

Sutton Selectmen's Meeting
Sutton Town Offices
March 27, 2014

Chairman Joe Solinsky called the meeting to order at 6:06PM

Attending the meeting: George Colburn; Gail Weed; Pierre Dupuis; Danielle Fortin; Andrew Grieves; Gary Grieves; Renee Kelly; Rick Jackson; Debra Jackson; Dan Jackson; Pat Jackson; Dianna Simpson; Gary Leach, Tata & Howard; John Neilon; Clint Gray; Mary Gray; Scott Spencer; Tim Simpson; Joe Solinsky; Larry Francis

First order of business:

Floor opened for Chairman: Joe Solinsky nominated Scott Spencer for Chairman; 2nd by Tim Simpson. Joe explained the Health Officer goes along with the Chairmanship. Scott Spencer accepted the nomination for Chairman and Health Officer. All voted in favor

Tim Simpson motioned to use Roberts Rules of Order to run the meetings. Joe 2nd motion. All voted in favor

Scott thanked Joe for his year of service as Chairman. Joe stated this certainly was an interesting year.

The January 26, 2014 minutes were not provided and unable to approve.

Tim made a motion to accept February 27, 2014 minutes as printed. Joe 2nd motion. No discussion; Scott called for a vote. All voted in favor

Motion was made by Tim to approve the March 19, 2014 minutes; motion 2nd by Joe. Discussion was the last paragraph page 2 should read: ".....There was to be an agreement signed between ~~the~~ P & L Riendeau Trucking and Washington Railroad about upgrading the crossing". All voted in favor with corrections.

Tim made a motion to reimburse Clint Gray the bond fee of \$100.00, to bond Mary for \$25,000.00. Joe 2nd motion. All voted in favor

Furnace quotes were reviewed: Quotes submitted: Harris \$8,484.00; Propane Depot \$7,486.69; Jim's Burner Service \$8,145.00.

Motion was made by Joe to use Propane Depot to install the new furnace in the town office with the price quote of \$7,486.69. Tim 2nd motion. All voted in favor

George explained that a new office computer was needed and he received a quote Northeast Computer would cost \$700.00 for a complete system. George stated this will put them over budget. Also, the binding machine has not been paid for yet is part of the reason of being over budget.

Tim moved to authorize the new computer system for \$700.00 for the office. 2nd by Joe. All voted in favor

Clint Gray suggested that the lap top could be used for delinquent taxes and minutes for town business.

George received a letter from the Governor's office for the position of Justice of the Peace. Also a letter was received from Hank Parker the Chair of the Republican caucus stating they do not want to put a republican name in for that position, but would support Danielle Fortin, being an Independent. Tim nominated Danielle Fortin, Joe 2nd nomination. Scott asked that George send an e-mail to Sandy Spaulding at the Governor's office stating that the Sutton Select Board nominated Danielle Fortin for the position of Justice of Peace. All voted in favor

Gary Leach, Tata & Howard. Tim stated we hired Leach engineering for the water system for the town and are in the process to move forward. Gary believes the nitrate removal would be the way to go, but in order to receive funding either from the state or USDA, alternatives need to be given. Since the nitrate is at levels that the USDA considers being a health hazard we would be considered for a grant of up to 75% of the cost. The state also would have zero to low interest loans available. The first date of July 1 to have this completed by was unrealistic, so Ashley Lutt went to the compliance department and they gave Sutton a date of December 1, 2014 to be completed. The selectmen signed the application to begin the process. Both agencies, USDA and State, need to approve this application; it will take about 30 days. The select board also reviewed the engineering agreement, but did not sign it since it was not needed to go with the application. Tim will be the contact person with the backup of Scott, if Tim is not available.

Joe wants to make sure that they, the state or USDA, won't let us go directly to the removal of a nitrate system. Joe said it sounds like the arena has changed since the last meeting even if we choose not to use any grants. Gary stated because this is a public water supply system, we have to conform. Gary stated that if the town used the state or USDA loans, they are both low interest rates with no penalty if it is paid off early.

Umbrella: Renee Kelley, an Associate of Umbrella and a resident of Sutton explained to the selectmen: At the 2013 Town meeting, the voters had approved an appropriation of \$500.00 to Umbrella but it was never paid to Umbrella. She is here requesting the money be paid to Umbrella for the 2013 appropriation.

Motion was made by Tim that Umbrella be paid \$500.00 appropriation that was approved at the 2013 town meeting. Motion 2nd by Joe. All voted in favor

Tim asked to have the floor: He stated he sign a warrant from the water account for an electric bill from October 2013 that was never paid, it is unclear if there is another bill from August that was not paid and it is being checked on now

George stated that Mr. Soucy wants his taxes abated and he sent that down to Peter Morressette's office.

Larry Francis explained on Friday morning the roads were icy and a car slid into his two cars. Debby Jackson received a call from VSP dispatch at 1:35AM Tim was called at 12:57AM Scott was called earlier. Larry stated the state police said that the roads have to be emergency accessible. The officer said it took him 20 minutes from the Sutton town line to Larry Francis house. Both his cars were totaled by being hit by another vehicle because of icy roads. Larry is now renting a vehicle. Larry thinks the town should be responsible for the extra \$2163.76 that it is costing him. Larry has been here for 8 years, the

town ruined his well, Rick dug up the access to the back yard, dug a culvert out, now this. The board asked about the insurance company of the vehicle that struck his vehicles and why they are not paying 100%. Recommendation by Scott, the town does not have responsibility for this, the insurance is stating it is not responsible for the \$2163.76. Scott asked is this is the difference from their payoffs and what the vehicles are worth? Larry said yes. The Board is recommending Larry to hire a lawyer, he said he did and the lawyer said to come to the selectmen. Larry does not know if there were any tickets given to the driver. The selectmen don't feel the town is liable for this.

Andrew Grieves appeared before the board. Town Highway 16 is blocked and it is a public road.

Andrew Grieves wanted a letter read into the minutes:

"I am here to request that the Town of Sutton re-open the Benton Road (Town Highway 16). Someone has posted a no trespass sign and the road has been roped off. Town Highway 16 is, and always has been, a public town road. This open and public roadway has been available for driving, hiking, walking, horseback riding and many other uses. It is illegal to restrict the use of this road by a private citizen. Thank you, Andrew Grieves"

Scott wants to hear from District 7 on this and do some research from past minutes. Scott is asking for some time to research this. Debby Jackson will call Ben McCormack to see if he has documentation on this.

Pat Jackson has a letter from Mrs. Beth Townshend requesting a 4 parcel burial lot for her family.

Motion was made by Joe to approve a 4 plot burial lot to Beth Townshend in the Sutton Village Cemetery. Motion 2nd by Tim. All voted in favor

Mary asked the selectmen if she could ask Sue Cheney what the cost would be to clean the office once a month. The town office is very dirty and looks like it has not been cleaned in a year. Mary will research the cost. Scott stated he wants a new Shark Vacuum cleaner for this building. This can be purchased at Wal-Mart for \$225.00, it is bag-less/upright. Suggestion was also to call Mike to get rid of the cluster flies.

Tim made a motion to authorize George or Gail to acquire a Shark vacuum cleaner for the office building. Joe 2nd the motion. All voted in favor

Mary Gray agreed to take the minutes at selectmen board meeting will receive \$12.00/hr. She did request that the meetings not go longer than 3 hours. The board seemed to think that they did not want them to go that long either.

Tim made a motion to pay \$12.00 per hour for minutes taken for board meetings. Joe 2nd motion. All voted in favor.

Gail Weed handed a letter to the selectmen requesting that the position of Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer be reclassified to a full time position with full benefits. The selectmen asked what full benefits would be and it was explained by George, health benefits, vacation/sick time and retirement. Gail feels that the 16 hours the previous Town Clerk budgeted for is not sufficient to complete the work. Since this is personnel, the selectmen wanted to know if Gail would like to have this conducted in executive session, she declined, stating she did not need it in executive session.

Gail has been with the town since December 20, 2012. The selectmen stated to George that they control the budget, but George should come before the board to ask to have this position be full time since he is the one that hires his assistants.

George requested from the selectmen the position of Assistant Town Clerk/Assistant Treasurer be changed from a part time position to a full time position with benefits.

Scott wants to know if they want to keep the meeting open or go into executive session. George did not have a problem keeping the meeting open.

Scott said we need to put a motion on the floor to fund the assistant position; make a motion to turn it from part time to full time; then motion the pay scale.

Gail stated she would forgo the retirement this year if George decided to keep her on, she will ask for retirement in next year's budget

Tim made a motion to turn the Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer position into full time for 30 hours a week at the same per hour rate. This position is now receiving \$13.50/hr. Motion 2nd by Joe. All voted in favor

George stated he will be changing the office hours by closing Friday afternoons.

A special meeting needs to be set up for paving bids.

Correspondence: George needs a signature from the select board to have Gail put on all the checking/savings accounts.

Selectmen handled correspondence

Treasurer report:

Gail said there is \$10,000.00 from the state transportation that she has to do research on. George reviewed the treasurer's report that Gail prepared for the board and he is comfortable with it

Tim made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion 2nd by Joe. All in voted favor

All warrants were signed along with the checks.

Adjourned at 9:00PM

Draft Submitted

Mary Gray

Accepted by Selectboard April 24, 2014