

**Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes
January 12, 2021 (Zoom)**

Members present: Kelly Stewart, Ed Hinshaw and Mary Ann Haxton. Also, Road Commissioner Andy Wickson, School Board representative Charlie Maddus and Town Office staff Susan Runes, Sherry Sullivan and secretary to the Select Board Susan Strout

Public present: Lance Bean, auditor from Hoisington and Bean, PA

The minutes from December 22, 2020 were read and approved with a motion by Haxton, seconded by Hinshaw, and voted.

Warrant #11

Checks	14166 - 14184	\$101,943.11
Receipts	573 - 772	\$147,242.61

2020 – 2021 Tax Collected	\$1,061,822.96	73.72%
2019 – 2020 Tax Collected	\$1,075,573.23	74.08%

RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus

The Governor has designated Oxford County to currently be an orange county so schools need to use hybrid learning and all extra-curricular activities have been suspended. Three schools in RSU10 are currently closed: Mt. Valley High School, Mt. Valley Middle, and Hartford Sumner Elementary School. Ryan Wilkins, principal of HSES, is on a leave for health reasons that are not COVID-19 related. Also, RSU10 has extended the assistant superintendent's contract.

Open Session:

Lance Bean, Hoisington & Bean, PA auditor was in attendance to summarize the recent audit. A few highlights :

All financial statements are correct.

The general fund (total assets) is in a healthy position.

The balance sheet show revenue at \$ 1.9 million and expenditures at \$1.85 million.

The Scholarship fund had a big jump in the last year with a donation of over \$150,000. The Scholarship funds are kept totally separate.

Oct 31, 2020 was the date when financial transfer went from Runes to Sullivan.

CEO/LPI Report: Fred Collins

Collins was not present; although he had checked in with Planning Board updates not directly connected to the Select Board.

Roads Report: Andrew Wickson

Wickson reported that the job of cutting trees on Valley Road has been completed for this year. Chipping still needs to be done. Also, some large maple trees on Barrows Road need to be cut down.

There have only been a few winter storms and they did not create many problems. Only a few storms have needed just a few storms without much problem except that someone has been hindering the work of the plows. A recent roll over on 219 may have been caused by that same individual.

Town signs are being stolen. Signs are missing from Gammon Road, Fields Hill Road as well as traffic pattern signs. Some of these signs had just been replaced in October. Additional replacements are now on order.

Wickson reminded everyone that the load limits on the Andrews Bridge has been reduced from 30,000 to 20,000.

Wickson would like an increase in his hourly rate from \$15 to \$22. This increase would be taken from the road budget until next year's budget is evaluated. Wickson will work with Sullivan to determine what affect this would have on operations and planned projects. The information will be brought to the next Select Board meeting.

Wickson recommends that the fee for Driveway Permits be increased from \$10 to \$30. The ten dollars collected does not cover the cost of Wickson's time in approving the permit and verifying that the work was done properly. Strout will look at the ordinances to see what needs to be done if the Select Board recommends that increase.

A Winter Roads meeting will be scheduled for the second meeting in February. (2-23-21) The Winter Roads bid will go out in March. The Budget Committee starts their work in April. The Select Board has set aside time on Feb 9 to talk about roads. Then at the second meeting in Feb, Lucas and Wickson will be asked to join the meeting.

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

The 3-year appointment of Sullivan to Treasurer has been signed.

New Business:

The transition process of Town responsibilities from Susan Runes to Sherry Sullivan continues. Susan Runes will have her last day as February 5. Runes has used 8.5 vacation days since Sullivan started at the Town Office in August and still has 10 days of vacation plus 27 sick days. Unused vacation and sick days have no monetary value. Runes is to send an email to SB member to let them know her schedule.

The transition process includes transferring accounts and passwords to Sullivan. Association accounts are being set up with new log-ins. An exit interview needs to be set up during an executive session. Haxton suggests having this exit interview on Feb 2 at 6:00 pm.

Old Business:

The CMP form 1190 for Maurice Hart on Arthur Allen Road has been signed by Collins and sent to CMP by Collins. A port-a-potty is on the property. Wickson confirms that the location of the port-a-potty will not be a problem for plowing Arthur Allen Rd.

126 Main Street – Purchase and Sale agreement

The buyer is waiting on title work. The Purchase & Sale agreement is valid until January 28th.

The Town has been presented a proposed agreement from Harvest Hills in Fryeburg to take dogs and cats from Sumner that need to go to a rescue kennel. The agreement would require the Town to pay \$1.00 per capita so \$913.00 as an annual cost. The mileage reimbursement for the Animal Control Officer Roni Sue Vachon would be part of the expense to the Town. Stewart made a motion to accept the agreement from Harvest Hills. The motion was seconded by Hinshaw and so voted.

Updates on Broadband / Fiber with mailing – Haxton

The Broadband committee is looking for ways to continue to spread the information about the speed test. One consideration is creating information door hangers to put on the door from homes that have not completed the test.

Haxton has learned of new possibilities for reduced prices for heat pumps.

There is currently interest in solar power to possibly create a solar grid in or near Sumner. A community webinar may be useful to distribute information.

Office walk-in hours and appointment hours

The discussion continued about the hours that the Town Office is open. Sullivan feels that on Tuesday mornings there are many phone calls and the office should be open during that time. Her suggestion is to move the hours from Saturdays to Tuesdays. Stewart added that we can try anything for a period of time to see what might work best. The goal is to keep everyone safe and still provide the services needed by residents and property owners. Sullivan and Strout are to work out a proposed schedule that includes appointments so customers can know there is a time when they will not need to wait.

Hinshaw made a motion to adjourn at 8:40, which was seconded by Haxton and so voted.

January 12, 2021 minutes
Submitted by Susan Strout

Approved: January 26, 2021

Mary Ann Haxton

Edwin Hinshaw

Kelly Stewart