

Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes
May 12, 2020 7:00 pm (Zoom)

Members present: Mary Ann Haxton, Ed Hinshaw, Kelly Stewart, Town Clerk Susan Runes, and secretary to the Select Board Susan Strout.

Public present: none

The minutes from April 28, 2020 meeting were read and accepted with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Hinshaw and voted.

Warrant #21 – verified and signed by Haxton and Stewart
Checks 13777-13790 \$87,438.57
Receipts #1767-1780 In the amount of \$16,940.19
2019-2020 Tax collected \$1,246,279.61 = 86%
2018-2019 Tax collection was = 86%

Open Session: none

RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus

The school budget was passed by the school board on May 11 with only one dissenting vote. The next vote will be a citizen referendum on July 23. The Select Board members discussed how to get residents to speak up and vote no to the proposed budget. The Select Board members will survey the Select Board members from other towns in our school district to see if there could be a larger number of dissenting votes.

CEO/LPI Report: Fred Collins was not present due to a schedule conflict with the Otisfield Select Board meeting (his other town). Collins had communicated to Strout that he and John Allen had visited a property on Barrows Road where a renter had reported that the landlord was not providing drinkable water.

The two certified letters that were sent to the property owners of R11-011 (Hart) have not replied to the letters. The one to Kelly Hart/Stevens/Martin was returned as unknown. The certified post card from the one to Maurice has not been heard from. The certified letters were postmarked April 29 with a 14-day response time. That time period is up May 13, 2020. The Board wants to know if the CEO and SB can choose the fine or is there state requirement. Haxton made a motion that Collins attempt to communicate with Maurice Hart and then outline the next steps that he recommends with specific time and fines. Stewart added that no fines need to be collected if issue is resolved. Haxton wants the expectations in place by the next Select Board meeting, May 26. The motion is seconded by Hinshaw and voted.

Collins also reported that he had been notified about a new large greenhouse/barn that had recently been built without a building notification.

Roads Report: Andrew Wickson

The winter roads meeting from April needs to be rescheduled. Board members selected the next meeting on May 26th. Strout will check the availability of Andy Wickson and Alfred Lucas to join the zoom meeting. The roads report needs to include details of how many events, how much salt/sand was used and how much is still available for next year. They would also like a comparison to the last four years. Haxton asks that those numbers be sent to the Select Board a few days before the meeting.

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

An Intent to Harvest has been submitted by John Elia.

New Business:

The Boston Post Cane is ceremonially held by the oldest Sumner resident. The cane has been held by Stella Stachaczynsky who has passed away. The cane should now be presented to the next oldest resident who is Evelyn Chamberlain. This can be done at the town meeting or a Select Board meeting or announced at those occasions and then ceremoniously presented directly to the person.

Budget:

Haxton attended the County Commissioners meeting to ask if the coronavirus situation would create adjustments. She was told the budget had been voted and is set for the coming year. Any discussion at this point would be relating to the next budget period. Along with the increases in school and county budgets, Runes explained she expects a drop in the amount of revenue sharing funds. The budget committee will need to analyze all these factors in setting Sumner's budget.

Nomination papers are available for one Select Board member. Nomination papers with signatures must be back by June 12th. Questions were asked how candidates are to obtain signatures with social distancing or if candidates will need to declare their intent to run at town meeting.

MMA session on public meetings/town meetings/elections May 14 at 10 am via zoom.

Old Business:

Another application has been received for the posted job. The Select Board would like to have initial informal conversations with the applicants via zoom before the actual interviews. Strout will set up those conversations.

The 2017 Tax Lien on 126 Main St has matured. Runes has contacted Mr. Newton and several family members to make sure it is known that the property will belong to the town at the time of foreclosure. Insurance will be obtained to cover the house and a new assessment will be needed.

The bid for moving the landfill was opened. The bid was for \$350 and awarded to Bragg Masonry with a motion by Haxton, seconded by Stewart and voted. One bid for mowing municipal lawns and cemeteries was received. There was a motion by Stewart, seconded by

Hinshaw to table the vote on the bid until after the budget meeting.

Bids for Town Report are due May 19th and will be opened on May 26th.

Two new computers have replaced old ones. Chris Sanborn set these up and is willing to field any IT questions that might be asked.

FirstLight will be hooking up a fiber connection in the Town Office.
There is no update on FirstLight or GWI fiber or broadband throughout the town.

Upcoming events:

Budget committee meeting, Thursday, May 14 via Zoom 6 pm