

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



Sutton Town Hall  
4 Uxbridge Road  
Sutton, MA 01590  
Telephone (508)865-8727  
Fax :( 508)865-8721

James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton  
Select Board

Meeting Minutes

**Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk on 10/6/20 by a vote of 5-0**

5:08 p.m. – September 29, 2020  
REMOTE DIAL IN MEETING

Members in Attendance by video chat:

Chairperson Wendy M. Mead, Vice Chair Jesse Limanek, Clerk Jonathan Anderson & Select Board David Hall & Jeffrey Bannon

Town Manager James Smith & Deb Jacques, secretary

Town Finance Director Timothy Harrison

Chairperson Mead calls meeting to order, begins meeting with verbiage relating to Gov. Baker and meetings being conducted remotely consistent with his Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the “COVID-19 Virus.”

In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor’s Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

The Order, which you can find posted with agenda materials for this meeting allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Public participation has been offered for this meeting.

Public Forum: N/A

Select person Anderson motions to approve as presented minutes from 9/08/20 meeting, Select person Bannon seconds passes 4-0  
Vice Chair Limanek abstains-not at meeting

Draft Fall Town Meeting Warrant: Town Manager Smith reviewed the two articles. This Town Meeting, at the recommendation of the Select Board at the July goals meeting felt it best to hold off on controversial or consequential items. This Warrant consists of Art. 1 being budgetary and Article 2 to acquire through eminent domain the property where Unity Park is located. The Select Board felt it important to keep the attendance low due to Covid 19 and social distancing. We are hoping to have a larger Spring Town Meeting possible outside where consequential articles will be on the Warrant and residents interested can attend. This is the draft; the final warrant will be at next weeks meeting.

Peregrine Energy Aggregation Renewal: Present from Peregrine is Paul Grommer, Baystate Consultants Kim Pare and Doreen DeFazio- Town Manager Smith informs the board the Town of Sutton is at the end of the 3-year contract. Doreen DeFazio states she has worked along with Jim since 2017 on the electric aggregation known as Sutton Power Choice. Since the aggregation began the residents have saved close to 1.2 million dollars on their electric bills. The first contract was 1 year, after that we entered into a 3 year with Agera due to their financial issues Constellation Energy took over the remaining time of the contract honoring the quoted price. NGrid has posted their winter rate for 11/20-4/21 at 12.388 centers per kWh. The positive side to a contract is price stability. Indicative bids have been received and will be discussed further in Executive Session. Select person Hall asks how many residents take part in our Sutton Power Choice, Mr. Grommer replies approx. 2466 residents with businesses added a total of 2700 (70% of Sutton NGrid accounts). Savings for the individual residents totaled approx. \$400.00 dollars over the years. Vice Chair Limanek asks if residents have opted out are they reenrolled with the new contract. Doreen states there will be a period in November for mailings and any questions residents may have. They must opt out or they automatically are signed up for the project. Jesse asks how we came out this summer based on the forecast that we saw- Kim Pare responds prices started to decline. Select person Anderson feels with the

potential of prices going down is a short term contract better than a long term? Doreen replies we started with a 1 year but there is a benefit to the long term. Select person Bannon says with the volatility of prices factor into the effect of the price and judge going forward. Kim Pare replies the market update will be discussed in Exec. Session which includes the forward wholesale and regulatory charges. Chairperson Mead asks if during a 3-yr contract and rates decrease or increase would residents be notified so they can opt out? Doreen states typically not. Chairperson Mead goes in to Agenda #4 authorizing the Chair person to sign the Aggregation contract. Town Manager Smith states he will issue an update at next week's meeting, it seems we are not being transparent but it is due to confidentiality. Select person Bannon motions to authorize the Chair person to sign the contract to purchase electricity supply as long as it is below NGrid prices Vice Chair Limanek seconds passes 5-0

#### Town Managers Update:

- Cupola Project- We went out to bid- we received 2 bids within budget. John Couture is reviewing the submissions and a notice of award will be awarded shortly.
- Solar for carport- no bids were received with the first bid- we are currently out to bid again. Bids are due back Oct. 15.
- Flu Clinics- Cheryl Rawinski is planning flu clinics, the first was held earlier today as a drive thru at the Sr. Center between the hours of 9am-11am, the second is planned for Oct. 7 at the ELC 2pm-6pm.
- Third field at Hough Road- Sutton Youth baseball will present to Planning a proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> field for baseball on Oct. 5 @ 7pm. They currently hold a 20-year lease with the town that expires 2027.
- The Midstate Ultra Trail race is scheduled to take place Oct 11<sup>th</sup>. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for this 100-mile race. The runners exit the Midstate Trail on Town Farm Road and continue south on Central Tpk onto Douglas Road and into Douglas. A detail officer will be at Central Tpk and Douglas road from 5am-1pm that day.
- Brush Chipping at the Transfer Station is to be held Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### Select Board roundtable

- Vice Chair Limanek would like to thank the voters that allowed the new fire apparatus to be purchased for Station 3. Jesse informs the Select board he was reappointed as the South East Sub region rep for CMMPO and Doreen was appointed alternate. Also mentioned was the need for food items for the Food Pantry with Thanksgiving around the corner. This year there will be no fresh vegetables donated to the food Pantry for the Thanksgiving baskets so anyone wishing to donate please bring frozen vegetables to the Sr. Center during hours they are on site.
- Chairperson Mead thanks the Communications Dept. for help earlier tonight with her computers technical issues.

6:00pm Chair person Mead states we will enter in to Executive Session and cites #10 for the reason and reenter into regular session for the sole purpose of adjourning. Roll call vote taken

Meeting reenters regular session 6:54pm Select person Hall motions to adjourn Vice Chair Limanek seconds meeting adjourned