

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 _____ by a vote of _____

7:00 p.m. – December 4, 2007
Sutton Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room

Members in Attendance:

Michael Chizy, Vice Chairman (Acting Chairman)
Ryan Fattman, Clerk
John Hebert
Michael Frustaci

Also in Attendance:

James Smith, Town Administrator
Debbie Jacques, Administrative Assistant

Acting Chairman Chizy 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 27, 2007 Board of Selectmen meeting, Selectman Fattman seconds the motion, All in Favor Passes 4-0 with no discussion

Town Administrator Update:

- Cemetery Commissioners hours have changed for the winter months. They will have Fridays off. This will allow them to work longer hours come spring and summer when they are getting the cemeteries and town fields ready for Memorial Day. This will not change the number of hours worked annually. In the event there is a burial on a Friday, they will work.
- A technical assistance grant has been applied for to address parking concerns at and around the Town Hall.
- Blackstone Street Bridge: MA Highway notified TA Smith and Mark Brigham that a recent inspection of this bridge showed deficiencies that require the town to limit the weight that travels over this bridge. Only one lane of traffic will be allowed over the bridge at a time. MA Highway has determined the maximum load which the bridge may safely carry. The weight limit approved is as follows: 16 tons (2 axels), 25 tons (3 axles) and 36 tons (5 axles). MA Highway will work with Mark Brigham regarding posting these notices at the bridge. (Selectmen agree that limiting to 1 lane is a good move as it is very narrow)
- TA Smith informs BOS that Sutton is one out of 83 schools in Massachusetts that are the leading candidates for possible renovations or replacement funds.

State Representative Paul Frost regarding House Docket #4651: Rep. Frost informs BOS that between FY04-FY06 the state capped the Lottery Aid to cities and towns in Massachusetts. This meant lost payments amounting to \$467,578.00 for Sutton. There was approximately \$450 million kept by the state. This money was kept in the Commonwealth's Stabilization Fund aka the Rainy Day Fund. Rep. Frost is here today to request support in the form of letters requesting that a one time refund in the amount of \$467,578.00 be refunded to the Town of Sutton. Rep. Frost feels if these funds are returned to the cities and towns, it could help offset a capital project, road or bridge repairs, property tax relief or school repairs. Frost would like to "right a wrong". Selectman Hebert asks Rep. Frost how many towns has he met with and had this discussion, Frost answers this is his 4th town. He has already met with Auburn, Millbury and Oxford. All have been very supportive of this bill. Selectman Frustaci asks what should have been done 3 years ago to prevent this from happening as well as if the preliminary requests for this have failed, why ask the towns to get involved. Frost replies the cities and towns should come together and request these refunds, no one knows if this will ever happen again but you have to make the case known or it will be easier for them to do again. Frost feels if community's show they are not interested in this it would send a message to the legislature. He also informs BOS that the Telegram & Gazette is backing this bill. Frustaci commends Frost for bringing this to the town's attention but asks if there is a strong fiscal argument against this, hearing none, he responds; push, fight for it. Selectman Fattman begins with a quote from William Shakespeare "Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win" he speaks of his education in Sutton and mentions classes have been affected due to budget cuts, if we can get money that belonged to Sutton we should request it. Fattman thinks this is a wonderful thing but questions if it is possible. Ryan feels that the BOS should support this bill. Fattman applauds Frosts efforts in this. Selectman Chizy feels there are too many partisan opponents in politics, Chizy states if it is a Republican bill, Democrats will be against it. Chizy feels that both sides should work in the best interest of the state, the towns and the federal government. Rep. Frost responds that this proposal is trying to address this problem and it is for the general good of the people. Chizy agrees with the other BOS that TA Smith should write a letter in support of House Docket #4651.

Announcements:

Selectman Frustaci: Waters Farm Christmas luncheon Dec. 12th

Wellness Breakfast Dec. 14th at the Senior Center

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

The following meetings to be held @ the Senior Center:

Dec 5th Safety Seminar with DA's office/Dec 6th Prepare for Winter/Dec 17th Fuel Assistance

Selectman Fattman: Sutton High Student Council is having a clothing drive; anything collected will be give to Homeless shelters in the area.

Round Table:

Selectman Frustaci informs BOS that Carol Baribeau from Verizon contacted him to update him on recent cell tower work performed @ Purgatory Road last week.

Hearing no further discussions: Selectman Fattman Motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Selectman Frustaci seconds the motion, All in Favor passes 4-0

