

**WARNING
TOWN OF SUTTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 5, 2024**

The legal voters of the Town of Sutton are hereby notified to meet at the Sutton School multi-purpose room in said Town of March 5, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. to transact the following business from the floor:

NOTICE TO VOTERS: Residents who are not already on the voter checklist may register to vote the day of Town Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Marlin "Chip" Devenger at 10:00 A.M.

The warning was read by Marlin (Chip) Devenger

Article 1: To elect a Moderator
Tim Simpson, Chair of the Select Board opened the floor for nominations
Marlin "Chip" Devenger was nominated by Scott Brill; 2nd by Clint Gray.
Close nominations by Paul Brouha; 2nd by Larry Seymour.
Voice vote in the affirmative

Article 2: Shall the voters of Sutton accept the Town Report
Kurt Nygren so moved; 2nd by Scott Brill
Voice vote in the affirmative

Article 3: To elect all necessary officers for the ensuing year:

A. Select Board 3 years:
Tim Simpson was nominated by Gale Berry; 2nd by Clint Gray
Voice vote in the affirmative
Paul Brouha motioned for the Town Clerk to cast one ballot; 2nd by Gale Berry. Voice vote in the affirmative

B. Lister's 3 years:
Paul Lane was nominated by Candace Heath; 2nd by David Tucker
Voice vote in the affirmative
Scott Brill motioned for the Town Clerk to cast one ballot; 2nd by Candace Heath. Voice vote in the affirmative

C. Town Grand Juror 1 year:
Kathy Keizer was nominated by Dianna Simpson; 2nd by David Tucker
Hand vote in the affirmative

D. First Constable 1 year:

Kurt Nygren was nominated by Rick Jackson; 2nd by Adam Bruggeman

Voice vote in the affirmative

E. Second Constable 1 year:

Adam Bruggeman was nominated by Kurt Nygren; 2nd by Dianna Simpson

Hand vote in the affirmative

F. Agent to Convey Real Estate

John Sylvester was nominated by Dianna Simpson; 2nd by Carol Brouha

Voice vote in the affirmative

G. Water Commissioner

Scott Spencer was nominated by Paul Brouha; 2nd by Dianna Simpson

Voice vote in the affirmative

Paul Brouha motioned for the Town Clerk to cast one ballot; 2nd by Scott Brill. Voice vote in the affirmative

H. Auditor 3 years

Danielle Fortin was nominated by Pat Jackson; 2nd by Glen Stine
Voice vote in the affirmative

Kurt Nygren motioned for the Town Clerk to cast one ballot; 2nd by Paul Brouha. Voice vote in the affirmative

I. Sexton of Cemeteries 1 year

Pat Jackson was nominated by Tim Simpson; 2nd by Shane Heath
Hand vote in the affirmative

Article 4: Shall the voters of Sutton authorize the Select Board to hire money, if necessary, in anticipation of taxes, to meet current expenses for the ensuing year and how much?

Scott Brill motioned to authorize the Select Board to hire money up to \$100,000, if necessary to meet current expenses. 2nd by Karla Boone

Hand vote in the affirmative

Article 5: Shall the voters of Sutton authorize payment of real and personal property taxes due November 1, 2024 and physical delivery to the tax collector by 5:00 PM on that day?

Tim Simpson so moved; 2nd by Melanie Miller

Voice vote in the affirmative

Article 6: Shall the voters of Sutton vote to authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate in an amount sufficient to support the adopted budgets and any special appropriation articles approved when the Grand List is completed?
Steve Maleski so moved; 2nd by Kurt Nygren
Hand vote in the affirmative

Article 7: Shall the voters of Sutton approve the amount of \$43,646.23 for the Ambulance service provided by Lyndon Rescue Inc. for calendar year 2024?
Adam Bruggeman so moved; 2nd by Larry Seymour
Hand vote in the affirmative

Article 8: Shall the voters of Sutton approve the following appropriations request?

A. Burke Senior Meal	\$ 250.00
B. Caledonia Home Health	\$ 350.00
C. Cobleigh Public Library	\$ 1,200.00
D. Community Restorative Justice	\$ 250.00
E. Darling Inn Meal Site	\$ 400.00
F. Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium	\$ 700.00
G. H. O. P. E.	\$ 500.00
H. Lyndon Youth Baseball/softball	\$ 900.00
I. NEK Council on Aging	\$ 500.00
J. NEK Human Services	\$ 2,058.00
K. NEK Youth Services	\$ 250.00
L. Northwoods Stewardship Center	\$ 250.00
M. Powers Park/Village Improvement Society	\$ 1,000.00
N. Rural Community Transportation	\$ 700.00
O. Sutton Parent Teacher's Group	\$ 6,000.00
P. Umbrella	\$ 700.00
Q. Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$ 1,000.00
R. Vermont Green Up	\$ 100.00
S. Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$ 100.00
	<u>\$17,208.00</u>

David Tucker motioned to approve A thru S; 2nd by Melanie Miller
Hand vote in the affirmative

Article 9: Shall the voters of Sutton vote to adopt the proposed general and highway fund budgets for the ensuing year as printed in the Town Report?
Glen Stine so moved; 2nd by David Tucker
Some discussion about paving roads; future flooding preparations; trucks purchased.
Paul Brouha motioned to move the question to a vote; 2nd by Larry Seymour
Voice vote in the affirmative to move the question to a vote
Voice vote in the affirmative to approve the general and highway fund budgets as printed in the Town Report

Article 10: Should the town of Sutton consider regulating short-term rentals?
Steve Maleski motioned to move the question; 2nd by Larry Seymour
Discussion: Sutton at present has 6 short-term rentals listed on various web sites. Adam Bruggeman and Kurt Nygren brought this to the Select Board to see if the Members wanted to have an ordinance created for this. Adams explained the state has certain regulations already but will be working on regulating statewide short-term rentals. This would be the time the town could get ahead of any problems that could come down the road. The town possibly could impose a 1% tax to generate income; also, registration fees would be used for an enforcement officer. The questions were liability to the town; impacts on roads; and fire. Tim explained this is a non-binding article, but the board wanted the town's input before a lot more work was put into this possible ordinance.
A vote was taken by hand but was unable to determine the outcome. A written ballot was taken.
Ballots cast: 70; 36 Ballots needed to pass; 32 to consider; 38 to not consider.
Article failed to pass

Article 11: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.
Dana Patoine, Energy Committee: if window dressers should be needed, contact Dana. There could be grant money available for home energy audits.
Chip asked if there could be a better audio system in place.
Internet fiber optics has not come to Sutton yet.

Representative LaBounty, our Legislative representative explained a couple of bills that are in legislative process. Wants anyone to

contact him with any bills they have concerns about or wants him to follow.

Article 12: Adjourn

Glen Stine moved to adjourn; 2nd by Gale Berry
The meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M.

Submitted by
Patricia J. McClure, Town Clerk

A True Record of the minutes:

Attest: Patricia J. McClure
Patricia J. McClure, Town Clerk

Minutes reviewed and accepted on March 14, 2024

Tim Simpson
Tim Simpson

Denis Royer II
Denis Royer II

Jeffrey J. Solinsky
Jeffrey Solinsky