

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



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James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes

Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk on 10/15/2019 by a vote of 5-0
7:00 p.m. – October 1, 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: Bill Wence 154 Dodge Hill Road Vice Chair Conservation Commission. Is present tonight to officially withdraw Article# 10 from the Fall Town Meeting (the reduction of AURA). This will be discussed again at Conservation meetings

Selectman Limanek motions to accept as presented September 17, 2019 meeting minutes, Selectman Anderson seconds passes 3-0-2
(Dave Hall & Wendy Mead absent from 9/17/19 meeting)

Confirm easement 141 Armsby Road- Atty. Mark Donahue with Fletcher Tilton is present. Town Manager Smith states this is part of Wedgewood Developments project; this is necessary to get access to the property for the proposed Continued Care Retirement Community. Selectman Limanek asks if this easement is the primary entrance to the project, Atty. Donahue replies yes. Vice Chair Mead asks if any additional easements are anticipated, Donahue answers no. Selectman Anderson has no questions, states this is just affirmation that the easement exists. Hearing no further questions Selectman Anderson motions to approve and sign the Confirmation of Easement Rights for 141 Armsby Road Vice Chair Mead seconds passes 5-0

Authorize the BOS Chair to sign the Electricity Supply contract with Constellation New Energy- the present contract will expire in June of 2020. We are anticipating purchasing the electricity supply now while the prices are down. The rate would be locked in for 36 months. This is for town owned buildings. This type of contract is exempt form 30B and Constellation is on the MMA as a preferred provider. Currently we are paying .89 cents per kilowatt hour, we are looking at possible a new rate of .97 cents per kwh. Selectman Limanek asks if the rate is currently being monitored, Town Manager Smith replies yes we are on a watchdog list and get a price every Tuesday. Jesse asks if the rates go down after we have signed can it be renegotiated. Jim replies yes but we would have to extend the years out. Vice Chair Mead asks if this is a 3 or 4 yr contract, Jim replies it depends on the rate, we should see over the next two weeks what the indicative pricing will be. Selectman Anderson feels it makes sense to move forward now, Selectman Bannon asks the fluctuation in price from the current price to the contracted price over the years. Jim states he could request a report from Constellation, Jim does expect about a \$20,000. increase for town buildings. Chairman Hall asks if over the 3-year contract do we ever pay higher then the NGrid price. Jim replies we are always lower. Chairman Hall questions what if he is not available to sign on the day we decide to lock in, Jim says the Vice Chair could sign. Selectman Bannon motions to authorize the Board of Selectmen Chair or Vice Chair sign the Electricity Supply contract with Constellation New Energy Selectman Anderson seconds passes 5-0

Approve & Sign Fall Town Meeting Warrant- Town Manager Smith reviews with the BOS the final Warrant. Since the last review 2 articles were removed and 1 was added. The 2 removed were the 4 street lights at Gilmore Drive (too costly) and the Conservation AURA reduction. The article added is to raise and appropriate funds for the Unity Park at 7 Boston Road. Planning Director Jen Hager is present to review the articles under Planning. After review and discussion, Jen Hager thanks Laura Caruso (Town Clerk) for her assistance with the Warrant. Vice Chair Mead motions to Approve and Sign the fall Town Meeting Warrant Selectman Anderson seconds passes 5-0

Town Managers Evaluation as read into record by Clerk Jesse Limanek. Town Manager Smith received an overall board evaluation of 94.6 out of 100 (copy attached to final minutes with individual comments). Selectman Limanek says for another year Jim has fulfilled his duties, the town remains on solid footings. Vice Chair Mead expresses her appreciation to Jim and says we are a very fortunate community led by your voice overall, it is comforting as a taxpayer and board member to have your leadership. Selectman Anderson appreciates Jims openness to take feedback, take a step back and then move forward. That is an important leadership skill. Sutton is in a much better place with Jims leadership. Selectman Bannon says this is the 1st year filling out so he did it based on work history (Jeff was previously on FinCom) Jeff states when there were questions about the sewer project, Jim was flexible to look at and go in a different direction. There was some employee turnover this past summer, Jim worked quickly to fill and also is working on employee succession plans. Chairman Hall says there was not a score lower than a 4 from any of the board, looking at the comments they are the same year after year. Jim continues to be an outstanding town manager. He is a pleasure to work with and a benefit to the town. Jim thanks the BOS for the review, he states this is his adopted home he loves the town, his job and appreciates the staff, it is an outstanding group to be partnered with.

Town Managers Update:

- Opioid Litigation update- the town of Sutton signed on along with other municipalities a Mass Tort litigation to go after the pharmaceutical companies due to opioid addiction. The judge has created a negotiation class. We have until Nov. 22nd to decide if we want to remain in the class action or go after these companies alone.
(Jesse would like to think about this a little more, Wendy Jonathan, Jeff and Dave feel we should stay with the class action)
- MVP- recently notified that Sutton is now a MVP community. Thank you to Doreen Defazio. Now the town will apply for funding to address the 40-year-old sewer pipe in Wilks.
- Goddard Lodge Painting- thank you to the Sheriff Lew Evangelidis' office for the painting of Goddard Lodge, thankyou also to Building Commissioner John Couture for overseeing the project.
- Unity Park grant- Sutton received \$100,000. From Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC). These funds will go towards renovations. Thank you to Jen Hager and the Unity Park committee.
- Library Sidewalk- Mattero Cons. will wrap up project soon, due to the elevation they will have to put a railing up.
- Temporary Vaping Ban- Sept. 24 Gov. Baker declared a public health emergency in MA due to E Cigarettes and vaping products. This is a 4-month order and may be extended. This prohibits the sale and public display of all vaping products in a retail setting.
(Jesse and Wendy feel the Gov. has overstepped and feel it is a strategic error; Jonathan is indifferent; Jeff feels it may have been an over reach by the gov. business owners have capital at risk. The BOS need to meet with the BOH and school to see how they are handling the vaping situation. Dave is curious to see the outcome.
- Flu Clinics- will be held at the Sr. center on Oct 3rd 9am-noon and on Oct. 8th at the Town Hall from 4pm to 7pm
- Brush Chipping to take place on Oct 19th from 8am to noon at the Transfer Station
- Marions Camp cook out to take place Oct 12th 11am-3pm

Announcements/Roundtable

Selectman Limanek reads a notice for the Sutton Cultural Council regarding a grant opportunity as well as a notice that they are seeking members/volunteers. The Dudley Gendron has sent a thank you to the town for the well-attended Chicken barbecue. On Tues, Sept 24th Jesse was on Beacon Hill to support the proposed tax abatement in Sutton for military serving overseas that was voted in at a town meeting. Jesse reads the list of needed items for the Sutton Food Pantry.

Chairman Hall thanks Jesse for Chairing the Sept. 17th meeting due to the Chair and Vice Chair being away.

8:50 PM Selectman Limanek motions to adjourn, Selectman Bannon seconds passes 5-0