

*Wendy M. Mead, Chair  
Jesse Limanek, Vice-Chair  
Jonathan Anderson, Clerk  
Jeffrey Bannon  
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## TOWN OF SUTTON OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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### MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** SELECT BOARD  
**FROM:** JAMES SMITH  
**SUBJECT:** TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE  
**DATE:** 4/6/2021

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

- 1) Budget Update- We have an agreement with the IAC on Health Insurance. It is a three-year agreement with Blue Cross. We had multiple meetings with the IAC regarding the switch from Fallon to MIIA. As of July 1 we will all be enrolled in an HSA. MIIA's rate is a -6.1% which includes Blue Cross Blue Shield Dental and vision. We are planning on creating a health care stabilization fund at May town meeting from the surplus in the FY 21 health budget that will be available to help with future spikes in healthcare costs. I would like to thank the IAC and Erin Chinappi for all their hard work in making the switch.
- 2) SAFER Grant-the fire department is applying for one additional firefighter to be paid for through the federal government Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. The federal government will pick up the cost for three years and then it is the town's responsibility to pick up the cost. The fire department continues to do a great job with the limited staff. With the addition of development on the aggregate parcel as well as South Sutton it will put an additional demand on the fire department.
- 3) COVID Vaccine clinic in Uxbridge-the town of Sutton is working in partnership with the towns of Uxbridge, Northbridge, Mendon, Douglas, Bellingham, Blackstone, Hopedale, Millville, Milford, Oxford, and Upton to administer 750 doses a day five days

a week. Cheryl Rawinski is one of the coordinators for this site. 25% of all doses allocated to this group are reserved for the communities participating.

- 4) Solar panels at the new police station-the panels are up on the carport at the police station. Ostrow Electric completed this work and has filed for interconnection with National Grid. I would like to thank John Couture and Larry Morris for their work in helping Ostrow Electric. The cost of this job was \$83,000 which will be paid from the remaining budget of the new police station.
- 5) \$1.9 Trillion Federal aid-the town of Sutton is scheduled to receive approximately \$950,000 by the middle of May. Currently the use of these funds are limited to a few areas mainly water projects, sewer projects and broadband infrastructure projects. We have a number of broadband/fiber infrastructure projects in the capital plan and we are looking at developing a loop through the Wilkinsonville section of town connecting Central Turnpike and making its way down to Hough Road at the sewer plant. Once we get the design for the septic system at town hall we will look to use some of these funds to replace that system.

Reminder: Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee - public hearing dates. They are Tuesday, March 30 at 6 PM, Tuesday, April 13 at 6 PM, Monday, April 26 at 6 PM, and Tuesday, April 27 at 6 PM. All meetings will be conducted via Zoom.