

Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes
July 9, 2019 7:00 pm

Members Present: Edwin Hinshaw, Mary Ann Haxton, Kelly Stewart, Town Clerk Susan Runes and secretary to the Select Board Susan Strout.

Public Present: Micah Emery, Sunday Morning Farm; Jonathan Leavitt ; Bruce MacEwan

The minutes from June 25 were read, corrected and approved with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Hinshaw and voted.

Warrant #1

Checks 13300-13327 \$86,828.24

Receipts #1265-1272 In the amount of \$5,274.99

2018-2019 Tax collected YTD \$1,210,827.53 88%

2017-2018 Tax collection was 89%

Open Session:

Micah Emery, Sunday Morning Farm, Marijuana Legislative Update, Emery brought information on other towns of similar size that have opted in : Paris, Etna.

Jonathan Leavitt made a request for the Select Board to Opt-in to marijuana cultivation and take it to the Town for vote at the Annual Town Meeting. Hinshaw asked Leavitt to make a guess how many might make a request for a permit to cultivate. Leavitt guessed that there are currently 50-100 caregivers licensed for medical marijuana in Sumner. Leavitt also predicted that medical business will drop off as adult use is open. However, some residents may choose to move out of Sumner if Sumner doesn't opt in. Leavitt believes marijuana farming can make a difference as to how people can make a living in our community.

Leavitt expressed concerns that licenses will be grabbed up by residents in other communities that have already opted in. Leavitt has served as Director of Maine marijuana policy and he wrote legislation that passed in 2000.

Runes said there is not enough time to put an article in the Warrant for opting in because there would need to be a certain period of notice and informational hearing. An ordinance would also be needed to be written before the town could approve any one. Runes added that we may be able to have a discussion and/or straw poll at the Town Meeting to see if the Select Board can get a directive from the residents whether or not to pursue opting in.

Haxton asked about local certification before a resident goes to the State for a license. The State is scheduled to make licenses available starting in December. She added that the Select Board needs to hear from residents to see how we should move ahead.

Haxton made a motion that we contact MMA and attempt to get wording so that at the Town Meeting the Select Board could have an indication of the level of local support for marijuana cultivation. The motion was seconded by Stewart and voted.

Hinshaw will contact MMA for wording. Hinshaw reported that Buckfield is looking to create an ordinance and vote to opt in. Runes will contact Terry Hayes to make sure she agrees on when in the Town Meeting this straw poll (or other process) will happen and what will be put in the warrant.

In other Open Session business, Bruce MacEwan wants to know if anything can be done to stop the loud fireworks and the use of "the rock" by people who are not property owners with a right-of-way. Discussion followed concerning individuals who use the rock for swimming, leaving trash, etc. Several deeds state there is an easement to the water. Haxton suggested that those property owners with easements discuss with the property owners as well as the owner of road what are agreed on uses of the property and whether or not signage would be helpful. Fireworks and campfires might be prohibited by signage.

RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus - not present

CEO/LPI Report - not present

Roads Report: Andrew Wickson - not present

Roads Charts need to be available. Strout pointed out in the future we need to think through when we use Fire Department space to see if we need to request time before and/or after a meeting so those attending can have access to materials and time for discussion.

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

Forest Operations Notification: Joel D. Chapman

The MMA Elected Officials Workshop, Wednesday, August 28 in Jay has no one interested to attend at this time.

MMA Planning Board & Boards of Appeal Workshop, July 30 in Bethel will have 4-5 Planning Board members will attend. John Evans, CEO, and Strout also will attend.

MMA Legal Update on Recreational Marijuana Workshop, August 21 in Saco will be attended by 3 Select Board members and Strout. The Town Office will need to be closed at 11:30 for Strout to attend. Runes will be on vacation. A motion by Stewart was seconded by Haxton and voted.

The appointment of John Evans CEO has expired. Stewart made a motion to reappoint him, seconded by Haxton and so voted. Haxton proposed a one-year review be done on August 27 at 6:30. Strout will let him know.

The re-appointment of Robert Stewart as fire chief and emergency management director was signed after Haxton made a motion, seconded by Hinshaw and voted by two. Stewart recused herself.

Runes presented budget items that were overdrawn at end of fiscal year. These will appear on Warrant at Town Meeting. The fiscal year-end numbers will appear in the Town Report. Most of the financials came out very close to expectations.

Haxton asked about when software that is on the warrant will be purchased. Runes said it will not be purchased until after Town Meeting. The Cash Management (receipting) module is what will be added.

New Business:

Food sovereignty - moved to July 23

The Planning Board has an alternate position open and Don Berry is interested. July 23 at 6:30 has been set for the interview time.

The Town Report plans have been made by Strout to use a panel from the Bicentennial quilt for Town Report cover (with permission from the artist Marty Elkin).

Cemetery stone repair was completed by Tom Bragg. More stones were worked on than the proposed amount that was previously voted on by the Select Board. Bragg submitted a bill for total amount and was disappointed the entire amount wasn't paid. Stewart made a motion to cover the rest of the amount on the July 23 warrant. The motion was seconded by Hinshaw and voted.

Old Business:

Haxton presented email from Mia Purcell. Purcell and Haxton anticipate the loan will be approved. The next step will be to get folks ready to buy-in to the new system. There will need to be a certain percentage of residents that are willing to switch to the new service. The roads and areas to be covered need to be determined. FirstLight also may be sold again - perhaps even outside of Maine. The multi-town internet interest group will meet again July 25.

The Workshop of the Update of Marijuana legislation will be attended by Hinshaw, Haxton and Strout. Due to Runes being on vacation, Strout asked if the Town Office could close in time for her to attend the workshop. Stewart made a motion, seconded by Haxton and voted.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Hinshaw, and voted at 8:59.

Upcoming events:

Workshop for Planning Boards - MMA
Bethel, July 30 4:30-8:30

Workshop with boards from neighboring towns to discuss sharing services.
Buckfield Municipal Center, August 6 at 5:30 pm

Legal update on Recreational Marijuana Workshop - MMA

Saco - August 21 2:00- 4:430

Town Office will close at 11:30

Sumner Town Meeting will be on Saturday, August 10, 2019, 9 am at HSES

Straw Poll at Town Meeting: Opt-in to marijuana cultivation

Town office will be closed for Town Meeting

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TOWN OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:

Saturday, August 10 due to Town Meeting (Hartford-Sumner Elementary School 9 am)

Wednesday, August 21 - Closing at 11:30 am for Workshop

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Submitted by Susan Strout

Approved: July 23, 2019