

*Kevin Geraghty, Chairman*  
*Michael Chizy, Vice Chairman*  
*Ryan Fattman, Clerk*  
*John L. Hebert*  
*Michael Frustaci*



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*James A. Smith, Town Administrator*  
*Debbie Jacques, Administrative Assistant*

## TOWN OF SUTTON BOARD OF SELECTMAN

### Meeting Minutes

**Minutes Accepted and Filed with the Town Clerk on 12/04/2007 by a vote of 4-0**

**7:00 p.m. – November 27, 2007**  
Sutton Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room

**Members in Attendance:**

Kevin Geraghty, Chairman  
Michael Chizy, Vice Chairman  
Ryan Fattman, Clerk  
John Hebert  
Michael Frustaci

**Also in Attendance:**

James Smith, Town Administrator  
Debbie Jacques, Administrative Assistant

Chairman Geraghty calls the meeting to order at 7:00 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum: no discussions or comments

Selectman Frustaci motions to approve as presented, minutes from the November 6, 2007 Board of Selectmen meeting, Selectman Fattman seconds the motion, All in Favor Passes 5-0 with no discussion  
Selectman Frustaci motions to approve as presented but not release Executive Session minutes from November 6, 2007.  
Selectman Chizy seconds the motion, All in Favor Passes 5-0 with no discussion

Carol Baribeau, Verizon's Regional Director of Regional Affairs is here to discuss with the BOS initiating the process of having Verizon Cable become licensed in the Town of Sutton. This would not eliminate Charter Communications; it would give residents the option to choose between the two networks. Carol reviews the steps that must be taken to initiate this process. The first step is the BOS asking Verizon to bring cable to town; the second step is to send a letter to the Department of Telecommunications and Cable (DTC) notifying them of this but also asking the DTC to waive the required 60 day filing deadline (207 CMR 3.03(2)) as well as waiving the requirement to advertise in a national trade journal (207 CMR 3.03(2)). These two items, if waived, will save the town time and money. Currently, Verizon has 61 franchises. Selectman Chizy asks what Verizon will offer that is better than Charter, Carol replies there will be more channels available (350) and it would change from a copper network to a 100% all fiber optic network known as Fios. The cost will be comparable to Charter. Chizy mentions the tiers that are offered currently, Carol will supply an updated list of channels being offered. Selectman Hebert questions who is responsible to pick up equipment currently being used if a resident switches, Carol replies Charter would send someone to pick up cable box. Selectman Frustaci asks what the time frame would be, Carol responds that it usually can take 17-18 months but that all time frames can be shortened, her goal would be 6-7 months. Frustaci asks where a call would be answered if a resident calls with a question, Carol answers that there are Service Centers in Providence RI as well as Andover MA. Frustaci also asks if this would improve the current wireless service in town, Carol replies no this is a land line service but she will have someone from the wireless division get in touch with us. Selectman Fattman asks if Verizon will offer any type of grants yearly as well as their commitment to Public Access Television. Carol responds that Public Access TV

is very important to Verizon as well as herself and a grant would be part of the negotiations. Selectman Geraghty reminds the BOS that all this will do is to make a level playing field, Verizon is not required to offer no more or no less. Kevin asks the percentage of Sutton that is already wired, Carol replies with an estimated figure of 70%. TA Smith informs BOS that Bill Hewig from Kopelman & Paige is experienced in this type of cable franchising and will be working with him during this process. Hearing no more discussion, Selectman Chizy motions to initiate the cable licensing process in the Town of Sutton pursuant to 207 CMR 3.02 (1)(a), Selectman Frustaci seconds the motion, All in Favor Passes 5-0

Continued discussion on plowing private roads (Mark Brigham is present): TA Smith begins by reviewing the street list that meets the criteria set under option 3 that was previously discussed. The current list of 15 streets was pared down from over 70 streets and roads, most listed here have a certain distance that will be plowed to ensure a safe and adequate turn around area. There is an issue with Tucker Lane as the bridge would have to have a rating certificate from an engineer. Mark informs BOS that this type of inspection is very thorough, very costly and it would list serious deficiencies. It would also list a weight limit. If there was a weight limit, it could prohibit a fire truck passing or even an oil truck. Mark also reminds BOS that by plowing a private road it becomes open to the public. At this time, TA Smith asks the BOS for direction as to how they would like to proceed. Selectman Chizy does not feel the town should be responsible for plowing private roads, he prefers option 1 (continue to not plow any private roads) but would consider option 4 (follow option 3 and charge a fee for the service). Selectman Hebert thanks Jim and Mark for work put in to this, he likes option 3 (establish minimum guidelines and standards to determine which private roads to plow) John feels public safety is the 1<sup>st</sup> priority. Selectman Frustaci says that the plowing of the private roads and streets add up to about 2 miles of roadway. Mike questions if the evaluations of homes on private roads would change if they were to receive services from the town. TA Smith replies no as they are still private roads that do not meet town standards and the only public service to be provided is snow and ice removal. Frustaci comments that he has always thought the town should not plow private roads but would agree to option 3 and would like to revisit option 4 possibly for next year. Selectman Fattman appreciates the list provided and is in favor of options 3 and 4, although he does not want to put additional burden on homeowners. If option 3 works fiscally for the town he would be in favor of that. Selectman Geraghty feels there will be more people affected on private roads that do not meet the criteria then that do meet the criteria. He also questions if these people even want their roads plowed. Kevin agrees with Selectman Hebert to go along with option 3 but would like to keep # 4 open. On the list of roads, 12 out of the 15 will have limited plowing to ensure driver safety. Mark Brigham replies that individuals on these roads will be contacted to see if they want the town to plow and sand. Mark questions BOS to what extent is the town to provide services, he states that come February and March, gravel and dirt roads begin to show large holes that make it unsafe to pass. Kevin responds ice and snow are the only services to be provided. If conditions on a road make it unsafe, they do not get plowed. After hearing no further discussion, Selectman Chizy motions to approve option 1, do not plow any private roads, Selectman Fattman 2nds the motion, motion defeated 3-2.

Selectman Frustaci makes a motion to direct TA Smith and Mark Brigham to utilize the list provided for up coming season with the roads being kept in the condition they are now or better, at their discretion for snow removal and ice treatment. Selectman Geraghty would like to make an amendment to this motion: Kevin motions to plow private roads for 07/08 winter under criteria set forth under option 3 as discussed at the November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 BOS meeting, Selectman Hebert seconds the motion: motion passes 3-2

Budget Timeline for 2009 & Capitol Improvement Plan FY2009-2013: TA Smith is working with Tim Harrison (Accountant) to develop a budget projection process for upcoming fy09. TA Smith feels it will be a challenge on the revenue side but he will present a better picture as he sees it. Selectman Chizy comments that Fincom usually gets the budget late in the process, he asks Jim to speak to the chair of Fincom on a regular basis. TA Smith responds that he has already met with Fincom and has agreed to meet on a regular basis so there are no surprises. Another issue is the spring town meeting, usually there is a continuance to the meeting as the Finance Committee is reluctant to vote on finance articles that they are not well informed on. The 2 meetings confuse residents but sometimes it is necessary. Selectman Frustaci asks if there will be any budget workshops. TA Smith will have a meeting in January with the BOS, and Fincom along with Tim Harrison to discuss projections as well as expectations. This will include the budget forecast along with the background. By that time, we should also have the general local receipts but not the State aid.

Town Administrator Update:

Fire Chief posting closes Friday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. Currently we have received 11 resumes. Interviews will be held during December.

Two new hires:

\* full time fire fighter: Renee Patient

\* Cable Access Coordinator: Pam Nichols

Holiday Party at the Town Hall to be held Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, Selectmen welcome to attend

Wellness breakfast to be held at the Senior Center on December 14<sup>th</sup> at noon

Announcements:

Selectman Chizy: Food Bank in need of food as well as gift cards

the following meetings to be held @ the Senior Center:

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Fallon Senior Plan/Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Safety Seminar with DA's office/Dec 6<sup>th</sup> Prepare for Winter/Dec 17<sup>th</sup> Fuel Assistance

Selectman Fattman: Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Chain of Lights 10-5

Selectman Geraghty: Condolences to family of Mitch Perry (Lt. Dave Perry's father)

Round Table:

Selectman Chizy upset that BOS not notified about the meeting at Boston Rd & 146 with Sen. Moore, Planning & Highway Mike would like this area video taped in morning and during afternoon rush hour to show traffic problems.

Selectman Frustaci: update on the new video equipment, TA responds proposals are written and ready to go.

Selectman Fattman would like to follow-up on the Lottery bill which is currently in the house. TA Smith informs all that Rep.

Frost tentatively will be at the next meeting to discuss this.

Selectman Geraghty asks for an updated time frame on the \$100,000.00 grant for Marion's camp as well as the fly over at Boston Rd and 146

Selectman Hebert informs BOS that when he attends the CMRPC meetings with Bruce Davis, they constantly push the fly over @ Boston Rd & 146.

**Meeting adjourned 8:55 p.m.**