bridges, do all the testing and inspections. This will shave off some time and will be up in two years. Bridges are already in the design stage. Bass Road bridge and the north bridge on Brook Road will be done first, followed by the temporary bridge by the school and then the Gager Hill Road bridge.
  - Town Hall Renovations – HUD Grant has been increased by \$500,000 making the grant 1.5 million now. Request for proposals from Architects is out and due on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Have contracted with Gary Greenberg to act as the director of special projects for the renovations and will be paid mostly out of grants.
  - Met with Lisa Madden, Collector of Revenue for the Town of Windham. Extended late period from 2 months to 3 months. If you are making an effort to make payments, they will not send you to a collection agency.
  - Received a call from Hampton First Selectman Allan Cahill. The trash compactor at the transfer station has gone bad and needs to be replaced. Cost is \$25,000 and our share is 48% of that.
  - Cemetery Mapping – in the process of getting our cemeteries computerized.
  - DPW – last two people have not showed up. Bill is working by himself. John Beck has been helping out as well as Nick Savino for plowing.
  - MaryAnn Fitzsimmons has agreed to work one day a week until a new treasurer is hired and trained.

- Met with Eversource today. Expect a rate hike shortly, look at Energize Connecticut to find a supplier.
- Bart Laws spoke about invasive plant species. Grant money is available to help landowners deal with these problems.
- Zip Code issues – Bart would like to continue working on this issue.

14. Audience with Citizens:

- Jenn Nelson asked if at the next meeting a treasurer's report will be available at the next meeting. Dana will ask the treasurer to have reports available for our next meeting. Discussion was held.
- Kevin Ring Sr. asked about the money that was stolen and if the vendor was ever paid. Dana – no and they will charge us \$4,000 a month interest after December. May be able to move some money around to pay the invoice so interest is not incurred.
- Audience member asked if the town had obtained cyber insurance plan. Dana – has been in touch with different companies about obtaining cyber insurance plan. Have to make sure that the insurance plan rider would include criminal activity. Dana will continue looking into it. Discussion was held.
- Audience member asked about the 90-day investigation time and when that started. The state police were notified on November 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Town Clerk Sharon George asked that any newly elected town official who has not be sworn in to please come see here at town hall asap.

15. Motion to adjourn at 8:02pm made by Bart Laws, seconded by Michael Gurnack. Motion carried.