

Jesse Limanek, Chair person
Jeffrey Bannon, Vice Chair
Jonathan Anderson, Clerk
David Hall
Wendy M. Mead



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James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton
Select Board

Meeting Minutes
Joint Meeting: Select Board/Finance Committee/OPEB

**Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk on 2/15/2022 by a roll call vote of 5-0
6:00 p.m. – February 1, 2022**

Roll Call vote taken:

Members in Attendance in person and Zoom:

Chairperson Jesse Limanek, Vice Chair Jeff Bannon, Clerk Jonathan Anderson & Select members David Hall & Wendy Mead all in person.

Chairperson to Finance Committee Pat Morris, Daniel Lamoreaux, Brian Jamros in person / George Watson & Tony Piltzecker Zoom

Chairperson to OPEB Tim Harrison, Lisa Lynch and David Hall in person

Also in attendance in person: Town Manager James Smith & Deb Jacques, secretary

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Limanek recites the following: 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 in a hybrid format with both in-person and Zoom component. To join the meeting visit www.zoom.us/join and enter Meeting ID 823 3499 6140 & Passcode 391055. 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.

Public Forum – N/A

Select person Hall motions to approve as presented the January 18, 2022 Select Board meeting minutes, Select person Mead seconds passes 5-0 - with Roll Call vote

Select person Hall motions to approve as presented - not to be released - January 18, 2022 Executive Session Minutes, Select person Anderson seconds passes 5-0- with Roll Call vote

Agenda item 2- OPEB discussion with KMS Actuaries will be tabled as the presenter has not yet arrived. Town Manager update will be taken out of order.

Town Manager Update:

- Green Communities/Doreen Defazio- Town Manager Smith had a discussion with Doreen and it was a mutual decision to not renew our contract with her after June 30, 2022. Sutton has received over 1 million in green community funds. Jen Hager has agreed to take over the Green Community reporting and Pam Nichols for grant writing- they will get an increase in salary from the line item that Doreen was paid out of. We thank Doreen for all she has done for the Town of Sutton
- Precinct Map approval- Town Clerk Laura Caruso was before the board on Nov. 2nd for a change in the Precinct map. The State Local Election District Review Commission notified us that it was approved.
- Tree Removal Sutton Central Cemetery-7 dead trees were removed in the cemetery behind the town hall- the largest was a very large beech tree.

Agenda #2 will now take place- Linda Bournival with KMS Actuaries is present. Linda introduces herself and what she will be covering tonight in regards to OPEB (other post-employment benefits) which are benefits paid out to retired employees such as health insurance. These benefits are paid through the town; the full cost of benefits are shared between the town and retirees- this is due to the

town adopting MGL 32B. A power point presentation will be attached to the final minutes. Under GASB 74 & GASB 75 (local and state governments and public agencies must recognize the value of other post-employment benefits other than pensions) our OPEB liability is calculated using assumptions regarding future insurance rates, retirement as well as employee turnover rate. As of 6/30/21 we have a little over 3 million funded which is 4.6% of our projected OPEB liability of \$62 million. Sutton is on a Pay-as-you-go method- contributions to the plan are made at the same time benefit payments and expenses are due. The Town of Suttons OPEB funding policy which was put in place to help fund OPEB makes an annual contribution of at a minimum \$100,000. as well as some cell tower proceeds. Other areas that help our liability are the HSA high deductible health plan, employees hired after July 1, 2018 pay 50% of health ins upon retirement and new hires as of July 1, 2021 will be required to contribute \$5. per week to OPEB. Also funded year after year is Worcester County Retirement system. We believe this will be fully funded in 2036. The board has discussions throughout this presentation on why we fund OPEB, the balance approach of funding, is the funding policy we have in place the best way to utilize funds such as our free cash, how much do we really need to fund. We are the generation funding this for the generation before us and the generation after us. If we are paying our liability every year what is the risk we are trying to mitigate in the future, is this sustainable? The board does acknowledge they do not want to make changes to anything with this policy or the funding for it they are just trying to understand it better. Linda states we can tap into this account if we encounter budgetary issues without it being fully funded. OPEB Chair Tim Harrison replies if we ever find ourselves needing to tap into this fund it would take a vote from the OPEB Committee for approval. Standard & Poor- our rating agency; looks favorable on us having the OPEB Trust fund. Finance Chair Pat Morris asks the Actuary if she can suggest anything that may help us on either side- the benefit or the funding. Linda does say that COVID has not affected our assumption yet but it will down the road. All boards thank Linda for coming and giving her presentation.

At this time Chairperson Limanek asks the Finance Committee and OPEB to adjourn their meeting.

Chair person to OPEB Tim Harrison motions to exit meeting- Lisa Lynch seconds roll call vote taken- Tim Harrison, Lisa Lynch, Dave Hall - adjourned

Chairperson to Finance Committee Pat Morris motions to exit meeting, Member Dan Lamoreaux seconds roll call vote taken- Pat Morris, Brian Jamros, Tony Pilzecker, George Watson - adjourned

Announcement's/Round Table

Select person Mead says kindness is free so pay it forward

Chairperson Limanek holds a moment of silence for Robert LeClair who passed away last week. Mr. LeClair was a Fin Comm member years ago, he was the founding member on Lake Singletary Lake association, brought Girls Soccer to Sutton and served our military.

Jesse says the Food Pantry shelves are full at this time- if you are in need of food please call the Sr. Center at 508-234-0703 and ask for Michelle or Diane. Also available if needed are rides- contact Tim Annis

Select person Mead motions to adjourn, Select person Hall seconds- Roll Call vote taken- passes 5-0

Meeting adjourned 9:15pm