

**Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes
March 23, 2021 7:00 pm (Zoom)**

**Following two Executive Sessions per 1 M.R.S.A -405(4)-
on Personnel Issues scheduled at 6:00 and 6:30
for job performance evaluations**

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

Public present: none

The minutes from March 9, 2021 were read and accepted with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Haxton and voted.

Warrant #18	March 23, 2021		
Checks #14282-142302		\$45,433.54	
Receipts #1125-1200		\$29,956.28	
2020-2021 Tax Collected	\$1,216,307.06		84.4%
2019-2020 Tax Collected	\$1,217,198.76		83.83%

Open Session: none

RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus: Schools are trying to stay open as much as possible. Teachers are gradually getting vaccinations. Based on increased state aid and the 4.2% max increase for health insurance the budget would reduce local taxes while the overall expenses would increase slightly due to negotiated salary and benefits for the coming year.

School budget meetings:

April 12--budget review by Board

April 26--budget vote by Board

CEO/LPI Report: Fred Collins

Collins reports it has been a slow season and he feels it is unfortunate that his job for Otisfield and his job in Sumner have their meeting nights at the same time. Is there another night that Fred could meet with the boards in Sumner? Strout reported that she has asked Collins to keep a log of calls and contacts with or for Sumner residents. Nothing has been provided to meet that request for a log. Sullivan suggested that email to Collins have a READ RECEIPT attached so we would know if he is receiving and/or reading these messages.

Roads Report: Andrew Wickson

Wickson and Julie Bergeron measured the distance of the winter roads plowing. It was determined that it is 47.5 miles of winter roads plus distances of in between town lines. Stewart said all mileage (even between town lines) should be paid. Hinshaw made a motion to accept the wording on the upcoming contract, seconded by Haxton, and voted.

The request for bids will be posted on the town website, town email, mailed to Bim and Lucas. All mailing and postings will refer to a list of criteria in the contract that will be made available at the Town Office. Bids will be opened at 5 o'clock on April 27th.

Wickson announced that salt will be purchased through AVCOG as in the years past. AVCOG's collaboration with Eastern Salt has made access to the salt very efficient.

Road grading will start soon but Wickson is waiting for frost to come out of the roads.

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

Two Tree Growth Plans were signed:
James Gammon IV & Cody LaMontagne
Benjamin Poirier

New Business:

The Select Board has accepted the resignation of Susan Strout as deputy clerk. Strout will work through the 27th of April. Steps to start the hiring process will start with examining past job descriptions and current job descriptions from other towns.

Pauline Kirschner let Sullivan know that a calendar raffle will be held to collect money for flags for Memorial Day in the cemeteries.

Tax liens for 2018 have reached the last day for payment before foreclosure. Nine properties have taxes left unpaid.

Melindy Wortherly has asked for an extension for her taxes on property that is listed as owned by the Litchfield heirs. The town is bound by dates from state. Liens need to be filed with the Registry of Deeds with dates that are already set.

Old Business:

Potential upgrades to Fire Station – Hinshaw (moved ahead)
126 Main Street – Purchase and Sale agreement extension (moved ahead)

Updates on Broadband / Fiber

Haxton reported that a meeting our town Broadband committee was held and that GWI should be going soon to the USDA about the financing of Broadband.

In addition, FirstLight is working from Fields Hill to Greenwoods Road for installation. The cost will be \$100 a month and \$99 for the set-up fee. Advertising is already going out to Sumner residents.

Meetings: Zoom vs in-person (discussion moved ahead)

Wickson asked if Town Meeting could be moved to June instead of August so it would be easier to budget for road expenses. This discussion will need to be focused on the 2022 Town Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Hinshaw and so voted.

Upcoming events:

Opening of the Winter Road bids on April 27th

Scholarship Applications due by April 30th