

Town of Sutton 2026 Budget Meeting
December 18, 2025

Joe called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

Attending: Joe Solinsky, Tim Simpson, Denis Royer, Pat Jackson, Dan Jackson, Patti McClure, Shane Heath, and Mary Gray.

Patti found a company that will print out town reports since we are unable to use the program that we had in years past.

The sheriff's office sent a new contract with the rates per hour went from \$42.00 to \$60.00 per hour. We will still budget \$4,500.00 for 2026. Possibly look into contracting with another agency next year.

We need to find another person to clean the office and fire department next year.

May look at another dumpster company other than Casella for next year.

Phones and internet at the fire department are costing less since they changed to Phoenix.

The audit reserve account we will be adding \$3,000. FEMA may require one, but even if they do not it will be a good idea to have one done. An audit would cost approx. \$28,000.

Highway will be addressed at the next meeting on January 15, 2026.

Denis made meeting adjourned at 7:36pm Tim seconded the motion. Motion passed. Budget meeting continued. January 15, 2026

Sutton Budget Meeting
January 15, 2026

Joe called the meeting to order at 6:17PM

Attending: Joe Solinsky, Tim Simpson, Denis Royer, Patti McClure, Shane Heath, Pat Jackson, and Dan Jackson.

Patti said Rob Sims, Zoning and Planning Board member, is requesting a line item added for a Matching Grant for a survey for \$930.50 which was added.

Salaries: Cola increase of 2.8%

- Town Clerk/Treasurer \$54,371.00
- Town Clerk Office Assistant \$23.65
- Board of Civil Authority/per meeting \$26.34
- Election wages \$15.36
- Building Maintenance Cleaning Wages \$15.36
- Auditor's Wages \$21.44
- Cemetery Sexton wages \$21.16
- Lister's Wage \$25.04
- Highway P/T employee \$21.75

Reviewing the highway: The committee was in concurrence or the wages to be raised for Shane and Corey at \$1.00 per hour each. The board is getting good reports on how the highway crew keeps the roads up.

- Highway Foreman \$29.00
- Highway F/T Employee \$26.00

All wages will be prorated pay from January 1, 2025 when the budget passes at the Town Meeting 2026.

There was discussion about the mowing budget. Maybe we could rent a mower? Or somehow reduce the cost. Shane said renting one would be difficult. Patti said this is put out to bid and last year we only got one bid, so we did not have any choice.

Joe was thinking about how we could reduce the highway budget, but Shane said with winter conditions unknown and the floods we have had the past couple of years, we have no control over this. The maintenance and fuel were higher since dealing with the flooding and using our equipment, it is wearing on them.

The budget the committee agreed upon is:

	Expenses	Income	Taxes to be raised
General Budget	\$328,656.39	(\$116,284.00)	\$212,372.39
Highway	<u>\$635,010.86</u>	<u>(\$ 91,800.00)</u>	<u>\$543,210.86</u>
	\$963,667.25	(\$208,084.00)	\$755,583.25

**With the 2026 budget finalized, the amount of taxes to be raised is \$755,583.25
This is a 1.0145% increase from 2025.**

Denis made a motion to present the 2026 budget for the Town Meeting 2026 for approval. Tim seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Patti updated the committee with the flood damage expenses LOC balance of \$608,000. She spoke with VT Bond Bank about the possibility of getting a loan for the expenses if the state or FEMA does not help. She said they offer a 1.3% interest rate and encouraged Patti to apply for the loan in March 2026. Tim said the board should explain this at the Town Annual Meeting and with the expenses being so great they will need to understand if we don't receive help from the government, we will be paying for this from the taxpayers and will be adding this to the future budgets.

Denis made a motion to adjourn at 7:45PM Tim seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Submitted by
Mary Gray
Budget Clerk