

**Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes
October 27, 2020 (Zoom)**

Members present: Kelly Stewart, Mary Ann Haxton, Edwin Hinshaw, **Office staff:** Susan Runes, Sherry Sullivan and secretary to the Planning Board Susan Strout. Also present were Road Commissioner Andy Wickson and Charles Maddaus, school board representative.

Public present: Tom Standard

The minutes from October 13, 2020 were read and accepted with a motion by Haxton seconded by Hinshaw and voted.

Warrant #8

Checks #14050-14063 \$50,766.85

Receipts 10- 38 In the amount of \$160,516.61

2020-2021 Tax collected \$92,013.51 = 6%

2019-2020 Tax collected = 6%

Open Session:

Tom Standard has undertaken a roads study with how much it will cost over the next ten years. Wickson pointed out that bridges also will need upgrades and repair. Haxton wondered if the long list of questions could be narrowed down to be less work intensive for DOT.

Roads Report: Andrew Wickson

Wickson reported that the road ditching is done for the year. Almost all the sand has been delivered, as well as a few loads of salt. Wickson is concerned that the cost estimates from Standard are too low. Wickson would like to know where the funding would be coming from and to know this before he goes too deeply in plans.

RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus

Oct 8: The school board voted to have Mtn. Valley school to go back to hybrid learning.

Oct 13: The focus of the meeting was on athletics, especially in terms of parent attendance. Future school board meetings will only meet at Mtn. Valley and Buckfield Jr/Sr High. The district now has one to one technology so each student has some sort of tablet or laptop.

October 26: The schools report that students, especially freshmen, are struggling with academics with more than half of the students not passing at this time. There are 25% of the students working totally by remote learning.

CEO/LPI Report: Fred Collins

Not present

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

The appointments of Sherry Sullivan as Treasurer (November 1-February 1) and Town Clerk (December 1 – February 1) have been signed.

New Business:

The office staff suggested that town office business be moved to in-person appointments for transactions on Saturdays and Tuesday with walk in traffic would be able to come in one at a time on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. A survey of area town offices was conducted again. West Paris was a reasonable example with walk in business and Norway is making appointments.

Stewart suggested that any changes that are undertaken should be tried on a temporary basis. Hinshaw suggested that anyone not following the protocol of wearing masks and maintaining social distance should have to continue to use the drop box for their transactions. For transactions in the building, there will be no public use of the bathroom, masks will be required (as mandated by the governor) and any issues will be forwarded to the Select Board members.

The office staff was asked by Alden Acker if he could be refunded the excise tax on his vehicle which he registered early (a November registration) since he sold the vehicle prior to the effective date. Haxton made the motion that the Select Board provide a refund to Acker, seconded by Hinshaw seconded and voted.

The office received a notice of a meeting on the County Budget to be held on November 17. Someone from the Select Board should attend to provide input into the level of taxing required from Sumner.

Old Business:

The Select Board has hired attorney Martha McLean for legal advice on the non-compliance of Maurice Hart and Kelly (Hart) Martin. The property owners have allowed their daughter to live in a camper on the property. The non-compliance is that the camper is too close to the rode and a Building Notification has not been filed for the camper to be on the lot.

The property at 126 Main Street received no bids. The property has now been posted on Zillow with a great deal of interest. It has also been on Face Book. There have been two showings today and three are scheduled for tomorrow. All offers will be reviewed on November 10th. Potential buyers will need to show pre-qualification documents or a letter from their bank indicating there are sufficient funds. Refundable earnest money of \$1000.00 will also be required. Offers should be submitted in writing with a minimum bid of \$44,500. Sullivan will be working with Hinshaw to provide information and showings.

A new animal shelter needs to be found for the town. Kozy Kennelz is no longer taking animals from Sumner. Other possible kennels are Harvest Hills in Fryberg and Greater Androscoggin Animal shelter in Lewiston. Strout will check with Roni Sue Vachon for other suggestions. Runes will check with Hartford to see what kennel they use and how much the kennel is paid. Stewart will reach out to Kozy Kennelz to see if a compromise can be reached.

Absentee voting by mail ends Thursday and in person absentee voting ends Friday. At this time 251 absentee ballots have been mailed out or picked up with 219 ballots already returned.

Members of the Sumner Fire Department will pick up the containers of sanitizer that were delivered and left in the Town Office lobby. Stewart was asked to have someone look through some CPR materials to see if they should be kept.

Haxton reported that there are no updates on Broadband / Fiber at this time.

Upcoming events:

Presidential election, November 3 Polls open 8 am to 8 pm

Voters will need to stay at least six feet apart for safety. This requirement will allow only two or three (if two of the same family) voters in the building at one time. Residents can register to vote up until the polls close.

In addition, the Town Office will only be open for voter registration and voting on November 3, 2020. All other transactions will be delayed until Nov 4th or later.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 with a motion by Hinshaw, seconded by Haxton and so voted.

Meeting minutes from October 27, 2020

Submitted by Susan Strout

Approved: November 10, 2020