

Town of Sumner – Select Board Agenda
April 27, 2021 7:00 pm (Zoom and in person)

Following

5:00 Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A -405(4)- for a personnel evaluation

6:00 Buckfield-Sumner Transfer Station meeting

The Sumner Select Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Members present: Kelly Stewart, Mary Ann Haxton, Edwin Hinshaw, Road Commissioner Andy Wickson, School Board representative Charlie Maddaus, Town Clerk Sherry Sullivan, secretary to the Select Board Susan Strout, Laurie Arsenault

Public present: none

The minutes of the April 13th meeting were read and accepted with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Hinshaw and voted.

Warrant #20 April 27, 2021

Checks 14320-14325 \$36,892.59

Receipts: 1314 - 1374 \$ 29,811.32

2020-2021 Tax Collected \$1,256,378.68 87.23%

2019-2020 Tax Collected \$1,238,765.12 85.32%

Strout's last day will be April 30 2021. Strout will be paid for 1 hour of paid vacation time for every 40 hours worked since January 1st.

Open Session: none

RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus

The school budget has been approved by the school board. Next year's total budget \$29,945,490.73 which is only a 1.7 % increase over last year. There was also a 3.9% increase in health insurance. The reason the increase was kept to a minimum because state funding went up significantly. Local responsibility will be \$18,094.68 or a reduction of 2.077% for Sumner. Cost of nutrition has stayed level. Adult education has gone down a fraction.

May 17 informational meeting for budget at BJSHS

May 26 will be the public meeting at Mtn. Valley High School

June 8 for the budget referendum validation

The school board had a vote to designate Sept 1 as the target date for in-person classwork for all students. One proposal is to move the 6th grade at HSES to Buckfield to make a middle-class model. May 4 will have a community forum to discuss in-person learning and 6th grade moving to the Jr High.

Grants of \$1.6 million and \$1.7 million were granted. Another grant for \$3.9 million is anticipated to be granted soon. These grants would cover additional personnel, mobile units or other expenses.

Strout reported that Scott Holmes from RSU 10 has the signs and lighting in front of the HSES to slow traffic down are currently on order and will be put up as soon as possible.

CEO/LPI Report: Fred Collins No Re

Roads Report: Andrew Wickson

Bonney Road is rough and needs lots of work. There may be some road closures as the work

Wickson has received Andrews Bridge review. He had dropped the weight to 20 tons, but state recommends only 6-8 tons. More work will have to go into that bridge over the next few years.

Winter Roads bid came in twice as high as the last year expense from Lucas Enterprises. Lucas Enterprises also requests that the towns required additional insurance coverage be waived for this bid to be valid. This offer will expire May 27th. Stewart asks if Lucas would extend this contract to five years at the same rate as the 3rd year. Lucas said No. The Select Board will need to talk to MMA before the meeting on May 11.

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

There is an abatement request for Daniel and Deborah Pickering for their property because the road is not maintained and there is a lot of water. Hinshaw made a motion to deny the request, Haxton seconded and it was unanimously voted. Property owners can appeal if they choose.

New Business:

Stewart makes the motion that we move Sullivan into a permanently hired position as of today after six-month evaluation. Haxton seconded and so voted.

Transfer Station meeting – nothing to report.

At the August 16, 2021 meeting of the transfer station, there will be a discussion about the Swap Shop. Buckfield will also provide budget numbers for the next year by the May 11th meeting.

The annual Risk Management Services review advises that the fire department equipment coverage should be increased. The office computers/printers should be looked at as well. When values are submitted, the insurance quote will be created.

Town Meeting (Saturday, August 7) location cannot be held at HSES because of the mask requirement at the school. Other options would be outside or the pavilion in East Sumner. Start time of 9:00 am. Outside seems to be the only option. Strout suggests a rain date if the meeting is being held outside. Stewart says there will be adequate parking. The fire department could be the back-up plan. Stewart made the motion, Hinshaw seconded and voted.

Job posting for Office Assistant / Deputy Clerk will be put on hold until there is more data, possibly as long as a couple of months until the Select Board evaluates the needs. The temporary help can be raised as much as 25 hours per week. Haxton makes the motion, Stewart seconds and so voted.

Sullivan has also asked that her salary and benefits increase. She would like current 80% of insurance to be increased to 100% as Runes previously had. Budget increase would be 2022 by 1.08%. The figure for

the next calendar year would be \$29, 811 for health insurance. Sullivan asked for a motion to increase her salary to \$31 per hour. Haxton makes a motion for the increase, Stewart seconded and voted.

Budget committee: May 11 and May 18.

Nomination papers for Select Board member and Road Commissioner available May 11. These positions also need to be posted with email, website and sign.

Softball field has been requested for practice time for a minor league time by Pat Dunham from Buckfield Rec. Sumner children are part of the Buckfield Rec. Sumner also puts a port-a-potty at the field. A good contact is Erica Stevens, who may also be requesting insurance for a team and money to pay umpires.

Old Business:

The purchase and sales agreement for 126 Main Street has fallen through. Paul Newton wants to sue the town and appeal the lien process if it was done incorrectly. The advice from MMA is to just hold onto the property. Hinshaw suggests that we let the heirs pay the back taxes and expenses and the town writes it off. Sullivan suggests we wait and see what Paul Newton will offer and go from there. Sullivan adds that there needs to be an article on warrant for Town Meeting.

Transfer tax would also be incurred for the five properties that the town has just acquired through the lien process of this year. The process is automatic, so quit claim deeds need to be filed with the Oxford County Registry of Deeds. The Town will also need a real estate attorney.

Updates on Broadband / Fiber: still waiting for information from USDA in Washington.

Upcoming events:

Town Office will be CLOSED Friday April 30

Scholarship Applications due April 30

Fire Department Auxiliary YARD SALE, June 5

The Select Board extended appreciation to Susan Strout for the last three years of service and best wishes for retirement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33. Motioned by Hinshaw, seconded by Haxton and vote carried.