

**Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes  
February 23, 2021 7:00 pm (Zoom)  
Following the Winter Roads meeting at 6:00 pm**

**Members present: Kelly Stewart, Mary Ann Haxton, Ed Hinshaw, Road Commissioner Andrew Wickson, Town Clerk Sherry Sullivan, Fire Chief Robert Stewart, and secretary to the Select Board Susan Strout.**

**Public present: Susan Runes**

**The minutes from February 9, 2021 were read and accepted with corrections by a motion by Haxton, seconded by Hinshaw and so voted.**

**Warrant #16 2-23-2021**

Checks	14243-14261	\$46,444.05	
Receipts	987-1047	\$36,118.85	
	2020-2021 Tax Collected	\$1,175,608.99	81.62%
	2019-2020 Tax Collected	\$1,175,675.99	80.97%

**Old Business (moved up to Open Session)**

**Follow up on Efficiency Maine incentive funding opportunity**

- The incentive includes heat pumps for office complex and lighting conversion in office complex and fire barn.
- This is a limited time offer. Project completion by June 1st.
- Discussion and decisions of application process and ways to appropriate funding.

Haxton spoke with MMA's legal department and learned that:

- Town Meeting has to be in person (not virtual)
- Money can be borrowed from the General Fund

The incentive from Efficiency Maine would be up to \$2600 per unit with a maximum of three units. Any request would be reviews by them and they would determine how much money can be awarded. The Town then can decide whether or not to continue with the application process., then they review and decide how much money will be awarded. The total would be capped at \$2600 per unit and up to 3 units.

We have obtained estimates from Lovejoy, Condor, and Tim Adams with Echo heat. All are qualified partners. Sullivan called Efficiency Maine for clarification about the timing of the incentive. Sullivan believes that should be qualified before a town meeting.

The estimates from the contractor Condor contained different fixtures than what O'Rourke had listed. Fire Dept would be included in lighting but not with the heat pumps. Stewart questions why the fire barn is not included.

Wickson added that heat pumps are not designed for geographical Zone 1 but instead for Zone 3. Wickson also asked about the insulation in the building as well as the windows. Haxton asked if the insulation has been talked about before. Hinshaw expressed that now he has less support for the efficiency changes than he felt last week. He thinks the plan should include the entire building.

Haxton added that the most reduction in energy expense would be in insulation. Stewart suggested we compare to a similar office space and see that difference in savings.

Stewart makes a motion that we pass on this incentive and look at the steps for next budget to make a commitment to improve insulation and perhaps the windows in the 2021-2022. Haxton seconds the motion.

During the time of evaluating heat pumps for the town office, many comments were made about updates to the Fire Station. Hinshaw asked that we look at what potential upgrades might be are needed.

**RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus** was not present but he sent a report that the board voted to give 3 administrators and 1 administrative assistant a 3% increase. (Maddaus voted against it). All schools are now going to hybrid learning.

**CEO/LPI Report: Fred Collins** was not present and there was no report.

**Roads Report: Andrew Wickson**

Wickson reported that the town has used 1000 tons of salt so far this winter. He said that the order for next year should be increased by 100 tons.

Wickson said that he feels that the fee for a driveway permit should be increased to cover at least two hours of his time. He reported that he usually must inspect the driveway two times during the installation process. It has not been determined where or when the driveway permit was established. Stewart made a motion that the driveway permit fee go up to \$50.00. Hinshaw seconded. Strout suggests that with that much increase, the residents might not apply for a permit. Haxton mentioned a compromise fee of \$30. However, the motion was voted on with a unanimous vote so the driveway permit is now set at \$50.00

**Forms, Reports, Correspondence:**

None

**New Business:**

The Select Board members' division of responsibilities was moved from the last agenda. Haxton was looking to see if everyone feels all areas of concern are covered.

The responsibilities will remain the same with:

Building maintenance: Haxton

Roads: Stewart

Fire: Stewart

General Assistance: Hinshaw

There was a discussion as to the responsibility of writing ordinances. The Planning Board has written the ordinances connected with planning issues. The Select Board has covered issues related to roads. Each case will need to be looked at concerning what group is most connected and knowledgeable.

### **126 Main Street – Purchase and Sale agreement**

Alan Newton will sign off for himself and Lola. Wayne Newton has passed away; however, Sullivan has been in touch with his heirs. The current agreement is in place only until early March. Hinshaw made a motion to extend the agreement another month. Stewart seconded it and the vote carried. The buyer's attorney is willing to write up releases for relatives to sign at no cost.

### **Updates on Broadband / Fiber - Haxton**

Waiting for final approval from USDA in the next couple of months. The Broadband Committee has written a letter that will be posted many places to update the process and the delays which will take this process into 2022.

In other business: Sullivan asked for an evaluation to be scheduled.  
The executive session will be scheduled for March 9 at 6:30 pm.

Stewart and Haxton brought up returning to in-person Select Board meetings. Strout expressed a concern that there will not be enough room for everyone to socially distance. The conclusion was to offer both in-person and zoom attendance for Select Board meetings starting the next meeting. Strout will zoom from the office and one laptop will be set up in Select Board room. Others attending such as Wickson, Maddaus, Collins or public may choose in-person or via zoom.

To wrap up Efficiency Maine offer, Haxton will format a letter to let everyone involved in the project know that it has been tabled and to thank them for their participation.

At 8:27, Stewart made a motion to adjourn, which Hinshaw seconded and the vote carried.

### **February 23, 2021 minutes**

Submitted by Susan Strout

Approved: March 9, 2021