

**Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes
September 22, 2020 7:00 pm (Zoom)**

Members present: Kelly Stewart, Mary Ann Haxton, Ed Hinshaw, Town Office staff member Sherry Sullivan, Town Clerk Susan Runes, and Susan Strout secretary to the Select board. Also CEO Fred Collins, and Road Commissioner Andy Wickson.

Public present: none

The meeting began at 7:03 with the reading of the minutes from September 8, 2020. The minutes were accepted with a motion by Hinshaw, seconded by Haxton and voted.

Warrant #6

Checks #13976-14010 \$57,807.01
Receipts 1952-1972 In the amount of \$36,240.57
2019-2020 Tax collected \$1,369,246.04 = 94%
Recorded 72 liens = 6% or \$82,696.06
2018-2019 recorded 83 liens =7%

Open Session: no one

RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus

Not present – emergency school board meeting

CEO/LPI Report: Fred Collins

Collins and Haxton had a zoom meeting during the afternoon with attorney Martha McLean to discuss a land use violation. Collins had prepared talking points although was he unable to unmute during the zoom conversation. McLean agreed to look further into the case and she will attend the meeting on October 13. McClean would like ordinances, documents, letters, and examples of past violation letters. She bills at \$200.00 an hour. Haxton asked Runes to check with MMA to see if a meeting with an attorney can be held in executive session.

During the evening Select Board meeting, Collins said he feels court will be a very expense route. He suggested we look to see if the town can have the family sign a release so the Town holds no liability in the health and safety issue. It may be too expensive for the Town to move ahead with a court involvement and fines. Strout reported that she talked with a case worker at DHS who said they did not have any procedure for handing this type of case.

Kelly Martin, mother of resident and owner of property agreed to meet with Collins. She then called the next day to cancel the appointment. She told Collins that there is nothing the town can do. The land violations include that the camper is not 75 feet from road and a building notification has not been filed.

The legal advice from MMA was for the fine amount to be left to the judge if the case goes to court.

Roads Report: Andrew Wickson

There have been a couple of complaints including an email about Valley Road. There was also a call from a resident driving on Fields Hill who couldn't get to his home which was on the other side of road work. Wickson announced Andrews Road will be closed tomorrow 7 am to 5 pm. He added that the bridge is in tough shape and probably won't be able to be repaired again. The DOT inspection also reported that the bridge was scaly which is a sign of deterioration.

Wickson also said reported that the ditching on Varney Road is finished. However, culverts will be installed in the Spring. Also, Rosenberg Road will get culverts replaced. Wickson will speak with residents before sections of the road are closed. And as expected in October, sand is being added to the sand pile.

Tom Standard has provided a flow chart and schedule that outlines his assessment of what the roads study needs. Wickson estimated that Standard's plan would add up to over 5 million dollars.

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

The tree growth plan of Warren and Kristina Leitzel of 391 Main St. (R8-15) will be signed.

The DOT Local Roads Assistance Program needs to be signed after Wickson puts in the expenses

New Business:

The 2020-2021 tax rate will need to be set at the next (October 13th) meeting. Runes would like to appoint Sullivan as Tax Collector and Registrar of Voters at the next meeting.

Old Business:

The Boston Post Cane was presented to Vernon Bradeen on 9-12-2020. Haxton and Hinshaw attended as well as family and church members. An article was in the Advertiser Democrat.

The bid process for the property at 126 Main Street has been announced and advertised. The tax map and the commitment book did not have same acreage. Runes found a survey that confirmed the 4.3 acres. This size lot can create be split into two house lots. The minimum bid has been set as \$35,000 instead of \$45,000.

Gov Mills has created the Maine Climate Commission with 6 sub-groups (MUBEC). Updates and reports may indicate changes in the state standards that will need to be followed by all towns, not just those the populations over 4,000.

Haxton presented another update on the broadband committee. Another Boot camp will be next week. Haxton also want to add an informational sheet to the tax bills that will be mailed to residents after the commitment on October 13. She announced that they are looking for more committee members.

The presidential election will be held on November 3rd. The polls will be open from 8 am to 8 pm for walk in (one at a time) in person voting. The have already been 127 requests for absentee ballots.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Hinshaw and so voted.

September 22, 2020 minutes
Submitted by Susan Strout

Approved: October 13, 2020