

Jonathan Anderson, Chair person  
David Hall, Vice Chair  
Jesse Limanek, Clerk  
Jeffrey Bannon  
Normand Champigny



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James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton  
Select Board

Meeting Minutes

**Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk 10/10/2023 with a roll call vote of 5-0**

6:00 p.m. – September 19, 2023

Roll Call vote taken:

Members in Attendance in person:

Chairperson Jonathan Anderson, Vice Chair David Hall, Clerk Jesse Limanek, Select members Jeffrey Bannon & Normand Champigny

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

Public Forum – N/A

Vice Chair Hall motions to accept as presented the September 5, 2023 Select Board meeting minutes Select Person Bannon seconds passes 5-0 with roll call vote

**\*\*Public Hearing\*\*** Dileo Gas Inc. 124 Providence Road, Sutton- notice read as posted in the 8/31/2023 Millbury Sutton Chronicle. Present from Dileo is Brian Sora- Director of Operations. Fire Chief Matt Belsito is on zoom. Town Manager Smith states approval has already been received from the ZBA, Conservation and a waiver of site plan review from the Planning Dept. There is also a letter of approval from the Fire Chief. Brian Sora says this is to add an additional tank to the 2 currently there making the total propane on site 90,000 gallons. This is to increase storage capacity so their customers may be served better. Vice Chair Hall feels the “heavy Lifting” has already been done by the other depts. vetting the project. Dave does ask how they protect the tanks from the possibility of a vehicle going off the road- Brian Sora replies they have bollards in place around the tanks- safety is top priority. Select person Limanek has no issues but asks where the new tank will be placed and will it give the trucks adequate room to pull in - Brian states- the new tank will be in the front of the other two and there will still be enough room for the trucks to go in and out. Jesse also asks what the difference is between the 146 gas operation with tanks encased in earth and Dileo with above ground tanks. Brian explains above ground must be inspected every 5 years- tanks in the ground have less regulations. Select person Bannon has no issues- especially with the correspondence from the Fire Dept. Select person Champigny asks if there are plans for a 4<sup>th</sup> tank as there is not a lot of land mass in the area- Brian replies the business has grown in a slow controlled way- they do have an alternative location in Sturbridge but this added tank will help service Sutton, Millbury, Grafton and Shrewsbury. Hearing no further questions Select person Limanek Motions to close Public Hearing- Vice Chair Hall seconds- passes 5-0 with roll call vote. Select person Limanek motions to approve the request by Dileo Gas Inc. in accordance with MGL Chapter 148 §13 to add one additional 30,000 gallon above ground propane tank at the previously approved location of 124 Providence Road (Route 122A) bringing the total amount of stored propane to 90,000 gallons- Vice Chair Hall seconds passes 5-0 with roll call vote.

Approve & Sign the Fall Meeting Warrant- Jim reviews the questions asked at the last meeting in regards to the Veterans Exemption (Art. #7) and what Consumer Price Index is used for Article 11. Hearing no questions- Select person Bannon motions to approve and sign the Fall 2023 Town Meeting Warrant, Select person Limanek seconds passes 5-0 with roll call vote.

Conservation Deed Restriction- 7 Foster Lane- Kristen Maki- owner is on Zoom. Town Manager Smith states this has already gone before the Conservation Commission – this is 13.84 acres of land- pursuant to mgl ch. 184 sections 31-33 & ch 40 section 8c- this will put this property in a conservation restriction in perpetuity- the land will retain its present natural open condition. Kristin Maki addresses the board- she met with Brandon Phaneuf (Conservation) to get this site to where it is today- there are alot of wetlands here and she would just like to keep the site as it is. The board at this time- all individually thank Kristen for preserving this area- forever. When asked if it will be open with walking trails for the general public she replies no it will not be public property. Select person

Champigny motions to approve and sign the Conservation Deed Restriction for 7 Foster Lane, Sutton- between Kristen Maki, owner of property and the Sutton Conservation Commission, Select person Bannon seconds passes 5-0

Town Manager Evaluation- Select person Limanek reads the results of the recent yearly evaluation by the Select Board of the Town Manager Jim Smith. Jesse states there are 20 questions, each one is scored 1-5; 5 being the highest. Then the 20 questions are added up to give the overall grade. Jim has received a 94.2 overall score. At this time Jesse also reads the comments each member has submitted. Select person Hall congratulates Jim and says it is well deserved. Dave goes on to say Jim is realistic in what he pursues- he runs this town with grace, humor & positivity and his fiscal conservative approach to the annual budget. Select person Limanek says he is a professional who welcomes criticism when it is given. Select person Bannon says another outstanding year- Jeff worked closely last fiscal year as chair and appreciates all Jim puts into the position. Select person Champigny had lived in 3-4 towns prior to moving to Sutton- he is impressed with how the town has been run – Normand states his comments were limited as he has only been on the board a few months. Jim continues to make the town what it is- he has a good reputation in town. Chairperson Anderson says he has had many discussions with Jim as there are times they see things differently. Jonathan says he appreciates that Jim always listens and is willing to take feedback and even with as many years as Jim has on the job he is willing to evolve and get better. At this time Jim thanks the board for their comments- it is a pleasure serving the board and the town- it helps with the outstanding financial team as well as a great group of Dept. heads.

#### Town Manager Update:

- State Housing Refugee Families in Sutton- On Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 16 school aged children entered the school system- at this time things are running smoothly. We have handed over the location site to the NGuard and some nonprofits & churches. The transition at first with the NGuard was rough but they now are working with Paul Maynard and Cheryl Rawinski.
- Manchaug Pond Boat Ramp- there were no bids received for the paving project. We will put the job back out to bid in late winter.
- Letters to Class II license holders- certified letters went out to some Class II license holders to verify they are still using the license. There was a town meeting vote in 1999 which unanimously voted to eliminate Class II licenses- the existing Class II licenses are grandfathered – if there is no use over a two-year period the grandfathered status goes away.
- Transfer Station operator position- the town recently hired Joshua Lee to replace Dave Arsenault upon Dave retirement- we wish him well.

In response to the Refugee families- the board had the following comments:

Vice Chair Hall is proud of the Sutton residents for the way the community has stepped up to offer support with the mess that was dropped on us- Dave is also happy with the cooperation from the NGuard.

Select person Limanek offers sincere thanks to Paul Maynard and Cheryl Rawinski- Jesse does have concerns with the safety of the building itself- regardless of how they got here are they safe in the building. There is no 911 access, no sprinklers, no fire hydrants- they have to rely on out of town tankers. It would behoove us to really take a close look at these issues when this license is up for renewal.

Select person Bannon thanks all involved for the effort put in at the Red Roof Inn with the refugees- Congressman McGovern was there on Saturday with great interest - Jeff also thanks the teachers at the school as well as the students who have welcomed the new students to help them transition. Jeff questions how the State feels about the state of the facility.

Select person Champigny questions if Senator Fattman has been involved- he also asks what is the time frame at the Red Roof Inn and what are the plans in regards to permanent housing. Normand states this motel is well lived in- well aged- he agrees we need to address concerns in terms of safety when the license is before us.

Chairperson Anderson says it has been a crazy 3 weeks- it was hard at first dealing with a difficult situation- what the State did was pretty unconscionable- and the lack of communication from the State. We are the reason they have the basic needs- the goal was to stabilize the situation and move forward with jobs, housing. The NGuard has realized they need us like we need them- they also are unsupported by the state. The safety of this building continues to be an issue- Jonathan thanks all involved with helping.

#### Announcement's / Round Table:

Select person Limanek says Sunday was Constitution day (9/17/1787) when members of the Constitutional Convention signed the final draft of the Constitution. Jesse goes on to say unfortunately today's youth do not know about the history of the country.

Also announced was the 9/11 remembrance as well as the Annual Dudley Gendron Chicken Barbecue attended by Normand Champigny, Ryan Fattman and Fire Chief Belsito. Food left over from the barbecue was donated to Veterans Inc.

Jesse stopped by the Sutton Food Pantry that has been stretched thin- we have 220 families that depend on this resource- Jesse reads the items needed for the Food Pantry.

Select Person Champigny recently participated in a golf outing through the First Cong. Church- there was a silent auction in which Normand (a Chef) will be preparing a meal for 8 that was won with a \$600.00 bid.

Chairperson Anderson says when you are involved in something (refugees) and you are involved closely it changes how you deal with the crisis. We cannot rely on State or Federal Govt. we have to rely on ourselves. Get involved and you will learn more. We can rebuild our community and support ourselves. Jonathan is really proud of the town- no one is coming to help us and the media is very inaccurate and sensationalized the situation.

Select person Limanek motions to adjourn, Select person Champigny 2nds- Roll Call vote taken- passes 5-0

Meeting adjourned 7:50 pm