

Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes
June 9, 2020 7:00 pm (Zoom)
6:00 Executive session per 1 M.R.S.A - 405(4)-
Personnel matter

Members present: Mary Ann Haxton, Ed Hinshaw, Kelly Stewart, School Board representative Charles Maddaus, Town Clerk Susan Runes, and Secretary to the Select Board Susan Strout.

Public present: none

The minutes from May 26, 2020 were read and approved with a motion by Haxton, seconded by Stewart and voted.

Warrant #23

Checks 13806-13819 \$81,848.76

Receipts #1802-1815 In the amount of \$22,805.29

2019-2020 Tax collected \$1,259,026.30 = 87%

2018-2019 Tax collection was = 87%

Open Session: none

RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus

Maddaus reported that the June 23 school budget referendum has been cancelled. There will be an informational meeting at Buckfield Junior Senior High on June 24th that will be in person and live streamed through the Face Book page.

Graduation will take place on Saturday, June 13th at 2:00 with parents presenting diplomas to their graduate followed by a car parade through Buckfield, Hartford and Sumner. The next regular school board meeting will be on June 29th and the school budget vote will be on July 14th with the state primary.

The major topic with the school board is if students will return to school buildings in the fall or will it still be remote or some sort of hybrid remote and in person. Also discussed are the uses of funds from the CARES act, and the status of the new school building in Rumford. Maddaus also noted that the school board has created a new position of Curriculum Director and that the school board approved a 2% increase in salary for several administrative positions.

The Hartford Select Board approved the draft letter from the Hartford and Sumner Select Boards to RSU 10 superintendent and school board members. Haxton made the motion that the Sumner Select Board should also approve the letter to go on Sumner Letterhead with all six members signing the document and that it should be also sent to the other Select Board members in the RSU10 district. The motion was seconded by Hinshaw with more discussion following on how to get more residents aware of the letter. Cyndy Norton has written a letter to the editor of the Sun Journal. More letters could be submitted. A bulk mailing could be used to Sumner residents as well as out on Sumner email and to the Facebook community.

Maddaus added that there are 200,000 Mainers out of work still and the State may have an announcement on June 15th.

A vote on Haxton's motion was taken and approved unanimously.

CEO/LPI Report: Fred Collins

Not present

Roads Report: Andrew Wickson

Not present

Bridgework – Fields Bridge closed June 9 – November 9

Speed sign training – June 18 at MDOT building (now changed to Jay Elementary School)

A Road Committee meeting needs to be scheduled. June 23 at 6:00 is the proposed time if that works with Wickson. Meeting will be posted so that anyone can request to attend via Zoom.

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

The insurance for the town owned property at 126 Main St is still being worked arranged.

Nomination papers due back June 12th. Haxton is collecting signatures for her papers.

Workers Compensation Safety Incentive Program – Select Board not interested

Contract for mowing municipal lawns and cemeteries has been signed by Select Board. Two SB signatures are needed. Tom Bragg will sign after Select Board members.

New Business:

Use of Fire Department for Election and Town Meeting was discussed. The need for social distancing challenges all spaces available. The Town Office will be closed to other services that day. The school might be used for the Town Meeting but there is probably not enough time to change the location for the election. Runes will ask the Secretary of State about time limits.

The articles written by the Select Board members for the annual Town Report are **DUE June 23**. Strout will be contacting the other people who submit articles.

The Finance/Clerk position has had a total of three applicants. One applicant has withdrawn because of changes in her current employment. The two remaining have had two opportunities to meet and talk with the Select Board members. The next step will be to check references and learn what needs to be done to have the new employee bonded. Hinshaw made a motion to check references of preferred candidate. The motion was seconded by Stewart and so voted. Haxton will make these calls. An executive personnel session will be held Thursday, June 18th at 5 pm.

Also in new business, Rec department organizers are looking to set up a softball / baseball season starting in July. Stewart made a motion to approve this rec program using the guidelines that have been established by Maine Softball . A new budget will need to be requested.

Old Business:

The Boston Post Cane recipient is Evelyn Chamberlain. The award announcement will be made at Town Meeting. Stewart will ask Susan Litchfield (the recipient's daughter) to present a short history at Town Meeting.

New TRIO modules and the FirstLight fiber optics have been installed at the office. TRIO will have remote training sessions with the first one on June 16th .

Haxton sent out information on a Broadband Summit to be held by Maine West on June 16th in a zoom session. Members of the public are invited to attend. She also reported that GWI is moving ahead with their financing approval. Haxton will be setting a meeting soon for the Sumner Broadband group and she reminded us that there is a broadband issue on the ballot of the upcoming election.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Hinshaw and so voted.

Upcoming events:

Primary election – July 14

Town Meeting - August 11, 2020