

Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes
April 28, 2020 7:00 pm (Zoom)

Members present: Mary Ann Haxton, Edwin Hinshaw, Kelly Stewart, School Board member Charles Maddaus, CEO Fred Collins, Town Clerk Susan Runes and secretary to the Select Board Susan Strout.

Public present: representative from Black Mountain Brothers.

The minutes from April 14, 2020 were read and accepted with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Hinshaw and voted.

Warrant #20 - approved on March 24 by Select Board members

Checks 13764-13776 \$195,710.06

Receipts #1753-1766 In the amount of \$18,511.13

2019-2020 Tax collected \$1,237,649.15 = 85%

2018-2019 Tax collection was = 85%

The warrant information was examined by all three Select Board members and signed by Haxton.

RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus

Maddaus reported the school board's process in setting the budget for next year. The figures reflect a slight decrease from last year. The cost of Adult Education and food serves still need to be figured in. At the May 11th meeting, the School Board will vote to accept the budget. At the June 23 meeting, the registered voters from all seven towns who attend may vote. The budget validation referendum then goes to the voters of all seven towns with the primary election.

Maddaus explained potential sources of funding relief related to the pandemic including \$900,000 of Maine Department of Education funds and 1.2 Billion dollars to Maine from the Federal CARES program.

Hinshaw suggested the Select Board should send a letter to the school board to emphasize the impact of diminished revenues on town budgets. Maddaus recommended that this information also go to Superintendent Deb Alden. The discussion led to Select Board members feeling that a joint statement from the smaller towns would be most effective. Select board members will contact Hartford, Buckfield, Mexico and Rumford with Haxton agreeing to script a basic statement of the financial situation.

CEO/LPI Report: Fred Collins

Collins has drafted a letter to the property owners of R11-011 (Maurice Hart and Kelly (Hart, Stevens) Martin. The letter states that the RV/camper/Structure on that lot is not registered and does not have a building notification.

Roads Report: Andrew Wickson

The Sumner roads no longer posted.

Wickson also submitted invoices through Stewart for a cut-off saw and accessory equipment. These expenses will be paid through Roads account.

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

Flanders Electric service contract was signed by Haxton. The discussion led to the decision of the once a year service plan for \$200.00. Any other service will be invoiced at the time of the work.

State and Federal surplus property eligibility document signed by Haxton, Runes and Strout.

New Business:

The only 2017 Tax Lien that was not paid by the maturity date was that of Allan Newton. Runes has contacted several members of the family with a letter stating that if no information is received by the family by May 8th, the foreclosure proceedings will be allowed to continue. The property is vacant and in neglected condition. The value will be reassessed in the Spring.

A case of rabies was report to the town office through an email from the state. The animal involved was a raccoon. Strout found out more information from ACO Roni Sue Vachon that the raccoon had porcupine quills in its snout and it was discovered off Greenwood Rd.

Old Business:

The job posting for Town Treasurer/Town Tax Collector has received only minor inquiries. The plan was to hire someone in July. New avenues of posting the position need to be explored.

There were two bids for building maintenance plowing received. New England Custom Builders was the low bid of \$5000 for each of the three years. The other bid came for Black Mountain Brothers at \$7,000 per year.

The two requests for bids for mowing (1. Landfill 2. Municipal lawns and cemeteries) were made on April 22, 2020 with a due date of May 12, 2020 by 12:00 noon.

A bid request for printing the annual Town Report was also made on April 22 with the bids due by May 19th by 12:00 noon.

The new office computers were delivered and installed on Friday, April 24th by Chris Sanborn. Sanborn also transferred all files from the old computers to new ones. The new computers will allow the office to use additional modules of the Trio system which was not possible with older computers. He will also be available for technical support.

There are no updates with the broadband or Fiber upgrades from FirstLight or GWI.

Scholarship applications are due April 30, 2020. One application has been received. The Scholarship Committee will need to decide if that deadline should be extended with the current health crisis.

CEO Fred Collins expressed his appreciation of the office staff and the efforts to complete needed tasks even when the office is shut down to walk in traffic. Runes added that residents seem surprised and appreciative that they can still get their town business done over the phone and in the mail.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 with a motion by Hinshaw, seconded by Stewart and unanimously voted.