

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 3/16/2021 by a roll call vote of 5-0

5:00 p.m. – March 2, 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 850 4384 8077 & Passcode 300570. The meeting will be broadcast and recorded on local public access station (Verizon 31 & Charter/Spectrum 191) and live streamed on the Town's 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: N/A

Select person Hall motions to approve as presented minutes from the February 16, 2021 meeting, Select person Bannon seconds- Roll call vote taken - passes 5-0

Police Dept. Presentation- Dept. Values: Police Chief Dennis Towle introduces this presentation of values important to the Sutton Police Dept. by saying it began approx. 18 months ago with the idea of establishing a formal idea of what this dept's. Core values are. Recently Chief Towle handed it off to Sgt. William Jacques with the task to complete. Present is Sgt. Jacques with a power point to present. Sgt. Jacques begins by saying he had pulled in Officers Desruisseaux, Her and O'Rourke for their input. Sgt. Jacques feels these 3 officers are younger and possess what the Police Dept. strives for-hard working and dedicated. The CORE values are Integrity, being a role model, Empathy, Accountability, Teamwork and Grit. Select person Hall says for our Police Dept. to come out publicly and discuss the CORE values- this is the right time to do it with events over the past 6 months. Dave commends Sgt. Jacques on including the younger officers – it produced excellent results. Dave asks Sgt. Jacques where he sees this going. Sgt. Jacques replies it will be posted throughout the station and serve as the constitution of our dept. – it will help us to be transparent. Vice Chair Limanek feels this is wonderful to share with the community- it is an example of professionalism and confidence. It will hold all accountable as a dept. Select person Anderson says this is a benchmark of values written down- it will influence the culture- what you are looking to be as a dept. This is an important gesture from the Police Dept. to the community. Select person Bannon says he is impressed putting the pen to the paper shows what our Police Dept. is all about. Chairperson Mead likes the idea that these values will be posted throughout the Police Dept. the time and thoughtfulness put in to this shows how we maintain our dignity. Chief Towle ends by saying he is thrilled and elated to see what they chose as the CORE values.

Ratification of Police Officers Christopher Romani and Officer Nicholas Bertone: Chief Towle now introduces two new Police Officers: Christopher Romani- has been a police officer for several years- most recently in Warren MA. and Nicholas Bertone- a Police Officer in Douglas for 5 years- both were fully vetted through the employee process. At this time Chairperson Mead swears in Officer Romano and Officer Bertone. Select person Hall feels it is great having these two new officers before the Select Board tonight after the previous agenda item about the Depts. CORE values. Dave goes on to say this town has a deep respect for its Police Officers.

Vice Chair Limanek says that over time you will see the pride our residents have for its officers- this is a great town to work for. Select person Anderson offers his thanks for their willingness to serve our community. Select person Bannon agrees that our Police Dept. has a very strong community backing- the values discussed previously are not new to town just the first time written down. Chairperson Mead says this is a great time to be on the Dept. It is a younger Dept. and a new facility- you will appreciate working here. Vice Chair Limanek motions to ratify the appointment of Christopher S. Romani to the position of full time Sutton Police Officer with an effective date of February 24, 2021 select person Bannon seconds- Roll Call Vote taken- passes 5-0. Vice Chair Limanek motions to ratify the appointment of Nicholas J. Bertone to the position of full time Sutton Police Officer with an effective date of March 1, 2021 Select person Hall seconds Roll Call Vote taken Passes 5-0

Open Meeting Law Complaint against the Select Board: Town Manager Smith says this is a complaint received by our office on Feb. 3rd of an Open Meeting Law complaint by a Mr. Patrick Higgins of Swansea. In this complaint it states the Select Board did not use Roll Call votes in the January 5, 2021 meeting as well as more information needed on the agenda for an appointment to Historical and a Years of Service award- KP Law has drafted a response letter to the Attorney General included in the Select Board meeting material. Select person Hall is surprised with this as it is something we as a board try not to do- Dave is glad we were corrected on this. Vice Chair Limanek understands the importance especially during ZOOM if it is just a call in you cannot see who is voting so the Roll Call does make sense- Jesse appreciates someone looking into this for the town. Select person Anderson is confident with the Select Boards dedication to be open and transparent at all times- it is best to get in alignment with the Open Meeting Laws and rectify Mr. Higgins complaints. Select person Bannon is happy we have made corrective actions on this – this is a very strong board we strive to comply with the Open Meeting law and transparency- this was a technical violation. Chairperson Mead offers thanks to KP Law for filing on behalf of the Select Board- Wendy appreciates this was brought to our attention. Select person Anderson makes a motion in response to the Open Meeting Law complaint filed against the Select Board by Patrick Higgins received February 3, 2021 to provide detailed meeting agendas as well as to include detailed roll call votes in all motions going forward as noted in the response letter issued by KP Law to the Attorney General's office select person Bannon seconds Roll Call Vote Taken- passes 5-0

Town Managers Update:

- Budget Update- Fallon has submitted a 19% increase over the current premium- a bid from MIIA/Blue Cross (for 3 years) is approx. 6% in the first year. We are also looking into plan design changes moving everyone into an HSA. This would help lower the premiums with both providers. BVT came in with an increase of \$199,432 for 7 additional students and Norfolk Aggie came in with 2 additional students at \$48,000.
- Order of Taking 7.5 Wildflower- Town Counsel asked the Sewer Commissioners to execute this order. Don Obuchowski is scheduling a meeting to have the Commissioners take action.
- Membrane Batch Reactor- a call this past Monday with Suez Engineering, Roger Raymond, Don Obuchowski, Jen Hager and Town Manager Smith went well- we are awaiting a written report.
 - Select person Hall after brief talk says he feels recoating the tank if it buys us 15 – 20 years is the way to go. \$200,000. opposed to 4 million - Dave supports the recoating of the membrane option.
 - Vice Chair Limanek questions the time table repair- Jim states approx. 3 weeks during the summer. Jesse asks if it is recoated is this repeatable if needed. Jim replies he believes it is but will get clarification. Jim also states if the Select board decides to go the route of recoating- funds remaining in the school building project will be used to cover- this will only require the Select board vote to reassign funds. Jesse feels it would be a short budgetary impact with a long term value ability- Jesse is supportive of going in the direction of coating as a viable solution.
 - Select person Anderson feels recoating the MBR is promising- Jonathan was never a big fan of the Sewer project due to the overall impact to route up through the small town center. If this MBR can be refurbished it is a good option- it does still leave the septic at the Town hall on the priority list.
 - Select person Bannon feels it makes sense if we can fix the tank- but will this fix all of our problems. Does Suez feel this will work- Jim replies on the call Monday- Suez was highly confident the reseal would work. They will issue a full written report. Jeff says it makes all the sense in the world to try this before spending a lot more on the project.
 - Chairperson Mead says that the two previous Sewer project presentations were confusing. The Sewer project would have served such a small part of town yet most critical to all tax payers. Wendy states she is more in favor of recoating the MBR.
- Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee met on Feb. 23rd- to discuss the budget and plan for future Public Hearings. The future meetings are March 30th @ 6pm, April 13th at 6pm, April 26th at 6pm and April 27th at 6pm. These will all be held through Zoom.
- Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program- for the 2nd time Sutton was awarded a grant to raise awareness of cyber security. The Town Hall and School will participate in this training.

Select Board Roundtable:

- Select person Hall wishes all to stay safe.
- Vice Chair Limanek reads the needs of the Mike Chizy Food pantry as well as a shout out to the Knights of Columbus for another successful Fish Fry this past Friday.
- Chairperson Mead says it is almost a year of a different way of life- things are going to get better sooner than later- be kind and please help your neighbors.

Vice Chair Limanek motions to adjourn, Select person Anderson seconds- Roll Call vote taken- passes 5-0
meeting adjourned 6:54 pm