

Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes
September 8, 2020 7:00 pm (Zoom)

Members present: Mary Ann Haxton, Edwin Hinshaw, Kelly Stewart was not at the meeting.

Town Clerk Susan Rues, Town Office staff member Sherry Sullivan, Road Commissioner Andy Wickson, School Board member Charles Maddaus and secretary to the Select Board Susan Strout. Also present was James McCarthy, chair of the Planning Board.

Public present: Tom Standard

The meeting began at 6:58 with the reading of the minutes from August 25, 2020. The minutes were approved with corrections with a motion by Hinshaw, seconded by Haxton and voted.

Warrant #5

Checks #13955-13975 \$173,631.04

Receipts #1919-1951 In the amount of \$139,962.44

2019-2020 Tax collected \$1,343,506.74 = 92%

2018-2019 Tax collected 94%

Open Session:

McCarthy brought a recommendation from the Planning Board for the fines at the property at 55 Arthur Allen Road. The two property owners were served letters by the Oxford County Sheriff's Department on August 13 and 14. With the wording in the letter, the fines will begin with the date of August 29, 2020. None one from the Town has heard from the since he letters were served.

The fine recommendation is for

10 days at \$100/day

10 days at \$200/day

10 days at \$300/day

Hinshaw made a motion to accept these fines and send in a letter. After amending the motion to include specific numbers in the letter, Haxton seconded and then both voted in favor.

CEO Fred Collins stated at the Planning Board meeting that he feels we should hire an attorney. Hinshaw suggested a call or email to MMA legal. The discussion also led to the question if DHHS should be contacted. Strout will update the last letter to the property owners to include fines. Hinshaw asked that Collins serve the letter. Haxton will ask him.

RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus

Maddaus reported that the last 5 school board meeting was on August 24. Twelve passenger vans are being purchased and there have been new hires added to the staff. For the Hartford Sumner Elementary School, there are approximately 50 students who are learning entirely remotely. Today, Sept 8, is the first day of school. The school administration is keeping close tabs on situation to react appropriately to any change. The next meeting will be September 14.

CEO/LPI Report: Fred Collins**Roads Report: Andrew Wickson**

Wickson reports this road work:

Black Mtn Rd – ditching, culverts, rip rap, improving turn around.

Labrador Pond Road: Ditching, culverts, and blasting in mid-October

Valley Road – near swim spot- take top off and ditching

Paris Hill Rd bridge – may need to be closed to pull bridge to replace with two culverts.

Andrews Road bridge – lumber back ordered

Fields Hill – 2 big rocks

Varney Road – ditching.

Bonney Road – may not get done this fall.

Tuell Hill Road – to be graded but need more rain first

Forms, Reports, Correspondence:

Boston Post Cane to Vernon Bradeen – The cane and biographical certificate will be presented September 12, 2020 at Mr. Bradeen's home with family and a few members of East Sumner Congregational Church.

Tom Standard is offering to do a survey and budget projection for the Sumner roads for a five-year plan. The Select Board welcomed Standard's efforts as long as there is no cost to the taxpayers. Standard plans to have formal quote in April, ready to take to residents at the Town Meeting in August.

When asked Wickson replied that 75% of the culverts are failing. He gave the example that Bonney Road needed \$12,000 of culverts – just on that one road.

Monthly Financial statements for August were presented by Runes.

Tax liens for the 2019 taxes will be recorded the week after the Sept 11 deadline. The number of liens is less in the expected range of just around 100.

New Business:

The Apparel Impact collections bin has been overflowing twice in the last month. Strout has called the company and has been told there is to be a second bin added to the first so overflow should not be a problem. The collections bins however are on back order.

The Select Board asked for the area town offices by surveyed s to how they are providing services at this time. After being in contact with eight town offices, the trends found were:

- One person at a time
- Plexiglas barrier at all but one.
- Most office members wear masks when dealing with customers – one did not
- Half required masks. Two asked but did not insist. Two did not require masks.

All eight of these had customers coming into their building. One had a drive-up window in addition to counter. Two of the offices have a drop box system for those who did not want to come in.

Most had a plan to sanitize between customers, but it is not cleaned that often. Three sanitized between each customer. Two others said they tried to sanitize often. Others said NO but sanitize several times a day.

Haxton asked if the office staff would come to the next meeting with a proposal or proposals for how we might be able to offer a quicker turnaround with transactions. Types of changes could be by appointment, appointments ½ days, seeing customers one at a time at window.

Old Business:

The property at 126 Main Street has been acquired by the town through tax lien. The three approaches of how to sell the property are: auction, bids, or hire a broker. Hinshaw made the motion for the sale to go out to bid (sealed bids) with a minimum amount, also stating that any or all bids can be accepted or rejected. Haxton seconded and there was a unanimous vote. Additional

The information about accepting bids will be sent to abutters, and posted in ad add in the newspaper, pm the website, on Facebook and sent out to the town email list. Runes was asked to make some calls to identify an attorney for the sale process. No back taxes will be required to be paid back. The minimum bid will be set at \$45,000 with the bids due back by October 9 and opened on October 13.

Gov Mills has created the Maine Climate Commission with 6 sub-groups to looks at various aspects of Maine's standards. MUBEC will be looked at by a sub-committee that may result in Maine towns of all sizes to be included in the MUBEC standards.

Updates on Broadband / Fiber – Haxton

No new information. Final paperwork for the loan/grant has a deadline for the end of the month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm with a motion by Hinshaw, seconded by Haxton and so voted.