

Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes
October 13, 2020 (Zoom)
7:00 pm Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A -405(4)-Land use violation
Regular meeting to follow

Members present: Kelly Stewart, Edwin Hinshaw, Mary Ann Haxton, Town Clerk Susan Runes, Road Commissioner Andy Wickson, and Susan Strout, secretary to the Select Board.

Public present: Steven McGinty

The minutes from the September 22, 2020 meeting were read and accepted with a motion Haxton, seconded by Hinshaw and so voted.

Warrant #7

Checks #14011-14049 \$132,735.23

Receipts 1973-2000 AND 1-9 In the amount of \$48,296.30

2020-2021 Tax commitment \$1,440,367.17

2019-2020 Tax commitment \$1,451,942.10

Open Session:

Steve McGinty attended the meeting as a response to an agenda item. The agenda A discussion on weapons prohibition in polling places came up among staff members after reading an article on voting concerns. The item was placed on the Select Board agenda. With the item on the agenda which was distributed to the **sumnernews** email list, the Town Office received emails and phone calls. It quickly became obvious that any weapons prohibition is regulated only by the state. Resident input can be very helpful and educational.

Gail Eastman had called the office to ask if office staff could present to the Select Board the Fire Auxiliary's idea of having a December fund-raiser called Lights for Love. Individuals would be asked to "purchase" a lightbulb on the tree in honor or in memorial for someone. A lighting ceremony will be held with names and honorees to be read aloud. More details will be developed.

RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus

Not present

CEO/LPI Report: Fred Collins

Not present but we were informed of the conflict.

Roads Report: Andrew Wickson

Wickson gave updates that the Gammon Road bridge is now open and looks great. Wickson has been replacing the road signs that are needed. He reports that Rosenberg Road is done and he may need to blast on Labrador Pond Road. In outstanding business, Craig Moore needs to pay for a ½ culvert.

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

Notifications and documents signed.

- Tree Growth Plan reduction by Eugene Lucas
- Intent to harvest: Susan Bennett, Bradeen Rd
- Appointment of Sherry Sullivan as Tax Collector

New Business:

The 2020-2021 tax rate was set and the tax commitment was signed with an increase of the MIL rate to 20.65, an increase from 20.35. The tax bills will be mailed on Wednesday, October 14th.

The town was notified by Animal Control Officer Roni Sue Vachon that Kozy Kennelz is no longer taking the rescue cats and dogs from Sumner. Other kennels that might be a replacement include Responsible Pet Care in South Paris and McKenna Kennel in Rumford.

Service hours are currently Tues 11-7; W-F 8:30-4:30; and Sat 9-12. There is still no walk-in business except for in-person absentee voting. All other business is still completed through the drop box and the phone.

Absentee ballot requests have number up toward 200. Voting by mail will reach its deadline soon, but in-person absentee voting will be allowed until the end of October. The drop box which is used for office transactions may also be used to drop off ballots.

Sherry Sullivan has been appointed as temporary Town Clerk and temporary Treasurer. The temporary designation will continue until the end of Sullivan's probationary period. The appointment was made with a motion by Haxton, seconded by Stewart and voted unanimously.

The Select Board has hired Martha McLean for legal advice on the lack of compliance from Maurice Hart and Kelly Martin (Hart/Stevens) owners of R11-011 on Arthur Allen Road. The violations are the set back from the road, a lack of building notification to bring a camper trailer on the property, and the lack of a septic system. Haxton made a motion to engage McLean to write a demand letter to Hart and Martin/Hart/Stevens, as well as the resident (daughter) Nicole Hart. The letter would request the removal of the camper to an appropriate location within two weeks. The next step would be to take the issue to court. Stewart seconded the motion and there was a unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Bids were due to the Town Office by October 9 for the property at 126 Main Street. Several inquiries were field by Hinshaw and the Town Office; however, no bids were submitted. The Select Board looked at running the ads again, dropping the minimum price, or listing it with an agent. Sullivan suggested listing the property on Zillow, which is a free listing service. Hinshaw made the motion to pursue the Zillow listing. The motion was seconded by Stewart and so voted. Hinshaw and Sullivan will work on that listing process making sure the property is listed with the correct acreage of 4.3 acres.

Updates on Broadband / Fiber

Haxton and the broadband group have created an informational letter to be included in the Sumner tax bills. The letter includes a website which can detect the internet speed at a home or business. The Broadband Coalition is looking to add new members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Hinshaw and so voted.

Upcoming events:

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

Voting in Town Office one voter at a time

Town Office will not process any transactions on November 3, 2020

October 13, 2020 minutes

Submitted by Susan Strout

Approved: October 27, 2020