

Sutton Select Board Meeting
January 29, 2026

Joe Solinsky, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04PM

Attendance: Select Board Chair: Joe Solinsky; Select Board Members: Tim Simpson; Denis Royer II; Town Clerk/Treasurer: Patti McClure; Highway Foreman: Shane Heath; State of Vermont Recovery Officer: Patricia Moulton; PC/DRB Member: Robert Simms; Jamie Crooks; Adam Bruggeman; Caledonian Record: Paul Hayes; Minutes Clerk: Mary Gray

Agenda Modifications: none

Tim made a motion to approve December 4, 2025 Select Board Meeting Minutes. Joe 2nd the motion. Motion passed

Tim made a motion to approve the 2026 Budget Meeting Minutes for December 18, 2025 and January 15, 2026. Joe 2nd motion. Motion passed

Tim made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 29, 2026. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Delinquent Tax Report was handed out

Visitors:

Patricia Moulton; State of Vermont Flood Recovery Officer explained her position as the municipalities long term disaster recovery person. Pat wants to know what outstanding recoveries are needed from us. There may be grants available from VTrans to look at. Patti explained we have been in contact with the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank. Pat said they are good at working with the municipalities. Agency of Commerce, Pat would help writing grants should the municipal buildings need recovery help, but that may not apply to Sutton. If we need free box culverts she can help with that, but the catch is we need to get them and that would entail a crane to load and unload plus trucking. Northern Borders Regional Commission is a possibility that Pat can help with also. Pat explained she is here to find out what the needs are for Sutton. The work that has already been done will not qualify for grants; the town is responsible for that. NVDA is also available for help writing the grants. Sutton Hollow Road would need a culvert since that road is closed but it does have another entrance, so the decision is to fix it or keep it closed. Pudding Hill Bridge is temporarily open. The state wants us to replace it since this is one of the main roads in Sutton. Calendar Book Road's culvert needs to be upsized, and the state wants us to replace it. A culvert on Station Road needs to be done also. Burke Road would need to be upsized. Most of this is because of the state requirement. If we cannot get grants, there is no way the town could afford to get this done. A Hydraulic study has been done by the state already. Nate Sicard is our go-to-person. A suggestion for Station Road is to put a small bridge in since it would be less expensive than a box culvert. We need to have an engineer involved in the direction we

should go. A rough estimate for replacing the Pudding Hill culvert was over 2 million dollars. Pat would like to reach out to Nate Sicard to get some estimates, and she will talk to Logan also. Ludlow citizens came up with the idea of checking culverts that are also at the end of driveways they call themselves Culvert Crawlers. The citizens along with the volunteers on Green Up Day go around just checking to see if the culverts are jammed or clogged up and make a report to the town. Dartmouth came up with a program that would track these culverts. Shane said, we have main ones that plug up all the time that we keep track of. Shane also explained we follow the Better Back Roads criteria. Patti said that any flood recovery money is slow. Pat said, "keep talking to your legislators letting them know we need money to help our small-town recovery from the flooding". Do not let up, keep in contact with them. Pat said she will help where she is able to.

Robert Simms; PC/DRB Board: Nomination of Jamie Crooks to the PC/DRB Board
Jamie Crooks is a 35-year resident of the town and has an interest in the PC/DRB Board in becoming a member.

Denis made a motion to accept the nomination of Jamie Crooks to the PC/DRB Board. Tim seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Robert explained that the board may need some legal advice and will update the board later.

New Business:

The select board members signed the Town Meeting Warning on 1/29/2026.

Patti and Shane explained the issues they have been having with Amerigas so Patti called around to other propane dealers and found they Bourne's propane costs \$1.699 per gallon and would be that price through June 30, 2028. AmeriGas costs are over \$2.00 a gallon and they are not dependable, the town ran out of propane and Patti and Shane could not get hold of anyone local. The change of propane dealers would happen in the spring when the tanks can be removed and replaced with a new company.

Shane Heath; Highway Foreman: Shane updated the board of the salt shortage. The snowbanks are being pushed back. We are also running low on sand if this weather keeps up. Shane needs to get costs to rebuild the plow. Shane also explained that a new truck and body would take 2 years and the backhoe needs work done on it. Tim said an explanation of the road equipment; culverts; what to do with Sutton Hollow Road should all be brought up at town meeting. Explain none of these items were built into the budget because of the cost of everything and the budget committee is trying everything to keep the cost down. The school budget we have no control over. If the voters want to amend the budget that is something that they could do to reflect an increase in the emergency costs.

Tabled Business

- Alternate DRB/PC Member

- Cutting of trees on Fire Department Land

Correspondence:

- Rob Simms wants feedback on the land use maps with rural general designation where we have it industrial, the committee felt that the town zoning map takes precedence. NVDA statutes said that the Land Use Map does not override the Town Zoning Map, but the Regional Planning Map is a different map which they do oversee. If they want to override, they can, but there is no history of that ever happening, so we should not worry about it. Robert explained Act 181 may affect us, basically states the housing targets for 2030 which the town of Sutton are supposed to build 10 new dwellings in the next 10 years. Calling this Aspirational in the Town Plan Development what the state is trying to do is push us to relax zoning rules so the developers will have an incentive to build. We must create a new Town Plan that satisfies the state.
- Marty Feltus sent Joe an email that basically said there is no money to help the towns.

Review invoices and signed Warrants

Denis made a motion to adjourn at 7:46. Tim seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Submitted by
Mary Gray
Minutes Clerk