

Sutton Select Board Meeting  
March 31, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Tim Simpson, Chairman

Attending the meeting: Rick and Deb Jackson; George Colburn; Gail Weed; Larry Seymour; Paul Tomasi, NEKWMD; Elizabeth Hubbard, Gary Leach, TATA & Howard; Amy Nixon, Caledonia Record; Select Board, Joe Solinsky; Scott Spencer; Tim Simpson; Clerk, Mary Gray

Addition and Deletions or Amendments:

Larry Seymour, Fire Department was added

Scott made a motion to accept the February 25, 2016 and March 14, 2016 minutes. Joe seconded the motion. Tim called for discussion: Hearing none, Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative.

Scott made a motion to accept the treasurers report as printed, with a balance of \$302,032.59 as of March 31, 2016. Joe seconded the motion. Tim called for discussion: Hearing none, Tim call for a vote. All voted in the affirmative

Delinquent tax report was handed out, no discussion.

Larry Seymour, Fire Department: Larry informed the board the engineer's final bill was received of \$383.33 and is the town clerks hands for payment. The certificate of occupancy has not been received yet. Joe asked about the progress of a fire/tanker truck. Larry updated the board; they purchased a 1990 Pearce with a plastic tank that is in excellent shape with less than 25,000 miles on it. On the way back to Sutton, the truck struck a deer but there was minimal damage.

Paul Tomasi, NEK Waste District, reported that a feasibility study was done on collecting recyclables. Results is to continue to sort is in their best interest, once trucking is involved it is more expensive. NEKWMD like to purchase some packer trucks and install dumpsters at the different facilities to separate recyclables out. The goal would be for tin and paper to be placed indoors, but Sutton is not be suitable for this. Sutton would need an extra container. The district is trying to obtain grant money to purchase the truck and containers and Sutton would not need to pay for this. The district has the 20% money for an 80% grant. A request might be putting a pole barn over the containers in the future and this would be a cost to Sutton, so in future budgets figured, you could plan on this building in your budget. This is all contingent on receiving a grant.

Paul also sent a letter out to amend their charter that needs to go before the NEK Waste board then onto legislature. Voting on the budget is a change they want, they are the only solid waste district that does it this way. Rather than voters approve the budget it will be the supervisors board approving the budget. Our representative to their board is Elizabeth Hubbard at the monthly select board meetings. The NEKW budget has not been defeated since 1996. Another charter change they would like is how they receive their income. They want to change the way they charge, it will be a per capita fee from each town they serve; also under consideration is a service fee on services they provide, it would appear as a sales tax, that is still being explored. If the recycling markets go back up then this would be a moot point. In order to keep their expenses down, the employee's health care has been cut and had the employees apply through the state's health care insurance program. Tim requested that their town

report include what portion of their budget Sutton pays based upon users fees and not tax payers so it is explained it is not included in the tax rate.

Tata& Howard, Gary Leach update: Almost ready to award the project to Tri-State. USDA approval was received then rescinded with the cost overrun of \$66,000.00. Gary said it was rescinded because originally there were 3 zones involved in receiving grants, then North Dakota came on board and asked for money so Sutton's overrun was cut. The reason of the \$66,000.00 over run was a couple of things such as added engineering cost, ledge; concrete costs; having an office trailer on site; etc. Gary submitted the cost overrun to see if USDA would approve and fund it. Gary went on to explain that he received an email that we are not getting any overrun cost grant money. Gary said the cost overrun will have to be a loan.

The selectmen stated that the cost overrun should be reviewed and Gary did just that. He met with Neal Faulkner since the last meeting and went over things such as his sub-contractors, concrete costs, engineering inspection costs, things that may not be needed. After meeting with Neal, the costs that were reduced were as follows: ledge removal costs, in hopes no ledge is there; having an on-site trailer; engineering inspection costs; contingency expenses, thus reducing the \$66,000.00 down to \$18,825.00 with Gary requesting the town use loan money and not USDA money. Scott went into depth about the \$24,500 contingency money stating that he wants everyone to understand that there is a risk for omitting this contingency money such as if they hit ledge, then Scott wants to go back to the USDA. The \$18,825.00 will cost the water users an extra \$25.00 per year per household for the length of the loan. It was made clear by the select board that Neal will get a lump sum, no more; no less unless there is a change order.

When the water users applied for the grant, USDA was going to pay 74.9% of the project, since it has taken almost 3 years to get this project going USDA is now paying 70% of the project costs, which hurts the 22 users on the system. Joe wanted to know if there was any way to cut any more of the expenses such as the engineering costs? Gary said that they have already cut out the \$16,000.00 engineering inspection costs stating that Neal will work with them on this they also put in 120 hours when applying for the permit, which took 6 months to complete with the state that they did not charge the town for those hours, Joe stated that the longer this went on, the more it was costing us.

Joe made a motion to apply to the USDA for \$18,825.000. Scott seconded the motion. Discussion is to not borrow unless it is needed. We are not borrowing the contingency so can we go back to the USDA for more money. In this discussion, the water commissioners/selectmen stated the \$24,500.00 was contingency money and we are not borrowing that but if needed we will be back to the USDA if we need to for things such as ledge removal or any other costs were unforeseen. As time goes on, it gets more expensive. Neal can't come back to us asking for more money. Gary said, the loan money interest rate will be going down April 1, 2016. Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative. The company was given 4 months to build this.

Gary will get the paperwork and Misty from USDA will want to meet with the board to sign the paperwork.

Scott made a motion to appoint all the offices that were appointed last year. Joe seconded the motion. Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative. Scott asked Gail to write the letters to the appointed officers to see if they will accept. The appointments are as follows: Town Service Officer, Elaine Bandy; Town Environmental Officer, Debra Jackson; Fence Viewers, Norbert Patoine, Clement Patoine;

Inspector of Wood, Shingles, Lumber, Clement Patoine; Fire Warden, Norbert Patoine; Health Officer, Scott Spencer; Zoning Administration Officer; Ron Trembley, Mary-Lou Lamont; Town Planning Commission, Paul Brouha, Byron Savoy, Hank Parker, Joe Witt, Jeff Norris (Alternate), Marlin (Chip) Devenger, Zoning Clerk, Brandon Mazur. There was a question on the their terms that Gail will look up; Budget Committee, Select-Board, David Tucker, Norbert Patoine, Dianna Simpson, Town Clerk; Conservation Commission, Debra Jackson; Representative Lyndon State Rescue, Ben McCormack.

The town meeting minutes were being read and Tim called for "Point of Order" The minutes were immediately signed by motion made by Scott to sign the town meeting minutes. Joe seconded the motion. Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative.

Scott made a motion to table the local emergency operation plan. Joe seconded the motion. Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative.

Scott made a motion to give 3% /hr. raise as budgeted and passed at town meeting to Rick and Dan. Gail will receive \$.50/ hr raise as does Pat Jackson receive \$.50 / hr raise. George was given \$1000.00 per year raise. These raises will be retroactive from January 1. 2016. Joe seconded the motion. Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative.

Scott made a motion to pay Mary or whoever does the town meeting/school district minutes up to \$75.00 along with paying \$75.00 per select board meeting minutes. Joe seconded the motion. Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative.

There was discussion on the water user fees. There are 30 users for the water system and it was suggested keeping the water rates the same this quarter. Now the water users are paying \$125.00 George suggested to raise to \$131.00 next quarter. Scott recommends \$150.00 now to stabilize the rates for the next 4 years and sending a note that this hopefully will be stabilized at this rate.

Scott made a motion to have Joe Solinsky to become chairman of the board starting immediately. Tim seconded the motion. Tim called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative.

Scott made a motion to accept Robert Rules of order to govern the select board's meetings. Tim seconded the motion. Joe called for a vote. All voted in the affirmative

Scott thanked Tim for his work as the chairman of the select board.

The select board signed the warrants and read the correspondence.

Small discussion on property the state wants to purchase from Blake's. The town of Sutton gets about \$1200 in taxes paid. When the state purchases the property the pilot program will generate about \$300.00. The governing body will write a letter stating that we are losing 800.00 in revenue when the state purchases the property.

Scott made a motion to adjourn at 8:21PM. Tim seconded motion. Joe called for a vote. All Voted in the affirmative.

Mary Gray  
Clerk