

Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes
August 25, 2020 7:00pm via Zoom
Following Roads Committee at 6:00 pm

Members Present: Kelly Stewart, Ed Hinshaw, Mary Ann Haxton, Road Commissioner Andy Wickson, Town Clerk Susan Runes, Town Office staff member Sherry Sullivan, secretary to the Select Board Susan Strout. CEO Fred Collins joined the meeting around 7:20.

Public Present: none

The minutes from July 14, 2020 were read and accepted with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Hinshaw and voted.

The minutes from July 28, 2020 were read and accepted with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Haxton and voted.

The minutes from August 11, 2020 were read and accepted with a motion by Hinshaw, seconded by Haxton and voted.

Warrant #4

Checks 13926-13954 \$124,418.79

Receipts #1907-1918 in the amount of \$6,858.20

2019-2020 Tax Collected \$1,314,360 91% of tax commitment

2018-2019 Tax Collection was = 90%

Open Session: none

School Board report: Charles Maddaus

Not present

Roads Report: Andrew Wickson

A speed sign has been put up on 219. The solar speed sign stops working in the middle of the evening. May be low battery or just not enough light absorbed for the whole night.

As a summary of the Roads Committee meeting, Wickson stated he was on track with Year 1 of the six-year plan he presented last spring. The cutting of trees, ditching, then road resurfacing is the model to be used. After ditching and culverts are done, the focus will be on resurfacing (perhaps paving) and bridges.

Tom Standard has offered to do a Roads Study. He has submitted an introduction, outline and projected budget for the work he proposes. Standard was to attend this meeting but did not sign in. Haxton made the motion that we accept Standards plan as long as there is no cost to the taxpayers, seconded by Hinshaw and voted.

CEO/LPI Report:

Two letters were served by the Oxford County Sheriff's office to the property owners of Arthur Allen Road. The cost for these letters was \$30.66 for Kelly Martin and \$43.42 for Maurice Hart.

Procedure of dealing with property concerns was discussed and consensus is that these concerns should be forwarded to the CEO. If it is a building notification issue, then it will be covered by Planning Board.

After Collins arrived at the meeting, questions on various properties were addressed:

On Hart property, Collins recommends contacting a lawyer to set the fines/fees. The time frame listed in the letters, would start on August 29.

At 259 Gammon Road, Collins is asked to see (Kayla Garrett – owner) if folks are living there in a camper with an addition. Is there septic system?

Hinshaw asked Collins to take a look at 144 Upper Sumner Hill where there previously was a junkyard issue that was addressed by John Evans with letters and fines. Fines were forgiven when property was cleaned up including batteries and trash.

Wickson asked to have Collins look at the pre-fab shed at 16 Estes Road needs to be moved away from road so the plow will not hit the house. Owner lives in Auburn and building is rented.

On Andrews Rd, it looks like an addition has been added to a camp. (next to David Bragg at 14 Andrews Rd). The next property looks to be owned by Roger Cahoon. 26 Andrews Road. No notification for any building.

Collins was asked to let the office know if he would not be attending meetings. Some residents have let the office know that phone calls are not being returned in a timely manner. Haxton asked what is the best way for Collins to get questions/ requests from residents. His response was email. Strout will put on town email list and website.

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

Letters of 30-day notice for liens were sent out – approximately 100. Last year there were 83 tax liens. Runes estimates that this year there will be around 88.

New Business:

The house at 126 Main St has been looked at by the assessor. The property still needs to be maintained. If we do an auction, then we will need auctioneer. We could accept bids. Runes will contact Bruce Rood to see about the legal process about accepting bids. Strout will contact the assessor to see if they information about their assessment of the property. Stewart made a motion to wait until information from lawyer and assessor have been obtained. Haxton seconded and voted.

There has been a request from a resident to hunt on the Town owned property on Redding Road. No one had an objection to the request. No one was aware of issues with hunting. Hinshaw added that perhaps MMA should be contacted to see if hunting permission on Municipal property is any different from private property. Hinshaw will call MMA for any differentiation for municipal land.

There are four shelves of books of Revised Maine statutes. These books are no longer used. The books are not current and not of any use to anyone. Stewart made a motion that the books can go to the dump. This was seconded by Hinshaw and so voted.

Inappropriate behavior was put on the agenda for the Board to set up what is expected of staff members if there is harsh and abusive behavior. Staff members are not expected to deal with screaming or other verbal issues on the phone or in person. Staff member should say that they are not going to respond to in this aggressive behavior. In addition, the behavior should be documented and dated. If problems occur Stewart should be notified.

There was a question if Sumner has accepted MUBEC and levels of standards for the town. Select Board would like to know what Maine State codes outline and what is left for the town to decide, especially in terms of electrical and plumbing. What would it take to make a building permit or building check list of safety issues. Collins has made this suggestion to the Planning Board, as well.

Boston Post Cane will be presented to Vernon Bradeen. Hinshaw will connect with family. Strout will incorporate information from Bradeen's family into certificate and presentation. The East Sumner Congregational Church members would also like to know the time and date to participate in ceremony. Ceremony will happen outside of Vernon's house or at the church pavilion if it is raining.

Even with Stewart as chair of board, Haxton will continue to set up ZOOM meeting.

Haxton asks that the office opening be put on the next agenda and find out what other town offices are using for their procedures. Governor Mills will either lift or extend her emergency declaration on September 3rd.

Updates on Broadband: looking for new people to join to committee. Haxton will forward information that she receives.

Upcoming events: Bottle Drive for the Scholarship Fund will be held on September 12th. Stewart is hosting Hunter Safety classes. Current classes are full but others may be offered.

Meeting was adjourned with a motion by Stewart at 8:23, seconded by Haxton and voted.