

Michael Chizy, Chairman
John L. Hebert, Vice-Chairman
Richard Hersom, Clerk
Ryan Fattman
Kevin Geraghty



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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 August 26, 2008 by a vote 5-0

7:00 p.m. – August 5, 2008

Sutton Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room

Members in Attendance:

Michael Chizy, Chairman
John Hebert, Vice-Chairman
Richard Hersom, Clerk
Kevin Geraghty, Member
Ryan Fattman, Member

Also in Attendance:

James Smith, Town Administrator
Debbie Jacques

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

No discussion under Public Forum

Selectman Fattman motions to approve the July 15, 2008 minutes, Selectman Hersom seconds, all in favor passes 4-0-1
Proclamation awarded to David Surprenant in honor of his achievement of Eagle Scout.

Public Hearing Car Custodian (Class I and II) change of ownership

Selectman Rick Hersom reads the Public Notice as advertised in the Millbury Sutton Chronicle. New owners Ray Stone and Dan Riley are present as well as previous owner Jan Hanratty. TA Smith informs BOS that all departments have responded with no issues regarding this transfer. The Building Inspector, John Couture had requested a scaled drawing of the site showing adequate space for the amount of vehicles requested. Class I license -15 vehicles and Class II license - 10 vehicles. This was submitted and John Couture was satisfied with site plan. The bond for the Class II license is in hand and forwarded to TA Smith. New owners, Ray Stone and Dan Riley wish to keep the business as is and follow Jan Hanrattys tradition of his business in town. Hearing no further comments, Selectman Fattman motions to close the public hearing, Selectman Geraghty seconds the motion, all in favor 5-0. Selectman Geraghty motions to approve the Class I and II licenses for D.R. Stone Inc. dba Car Custodian, Selectman Fattman seconds, all in favor passes 5-0

Authorization of MORE Grant: TA Smith explains to BOS that the \$500,000 MORE grant would help with infrastructure improvements on route 146 with acceleration & deceleration lanes, water and sewer and an Opticom system at the Boston Rd. and Route 146 intersection. TA Smith also explains that once Atlas Box transfers to 146 it would mean additional jobs (currently 200 jobs will increase to 400 jobs). Jim says that the state has been very supportive of these MORE grants as it helps keep the tax base in Massachusetts. The BOS are all supportive of this grant and feel the Opticom system would be a benefit for all emergency vehicles when trying to maneuver thru the 146 and Boston Road intersection. Selectman Fattman motions that the BOS authorize the Town Administrator to submit the MORE application in the amount of \$500,000 on behalf of the Town of Sutton, Selectman Hersom seconds, all in favor passes 5-0

Power Point Presentation on Quarterly Billing: Tax Collector/Treasurer Cheryl Ouillette, Town Accountant Tim Harrison and Knick Nunnemacher from the Board of Assessors are present. TA Smith thanks the financial staff for assisting in the information regarding this. TA Smith gives a brief power point on the benefits of 1/4 billing. If the BOS are interested in adopting quarterly billing it would have to be placed on the Fall Town Meeting. If approved, it would then be effective for Fiscal Year 2010. Currently Sutton uses the semi-annual tax payment system. If Quarterly billing is adopted, there would be 2 mailings per year (no increase cost in mailing) with 2 coupons in each mailing. The 1st two bills would be preliminary while the 3rd and 4th would be actual due to changes in valuation and annual tax increases. Due dates would be August 1st, November 1st, February 1st and May 1st. Quarterly billing would benefit the town by bringing revenue into the town by the first month of the fiscal year. Currently the town does not see revenue until the 5th month of the fiscal year. Out of 351 communities in Massachusetts, 241 have quarterly billing. In the Blackstone Valley, Sutton and Oxford are the only 2 that continue with semi-annual billing. TA Smith informs BOS that 12 years ago, the DOR came into Sutton and recommended Sutton implement quarterly billing. This would reduce the need to possibly have to borrow in anticipation of expected revenue. The impact on the Tax Collectors office and the Assessors office would be minimal. TA Smith informs BOS that 90% of bills are paid thru the lock box method as well as online. Cheryl Ouillette feels the biggest hurdle will be educating the public. This may be done on cable, as well as tax bill inserts. Tim Harrison feels it will not increase the work load significantly, it would just change the timing of doing the work. Selectman Geraghty feels there is no fiscal reason not to change to quarterly billing He feels it is good fiscal cash management. Selectman Fattman is concerned with how this could affect residents on a fixed income. Selectman Hebert feels it is prudent to start this but would like staffing to be reviewed. Selectman Hersom is a strong advocate of quarterly billing but is also concerned with the residents that do not have their property taxes in escrow accounts when they have to contend with the cost of heating their homes as well as the rising food costs. If change is to occur, Rick would like to get the word out early so residents can budget better. Selectman Chizy comments that he has had Sr. Citizens approach him saying they would prefer the quarterly billing. Chizy feels this would be beneficial to the town. Knick Nunnemacher informs board that in his 25 yrs here, it has been attempted twice. Knick feels it would be a tremendous amount of work to change to quarterly billing and the first few years would be very difficult. Hearing no further discussion, the BOS are in agreement for TA Smith to submit the proposed warrant article to them in support of going to quarterly billing.

BOS Appointee to Designer Selection Panel: After discussion, Selectman Geraghty would like TA Smith to act as the BOS representative all are in agreement. TA Smith feels the local roll is very limited but is glad to serve as BOS representative. Selectmen John Hebert motions to appoint James Smith as the BOS designee to the Designer Selection panel for the Middle School/High School project, Selectman Fattman seconds all in favor passes 5-0

Town Administrator Update:

- Roof issues at the Early Learning Center: possibility of filing another Statement of Interest with MSBA for a grant to replace the ELC roof. If accepted there is a possibility of 50% reimbursement. This could possibly become a debt exclusion issue.
- Review of schedule for upcoming Fall Town meeting
- Verizon: Ellen Cummings has been in contact with TA Smith. Verizon is in town and customers are signing up at this time. Verizon is going door to door and will also be advertising in newspapers. The \$4500.00 grant was awarded to the Sr. Center last week.

Announcements:

- * Selec. Chizy requests reappointment of Bruce Davis and John Hebert to the CMRPC. Selectman Fattman motions for the reappointments, Selectman Geraghty seconds, all in favor passes 5-0
- * David Surprenants Eagle Scout ceremony at St. Marks on August 10th @ 6:00p.m.
- * Friends of Marions Camp Sept. 8th @ 7:00 in the Town Hall
- * Sutton Liquors on 146 has expanded to their business. Congratulations to Vinny and Carol Allard

Round Table:

- * Village Common district update: before Planning Board now. Planning Board may sponsor rather than a citizen's petition. Goal is to simplify.
- * Selec. Hersom asks update on first meeting between Fin Com., the School Committee and the BOS. TA Smith reports that Fin. Com has tentatively set a date of October 27th.

Selectman Geraghty moves that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss litigation with the intention of returning back to open session for the purpose of adjournment, Selectman Fattman seconds All in favor passes 5-0
Hearing no further discussion, Selectman Hersom motions to adjourn the meeting, Selectman Hebert seconds the motion all in favor passes 5-0

Meeting Adjourned 9:00p.m.

