

*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 2/19/2008 by a vote of 4-0**

**7:00 p.m. – February 12, 2008**  
Sutton Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room

**Members in Attendance:**

Kevin Geraghty, Chairman (arrived @ 7:03pm)  
Michael Chizy, Vice-Chairman  
Ryan Fattman, Clerk  
John Hebert  
Michael Frustaci (arrived @ 7:30pm)

**Also in Attendance:**

James Smith, Town Administrator  
Debbie Jacques, Administrative Assistant

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

Public Forum: no discussions or comments  
(Selectman Geraghty arrives)

Selectman Fattman motions to approve as presented, minutes from the January 22, 2008 Board of Selectmen meeting, Selectman Hebert seconds the motion, Passes 4-0

Wilkinsonville Water Commissioner Bob Judson and Board member Janet Clark are present to request an exemption from town permit fees related to the construction of the municipal water supply pump station for the two new wells, known as the Woodbury wells. This is the water supply for the proposed development on 146. Wilks. Water district is a municipality within a municipality. TA Smith states that jurisdiction for waiving fees regarding the Building Dept, falls under the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Judson states that the State has waived their fees and they have already paid some fees to Conservation. Planning Board has chosen not to waive the fees for any of the filings Wilks Water has presented to them in regards to this project. Selectmen Chizy and Hebert do not have any issues or concerns in waiving the fees for this project. Selectman Fattman is for anything that will foster new growth but is hesitant in deciding this tonight, he would like to discuss this with Town Planner Jen Hager. Selectman Geraghty feels construction is the lynch pin for the economic development the town is in desperate need of and would not have an issue in waiving the fees. Bob Judson informs board that the signing of a contract is being held up pending the outcome of this decision. At this time, Selectman Fattman moves to suspend discussion until the next bos meeting scheduled for February 19, 2008, hearing no second Selectman Chizy motions to waive any fees under the Board of Selectmen's jurisdiction, Selectman Hebert seconds the motion, Selectman Fattman at this time would like to abstain from voting but notes that he is in favor of the waiving of fees but wanted clarification on a few things, vote passes 3-0-1

FY2009 Preliminary Budget: TA Smith begins by thanking all department heads for the budget process thus far as well as saying it will continue to be a tight budget year but feels the budget presented is good. TA Smith thanks Town Accountant Tim Harrison for working along with him helping to prepare this budget. At this time, TA Smith presents a power point breaking down the preliminary annual operating budget and the capital budget. The FY09 budget has increased \$1.4 million dollars from the FY08 budget. This is due to increases in expenses and slow revenue growth. TA Smith mentions the fact that the town in the past has relied on the free cash and that is something he would like to gradually get away from. Also mentioned is the 20% increase in the Worcester County Retirement which breaks down to around \$114,000.00 as well as the rising cost of health care. This budget is showing an increased budget of 4% over Fy08 for the school, these are preliminary figures as Blackstone Valley Regional has not submitted their numbers as of yet. Also discussed were the 2 Enterprise Funds, the Sewer dept. and the Transfer Station. These depts. are responsible to raise enough revenue to support their operations. The Transfer Station in the past has had a deficit but TA Smith is working with Mark Brigham and the deficit is shrinking. Some of the Capital projects discussed were renovations made to the Middle/High School, replacement of Engine 4 (TA Smith and Chief Maynard are attending a grant writing class next week and will apply for a Homeland Security grant for this), Shaw Farm (a master plan should be developed for this property) and Route 146 development. Ta Smith asks the board if there are any questions, Selectman Chizy commends TA Smith on his preliminary budget, Selectman Hebert feels that Jims budget message was an honest assessment, Selectman Frustaci questioned a line item amount under Personnel for \$130,000.00, TA Smith responded that both contracts must be negotiated and that line item will help fund the increases. Selectman Fattman feels this budget is well laid out and straight forward. Selectman Geraghty asks Superintendent Dr. Dibella to discuss the borrowing should a new school be proposed. Dr. Dibella states that the State will issue all of the money up front; this includes the amount the State is picking up as well as the towns share. The town then spreads out their share over a period of time paying it off. Selectman Geraghty asks TA Smith if there is any borrowing regarding the capital improvements, TA Smith responds there is some borrowing, he will be working with Tim regarding bond borrowing to fund these projects. Selectman Geraghty is very happy with the presentation and especially likes all of the documentation provided from the departments requests, it leaves very little for speculation. When asked, Finance Chair Dave Hall spoke for the Finance Committee saying they are very comfortable and satisfied with TA Smith and Tim Harrison's presentation of the budget. At this time, he does not feel a meeting with the 2 boards is necessary.

#### Town Administrator Update:

Public Thank you to the Sheriffs office: Ta Smith would like to send a "thank you" to the sheriffs office for the recent work (painting of railings in hall ways) done in the town hall. All agree

Surplus Property: Ta Smith is happy to announce approximately \$58,000.00 in sales for the surplus property. The sand and loam where the biggest bid item for this sale.

#### Announcements:

Selectman Fattman reads the scheduled deadline dates for articles to be placed on the warrant as well as the town meeting and election.

#### Round Table:

Selectman Geraghty reports that he was part of a meeting in Boston with Dr. Dibella, Sue Rothermich and Wendy Meade (all part of the School Building Committee). Out of 422 schools showing an interest in a new school or renovations, Sutton was chosen 1 out of 49 to go to the next round. A schematic plan must be designed but the State decides the scope of what the school will be.

Selectman Fattman reports on the scoping session for Marions Camp. A meeting was held with Gates Leighton and plans will be drafted. Ryan takes this time to thank Representative Callahan for her work on the grant.

Selectman Chizy reports that the Food Pantry is in good shape but canned meats are needed.

Hearing no further discussions, Selectman Chizy motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., Selectman Fattman seconds the motion, All in Favor Passes 5-0

