



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

February 14th, 2024 - 7:00pm

Location: Scotland Volunteer Memorial Hall - Scotland, CT

Meeting Audio Link:

<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/e495628d6db6bf2da3e4ec37b8c3ef470f8895fee4cd9f68315246c97b03e5f8>

Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Dana Barrow at 7:02pm. Present: Selectman Michael Gurnack; Selectman Bart Laws; administrative assistant Wendy O'Connor; NECOGG representative Cameron James; Special projects director Gary Greenberg; and members of the audience.
2. Additions to Agenda: None
3. Audience with Citizens: Gary Greenberg gave an update on the Town Hall Renovation project. Contracts have been awarded to the Architect and the Grant Administrator. The grant administrator contract was awarded to Tyche Planning and Policy Group and has been signed. Architect contract has not been signed. Discussion was held.
4. Approval of January 24th Special Meeting Minutes, January 24th Regular Meeting Minutes and January 20th, 2024 Meeting Minutes:
 - **MOTION: Motion to approve the January 24th Special Meeting Minutes, January 24th Regular Meeting Minutes and January 20th, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes made by Bart Laws, seconded by Michael Gurnack. Motion carried.**
5. NECOGG Regional Hazard Mitigation plan – Cameron James was here to talk about updating the NECOGG Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which needs to be updated every 5 years as FEMA mandates. The current plan was in 2015 and needs to be updated. Part of this process is highlighting what hazards there are in this region and what towns in the region identify as a particular issues for their towns, as well as talking about mitigation efforts that each town can do. Discussion was held.
6. Discussion and possible action on Opt-in for Steap Grant – Discussion was held on the opt in option for the Steap Grant
 - **MOTION** – Motion to opt-in for the Steap Grant made by Bart Laws, seconded by Mike Gurnack. Motion carries.
7. Report of Selectmen:
 - Budget requests have been emailed today to the different Town Departments to start putting together a budget.
 - Zip Code Issues: Senators Murphy will be introducing a Bill to the US Senate to require the US Post office to use one Zip Code for the entire town. Selectman Bart Law is collaborating with Senator Murphy on the exact boundary details.
 - NECOGG: next Meeting on February 23rd.
 - Council of Small Towns [COST]: I attended a conference on February 8th in Plantsville Ct. One issue was Early voting issues, lots of unclear direction from the State.
 - Eliminate the requirement to post Legal notices in the Newspapers if they post it on their website.
 - Increase Medicaid reimbursement rate for Ambulance Services

- Provide adequate funding to assist School Districts in upgrading HVAC System to improve air quality.
- Reject efforts to impose state mandated affordable housing requirements on municipalities, Amend 8-30g the affordable Housing Appeals Process.
- Taskforce to study a Bill to eliminate Motor Vehicle tax. State Senator Rahman: This is another way we can help the young students, workforces, and seniors, so they don't have to worry to pay the car tax," but the money will be made up by raising property taxes.
- Town Hall renovation design contract was awarded Nelson Edwards Architects LLC and the Grant Administration was awarded to Tyche Planning and Policy Group, LLC Please remember the much needed renovations will save the town money by a much more energy efficient building and the cost is covered by Grants. Yes it's still tax payer money but it will be spent in other towns or sent overseas, would much rather have it used to save some of Scotland's History
 - A Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$1,500,000
 - A Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Community Investment Fund 2030 (CIF) grant of \$581,000
 - CT DECD State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Survey and Planning grant of \$50,000
 - A Housing and Urban Development Community Project Fund (CPF) grant of \$700,000 (\$ 2,831,00.00)
- Would like to thank the following members of the Town Hall Renovation Committee for their hard work on deciding which Architectural Firm and Grant Administrator Company would work best for the Town and their willingness to help the town with this project. Members are Gary Greenberg, Brynn Lipstreuau, Michael Brandes, John Aldrich, Jim Troeger, Terrence Delaney
- Array Rx This is a state program to save you 80% on medications. Cannot be used on medications covered by insurance but if the medication is not covered by your insurance or you do not have insurance that cover medications it will be helpful.
- We are working on Road Grants and Emergency management grants.
- Kim Martin has been hired as a special assistant to the First Selectman. Kim is concentrating on using her skills as a Grant writer to help save the town money by obtaining grants instead of using Scotland taxpayer money for purchasing and repairs.
- Roads - still repairing washouts, potholes, etc., The last snow storm the roads looked very good, even better than the neighboring towns.
- Bridges - the State is out surveying the sites and Acrow is expected to get back to the town by the end of this week to decide if they will buy back the Bass Rd Bridge.
- DOT have been out surveying the Bridge site, slow but sure progress.
- Email Scam: As of today, Berkshire bank has not received any information from Bank of America on returning the money. The 90 days are up on February 23rd.
- Scotland residents, my door is always open to discuss any issues. The BOS meets twice a month, I encourage all to come to the meetings.

8. Audience with Citizens: None

9. Motion to Adjourn at 7:37pm made by Bart Laws, seconded by Mike Gurnack. Motion carries.