

*Jeffrey Bannon, Chair
Jonathan Anderson, Vice-Chair
David Hall, Clerk
Wendy M Mead
Jesse Limanek*

James Smith, Town Manager
Debra Jacques, Executive Assistant



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

TOWN OF SUTTON OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

MEMORANDUM

TO: SELECT BOARD
FROM: JAMES SMITH
SUBJECT: TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE
DATE: 1/3/2023

The following is an update of projects and activities for your information

1. Out of District Special Education Costs-continue to increase at an unsustainable level. The State Department of Elementary Education and Secondary Education recently approved a 14% increase on out of district special education costs. During last year's budget presentation we presented the number at \$1,930,000 which we appropriated 700,000 in free cash to help cover. The expectation at that time is we would have to appropriate an additional \$700,000 in FY 24 and in FY 25 that number would drop by \$500,000. Currently the FY 24 projection is \$2.54 million. The school is dealing with a significant budget gap.
2. Hiring Freeze- do to the uncertainty with the school budget, we are instituting a hiring freeze effective immediately. The School department is also implementing a similar policy until we have a solution for the deficit.
3. Fire Department award- Sutton Fire Department received a \$15,439 grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Department of Fire Services for firefighter safety equipment.
4. Sutton Center Cemetery sign- has been installed adjacent to the Hearst house on Boston Road. The cemetery restoration work was accomplished by many individuals and led by Ross Weaver, Brian Stevenson, David Pizzi and John Belculfine. The town contributed \$2300 for the cost of the sign, bracket and granite

post. Swenson granite provided the granite post and creative sign works in Millbury were responsible for the sign and the bracket.

5. Marion's camp sign- a sign within Marion's camp was damaged and creative sign works of Millbury removed, remade and reinstalled the ground sign at Marion's camp. They did all of this work pro bono. We thank Creative Sign Works for their donations.