

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



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James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton
Select Board

Meeting Minutes

Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk on 10/20/2020 by a vote of 5-0

5:01 p.m. – October 6, 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 Hall motions to approve as presented minutes from 9/29/20 meeting, select person Anderson seconds passes 5-0

Select person Hall motions to approve as presented Executive Session minutes from 9/29/20, Vice Chair Limanek seconds passes 5-0

Approve & Sign the Fall Town Meeting Warrant- Town Manager Jim Smith says there are 2 articles on the warrant as directed by the Select Board to not draw a large crowd. This means there will be a full Spring Town Meeting. The first article is to revote the budget swapping the funding source and the second article is to authorize the Select board to take the property where Unity Park is by eminent domain. Town Counsel had reported back to the town that the title search was not perfect. Vice Chair Limanek motions to approve and sign the Fall Town Meeting Warrant, select person Bannon seconds passes 5-0

Approve & Sign the Presidential Election Warrant- Select person Anderson reads the portion of the Warrant that offers the seats that will be voted on. Hearing no comments or concerns Select person Anderson motions to approve and sign the Presidential Election Warrant select person Bannon seconds passes 5-0

CMRPC appointments- Town Manager Smith says the Select Board appoints the delegate and the alternate to the CMRPC. Vice Chair Limanek was this past year's delegate and was also appointed by CMRPC to be the Sub East Regional representative. Chairperson Wendy Mead was this past year alternate. Select person Hall offers his thanks to Jesse and says it is really important work. Vice Chair Limanek says the CMRPC focuses on development across the area, it assists with funding and grants. Select person Anderson says this is really a worthwhile group. Select person Bannon offers his thanks to Jesse and Wendy. Select person Bannon motions to reappoint Jesse Limanek as the delegate to CMRPC to represent the Town of Sutton, select person Anderson Seconds passes 5-0. Select person Bannon motions to reappoint Wendy Mead as the alternate to CMRPC to represent the Town of Sutton Vice Chair Limanek seconds passes 5-0

Discussion on Halloween- Town Manager Smith would like to see the Select Boards thoughts on Halloween in Sutton. He had a discussion earlier today at a dept. head meeting- most of the thoughts were to just be practical. We will offer to parents thru social media, advisories from the CDC as well as MA Dept. of Public Health. Select person Hall wishes the guidance was more clear – outdoor traditional Halloween celebrations with proper social distancing seems reasonably safe. It should be a personal choice. Vice Chair Limanek feels strongly (100%) in favor of allowing Halloween (trick or treat). This is a low risk community We have to rely on the thought that parents know what is best for their children. Select person Anderson agrees with Jesse and is in support 100% for allowing trick or treat. Simply be careful and follow health care protocols. Select person Bannon agrees with previous comments and says kids trick or treating is a safer environment then going to school. Parents need to be responsible for their kids and urges residents to find safe ways to hand out candy. Chairperson Mead mentions the storm a few years back that delayed Halloween, parents were frustrated over that. All agree that if a resident does not want to participate leave your lights off.

Results of Aggregation negotiations- Town Manager Smith informs the Select board that earlier today Chairperson Mead signed a 3-year contract with Constellation energy. Constellation was the low bidder at 10.65 cents/kilowatt hour. Our current rate is 10.93 center per kh. This new contract is due to begin in January. Jim offers his thanks to Peregrine Energy, Bay State Consultants and Doreen DeFazio, the Select board all thank the presenters from last week's meeting for the informative presentation. Chairperson Mead says it was a relatively easy decision based on rates.

Town Managers Update:

- May 2021 Town Meeting options- we are anticipating a very large crowd for the Spring town meeting. We are looking to hold outside on a Saturday in May (May 8 with rain date of May 15 up for discussion)
All board members agree a Saturday Town Meeting makes sense due to the many items anticipated to be on Warrant
- Highway Roof IFB- due back October 22
- Section 179D allocation to Tecton- Jim has signed a 179 allocation form to Tecton, the architect for the new Police Station.
- Cupola project- award was issued to MDM Engineering; they were the second lowest bidder- the low bidder did not check out with references.
- Solar for Carport at Police Station; no bids were received after the first bid- we went back out to bid and do anticipate a few potential bidders. Bids are due back Oct. 15.
- Brush Chipping will take place at the Transfer Station on Oct. 17th.
- FLU Clinic will take place at the ELC on October 14th 2pm-6pm

Select Board roundtable

- Vice Chair Limanek thanks St Marks for the recent Food Drive for the Mike Chizy Food Pantry. Jesse reminds people that fresh produce will not be accepted at the Food Pantry this year due to COVID 19, in place please replace with frozen vegetables. Also on the needs list is anything for a Thanksgiving dinner table. Also mentioned was the progress being made at Unity Park.
- Select person Anderson says Unity Park renovations is thanks to grass root efforts by town residents and the town.

Vice Chair Limanek motions to adjourn, Select person Bannon seconds meeting adjourned 6:00pm