

**Town of Sumner - Select Board Minutes**  
**May 26, 2020 7:00 pm (Zoom)**

**Members present:**

Mary Ann Haxton, Kelly Stewart, Edwin Hinshaw, Road Commissioner Andy Wickson, and secretary to the Select Board Susan Strout.

**Public present:**

Alfred Lucas and Julie Bergeron of Lucas Enterprises

**The minutes from May 12, 2020** were approved with a motion by Stewart, seconded by Haxton and voted.

**Warrant #22**

**Checks 13791-13805 \$19,915.57**

**Receipts #1781-1801 In the amount of \$11,838.54**

**2019-2020 Tax collected \$1,252,730.46 = 86%**

**2018-2019 Tax collection was = 86%**

The receipts listed an extra \$3.00 that was the fee for mailing a license plate. Adjusted into appropriate account.

**Open Session:**

**RSU #10 Report: Charles Maddaus** : not present

The school budget referendum is still set for June 23; however, the location not known. The Select Board members would like to collaborate with other towns in RSU10 to push for the school budget to be reduced through letters to the Superintendent of Schools and school board members. An effort to get out the vote on the night of the school board budget will be important. Buckfield Select Board was asked to participate but they are choosing not to at this time.

This letter would be from the Select Board members of all the RSU10 towns that want to participate. Hinshaw also suggests a letter to the editor. The letter would be sent on letterhead with at least two signatures from Hartford and Sumner. There has been no word from Rumford or the Town Manager of Mexico. Haxton made the motion to proceed with a letter. This motion was seconded by Hinshaw and voted. Haxton will write a draft.

**CEO/LPI Report:** not present

### **Roads Report: Andrew Wickson**

The Winter Roads update was presented by Wickson, Alfred Lucas and Julie Bergeron. Wickson reported the year felt mild but still was busy with 56 days out with road plowing or sanding which was 20 days down from the year before. This year was again lots of ice events or snow that changed to ice. There was also a need to extra efforts with the school bus routes due to some less experienced drivers.

Other observations were:

Salt has been topped off from this year's budget

Harder to find drivers

Fewer problems with equipment

Spring thaw difficult since roads were not frozen as deep as usual

Email to residents was helpful to reduce complaints

No big weather events

Fewer people off the road

More tractor trailers stuck on 219 – usually no winter tires

Good communication with Scott Holmes from RSU10

Shovel stayed in resident sand pit all winter

Less sand usage

In regular ROAD information, the Town has been notified of bridgework on the Gammon Road (Fields Bridge) that will close the bridge from June to November. Wickson will attend a speed sign training on June 18<sup>th</sup> for the temporary sign on a trailer from MDOT.

Wickson will fix culvert on Redding Road right before the Woodstock one ditching. Also, Wickson changed a culvert on Arthur Allen Road. A ten-foot section was left over which Wickson sold to Craig Moore for \$415.00. In addition, Wickson worked on a new cross-culvert near the intersection of Tuell Hill and Redding Rd.

Wickson may do small jobs before big projects. Ditching is needed on Labrador Pond Rd and two big rocks will need to be removed from Fields Hill Rd.

### **Forms, Reports, Correspondence:**

The reappointment of Mark Silber to scholarship committee was voted on with a motion from Haxton, seconded by Hinshaw and voted.

Nelson Analytical report on the quality of our water came back with favorable results.

The property at 126 Main St. has paperwork to be filled out for insurance. Hinshaw will contact MMA for more direction.

We have received a new brush policy from Buckfield for the Transfer Station. We will obtain at

least two signatures of our Select Board members and return to Buckfield.

The Office received a phone call from Kelly (Hart) Martin concerning the property at Arthur Allen Road. Martin is co-owner of the property with Maurice Hart. Martin wanted to have a better understanding of what is needed to make her daughter Nichole's living situation meet the requirements of a building notification. Strout told her to get in touch with CEO Fred Collins.

**New Business:**

A new applicant has submitted a resume for the Finance/Clerk position. A zoom conversation will be set up with this applicant. Interviews will be set after that conversation.

Budget Committee: Wickson asked how it is determined if he expenses fall under the equipment account or a capital account. The Road Committee may need to be brought together to more clearly define types of expenses and how these types of items are represented in the annual Town budget.

The low bid for mowing municipal lawns and cemeteries was higher than what had been estimated by the budget committee, especially seeing tight budgets in the next few years. The Select Board asked low bidder Tom Bragg if he would look again at his bid with the effects of Co-vid 19 on budgets. Bragg agreed to lower annual payment \$500. Now the bid is for \$8,000 a year for three years. Board members agreed on that amount for the contract with a motion by Hinshaw, seconded by Stewart with appreciation and voted.

The terms for maintenance and review of the work is part of the contract that will be brought to the Select Board to be signed by Board members and Tom Bragg.

Staff members from the Buckfield Junior and Senior High contacted the Office to see if the Fire Department would participate in a graduation parade on June 13 which would take place after a "drive-in" graduation at 2:00. The parade would go through Buckfield, Hartford and Sumner. Stewart indicated that the Fire Department would not be available to participate. Stewart is to let BJSJH know.

**Old Business:**

The new Boston Post Cane recipient is Evelyn Chamberlain. Stewart will contact her to see if she would like to be presented the cane at the Annual Town Meeting in August.

The Town Meeting scheduled for August 11, 2020 will need to follow the state guidelines as to how many people can gather in one spot and social distancing expectations. The possible set-ups at both the elementary school and the fire department were discussed and will be reviewed closer to the time of the meeting. The elementary school has been reserved for the meeting.

Nomination papers for the Select Board seat have been picked up by Haxton. The difficulty in

obtaining signatures during social distancing may make that process impossible. Haxton also has the option to nominate herself from the floor at the Town Meeting. Nomination papers are due back to the Town Office by June 12.

Two bids for printing the Town Report were received from the Snowman Group and Xpress Printing. The lower bid of \$1,225.48 was accepted with a motion by Stewart and seconded by Haxton and voted.

The office computers have been set up with the new modules from Trio. Trio is now offering remote training which will be set up for later in the summer. FirstLight will be installing Fiber Optics in the office on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Haxton reports that Mia Purcell is continuing to work on financing broadband in Western Maine. The broadband committee will be looking for ways to inform our residents so they will be ready to buy in when available. The infrastructure may be in place as soon as late 2021.

The meeting ended at 8:47 pm with a motion from Hinshaw, seconded by Stewart, voted.

**Upcoming events:**

School budget referendum – June 23

Town Meeting, August 11, 2020