

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 1/5/2021 by a vote of 5-0

5:01 p.m. – December 15, 2020
REMOTE DIAL IN MEETING

Members in Attendance by video chat:

Chairperson Wendy 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 Gov. Bakers order to conduct meetings 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 the December 1, 2020 meeting- Select person Anderson seconds passes 5-0

Due to video issues Agenda #2 will be taken after Agenda# 3

Tax Classification Hearing- Select person Anderson reads the notice into record. Present from the Assessor’s office is Robert Nunnemacher, Ray Nichols and Joyce Sardagnola. Town Manager Smith says this is a little later this year due to changes in the DOR but bills will be out by January 1st. Knick states this is a yearly procedure held before the Select board as the BOS have the choice of keeping a single tax rate or a split rate. If the Select board 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 FY21 will be \$16.00 per thousand (an increase of .24 from last year per Mr. Nunnemacher but upon clarification with the Assessor’s office it is a .14 increase). The new growth, in the amount of \$398,636. Has not been approved by DOR. The total new value of the town is \$1,610,252,778.00 with a levy limit of \$25,766,690.00. If the board chooses a split rate, residents would see a savings of \$512.00 and the commercial properties an increase of \$3,200 as the split rate shifts the burden on to the commercial properties. Select person Hall says a split rate would be a negative impact on the commercial properties which goes against everything we do to attract more businesses in town. Dave feels as in years past; the single rate is what he agrees with. Vice Chair Limanek says we are all in this community together- we all contribute to services in town- Jesse is a huge supporter of maintaining an equal rate- the objective is to build up the commercial properties, they register their vehicles in town as well as bring visitors to other businesses. An equal rate is a win. Select person Anderson asks for clarification on last year’s total residential value compared to this year’s value. Knick replies there is an increase of 33 million in the values. Select person Bannon fully supports the single tax rate- Jeff does say that commercial values are significantly higher than residential values and therefore they pay higher tax bills. Chairperson Mead thanks the

Assessor's office for being before the board, Wendy supports the single tax rate. Select person Anderson motions to approve a single tax factor for FY21 Vice Chair Limanek seconds passes 5-0

Police Lieutenant Ratification- Chief Dennis Towle and newly appointed Lieutenant Lisa Sullivan are on the zoom meeting. Chief Towle says this promotion is due to Lt. Perry retiring after 34 years this past September. Three of the Sargent's applied and although they all did well with the interview Lisa was the top candidate. Lisa has been on the force for 9 years and has always performed well. She was a patrolman, an SRO for the school, a Sgt. And now Lieut. The board all congratulate Lisa and feel it is well deserved. Vice Chair Limanek states the Police Dept. have a good team top to bottom. Chairperson Mead says the town appreciates their service every day. Lieut. Sullivan thanks Chief Towle and retired Perry for their constant support. Lisa goes on to say this is an interesting time in society. Vice Chair Limanek motions to ratify the appointment of Lisa Sullivan to the position of Lieutenant for the Sutton Police Department, Select person Anderson seconds passes 5-0. At this time Chairperson Mead swears in Lieut. Sullivan.

Unity Park Eminent Domain Taking- present is Planning Director Jen Hager-Jen explains this was voted on at the Fall 2020 Town Meeting this is the Unity Park site which previously was the location of the Wilkinsonville school. A portion of this site does not show a clear title. Town Council and Knick Nunnemacher could not find a resolution. Records of the entire parcel are shown on the town books from as far back as 1918. The town is taking this action, once filed- Jen can submit for reimbursement through the State for the PARC Grant. Select person Hall asks if someone were to come forward do we settle? Town Manager Smith says it is unlikely but if they did we would offer a settlement or enter a plea with the court. This is housekeeping for the proper title. Vice Chair Limanek says it is nice to have this property secured in perpetuity. Select members Anderson and Bannon feel this is straight forward and the right thing to do. Select person Bannon motions pursuant to the vote taken under Article 2 of the October 19, 2020 Special Town Meeting, to take by eminent domain, for park purposes and for the purpose of confirming title thereto, the parcel of land located on Boston Road, known as Unity Park, and shown on a plan recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 950, Page 29, which parcel includes the premises conveyed to the Town by deed recorded in Book 2054, Page 377. No damages being awarded for said taking and no betterments are to be assessed therefor, Select person Hall seconds passes 5-0

Manchaug Mill ##2 land Swap- Planning Director Jen Hager says this was at the May 2017 Town Meeting and received a unanimous vote to allow this land swap in the village of Manchaug of parcels that were a portion of the former Mill #2. Jen states she approached the owner of the property (TJJ Development) to swap 2,500 s.f. to be transferred from the Town to TJJ Dev. In return 2.7 acres will be transferred to the town from TJJ Dev. Jen states this will make the non-conforming parcel owned by TJJ Dev. a conforming lot. Jen would like to see the towns property be a potential park and trail. The board all voice approval and say this is straight forward. If the park is like what just was completed in Wilks it would be wonderful. This will be nice for Manchaug. Select person Hall motions pursuant to the vote taken under Article 21 of the 2017 Annual Town Meeting, to convey to T. J. J. Development Corporation, a parcel of the Town-owned property located on Manchaug Road, identified as "Parcel 4" on a plan, containing 0.06 acres more or less, and acquired by the Town by Foreclosure in Tax Lien Case recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Deed Book 6978, Page 338, and, as consideration for said conveyance, to accept from T.J.J. Development Corporation a deed to property located at Manchaug Road, identified as "Parcel 2" on a plan, containing 2.71 acres, more or less, for general municipal purposes, and to execute any and all deeds, acceptances, settlement statements and other documents necessary or convenient to accomplish the foregoing land exchange; Select person Bannon seconds passes 5-0

2021 License Renewals- Town Manager Smith informs the Select Board all have renewed except Luv 2 Play due to the pandemic. Clerk of the Board Jonathan Anderson reads as listed the renewals. Select person Hall says Luv 2 Play is a reminder of how difficult this year has been – the town is lucky to have only one business succumb to this- good luck to all. Vice Chair Limanek asked about the Econolodge and a name change (we have not yet received the name change information so it is still under the Econolodge. Jesse goes on to voice how important it is to support local business. Select board Anderson and Bannon also express concern for Luv 2 Play and the importance to support local businesses. Vice Chair Limanek motions to approve as read the 2021 License Renewals in the Town of Sutton Select person Bannon seconds passes 5-0

Town Managers Update:

- Insurance Claim for Police Dept- due to a recent water leak in the communications area of the Police Station we filed a claim with MIIA- the adjuster notified us we are due to receive \$90,000. To replace the damaged equipment.
- CARES Act Money- with the payment of online permitting- Open Gov software as well as handicap accessible doors we will have spent the entire \$842,000 of CARES Act money that was allocated to the town this past spring.
- Handicap Doors- we are currently out to bid for the replacement of the front door and the Library door. The bid opening was Thurs Dec. 17th but due to the snow storm coming we pushed off until Friday the 18th.
- Health Dept IMA's-We were notified that the town of Rutland exercised the 30-day termination notice and no longer needed out nursing services. When the pandemic is over we will be re-examining some of the IMA's we are involved with.
- Town Hall schedule for the holidays- Town Manager Smith would like to give employees the half day off before Christmas- we will work the half day before New Years.

Select Board roundtable:

- Select person Hall says to all, stay safe with upcoming storm try to stay off the roads and let the plows do their jobs. In regards to the pandemic and businesses closing again stay safe and stay healthy.
- Vice Chair Limanek said he had been in to the Town Hall earlier today and the signing of licenses were seamless. Jesse would like to thank the community for this past weekend's food drive at Mkt. 32- they filled a trailer with donations. Jesse goes on to say no family in Sutton that is in need will go hungry. The Mike Chizy Food Pantry is quite full. Have a safe and blessed Christmas.
- Select person Anderson offers Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
- Select person Bannon wishes his fellow board members, Christine, Pam, Jim and Debbie a happy Holiday.
- Chairperson Mead says if you can work from home with the upcoming storm that would be best- this past year quite a see saw, tough, new challenges- blesses my heart to see how good people are to each other. Be kind be joyous and be generous.

Vice Chair Limanek motions to adjourn, Select person Bannon seconds- meeting adjourned 6:47pm