

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 4/20/2021 by a roll call vote of 5-0

5:00 p.m. – April 6, 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 881 8203 9397 & Passcode 459002. 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 March 16, 2021 meeting, Select person Bannon seconds- Roll call vote taken - passes 5-0

Select person Hall motions to approve as presented Executive Session Minutes from March 16, 2021 but not be released until contemplated items resolved Select person Anderson seconds passes 5-0

License Agreement for Unified to remove dam on Cold Spring Brook: Town Manager Smith states this has been in discussion for a few months now with the Conservation Commission, Brendon Phaneuf, KP Law and Unified. Unified has agreed to remove the broken dam and bring it back to its natural brook. This is on town owned property that abuts the property just purchased by Unified. Select person Hall asks if this will require future maintenance- Town Manager Smith replies no it will go back to its original free flowing stream- this avoids replicating the wetlands- this does fall in line with the general direction of the state going back to the original lay of the land. Vice Chair Limanek says Unified shoulders responsibility on this- the town has been removed for liability. Select person Anderson says this is a win for the town and makes sense that this will allow the fishery to expand. Select person Bannon questions if any impact on residents- Jim Smith replies there will be no resident affected. Chairperson Mead says aside from environmental- the legal entities did a great job on this. Vice Chair Limanek motions to approve the License Agreement between the Town of Sutton and UGPG LLC c/o UNIFIED² Global Packaging Group for the design, permit, and to remove a broken dam along Cold Spring Brook; Select person Bannon seconds passes 5-0
Roll Call Vote taken

Select Board approval MIIA Health Benefits Trust Agreement: Town Manager Smith explains the change from the current employee insurer Fallon back to MIIA with BlueCross- Fallon came in with a 19% increase for the next fiscal year, we requested a quote from MIIA and they came back at 5.7% increase over the current year but by going to all hsa's we were able to get a negative 4.1 percent increase. MIIA pools over 100 communities together and are able to offer a better rate. There is a Trust Agreement that the Board must sign- it is a 3-year agreement that makes us part of the pool which offers more protection. Jim informs the board that he also learned last week that Fallon is leaving the commercial insurance business to focus on Medicare and Mass health coverages. Select person Hall asks if we are able to negotiate each year or is it one plan for the 3 years- Town Manager Smith states we are not limited by this

agreement. Jim also states that we are looking to create a Health Stabilization acct. to help offset the big peaks. Retirees will be included in this new coverage. Vice Chair Limanek recalls being on the board when we left MIIA 5 years ago due to the proposed increase and we went to Fallon. Town Mgr. Smith says at that time we could not refuse the Fallon rate; this also offers us a protection by a high impact insurance. This 3-year agreement will also help with the long range forecast for predictability. Select person Anderson says we really did not have a choice with the high increase from Fallon- great job reducing the impact. It is also good to enter the market place to keep companies honest. Select person Bannon says this is a good piece of work- Jeff is anxious to see the savings over the next 3 years, Chairperson Mead reviewed the towns on this Health Agreement- some towns are similar size to Sutton others are larger. Select person Anderson motions to approve the MIIA Health Benefits Trust Agreement for July 1, 2021 Select person Hall seconds passes 5-0 Roll Call Vote taken.

Award winning proposal- Hatchery property: this is the gravel pit property that was out to bid- the sole bidder was Unified Global that came in with a bid at the minimum set price of \$1,450,000. This will require a majority vote at the Spring town meeting. The Select Board has no concerns- all documents were in the packet. Select person Bannon motions to approve a notice of award to UNIFIED² Global Packaging Group (UGPG) for the winning bid of town owned land off Hatchery Road (Map 6 parcels 17 & 20) in the amount of \$1,450,000 and authorize the Town Manager Jim Smith to execute the award letter Select person Anderson seconds passes 5-0 Roll Call Vote taken.

Review Draft Warrant for Spring Town Meeting: present on the ZOOM is Planning Director Jen Hager- Town Mgr. Smith says the 1st 10 articles are the same as they have been for the last 10-12 years, Articles 15,16 & 17 are for the change in title from Selectmen to Select Board. Article 19 is for tax relief for Goldstar families, Article 21 is for the town to purchase 6 acres on Waters road: Articles 22 thru 36 are Planning Board articles. Jen Hager states the Planning Board voted 5-0 to recommend all of the Planning articles. Select person Bannon asks if the Sewer project is off the table- Town Mgr. Smith it is not in this warrant- we are working with engineers for specifications for the MBR – hoping to get them in with in next 30 days- the work will be scheduled in July. The final Warrant will be before the Select board on 4/20 for your approval.

Town Managers Update:

- Budget Update- we have an agreement with the IAC re: Health Ins., 3 yr. with Blue Cross thru MIIA. All employees will be enrolled in an HSA- MIIA's rate came in at -6.1%. We are planning on creating a Health Care Stabilization Fund at May Town Meeting to help with future spikes. Thank you to the IAC and Erin Chinappi.
- SAFER Grant- the Fire Dept. has applied for an additional full time firefighter to be paid thru this federal grant. After three years the town will have to pick up the cost. With the addition of development on the aggregate parcel as well as So. Sutton there will be additional demands on the Fire Dept.
- COVID Vaccine clinic in Uxbridge- the Town of Sutton in partnership with 11 other communities can schedule appts. for the vaccine.
- Solar Panels at the Police Station- this work was completed by Ostro Electric- they have filed for interconnection with NGrid. The cost was \$83,000. Which will be paid out of the remaining budget of the new Police Station.
- 41.9 Trillion Federal Aid- the Town is scheduled to get \$950,000 by the middle of May – the use is limited but can be used for water & sewer projects as well as broadband infrastructure. We have some broadband projects in the Capital Plan as well as the need of a septic system for the Town Hall.

Select Board Roundtable:

- Vice Chair Limanek mentions Fire Chief emeritus Jeff Wilson passed away on March 17th from a battle with thyroid CA., Jesse attended the service as well as many Fire Depts. across the state. Rest in peace. Thank you to Senator Ryan Fattman and Register of Probate Stephanie Fattman for the Easter egg extravaganza drive thru held at Waters Farm this past Saturday. It was a fun event. Food Pantry needs read.
- Chairperson Mead ends the meeting with spread love and kindness-

Vice Chair Limanek motions to adjourn, Select person Hall seconds- Roll Call vote taken- passes 5-0 meeting adjourned 6:50 pm