

Jonathan Anderson, Chair person  
David Hall, Vice Chair  
Jesse Limanek, Clerk  
Jeffrey Bannon  
Normand Champigny



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James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton  
Select Board

Meeting Minutes  
**Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk 2/20/2024 with a roll call vote of 5-0**

6:00 p.m. – February 6, 2024

Roll Call vote taken:

Members in Attendance in person:

Chairperson Jonathan Anderson, Vice Chair David Hall, Clerk Jesse Limanek, Select members Jeffrey Bannon & Normand Champigny all present in person.

Also attending in person: Town Manager James Smith, Town Accountant Tim Harrison & Deb Jacques, secretary

Public Forum –

Robert Nunnemacher 24 Singletary Ave- raised concerns with telephone pole location at the corner of Uxbridge Rd. and Central Tpk. Engineered plan from 1938 (reduced in size) has been handed out to board. The location of the pole causes drivers to pull onto Uxbridge Rd. and be onto the southbound lane causing safety concerns for the drivers in that lane of the road. Knick would like to see this pole moved back to provide a decent rounding area for traffic.

Select person Limanek motions to accept as presented the January 16, 2024 Select Board meeting minutes Select Person Bannon seconds passes 4-0-1 with roll call vote (Vice Chair Hall abstains- absent from the 1/16/24 meeting)

Public Hearing- Pleasant Valley Pole Hearing rescheduled to the 2/20/24 meeting.

Public Hearing- removal of 61A property-228 Central Tpk (lot 5) Debra Kuchinski & Attorney Jennifer Gavaletz are present. Select Person Limanek reads the notice as published in the January 18, 2024 Millbury Sutton Chronicle. Town Manager Smith says the board voted in January 2023 to not exercise towns options to purchase and allowed 4 lots to be removed out of 61A and sold as house lots. Jim goes on to say this will be the 5<sup>th</sup> lot to be sold as a house lot. Select Person Limanek asks if this is on the same side of the road as the previous 4- Deb Kuchinski and her Attorney state yes. Vice Chair Hall asks if there will be any other lots sold off- they reply there are 2 other lots but there are no buyers for them at this time so they will remain under the 61A. Dave Hall also states as in last year's comments as well as this year there are no comments for Municipal use. Hearing no public comments, Vice Chair Hall motions to close the Public Hearing Select person Bannon seconds passes 5-0 with roll call vote. Vice Chair Hall motions to NOT exercise the town's option under MGL Chapter 61A for property located at 228 Central Tpk. (lot 5), known as Assessors Map 25/ Parcel 51 (3.30 acres) owned by Debra Kuchinski, Select person Bannon seconds passes 5-0 with roll call vote.

FY2025 Draft Capital Plan- Town Manager Smith informs the board that departments submitted \$1,286,000 in requests- this draft plan shows \$1,092,500. going forward. The funding source is mostly free cash which means no debt exclusion to the tax payers. Vice Chair Hall does not have a lot of concerns and finds this way of purchasing/replacing items impressive. Select person Limanek says great job- this forces dept. heads to base their requests on needs not wants- this allows items with wear and tear to be replaced. Jesse does ask about the Howard Cemetery Expansion – Jim replies this is for the new old Howard layout as well as a potential new Cemetery barn in the back of this area. Select person Bannon asks how residents will be aware of this capital plan so they can review prior to Town Meeting. Jim replies this will be available online with the preliminary budget information. Select person Champigny asks about the submittal process as well as how many depts. submit. Jim replies it is usually the public safety depts. as well as the school. Sometimes the Town Clerk may have requests. Jim says it is give and take. Normand says there are no nonsensical items on this list. Chairperson Anderson asks about the criteria for vehicle replacement. After brief discussion the board moves on.

Town Manager Update:

- MA Municipal Association Annual meeting took place 1/19 & 1/20 in which Jim attended. Gov. Healy spoke at the opening session. The Gov. H1 budget includes \$30. Per student chapter 70 and a 3% increase in UGGA. She also discussed pending legislation called Municipal Empowerment act. This would allow municipalities to increase the lodging tax from 6% to 7% and meals tax from .75% to 1% along with this there could also be a local option for a 5% motor vehicle excise surcharge.
- Green communities grant award- Jen Hager applied for and was awarded \$190,172. for various projects throughout the town. These projects include finishing the LED lighting at the schools as well as projects in the Fire Dept., Sewer Dept. and COA.
- The annual audit will take place at the 3/12 Select Board meeting.
- FY 2025 Preliminary budget will be presented at the 2/20 Select board meeting.
- The migrants at the Red Roof Inn will be moved out of town next week and relocated in Auburn where there is more access to stores etc. The issue in Sutton has been the island like situation right on 146 with no safe access to stores. The board all offer best wishes as well as a thank you to all that helped them and the acceptance from the town.

Announcement's / Round Table:

Vice Chair Hall says there was an OPEB meeting held last week with a presentation by a new actuary. Dave felt the meeting went well.

Select person Limanek reads needed items for the Sutton Food Pantry. This Saturday at the Dudley Gendron there is a Pinewood racing derby for adults. This is to raise money for the Lukas equipment. Cars must be dropped off Friday along with a \$20.00 donation. Jesse also asks if what Knick mentioned during Public Forum is going to be an issue for the town seeing as it is in the county layout.

Select person Bannon watched the OPEB meeting- he felt the presenter addressed the concerns with the previous reports and found the presenter easy to follow.

Select person Champigny continues to have concerns with the issue in Manchaug related to the Solar Farm being built in Douglas. For his own edification- Normand reviewed the site plans and gave his recommended findings to the Chair of Conservation Bill Wence.

Chairperson Anderson saw the same issues as discussed from Normand at a location in Plainville and a Solar Farm being built. Jonathan goes on to say there needs to be State oversight regarding the land clearing.

Select person Limanek motions to adjourn, select person Champigny seconds- Roll Call vote taken- passes 5-0

Meeting adjourned 7:04pm