

David Hall, Chairman  
Wendy M. Mead, Vice Chair  
Jesse Limanek, Clerk  
Jonathan Anderson  
Jeffrey Bannon



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James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton  
Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes

**Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk on 11/19/2019 by a vote of 5-0**

7:00 p.m. – November 5, 2019

Sutton Town Hall, Meeting Room 1A

**Members in Attendance:**

Chairman David Hall, Vice-Chair Wendy Mead, Clerk Jesse Limanek & Selectmen Jonathan Anderson & Jeffrey Bannon  
Town Manager James Smith & Deb Jacques, secretary

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Forum:** N/A

Selectman Limanek motions to accept as presented October 15, 2019 meeting minutes, Selectman Anderson seconds passes 5-0  
Selectman Limanek motions to accept as presented Executive Session minutes from October 15, 2019, Vice Chair Mead seconds passes 5-0

Ratification of new Police Officers: Police Chief Dennis Towle is present tonight to request ratification of 3 new officers. James Early, Chong Her Jr., and Jayson Urato. Chief Towle states they are all academy trained, two come with previous police dept. experience. The three officers introduce themselves with a brief back ground. Selectman Limanek says welcome, there is a lot of roads to cover but this is a community that loves their Police Officers, you will get a lot of respect and support. Vice Chair Mead appreciates the various backgrounds they each bring and acknowledges the support of the fellow officers present. Selectman Anderson welcomes the 3 and says he is happy they chose to work in Sutton, he thanks them for their service. Selectman Bannon agrees this is a town that is very supportive of their Police dept. and says stay safe. Selectman Limanek motions to ratify the appointment of James M. Early to the position of full time Sutton Police Officer, Vice Chair Mead seconds all in favor passes 5-0. Selectman Limanek motions to ratify the appointment of Chong Her Jr. to the position of full time Sutton Police Officer, Vice Chair Mead seconds passes 5-0. Selectman Limanek motions to ratify the appointment of Jayson R. Urato to the position of full time Sutton Police Officer Vice Chair Mead seconds passes 5-0

Chairman Hall at this time swears the 3 officers in.

Chief Towle takes this time to publicly thank the Fire Dept. and Chief Belsito for always helping the Police with anything that is asked. Dennis also invites the BOS to stop in once in a while if they have any questions.

**\*\*Public Hearing\*\***Tax Classification Hearing with the Board of Assessors as posted in the 10/24/19 Chronicle and read by Selectman Limanek. Present is Robert Nunnemacher and Ray Nichols from the Assessor's office. Knick states this is a yearly procedure held before the Selectmen as the BOS have the choice of keeping a single tax rate or a split rate. If the Selectmen choose to go to a split tax rate it will shift a larger burden to the commercial properties in town. Historically it has been a single tax rate. The tax rate is based on debt exclusions and new growth. The new tax rate for residents for FY20 will be \$15.82 per thousand (a decrease of .70 FY19). The new growth, in the amount of \$396,501. Has not been approved by DOR. The total new value of the town is \$1,574,062,364.00 with a levy limit of \$24,910,054. Selectman Limanek is in favor of a fixed tax rate, it is a positive for new businesses looking to come into town. Vice Chair Mead agrees the single rate is the way to go, moving forward it is critical to the town. Selectman Anderson supports the single tax rate he says it is really important in the junction as a town, we need to make it as attractive as possible for new businesses. Selectman Bannon is 100% in support of one tax rate, we have to keep in mind the value that a business brings to town. Jeff asks if next year the Assessors could include the prior year's average value. Chairman Hall is in favor of the single tax rate. Dave asks why 1/3 of residents will see taxes go down but 2/3's will see an increase. Knick states that is due to the sales of homes. After

brief discussion, Selectman Limanek motions to close the Public Hearing, Selectman Anderson seconds passes 5-0. Vice Chair Mead motions to approve a single tax factor for FY20, Selectman Bannon seconds passes 5-0

New Owner-Jims Pizza: The new owner, Emad Rezk was in the audience but is not available at this time. The BOS make a practice of meeting new business owners but do not want to hold up the transfer of this license. Mr. Rezk will be asked to come to another meeting to meet the BOS. Selectman Anderson motions to approve the Common Victualler permit for Jims Pizza located at 3 Boston Road under the new owner Emad Rezk with an expiration of December 31, 2020, Vice Chair Mead seconds passes 5-0

Conservation Restriction- Forest Edge: Town Manager Smith states this was done in 2003 when the Planning Board approved a special permit for the condominium units at Forest Edge off Blackstone Street. One of the conditions of the approval was to permanently restrict development (52.62 acres in Grafton and 9.97 acres in Sutton). Selectman Limanek has no issues, Vice Chair Mead asks for clarification on utility poles, Selectman Anderson (previous knowledge due to seat on Planning) is happy to see this. Selectman Bannon asks if this typically takes 16 years, Selectman Anderson briefs him on the case. Selectman Bannon motions to approve the Conservation Restriction for 9.97 acres of land at Forest Edge condominiums, Selectman Limanek seconds passes 5-0

Unity Park Grant Agreement: Town Manager Smith says this is a contract between Commonwealth of MA and the Town of Sutton. It is a matching grant in the amount of \$100,000. For renovations to be made at Unity Park. This was approved under article 23 at the Fall Town meeting. Selectman Limanek thanks Jen Hager and the volunteers for all the effort put into this. Vice Chair Mead reminds people this is a matching grant, Selectman Anderson acknowledges the great collaboration between the town govt. and residents. This was driven by residents. Selectman Bannon says this was a true grass roots effort, Chairman Hall thanks all involved. Selectman Limanek motions to approve the Parkland Acquisitions & Renovations for Communities Program (PARC) for \$100,000. for Unity Park as Approved under Article 23 at the Fall Town Meeting, Selectman Bannon seconds passes 5-0

2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting schedule: The BOS review the dates, there will be some interruptions in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month due to primary elections and the General Election.

Holiday Opening schedule for all alcohol license holders: As read by Selectman Limanek – hearing no comments Vice Chair Mead motions to approve as read the 2019 Holiday hours for all alcohol license holders Selectman Anderson seconds passes 5-0

#### Town Managers Update:

- FY2021 budget process and capital timeline attached. The preliminary budget will be presented to the BOS on February 18, 2020.
- Fire Dept. Rescue University- two-day training was held at Wyman Gordons in Grafton on Oct 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. This was organized by Fire Chief Matt Belsito and was heavily attended.
- Sewer Project informational handout: Communications Dept. along with Sewer commission has produced a brochure explaining the project. Some changes have taking place earlier today and now the project runs from the Villas to the school.
- MVP grant process: Doreen will be filing a grant for the MVP process to remove trees targeted to be hazard trees. In the spring we will look for a capital plan to fund a feasibility study for the possible replacement of the Transite Pipe in Wilks.
- Central Tpk. Milling of the road took place – paving is now underway.
- Jingle Jaunt 5K- annual road race put on by Howie Bottomly to be held Dec. 14 @ 10:30am.
- Agera bankruptcy; our aggregation supplier has filed for bankruptcy; we have been in touch with Peregrine to see what our options are. Currently Constellation is working with Agera to acquire Agera book of business, Updates will be coming.
- Sewer issue at Blackstone Street: Fri. Nov 1<sup>st</sup> it was discovered there was a sewerage leak from an 8” force main. MA DOT had been working at the site installing signage & curbing. There was a temporary repair done on the pipe, we will have to look into replacing that section in the spring. Special thanks to the Sewer Dept. in Sutton and Millbury as well as Chase Harris and the Highway Dept.

At this time, the new owner of Jims Pizza, Emad Rezk has reentered the meeting. After brief introduction the BOS offer their congratulations to him and wish him well with the business.

#### Announcements/Roundtable

- Selectman Limanek thanks all involved with Waters Farm days. It was the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 14 years there was no rain. Jesse thanks St. Marks for generous donations made to the Sutton food Pantry-Thanksgiving baskets will be put together soon. Jesse reads the list of needed items.
- Chairman Hall gives a shout out to Wendy’s mom that watches every meeting.

8:40 pm Selectman Limanek motions to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chair Mead seconds passes 5-0

