

Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes
February 11, 2020
6 pm - Office Staffing
7 pm - Regular Agenda

Members present: Mary Ann Haxton, Kelly Stewart, School Board member Charles Maddaus, Town Clerk Susan Runes and secretary to the Select Board Susan Strout. Ed Hinshaw was out of town.

Public present: Larry O'Rourke, Beth Maddaus and Brent Hadley

The minutes from January 28, 2020 were read and accepted with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Haxton and voted.

Warrant #15

Checks 13667-13683 \$97,407.63

Receipts #1628-1650 In the amount of \$79,488.67

2019-2020 Tax collected \$1,161,293.06 = 80%

2018-2019 Tax collection was = 78%

Open Session:

Haxton reported on a gathering that took place in Arrowsic on January 31st. GWI made an announcement of a loan/grant award to several locations in Maine. Three communities near Arrowsic were awarded \$3 million and \$7 million to Hartford, Hebron and Sumner to create more accessibility for broadband for residents. During the loan period, residents will be able to sign up for service with GWI. The rate in dollars from new customers will be what will pay back the initial loan.

The committee which has focused on broadband will be expanded to increase education and communication. An anonymous survey will be created to find out what residents are currently paying for internet, cable and phone service. Some questions were: will the service be available for all parts of town, what will it cost and how long will it be until service is offered. More information will become available soon.

O'Rourke was also asked for his opinion if heat pumps would work well for the Town Office. O'Rourke said he feels heat pumps work very well for heating and cooling. His suggestion was for Runes to contact Arsenault's Satellite TV for quotes, as well as Revision Energy. Both companies should have information on the highest Efficiency Maine rebates.

Brent Hadley, a resident and an employee working with the FirstLight installations, asked what the status is of the offer from FirstLight to connect the town office to fiber. He was told by John Allen of GWI that no response had been received from us. Strout/Runes will follow up tomorrow.

RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus

The school updates from Maddaus were:

- Teacher's contract approved
- An agreement with administration is in process
- Contract with architects - Harriman's is in process
- School budget is expected to drop from 8.28 to 8.18 mil rate for schools
- Budget meeting will continue through March and April
- An effort is being made to recruit substitute teachers

A discussion followed concerning the speed of the traffic on 219 in front of the school. The changes to the parking in front of the school and bus lane seem to be working well at keeping students and families off of 219. However, the speed of vehicles going by the school has been observed to be very fast. Reports have come into the town office of near misses with cars coming out of the school and from Gammon Road. Maddaus said he would again speak to school grounds director Scott Holmes. He also suggested that a letter be sent from the Select Board to the superintendent Deb Alden inviting her to a Select Board meeting.

CEO/LPI Report: Fred Collins

Not present

Roads Report: Andrew Wickson

Not present

Roads will be posted as early as February 15th

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

The resignation of Mary Standard from the Planning Board was accepted.

The appointment of Don Berry to full member of the Planning Board was signed.

The re-appointment of D. Lee Berry as Health Officer was signed.

The abatement for Stephen and Donna Stevens for a Veteran's exemption was signed.

A cooperative agreement with the Department of Transportation for a temporary speed sign was signed.

We received the 2020 Oxford County 2020 Overlay and Tax Commitment Update for \$74,740. Last year's amount was \$73,459 resulting in a current increase of \$1281 or 1.75%.

A letter from the Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice announces the opening of a Thrift Store on Center Street in Auburn on April 4th. Donations will be accepted during the limited open hours.

The AVCOG General Assembly meeting will be April 15, 2020 in Auburn.

MMA is hosting a Technology & New Energy Municipal Conference, April 28, 2020 in Augusta.

New Business:

The 2017 Tax lien foreclosure 30 day notices went out February 3, 2020 - approximately 20.

There was a brief discussion if Sumner should have a State Bicentennial promotion. Several questions were asked:

- what activities are already planned that we could support
- would we like to have a multi-town activity, perhaps with Hartford or Buckfield, etc.

The topic is to be moved to the next meeting.

Old Business:

Office Staffing discussions continue in the time just prior to the Select Board regular agenda. Job descriptions, personnel policies, hiring and insurance were covered.

Office computers still are not available.

Upcoming events:

Republican Presidential caucus - American Legion Hall, 184 Congress Street, Rumford
on Saturday, February 22, 2020 11 am; doors open at 10 am
Delegates and alternates for the Maine GOP Convention will be selected

Presidential primary and referendum - March 3, 2020 - Polls open 8-8 at Sumner Town Office

Democratic Presidential caucus - Sumner Town Office, March 8, 2020 2 pm; doors open at 1 pm
Delegates and alternates for the Maine Convention will be selected.

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

February 11, 2020 minutes
Submitted by Susan Strout

Approved: February 25, 2020