

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



Sutton Town Hall
4 Uxbridge Road
Sutton, MA 01590
Telephone (508)865-8727
Fax :(508)865-8721

James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes

Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk on 11/5/2019 by a vote of 5-0
7:00 p.m. – October 15, 2019
Sutton Town Hall, Meeting Room 1A

Members in Attendance:

Chairman David Hall, Vice-Chair Wendy Mead, Clerk Jesse Limanek & Selectmen Jonathan Anderson & Jeffrey Bannon
Town Manager James Smith & Deb Jacques, secretary

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Forum: N/A

Selectman Limanek motions to accept as presented October 1, 2019 meeting minutes, Selectman Anderson seconds passes 5-0

Public Hearing-Pole hearing: Selectman Limanek reads the notice as posted in the 9/26/19 Millbury Sutton Chronicle. Present from NGrid is Jay Lucier. This request was by the Sutton Tree Warden as the wires are attached to a dead tree and the tree must come down. Hearing no question or concerns, Selectman Limanek motions to close the public hearing, Selectman Bannon seconds passes 5-0 Selectman Anderson motions to approve pole hearing #28966010 from NGrid as advertised in the September 26, 2019 Millbury Sutton Chronicle selectman Bannon seconds passes 5-0

Free Cash update: present is Town Accountant Tim Harrison. Free cash has been certified and approved by DOR in the amount of \$2,877,069.00. there are three main reasons that make up free cash: tax revenues in excess of budget (roll back taxes & tax title), local receipts in excess of budget (excise tax, inspection services, etc.) and expenditures less than budget (health ins., capital plan \$ turned back in, public works, etc.). Town Manager Smith states this is a healthy turn back number. Tim Harrison says this is due to good budgeting accordingly and conservatively. Accountant Harrison hands out a new growth roll forward example to help show how pushing revenue ahead helps with the budget. Selectman Limanek says we have heard there will be a financial cliff, if we use the new growth for one-time budget balancing when the money is not there it would result in budget cuts. Jesse appreciates Jim and Tim's efforts with caution used in budgeting. Vice Chair Mead asks about chapter 90 fund availability and thanks Tim and Jim for their concerted efforts. Selectman Anderson uses the term good time but acknowledges in the future there could be a cliff will we spend down the free cash? Tim replies when we make the budget we try to cover all things needed and anticipated. Jim says we are not in an extra cash position; we are trying to offset a 2 ½ override down the line or massive cuts to services. The new growth rolls into 2022 will help us. Jonathan appreciates that Tim and Jim are fiscally prudent. Selectman Bannon asks about the OPEB policy of funding with 10% of the certified free cash. was that the intent Jim states yes 10%. Chairman Hall asks why do you want to target the minimum amount to carry forward, Tim replies there are always unexpected costs such as snow and ice, we need funds to fall back on. Jim Smith states keeping up with the capital needs far exceeds the funds we have plus our unreserved cash balance is a plus with the rating agencies. Dave sums it up as follows: we purposely budget conservative, with the potential of a financial cliff it is good to be conservative, this offers protection against where may be if tougher days ahead.

Transfer Station update: (present is Highway superintendent Matt Stencil). Town Manager Smith states approx. every 7 years we have to have a sticker fee increase. We are looking to increase for July 2020 sticker fee from \$40. to \$50. Also there will be an increase in some of the special permit items. Our goal is to create a situation of a healthy retained earnings that can be used to upgrade equipment at the Transfer Station. The average cost to use the Transfer Station is \$235. a year. Dave Arsenault, Transfer Station operator has requested a fee of \$2.00 per wooden pallet as well as a small increase to full size mattresses. Matt Stencil says we now also offer a bin

for rigid plastics where we use to charge per item before as well as we offer brush chipping twice a year, free firewood when available and screening and composted material permit holders can take by the bucket full. Tim Harrison would like to thank Dave Arsenault for his work into gathering information from other towns to evaluate our prices. Selectman Limanek says Dave Arsenault is a consummate professional, he is the face of the town. He is always knowledgeable, respectful and courteous. He has no issues with the increases being proposed. Vice Chair Mead says the Transfer station holds a special place in her heart. She fully supports the increases. Selectman Anderson says this is a department funded by the users, it makes sense to increase. Selectman Bannon says from recent experience of renting a dumpster to clear out a house, that is very expensive. Chairman Hall says consumers charged for the cost of disposing, to raise fees to match the cost makes sense.

Waters Farm presentation- Bob Chauvin: Bob Chauvin, President of Waters Farm and Paul Schaffer, Board member are present. Bob begins by saying waters farm is a 501 C3 nonprofit. The main objective is to protect Waters Farm. This has been a very good year, we have had tractor pulls, house tours, boy scout outings, revolutionary war reenactment. Next year the war reenactment is looking to triple the size of the gathering. This weekend is the Waters Farm days and the weather looks to be promising as it has rained the past several years. Selectman Limanek says waters Farm is Suttons Farm, it is in a beautiful location. Here is to another banner year. Vice Chair Mead is delighted this weekend's weather looks good thank you for maintaining the property. Selectman Anderson states this is a great asset to the town Jon asks for an update on the barn, Bob Chauvin states the barn was dismantled from west Millbury Road and will be erected on Waters Farm property hopefully this spring. Selectman Bannon hopes there is good weather for the weekend, Chairman Hall says it is important to come in and give updates. Jesses asks how people can donate or volunteer, Bob replies the website is watersfarm.org.

2019 Chain of Lights: Janet Gerard and Marnie Newton are present. Janet says this is her 2nd year on this committee, this year Chain of Lights will be held on December 7th. Currently there are 20 participants. We have in the past had 3 trolleys we are trying to add a 4th. We are also working on the traffic flow issue that we encountered last year. There were an estimated 2500 visitors last year, this year there is a stop that is having a Hogwarts theme and there are 45,000 people interested in attending. Janet states they are looking for volunteers to ride the trolley and direct the drivers through the town. Selectman Limanek says this is a wonderful event, Vice Chair Mead says on behalf of the community thank you for the work you put in to this, selectman Anderson has appreciation for this event it is great for the community. Selectman Bannon says there is a lot of pride in this town, this is a great event. Chairman Hall asks if there is any desire to have alcohol served at this event, Janet replies with the farm to table food and local winery's we would consider it but do not want any liquor laws broken. Janet says there are no requests for one day licenses this year. Dave says there are two meetings prior to this event so it would require a board vote.

Town Managers Update:

- Highway Materials & supplies- we recently went out to bid for a 3-year period on micro-surfacing, crack sealing, chip seal, cold planning, pavement reclamation and paving. Lynch was awarded the paving contract.
- Cable show regarding the fall town Meeting warrant- Wed. Oct 9 Jen Hager and Jim were on a cable show discussing each warrant article. Thank you to Pam Nichols and Christine Hicks for their idea and creative use of social media.
- Midstate Trail race took place on Oct 13th- Sgt. Fortunato was the by the Towns public safety depts.
- Fire Dept. open house was held on Tuesday Oct. 8th Mkt 32 donated 21 pizza and cookies. We thank Mkt 32 for their generous donation
- Tentative schedule for central Tpk paving- scheduled to begin work on October 17th.
- Fire dept./Library Halloween part to take place on Saturday October 26th 1PM-2:30pm with a parade and party to follow in the Fire dept.
- Brush chipping at the Transfer Station this Saturday 8am-noon.

Announcements/Roundtable

- Selectman Limanek met with Nathan McCracken who is going for his eagle scout. For his project he redid the trail signs at Shaw farm. Food Pantry list read and a reminder that Thanksgiving baskets will be done soon.

8:50 PM Chairman Hall announces we will go in to Executive Session (MGL c30A #6) with the sole purpose of adjourning the meeting after that. Roll call vote taken

9:15PM enter back into regular session, Selectman Limanek motions to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chair Mead seconds passes 5-0