

**Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes
January 26, 2021 (Zoom)**

Members present: Mary Ann Haxton, Ed Hinshaw, Kelly Stewart, Road Commissioner Andy Wickson, School Board member Charlie Maddaus, Sumner Town Office staff Susan Runes, Sherry Sullivan and Susan Strout.

Public present: Olivia Balboni

The minutes from January 12, 2021 Select Board meeting were read and approved with a few corrections with a vote by Stewart, seconded by Hinshaw, and so voted.

Warrant #12 was inadvertently left out of the minutes. There was no second meeting in December, so therefore the financials from both Warrant #12 and #13 should have been in the minutes of January 12, 2021. You will find below the warrant information for Warrant #12, Warrant #13 and Warrant #14.

Warrant #12 12-22-2020

Checks	14148-14164	\$55,879.07
Receipts	573-658	\$70,040.08

Warrant #13 1-12-2021

Checks	14166-14184	\$101,943.11
Receipts	659-772	\$147,242.61
2020-2021 Tax Collected	\$1,061,822.96	73.72%
2019-2020 Tax Collected	\$1,075,573.23	74.08%

Warrant #14 1-26-2021

Checks	14185-14225	\$88,926.72
Receipts	773-876	\$53,460.40
2020-2021 Tax Collected	\$1,099,615.45	76.34%
2019-2020 Tax Collected	\$1,093,279.05	75.30%

Open Session:

Olivia Balboni, resident, joined the meeting for general information. Balboni is also interested in the Broadband Committee.

RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus

School board meeting held January 25, 2021 focused on committee reports including building plans for new elementary school in Mexico/Rumford area. Topics also included equity and remote learning as it is now, as well as the status of extracurricular activities. The superintendent's contract has been extended and more funding will be coming to the district from the CARES program. A budget workshop will be held on February 1st.

CEO/LPI Report: Fred Collins

Not present. No report

Roads Report: Andrew Wickson

Sumner has used 520 tons of salt which is about where we usually are.

Wickson is cutting on Redding Road and Black Mountain to make those roads ready for ditching. Wickson has one complaint in the last storm from Bonney Road with the amount of snow on a secondary road. The office has had this same call on Bonney Road. The resident called 911 because of the amount of snow left on the road. The Select Board was also contacted. Stewart emphasized that 911 should be reserved only for emergencies.

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

Intent to Harvest: Kathy Estes, Alden Acker, and Bert Johnson

New Business:

Office walk-in hours and appointment hours. Sullivan is suggesting that the town office should be open all day Tuesday 8:30-6:30. And continuing 8:30-4:30 Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and closed on Saturday. Strout expressed that she felt that residents will be challenged by not being able to do town business, but the Select Board members agree that any schedule can be piloted to test reactions.

Tax liens from 2018 will be sent out in mid-March. The Select Board members discussed if more should be done to communicate to those property owners who are on the list. The conclusion of the discussion was that property owners should be responsible for what they owe without another reminder.

Old Business:

126 Main Street – Purchase and Sale agreement. The potential buyer is asking that the Town reach out to the three heirs: Lola, Wayne and Alan to sign a release to any potential interest in the property. Runes believes that Wayne has passed away so his heirs would need to be contacted as well. Haxton made a motion that the town extend the agreement to March 2nd as well as see the Town can obtain signed releases from the heirs. Stewart seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Hinshaw will work with Sherry on the deed issue and attempt to get releases.

An agreement with Harvest Hill in Freyberg has been set up for six months January-June. Then we will be invoiced in June for next year. Harvest Hill is willing to collect an amount for the Town from the pet owners when they pick up their pets. These charges would help the Town to cover expenses of ACO. Haxton makes a motion to charge \$25 for a pick-up charge, seconded by Stewart and all voted in favor.

The Select Board discussed Wickson's request that his hourly wage go from \$15 to \$22 per hour. Haxton made a motion to approve this increase, seconded by Stewart and so voted.

Updates on Broadband / Fiber with mailing - Haxton

The committee will be meeting Friday January 29 to come up with letter for discussion or for hanging on door-knobs to get more folks to take the speed test. A meeting with GWI will also be coming up soon.

Susan Runes listed the days she would be taking off during the next several weeks until her official last day of February 5, 2020. Wickson thanked Runes for all her years of service. All the Select Board members added their appreciation. Haxton would like there to be a celebration when social distancing is not required.

Steward made a motion at 8:02 to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Haxton and so voted.

Upcoming events:

Select Board executive session on February 2nd for the personnel issue of Runes' exit interview.

January 26, 2021 minutes
Submitted by Susan P. Strout

Approved February 9, 2021
with a motion by Haxton, seconded by Hinshaw and so voted.
Stewart was not at the meeting.