

**Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes
April 13, 2021 7:00 pm (Zoom)**

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

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

Public present: Dorothy Francisco, Maurice Hart, Jonathan Leavitt and Micah Emery

The minutes from March 23, 2021 were read and accepted with a motion by Haxton, seconded by Hinshaw and voted.

Warrant #19	April 13, 2021		
Checks #14303-14319		\$105,758.16	
Receipts #1201-1313		\$29,956.28	
2020-2021 Tax Collected	\$1,248,579.73		86.68%
2019-2020 Tax Collected	\$1,229,599.13		84.68%

Open Session:

Dorothy Francisco attended the meeting to ask if there was anything she could do to stop the foreclosure on her property that has unpaid taxes for 2018, 2019 and 2020. Francisco stated that she had been out of town taking care of someone who was sick. She was told that the Select Board had very little flexibility with how to handle the situation. Haxton made a motion to stop the foreclosure if she pays off all three years back taxes. The motion was seconded by Hinshaw with a unanimous vote. Francisco was also told she needed to file a building notification to bring a mobile home onto her property.

Also attending the meeting via zoom was Maurice Hart. Hart said he did not pay his taxes because he had not received a phone call as he has in years past. Haxton made a motion that if he paid off the 2018 lien by close of business on 4-14-2021 that the Select Board would stop the foreclosure. Hinshaw seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

There are still five liens outstanding. The deadline for any other reconsiderations was set for April 30th. Haxton would like a short description that informs these property owners of the few options that they have.

Citizen petition / Jonathan Leavitt, Michal Emery: Leavitt and Emery attended to tell the Select Board that they are intending to gather signatures on a citizen's petition to put the issue of a Sumner "opt-in" for marijuana cultivation on the Town Meeting warrant in August 2021. They will need around 50 signatures which is determined by a calculation of 10% of the voters in the last gubernatorial election. The wording on the ordinance will be very much the same as the

ordinance that was voted down in October of 2019. They will provide the new wording of the ordinance to the Select Board. Sullivan will check with MMA to make sure the same issue can be brought up again for a citizens' vote.

RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus

Maddaus was not present at the meeting but sent an update that at last night's school board meeting a new budget figure was presented. Sumner tax obligation would go down slightly. Also, the Adult Education and Nutrition will be virtually unchanged from 2020-21. The School Board is scheduled to vote on this on April 26th.

CEO/LPI Report: Fred Collins

Collins was not present but sent two messages: There has been an increase in the number of phone calls. He said there seems to be another good year of growth. He also said he could meet with the Select Board on any Monday or Wednesday, but he does have conflicts with Otisfield's board on Tuesday night. Haxton asked for Collins to provide a report with numbers of calls, building notifications and septic inspections.

Roads Report: Andrew Wickson

Wickson reported that early Spring grading has started. The roads are soft and will probably remain posted until the end of the month. He has added gravel to Heath Hill and Bradeen Road. Valley Road would get gravel on Friday. Wickson has responded to many calls and emails about the roads.

Wickson would like a general town email sent out and posted on website that states that the Road Commissioner does not want residents to work on any roads that are a "town way". This would include plowing. Residents could be fined for working on the roads from Dig Safe. Several signs have been replaced.

The Winter Road contract bids should be into the Town Office by 5:00 pm on April 27th. The bids should be sealed with a minimum of \$500,000 insurance and contractor would need all the proper equipment.

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

The Tree Growth Plan of Kenneth Poland, R19-002, was signed as well as an abatement for the heirs of Alan Litchfield.

New Business:

The Select Board will meet at 5 pm on April 27th to discuss the job duties and postings for the office assistant / deputy clerk position currently held by Susan Strout. Strout's last day will be April 30th.

Sullivan asked for approval from the Select Board to have the office closed on April 30th for transferring of files and explaining duties that Sullivan has not done before.

Sullivan has located a person who is willing to work on a temporary basis for 15-20 hours a week for taking minutes and preparing the agendas for the Planning Board and the Select Board. This person could also be answering the phone, filing and data entry. The person is Laurie Arsenault and she is available for Tuesday evenings and on Fridays. Stewart made the motion to hire this temporary help for up to 15 hours a week for \$15 per hour. Hinshaw seconded the motion and it was so voted.

A tentative schedule for the budget committee was outlined. Stewart asked that an email be sent to town residents asking if anyone would want to participate in the budget process.

On April 27, there will be three back-to-back meetings. In executive session at 5 pm, Sullivan will have her six-month performance evaluation. Also in that hour, the Select Board will discuss the job description and expectations for a possible temporary employee AND for the deputy clerk replacement.

Possibility of solar energy ordinance

Budget committee

Nomination papers for Select Board member and Road Commissioner

Old Business:

Potential upgrades to Fire Station will be moved off the agenda until a future date.

The Purchase and Sale agreement for 129 Main Street is still not resolved. The Select Board decided to drop the asking price to \$22,500 with a Quit-Claim deed. The price was determined by adding back taxes and expenses. Stewart made a motion to go with this changed offer and then if needed to put the property back on the market. The motion was seconded by Haxton. Sullivan will draw up papers for one more extension and notify the buyer of these changes.

Updates on Broadband / Fiber

Haxton shared that there will be a meeting on Friday, so there will be more to report at the next meeting.

Board meetings have recently been held in a mixed format. Some have attended by Zoom and some in-person. Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely unless they do not have access to a computer and the internet.

The last day for Susan Strout's employment at the Town Office will be April 30th. Sullivan asked the Select Board to approve closing the office on April 30 to provide time for the transfer of information and files. The request was approved with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Haxton.

Upcoming events:

Buckfield-Sumner Transfer Station meeting, Tuesday, April 27th at 6 pm at the Sumner Town Office. The Zoom link will be provided to members of the committee.

Town Office closed, Friday, April 30, 2021

Fire Department Auxiliary YARD SALE, June 5, 2021

April 13, 2021 minutes
Submitted by Susan Strout

Approved: April 27, 2021