

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 28th, 2024 - 7:00pm

Location: Scotland Volunteer Memorial Hall - Scotland, CT

Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by First Selectman Dana Barrow at 7:00pm. Present: Selectman Bart Laws; Selectman Michael Gurnack attended remotely. Administrative Assistant Wendy O'Connor and members of the audience.
2. Additions to Agenda - None
3. Audience with Citizens - None
4. Approval of February 14th, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - **MOTION:** Motion to approve the February 14th, 2024 Meeting Minutes made by Bart Laws, seconded by Dana Barrow, motion carried.
5. NECCOG Update – First Selectman Dana Barrow gave an update on the recent meeting he attended. Mitigation plan was discussed. Dana is going to look into a GIS program through NECOGG. Eversource presented a program on community priorities during outages. Eversource also has some grant opportunities. Discussion was held.
6. Regional Shared Administrative Program – NECOGG is talking about getting a regional town administrator whose cost would be shared by the towns who participate. Dana will be attending a meeting on Monday with NECOGG about a shared Town Administrator. Discussion was held.
7. Cyber Insurance – Dana has received a quote for cyber insurance. The premium would be \$2,900/year. Has come questions regarding the policy. Is waiting to hear back from the insurance agent. Discussion was held.
8. Report of Selectmen
 - Budget requests have been emailed to the Town Departments to start to 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.
 - NECCOG: next Meeting on February 23rd.
 - Council of Small Towns [COST]: Attended a conference on February 8th in Plantsville Ct.
 - One issue was Early voting issues, lot 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 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. It's still tax payer money but it will be spent in other towns or sent overseas, I would much rather have it used to save some of Scotland's History

- Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$1,500,000
- 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
- Housing and Urban Development Community Project Fund (CPF) grant of \$700,000
- I want 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 on this project. Members are Gary Greenberg, Brynn Lipstreu, Michael Brandes, John Aldrich, Jim Troeger, Terrence Delaney
- Array Rx This is a state program to save you 80% on medications. Can not 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.
- Working on Road Grants and Emergency management grants.
- Re- Appointed Kim Martin 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, Last Storm the roads look very good, even better than the neighboring towns.
- Bridge - 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.
- Cyber Attack: As of last week Berkshire bank has not received any information from Bank of America.
- Highland Festival has been moved to Brooklyn Fairgrounds. Would like to make clear that the decision to move the Festival had nothing to do with the town.
- Selectman Bart Laws is looking into a program called Sustainable Connecticut. Provides getting assistance and matching funds to projects in town that have to do with the environment and sustainability. Will be looking for people who would like to participate in the project. Discussion was held.
- Scotland residents My door is always open to discuss anything and the BOS meets twice a month, I encourage all to come to the meetings and we will try to provide coffee and refreshments.

9. Audience with Citizens

- Larkin Trainor is concerned that it is very difficult to communicate information in town. Would like to see something that residents can see to be more informed. Maybe have links on the Scotland Residents Facebook page. Discussion was held.
- Larkin asked why would we not look for a college student an internship to come in and help with some of the management stuff in place of a town administrator. Discussion was held.
- Larkin asked about the \$4,000 in interest we were paying to Acrow due to the cyber attack. Dana – Berkshire Bank extended a provisional credit of the money that was taken and we were able to pay Acrow the money that was owed.
- Larkin asked about the GIS program a useful tool. Dana – if there was a zoning issue, you can look up the property and neighbors. Discussion was held.
- Discussion was held on having a program on fire prevention at the Scotland Volunteer Fire Department for the children who are home schooled.
- Larkin plans on moving forward with talking with the Rec Committee on putting something together on having a community festival/event to encourage more community involvement.

10. Motion to adjourn at 7:36pm made by Bart Laws, seconded by Dana Barrow Jr. Motion carried.