

David Hall, Chair person
Wendy M. Mead, Vice Chair
Jesse Limanek, Clerk
Jonathan Anderson
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 2/18/2020 by a vote of 4-0
(Vice Chair Mead absent)

7:00 p.m. – February 4, 2020
Sutton Town Hall, Meeting Room 1A

Members in Attendance:

Chairperson David Hall, Vice Chair Wendy Mead, Clerk Jesse Limanek & Select board Jonathan Anderson & Jeffrey Bannon
Town Manager James Smith & Deb Jacques, secretary

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Forum: N/A

Selectperson Limanek motions to approve as presented 01/21/2020 meeting minutes, Vice Chair Mead seconds passes 5-0

Veterans Agent to discuss The Brave Act: Veterans Agent Carl Bradshaw is present. This Act was adopted in 2018 and allows for Gold Star family's (parents) currently living in MA receive a full tax abatement. Currently the Town of Sutton offers a \$600.00 abatement, this would be a complete tax abatement and requires approval at the May Town Meeting. Select person Limanek thanks Carl for all he does for the veterans, Jesse is confident the town will support, Jesse asks if there is a requirement for the parent to live in the town upon time of death, Carl replies the soldier must have lived in MA for 6 months before entering the service and the parent requesting the exemption must have lived in the state for 5 years prior to the request. Jesse asks if there are any other towns Carl represents that have adopted this; Carl replies no but he is presenting to Uxbridge in the spring. Vice Chair Mead thanks Carl for bringing this forward. Select person Anderson says these families have paid the ultimate sacrifice, it makes sense to do this. Select person Bannon supports this 100%. Jeff does ask if the house is in a family trust or life estate can this still be obtained. Carl replies if it is in a life estate they would still qualify, he is not sure about a trust. Present is Robert Nunnemacher, Jesse asks if this would be a lot of work for the Assessor's office. Knick replies no it would not but the individual would be responsible to apply each year. Chairperson Hall states we already have an abatement in place, this is an extension of that and feels it would be a small impact to the town. Vice Chair Mead motions to sponsor an Article in support of The Brave Act of 2018 for the May 2020 Town Meeting, Select person Anderson seconds passes 5-0

J&G Land acquisition: Planning & Economic Director Jen Hager is present. Jen states she had been in meetings with Joe Piperato (president of J&G Foods) in regards to issues with trucks idling as they have to wait to unload or load orders. Joe asked if the town would consider a transfer of the land at 113 Providence Road. This would allow trucks to sit there safely until they can go to the dock. This would keep them off of the roadway. The appraised value of this property is \$24,000. In exchange Jen has asked for an easement onto the Blackstone Valley Bike Trail as well as the potential easement for the sewer transit pipe. Any cost associated with this such as a survey or legal easements will be at the expense of J&G Foods. Jen also says that abutting this is Aggregate property, if they could add to this with a piece of that it would help. Select person Limanek says great idea, this property will never have a public building put on it but questions if it will be a safe site for trucks pulling out and cars coming from under the bridge. Jen states this transfer would require a site plan review as well as Town Safety depts. (Police & Fire). Vice Chair Mead discusses the potential proposed easements. Select person Anderson says if Aggregate also offers a small piece of their property this would move the parked trucks further away from the bridge. Select person Bannon asks if the value of this would be equal to the easements, Jen replies it is pretty close. Town Manager Smith says this shows we want to assist in the success of local businesses by helping to work towards a solution to issues. Select person Anderson motions to surplus the property at 113 Providence Road and request approval at the May 2020 Town

Meeting to convey all or a portion of this land to One Blackstone Street, LLC. on such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Board deems appropriate Select person Limanek seconds passes 5-0

2021 Draft Capital Plan: Town Manager Smith presents the draft capital plan totaling \$1,068,500. Dept. Head submittals totaled \$1,660,500. Our certified cash figure is at \$2,877,069. Included in this plan are two new Police cruisers, continued renovation of the old Police Station for the Fire Dept. headquarters, painting of town hall and \$200,000. for road repairs. Select person Limanek thanks Jim and Tim for always looking down the road, Vice Chair Mead asks about the tree removal cost of \$30,000. Jim replies this is in conjunction with the MVP grant for trees that have been deemed a hazard. Select person Anderson asks about the Smart Boards, Jim replies this is for the school and it is the 3rd year of a 3 year lease purchase. Select person Bannon says it is a big number but there is nothing extravagant. Chairperson Hall comments in regards to the Fire Dept. using in house labor for the new offices, the trees are based on the study that was performed.

P&S for 6 acres on Waters Road- Town Manager Smith states this is for 6 acres on Waters Road across the road from Waters Farm. The P&S price is \$225,000. If the Select Board approves tonight, this will then have to be placed on the May Town Meeting. Jim has requested to use \$80,000. from the Conservation Commission under the Land Acquisition line item and \$145,000. from free cash. Select person Limanek states this is a no brainer, this allows cars to park during the Farm Days. Thank you to all involved. Vice Chair Mead agrees this is a fantastic idea, Select person Anderson likes the idea of putting this land into our control, Select person Bannon says this is iconic property for the town, it is important to acquire and is in full support. Chairperson Hall thanks Jim for the foresight to get here, Dave thanks the Conservation Commission and all involved to make this happen. Select person Bannon motions to approve the Purchase & Sale Agreement and place on the May 2020 Town Meeting Warrant 6 acres of land at 28 Waters Road (map 41 parcel 67) for the purchase price of \$225,000.00 Select person Limanek seconds passes 5-0

Town Manager update:

- FY21 Budget Update: preliminary presentation will be Feb. 18th, Fin Com will get the budget on Feb. 25th, and budget hearings will be March 17, March 25 & April 1. The IAC met and are looking at many plan design changes to lower the town & employees premiums. We were also informed BVT's assessment went up \$90,000. and there is one less student.
- Municibid Auction ended 1/23/20. Once all items have been picked up we will have collected \$10,824.00
- MA Select Board Assn. - at the recent MMA meeting on January 25th, the MA BOS Association agreed to unanimously change the name to the MA Select Board Association. Sutton will have a warrant article at the May Town Meeting to officially change to the Select Board.
- Fire Dept. grant: the Sutton Fire Dept. was awarded \$3,965 for student awareness and an additional \$2348. For seniors
- Planning Board resignation: Miriam Sanderson has submitted her resignation from the Planning Board, we thank her for her service to the town.

Announcements/Roundtable:

Select person Limanek thanks the generous donation from St Marks on the monthly food drive. Jesse reads the list of items needed at the Food Pantry

8:50 pm Select person Limanek motions to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chair Mead seconds passes 5-0