

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. – March 11, 2008

Sutton Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room

Members in Attendance:

Kevin Geraghty, Chairman
Michael Chizy, Vice-Chairman
Ryan Fattman, Clerk
John Hebert
Michael Frustaci (arrives at 7:05)

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.

No discussion under Public Forum

Selectman Chizy motions to approve as presented, minutes from the February 19, 2008 Board of Selectmen meeting, Selectman Fattman seconds the motion, all in favor Passes 4-0

Selectman Chizy motions to approve Executive Session minutes but not release Selectman Fattman seconds the motion, all in favor passes 4-0

A.P.R. (Agricultural Preservation Restriction) application for 84 Mendon Road, property owned by Sally Stevenson. TA Jim Smith gives a brief overview of this application. This is land owned and farmed by the Stevenson Family. It is 13-15 acres of land that has been maintained as open space. Currently, the Stevenson family hays this field, in years past it was known as a local pumpkin patch. This program is intended to offer a non-development alternative to owners of prime or agricultural land. It places a permanent deed restriction on the property allowing them to keep their property and its use to remain strictly agricultural. The application is the first step in this process. If this property meets the State's threshold an appraisal will be done. Currently, the State has a cap on what they can pay of \$10,000.00 per acre (approx. \$150,000.00 for 15 acres); the town would contribute 20% of that (approx. \$30,000.00) with our current Right to Farm By-Law it could be reduced to approx. \$22,500.00. Signing this application does not obligate the town in anyway; it strictly authorizes the State to conduct an appraisal and to determine the feasibility of this application. TA Smith informs the BOS that Keowns Farm went through this process about 8 years ago. Selectman Chizy is all for this application as it protects open space. Selectman Hebert, Frustaci and Fattman are all in agreement that this is good for the town. Selectman Geraghty agrees to go ahead with the application process. He questions if all goes well, does this require a town vote? TA Smith replies that if funding is available not necessarily but he would put it before the town to vote. Selectman Chizy motions to approve application for an APR on 84 Mendon Road and forward to the State, Selectman Fattman seconds the motion, all in favor passes 5-0

Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) requesting a Selectman to run for an open seat on the Central MA MPO. Selectman Geraghty asks Selectman Hebert (currently on the CMRPC) to attend, Selectman Hebert accepts and states that it is very important to have a voice from the town of Sutton.

Initial Compliance Certificate form the MA School Board Association (MSBA) re: Middle School/High School. TA Smith informs BOS that this is the next step and must be signed by those that have submitted a Statement of Interest (SOI). The Town of Sutton was chosen to be 1 of the 49 towns to go forward to the next process. This Compliance Certificate is an extensive agreement with complicated language; TA Smith is having Kopelman & Paige review prior to signing. The feasibility study which was previously done needs some updating such as the enrollment projections. Selectman Geraghty comments that the process used now has very clear ground rules. If the Town decides to go forward, the State is in control of what is spent. TA Smith informs all that the State would rather see renovations over new construction. Selectman Geraghty reminds all that with the new process, the State pays their part up front and the amount remaining is the responsibility of the Town.

Town Administrators Update:

- Telecommunications Exemption- the State Appellate Tax Board ruled that telephone companies must pay personal property taxes on poles and wires in towns. This will go thru an appeal process but could mean additional annual revenue of \$35,000.-\$40,000. Until this goes thru the appeals process, the funds will have to be placed in an overlay reserve account.
- Cable Camera Upgrade- cameras and supporting equipment in the process of being installed. The goal is to be up and running by March 25th. This will improve what the residents see in their homes.
- Budget Update- Finance Committee to hold 3 Public Hearings 3/24, 4/14 and 4/17
Senator Moore to hold briefing on State Budget March 26th at the Oxford Library
MA House Leadership committed to supporting level funding of lottery aid as well as the same level funding for Chapter 70. They are trying to get an early vote sometime in April.

Announcements:

Selectman Hebert informs board that he and Bruce Davis will be attending the quarterly CMRPC meeting scheduled for Thursday evening.

Selectman Geraghty reminds public that on April 5th 9-12 there will be a Marions Camp Charette at the Claudia Simonian Early Learning Center. The public is welcome to attend.

Round Table:

Selectman Chizy informs all that the Sutton Food Pantry located at the Sutton Senior Center is running low on many items.

Selectman Frustaci informs board that Executive Session Minutes must be reviewed and approved in Executive Session in the event they are discussed. TA Smith will check further in to this.

Selectman Fattman asks Chizy if the Food Pantry advertises their needs in the Millbury Chronicle, Selectman Chizy replies no, on the Cable Channel. Fattman offers his congratulations to the Sammie's and Suzie's Basketball season. Fattman also mentions the proposal to shoot a movie in town ("Cruelty"). He offers background information on the individual that has contacted the town, Monica Green. She is a graduate from Sutton High School as well as Emerson College. Monica wishes to give back to the community that she feels gave her so much. This is a low budget film. Part of the shooting would be in the school parking lot on a Friday afternoon, parents would have to sign permission slips. Selectman Hebert feels this is a great opportunity for the Town of Sutton. TA Smith informs BOS that he has spoken to the Chief of Police as the Town Hall and the Police Dept. are also proposed to be locations used in the movie. Selectman Geraghty questions who has jurisdiction of School property to allow this type of use, he feels it is the School Committee, Ta Smith agrees that it should be the School Committee.

Selectman Chizy motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m., Selectman Fattman seconds the motion, All in Favor Passes 5-0

