

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



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James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton
Select Board

Meeting Minutes

Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk 3/7/2023 by a roll call vote of 4-0

6:00 p.m. – February 21, 2023 (Selec. Mead absent 3/7/23)

Roll Call vote taken:

Members in Attendance in person:

Chairperson Jeff Bannon, Vice Chair Jonathan Anderson, Clerk David Hall, Select members Jesse Limanek & Wendy Mead in person.

Also in attendance in person: Town Manager James Smith, Town Accountant Tim Harrison & Deb Jacques, secretary

Chairperson Bannon recites the following: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, this meeting of the Sutton Select Board is in a hybrid format with both in-person and Zoom component. To join the meeting visit www.zoom.us/join and enter Meeting ID 878 0544 1078/Passcode: 610814. The meeting will be broadcast and recorded on local public access station (Verizon 31 & Charter/Spectrum 191) and live streamed on the Towns YouTube channel when available.

Public Forum – N/A

Select person Hall motions to accept as presented the February 7, 2023 Select Board meeting minutes Select person Mead seconds passes 5-0 with roll call vote.

Public Hearing- Transfer of §12 Liquor License- Pleasant Valley Golf Club -95 Armsby Road –Select member Dave Hall reads notice as run in the 2/2/2023 Millbury Sutton Chronicle– present tonight is Atty Matt Eicle with Fletcher Tilton, David Piehl Jr- proposed Manager of Record and Jay Kunkel of One Shot LLC. Town Manager Smith informs the Select Board this is a transfer of the liquor license from the Pleasant Valley Food & Beverage to Lucky Shot LLC. The new owner intends to keep operation running as is. Atty Eicle- agrees with Town Manager- business hours as well as operations will stay as is. Select person Hall asks for the new Food & Beverage Manager David Piehl to introduce himself. David states he worked for Pleasant Valley CC for 20 years. He as well as the bartenders and wait staff are all tip certified. Select person Limanek feels the operation is continuing as is- this is all just procedural. Select member Mead and Vice Chair Anderson wish best of luck. Chairperson Bannon asks the Town Manager if there have been any violations in the last 20 years- Jim Smith replies no issues for the 16 years Jim has been here. Hearing no further comments- Select person Limanek motions to close the Public Hearing, Vice Chair Anderson seconds passes 5-0 with roll call vote. Select person Limanek motions to approve the Transfer of an All Alcohol On Premise §12 Liquor License #0024-GP-1254 located at 95 Armsby Road from PV Food and Beverage, Manager of Record Elizabeth Shropshire to Lucky Shot, LLC dba Pleasant Valley Golf Club proposed Manager of Record David G. Piehl, Jr. Vice Chair Anderson seconds passes 5-0 with Roll call vote.

Lucky Shot, LLC dba Pleasant Valley Golf Club - 95 Armsby Road- request for: Common Victualler, Music & Dance, All Alcohol Restaurant, Sunday Entertainment- Town Manager Smith states these are the licenses required to go along with food service and entertainment. Hearing no questions or comments Select person Mead motions to approve the Common Victualler, Music & Dance, All Alcohol Restaurant and Sunday Entertainment- to Lucky Shot, LLC dba Pleasant Valley Golf Club- 95 Armsby Road -Food & Beverage Manager of record David G. Piehl, Jr. Select person Limanek seconds passes 5-0 with roll call vote.

FY2024 Budget Presentation (Power Point)- copy of powerpoint will be attached to final minutes-

Town Manager Jim Smith presents the FY24 Preliminary budget of \$37,489,691. (an increase of \$1,310,453. or 3.62% over FY23 budget. Currently we show a \$700,000. deficit (\$390,000. On the town side and \$300,000 on the school side). We propose to raise the

tax levy by \$1,241,799 (2 ½ %) We no longer are able to use new growth for capital purposes. We have been affected by inflation with increases in oil, fuel, bus contracts among other supplies such as the cost of paper. The most significant increase and biggest budget challenge is Special Ed Out of District. We have seen an increase over the past two budget seasons- but it was forecast to come down. We do not see that number coming down- in FY20 it was 1 million in FY24 it is \$2.5 million. Worc. Regional Retirement also has shown a big increase- we typically contribute 9.95% this year we are looking at 18% contribution. Pensions increased from \$1,564,366 to \$1,847,518. due to younger retirees that received high salaries. We are 3.6 million over net school spending- BVT had 12 fewer students and Norfolk Aggie looks like we will have 11 students attending at a cost of \$26,000. a year per child. The Teachers Union have begun contract negotiations at this time- the School Budget has a 1% increase as a place saver. Out of the ARPA funding (2.8 million) we were able to repair the school waste water treatment plant, we are in the process of replacing the Town Hall septic system and are ready to put out to bid the Wilks sewer project. Per the recommendation of the Building Commissioner we have increased the inspectional services from \$75.00 per day to \$125.00 per day. We are in the 3rd year of a 3-year agreement for Health Insurance thru MIIA- we have put an 8% place holder in the budget. Safety budget has increased 2.95%- the Police Dept is in the process of hiring a 4th Sergeant which was budgeted in the FY23 budget- that patrolman position will not be filled at this time. The Police Chief is planning his retirement in the summer of 2024- we will budget his sick leave buyback in the FY25 budget. We show \$37,489,691. for revenues in the FY24 budget – we do plan a separate warrant article on the town meeting to fund the SPED Out of District with a onetime free cash/SPED Stabilization fund of \$700,000. State Aid continues to give us less and less- making the town pick up more of the financial burden on the backs of the taxpayers. The Enterprise Funds show the Sewer user fees will remain the same and the Transfer Station will keep the sticker fees the same but increase the cost of the bags. For the Capital Plan we are budgeting \$1,298,500. and Employee benefits have increased from \$1,600,000. to \$1,850,000. (18%). Select person Hall needs some time to review the budget but says the cliff has been mentioned for a few years now. If we have to go to the town to ask for an override due to SPED we need to know is this a bubble. Dave asks for more information on the Circuit Breaker. Dave says we have spent years with our conservatively budgeting polices- this could have been worse sooner. Select person Limanek says all have to remember it is needs not wants- we need to maintain level servicing- hopefully we are able to weather the storm. Jesse was on the School Committee years ago when the recession hit- we dealt with it as a town. Jesse says Sutton did very well with the ARPA funds. It is frustrating that the state is awash with money- the state is not using money in an equitable way with their mandates and statutes we have to abide by. Select person Mead says she has a little more perspective now in the increase with Worc Regional and how retirements affect it. Town Manager Smith states we have an older population of employees that will be retiring that will add to it. Wendy states she did watch the School Committee last evening and is concerned and disheartened. Wendy thanks Jim and Tim for the budget presentation. Vice Chair Anderson looks at this presentation with a positive light – the budget process is working as it is designed to- this is a payoff to the years of hard work working on the yearly budget. In regards to the school we need to take a look at what we offer and get creative. Chairperson Bannon says the Special Ed concern is a big deal- Jeff does not think at state level there is a sense of urgency to help with this. Jeff asks if the Millionaire Tax will impact us at all it is supposed to be dedicated for education and transportation.

Town Manager Update:

- Waters Farm boiler – JD Bousquet was the lowest bidder at \$6850.00. Thank you to Paul Schaffer and John Couture.
- Cybersecurity Awareness Training- the Town was awarded a third year of training for municipal and school employees. Thank you to Dan Durgin- the IT Director for applying for this grant.
- 40B MOA there is a meeting scheduled for Feb. 27th with Town Counsel and Campanelli regarding the proposed development on Armsby Road. The biggest issue is the density as well as the width of Armsby Road. There is a tentative meeting on March 7th with the Venincasa group regarding the possible 40B- 100 unit behind Galaxy Plaza.

Announcement's/Round Table:

- Select person Hall reads the Save the Date of April 1st for a 2nd annual Earth Day clean up. This is being organized by Anna Wence.
- Select Person Limanek reads the needs of the Sutton Food Pantry as well as a thank you to all that attended the Super Meat Raffle at the Dudley Gendron that benefited the Sutton Fire Dept.
- Select person Mead wants people to think before they roll their eyes or show an expression on their face when someone with a different outlook voices their opinions. Think how that could impact someone's life. Count to 3 or just walk away.

At this time Chairperson Bannon motions to enter into Executive Session – MGI c.30A sec 21 #3 – with the sole purpose of reentering open meeting for adjournment only – Select person Hall moves the motion- Select person Limanek seconds passes 5-0 Roll call vote Enter into Executive Session at 8:05pm

Reenter from Executive Session at 8:30pm

Select person Limanek motions to adjourn, Select person Mead seconds- Roll Call vote taken- passes 5-0

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm