

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 2/2/2021 by a vote of 5-0

5:00 p.m. – January 19, 2021
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 recites the following: Due to the current COVID-19 Crisis (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 being held remotely via Zoom. To join the meeting visit www.zoom.us/join and enter Meeting ID 822 4607 0801 & Passcode 729928. 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. Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A Section 20, no person shall address a meeting of a public body without permission of the chair. Individuals who would like to participate should state their name and address after being recognized by the chairperson. In an effort to ensure transparency to our viewers at home, the chat function is not available.

Public Forum:

Nathan Riel of 62 Hutchinson Road asks if the Cares Act money received by the Town of Sutton (\$842,000) \$100,000 had to be spent during FY20 and the remainder by FY21 could be shared with businesses in town struggling. Luv 2 Play (closed already) and Miles to go-scheduled to close were two businesses that could use assistance.

Tammy Blakeslee of 162 Eight Lots Road- asks what the procedure is to get something on the Select Board Agenda. Tammy asks if the Board all met to discuss or during Executive Session to discuss the request dropped off two weeks ago. Chairperson Mead states a discussion was held with the Town Manager and Chair, as well as independently with some members of the board. No meetings took place out of this forum as that would violate the Open Meeting Laws. Tammy asks about minutes from the meeting where the Town signed the State of Emergency- Chairperson Mead states she believes it was the March 19th 2020 minutes. When asked if this is going to be addressed at this meeting- Chairperson Mead states it will be addressed during the Select boards round table at the end of the meeting.

Select person Hall motions to approve as presented minutes from the Jan. 5, 2021 meeting- Select person Bannon seconds passes 5-0

****Public Hearing**** §12 on premises Win & Malt Liquor License- Fratelli Brothers LLC dba Pizzeria Bruno located at 27C Galaxy Pass, Sutton. Select person Anderson reads the public notice as it appeared in the Dec. 31, 2020 Millbury Sutton Chronicle. Town Manager Smith states Fire, Police and Building have signed off on this. Present is Davidé Bruno (Pizzeria Bruno) the board welcomes Davidé back. Mr. Bruno informs the board he and his brother have taken the TIP Certification earlier today. Select person Hall says the board likes to reinforce the importance of following the Alcohol Policy in Town- Davidé acknowledges he is in receipt of the policy. Dave informs him that the Police do compliance checks in town just to make sure all licensees are in compliance. When asked if someone will always be on site that is TIP certified- Mr. Bruno replies yes- either he or his brother will always be there or the business would not be opened. Vice Chair Limanek suggests they offer wine parings with the meals and also suggests they look in to providing drinks to go which is allowed currently due to COVID. Select person Anderson agrees it is worthwhile to look into including with takeout orders as it would provide another revenue source but reminds Davidé to pay attention to the laws. Select person Bannon

applauds their perseverance during the pandemic. Chairperson Mead says she is glad the business is in town and glad they are flourishing. Roll call vote to close Public Hearing. Vice Chair Limanek motions to approve a §12 Wine & Malt, on premises liquor license request from Fratelli Bruno, LLC dba Pizzeria Bruno at 27C Galaxy Pass, Sutton MA – Davidé Bruno - Manager of Record, Select person Hall seconds passes 5-0

Draft FY2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan- Town Manager Smith states a lot of last years (FY21) items were deferred due to the uncertainty we experienced. The FY2022 Draft Capt. Plan is for 1.3 million dollars. We currently have 3.4 million in our Certified Free Cash. Select person Hall asks how many Chillers we have which is one of the FY21 items deferred- Town Manager Smith states there is one in the ELC-ELM school. We currently have \$100,000. Funded- we tried to get Green Community funding for the rest but it was not approved. We will fund the entire project. Dave also asked about the Fiber/Radio site – Jim replies the goal is to extend to form a loop around the town- Pam Nichols applied for a grant but we did not get the grant. Vice Chair Limanek states all of the items are either replacements or for maintenance on items. Jesse is happy to see tree removal as one of the items and asks about the skidsteer- Jim replies it is to plow sidewalks but will also be able to be used at the Transfer Station so it will have multiple uses. Select person Anderson agrees that it is mostly replacement/upgrades due to usage over time- Jonathan asked how Jim came up with the amount listed under tree removal- Jim replied we doubled what had been budgeted- NGrid has also been doing a lot of tree work so hopefully that will eliminate some of the need. Jonathan asks about the wastewater membrane- Jim states this is a request to replace one- this is an ongoing maintenance cost. Select person Bannon mentions the Waste Water membrane- Jeff goes on to say these are all very reasonable projects and equipment. Chairperson Mead thanks Tim and Jim for their financial planning. Wendy questions the age of the flooring for the gym and the library carpeting- Jim believes the gym floor is 20-25 years old- the carpet not really sure of age but believes they want to go with more of a tile like floor.

Town Managers Update:

- SPED Stabilization Fund Policy- at the February 2, 2021 meeting we will have an agenda item presenting a new draft of the Special Education Stabilization Fund Policy. The initial funding of \$200,000. was increased to \$350,000. in 2017- with the increased number of out of district placements our goal will be to maintain \$350,000. in the Fund with a maximum of \$1,000,000.
- Handicap Doors – the replacement doors will be done on or around Presidents Day in February.
- Refund from NGRID was received (\$73,141.92) for the 4 street lights on Gilmore Drive. We are now looking into 5 LED street lights for under \$50,000.
- Burning Permits sold online- approx. 60 permits had been sold online this past week.

Select Board Roundtable:

- Chairperson Mead exercises option as chair to address correspondence from Ms. Blakeslee on behalf of We the People of Sutton for us to rescind our State of Emergency from the March 19, 2020 vote- at this time we will continue to keep the request under advisement but we will continue with order and procedures- we will also continue to follow medical professionals and the CDC and the lead of the Commonwealth.
- Select person Hall supports the decision to stick with the current State of Emergency with no changes. Today is the 19th of January- the United States has had 70,000 Covid deaths in the 19 days of January. Covid is one of the leading causes of death in the country. It is appropriate for us to follow the Govs. State of Emergency and to follow suit- the State of Emergency and the laws and rules credited it is not our position as a board to pick what laws to abide by. The State of Emergency and all the rules created I do not want to put people of Sutton in spotlight to change it- I feel we have no right or authority to do so- I continue support what we have in place.
- Vice Chair Limanek reserves comments regarding this topic-he does not wish to say anything at this time. Jesse goes on to say the Food Pantry is well stocked but in need of cleaning supplies. We lost Norman Baker last week- he was a 95-year-old WWII hero– God got a real good man he called home- he will be missed.
- Select person Anderson says in the past 3 years on the board only a few individuals have come before the board during Public Forum- this is a way for people to engage with us as a board even if we do not all agree with their point of view. This is part of living in a democracy. There are diverse perspectives and expertise. Jonathan did observe on Facebook personal attacks towards the person that came forward. Jonathan states he is committed to transparency on this board and wants people to be engaged with local govt. and hold us accountable. Over the last few weeks he has given thought to the State of Emergency put in place by the town- he thinks it is time to step back and try to learn the impact this has left on our residents such as their mental health or how our businesses are holding up. What the Gov. put in place were mandates not laws. We should ask for the input of dept heads to see how they feel our residents are doing (police, fire, health dept, sr. center, planning, school). Jonathan ends by telling residents to continue to come forward to meetings.
- Select person Bannon fully in support of the statement Chairperson Mead made regarding the board position- fully support – it is great to have people come forward to Public Forum and it is unfortunate they become verbal attacks on Facebook. As far as the correspondence itself- a lot of concern/upset that they used the term we the people- Jeff states he understands the frustration of many in town as it did not speak for him or his beliefs as well. Going forward find consensus with people. This

is a settled issue- courts ruled on Gov. actions as valid and legal. Jeff feels this request was asking the board to sanction civil disobedience thru our own action. Cheryl, Jim, the school to change the way we do daily business or teaching- we are all doing the best we can. We have to continue in this mode.

- Chairperson Mead encourages people to continue to come before the Board in public forum. In regards to using the We the People- it is not applicable for several levels- Wendy found it frustrating- ostensibly speaking for the town- it was not supported in her household- put a little more thought into it- no one is right no one is wrong. Please remember to look in on elderly neighbors and to be kind.

Vice Chair Limanek motions to adjourn, Select person Hall seconds- passes 5-0 meeting adjourned 6:25pm