



# TOWN OF SCOTLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Scotland Town Hall 9 Devotion Road, P.O. Box 288 Scotland, CT 06264  
(860) 456-7797 x 1

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

May 24, 2017

7:00 PM

## MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by First Selectman Dan Syme. Members present were selectpeople Clare D'Appollonio and Rod Perry. Also present were Elaine Lind, representative from Titan Energy, members of the public, and Jennifer Nelson, Administrative Assistant.

**II. Additions to the Agenda: Rod Perry moved to add presentation of the energy supplier proposal to the agenda under II(a). Clare D'Appollonio seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**Rod Perry moved to add correspondence to the agenda under II(b). Clare D'Appollonio seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**a) Titan Energy Supplier Proposal:** Elaine Lind, the broker from Titan Energy, provided the selectmen with the proposal she had developed for an energy supplier for electric generation. Ms. Lind grouped Scotland with numerous other small towns in northeastern Connecticut to generate savings for a larger group request. After a brief discussion of the impact of the solar panels that will be installed on the elementary school, and the changes in rates due to seasonal fluctuations, **Clare D'Appollonio moved to enter into an electric supplier contract with Titan Energy for a two-year fixed contract rate of .0815 with Blue Rock Energy. Rod Perry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**b) Correspondence:** Town Clerk Lisa Clark submitted a letter of intent to offer the assistant town clerk position to one of the candidates that had applied for the opening. Administrative Assistant Jennifer Nelson expressed her concern due to the fact she had submitted an internal interest in the opening, but had heard nothing. The selectmen conveyed their concern regarding the process, and will hold a special meeting to discuss expectations with Ms. Clark.

**III. Audience for Citizens:** None

### **IV. Old Business:**

Selectwoman Clare D'Appollonio expressed her concern regarding painting the exterior of the town hall within this fiscal year. First Selectman Syme responded he had left a message with the painter earlier in the week to ensure the project is completed within time limits.

### **V. New Business:**

**a) Discussion of Town Meeting Results:** First Selectman Syme spoke with the town attorney regarding the elementary school budget results, and was reassured the vote result was valid and binding on the town. The general government budget is the only failed budget to be re-presented to the general public in the next town meeting. The selectmen do not think the state government will be prepared to offer any guidance on

state aid, but the selectmen would like to hold an additional town meeting the third Thursday in June to present what they may propose to the public. First Selectman Syme discussed sending out bills to the taxpayers based on last year's mill rate of property taxes to generate income to run the town's obligations. The state has not yet changed the motor vehicle mill rate, and set it at 32 last year. It is anticipated that it may return to 37 this year, but there has been no action by the legislature. First Selectman Syme will secure a public address system through the elementary school so the public can effectively hear all comments and considerations.

#### **VI. First Selectman's Report:**

First Selectman Syme reported on the following:

- A notice from CCM indicated that funding aid from the casinos for the 2017 year may be restored. This would represent approximately \$5,000 for the town;
- The Dept of Transportation is going to replace the bridge on Route 14 in the center of town. A meeting of representatives from DOT, the selectmen's office, and the town did a review of the project. DOT has been made aware of Scotland's concern regarding pedestrian and cyclist traffic and will make every effort to accommodate this concern. A covered bridge is not possible at this time. First Selectman Syme also distributed a letter to request the speed limit along Route 14 in the center of town be reduced to 30 MPH as a result of the Connectivity Audit completed by the DOT in July, 2016. He would like to get support for this idea from various town agencies and members of the public to include in his request;
- The Memorial Day parade and wreath-laying ceremony will be held this Sunday;
- The Plan of Conservation and Development was completed and will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The draft document will be on the Selectmen's agenda next month for approval, and it is hopeful a public hearing will be in August;
- First Selectman Syme has been made aware the Putnam Technology Park has three interested tenants, and the fiber optics capabilities are being installed.

#### **VIII. Second Audience for Citizens:**

Kim Martin suggested putting requests out on social media for support of reducing the speed limits in the center of town;

Carol Withington also commented that speed enforcement would help reduce speeding. Mr. Syme responded he is meeting with Troop D later in the week and will bring up that concern;

Dennis LaBelle sought clarification regarding budget documents that had been distributed at the town meeting;

Carol Withington has a number of recommendations for the selectmen to consider regarding the 2017-18 budget proposal, including:

- Take all raises out of the budget. This will also reduce tax liability;
- Take out the recreation department;
- Remove the \$1,500 community room cleaning request;
- Remove the \$70,000 ambulance service line item.

These reductions will result in over \$80,000 of savings to the town.

There was also a general discussion of the fire department's desire to withdraw from the ambulance service to the town. Recommendations included reducing any fire department expenses to the town by any ambulance service expenses. Ed Chappell

commented the accountability by the fire department may also be aggravating the situation, but many small towns in rural areas are facing similar problems. First Selectman Syme will continue the conversation with the department, and commented the problem won't be solved this evening.

**Rod Perry moved to adjourn at 8:02 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson, Administrative Assistant