

**Town of Sumner
Select Board Meeting Minutes, March 25, 2025**

The Sumner Select Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Jesse Wallingford & Joel Chapman

Public Present: Staci Wallingford, Jeffrey Coombe, Marcia Turcotte, Shawn & Amy Corson, Kristen Chapman, Deb Frino, Richard Estes

The Select Board meeting minutes from March 11, 2025, were not approved as Mr. Chapman was not present at that meeting, and Mr. Savage (who was present at the 3/11/25 meeting) is not present at tonight's meeting to sign.

Warrant #38

Expenses: \$68,360.92 / Checks: 15910-15926

Receipts: \$56,875.03 / Receipts: 1662-1732

% of 2023 Real Estate Taxes Collected YTD: 97.2%

% of 2024 Real Estate Taxes Collected YTD: 86.0 %

Open Session: Ms. Frino said that State Representative Mike Lance was supposed to attend tonight's meeting; however, he is not present. Ms. Chapman and Ms. Turcotte said that Mr. Lance could still be in session with the State legislature. Ms. Frino had sent two letters, at which time Mr. Lance texted Ms. Frino who had questions. He said that he would like to come to Sumner and attend a meeting.

RSU 10 Report: Kristen Chapman – Budget meeting last night was cancelled, rescheduled for this Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Buckfield Junior Senior High School. This is the second part of the budget that the School Board will be discussing. There was new budget paperwork presented to the Board for review. The superintendent and business manager have whittled it down to just under 8% district-wide, which is a 1.144 million dollar cut. The bad news is that for Sumner and Buckfield that keeps us both at an 11% increase over what last year was. Ms. Chapman encouraged residents to attend.

Back in the fall of 2024, the three towns' (Hartford, Sumner, Buckfield) Select Boards had written a letter individually to the RSU 10 School Board requesting that the annual budget meeting would be considered to be held in Buckfield or at least alternate it. It was stated that as the School Board approaches budget season there would be a vote as to the location. If anyone is interested, they might want to speak to that, as it is not on the agenda for Thursday, 3/27/2025. It would mean that the people in these towns would be able to participate in that meeting and would not have to drive ½ hour to 45 minutes to attend the meeting. Ms. Chapman said she does have the budget paperwork with her tonight if anyone is interested in reviewing it.

Ms. Chapman did state that she has again taken out nomination papers to run for RSU 10 School Board Representative. Please remember that all regular meetings can be viewed via the YouTube channel found on the RSU 10 district website, and Kristen can be reached via email at kchapman@rsu10.org.

Planning Board Update: Jeffrey Coombe – Last week, the Planning Board met with Erica Bufkins from AVCOG (Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments) to discuss beginning the process of updating Sumner’s Comprehensive Plan. Erica had a few questions as far as common items and pitfalls that she sees small towns having, and she was pleased with the ordinances that are in place. Looking at the next step in the process is putting out a questionnaire to townspeople. Ms. Bufkins said it is a good idea to leave questionnaires at the town office so when people come to conduct business at the town office, they can pick up a questionnaire and as a way of asking people if they would be interested in being on the comprehensive plan committee. The PB is brainstorming to put together a questionnaire. There were a few building notification type questions; however, their questions could not be answered unless a building notification is submitted with further information.

Fire Department: Doug Fournier – Not present; no report submitted

Roads Report: Shawn Corson – The roads are rough right now. Quite a few culverts have frozen, so there are some washouts. Mr. Corson is doing what he can to make the roads acceptable for now. As soon as the weather dries up, he will begin working on the roads.

ACO Report: Brandon Holmes – Not present; no report submitted.

Forms, Reports, Correspondence: None

New Business: A new code enforcement officer, Calvin Beaumier, has been hired. He is the public works director for the Town of Durham. He spent 10 years as Dixfield’s CEO. He does need recertification through the State, but he has a year to complete this.

Old Business: We did hear from our realtor that she was contacted regarding a logger looking for lots and there is 114 acres out near Bill Glass. Mr. Wallingford is not sure what type of timber is on that lot. Mr. Estes said the land was stripped in the late 1970s.

The restitution check was received in the amount of \$14,543.17 (Kelly Stewart paid \$4992.17 and Bob Stewart’s amount was \$9551.00). Mr. Savage was going to go down today to retrieve the evidence which will be sold at the upcoming yard sale on the first Saturday in June. The money will either be put into the truck fund or the General Fund, most likely the General Fund. Mr. Wallingford was asked if the Town is going to rescind the Stewart’s firearms license. The Town does not have the ability to do this. The ATF is the only one who could rescind their license.

Upcoming Events: Sumner Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary will be holding their annual yard sale the first Saturday in June.

Notices:

- The Board of Appeals has one opening
- The Planning Board has one opening for an alternate
- Looking for members for a Comprehensive Plan Committee to update the current Comprehensive Plan, last updated in 2014
- Nomination papers are available at the Town Office. There is one Selectboard member and one RSU 10 representative up for election this year
- Exemption applications due April 1st, tree growth plans due April 1st, scholarship applications due April 30th

Break in the meeting for the Select Board and Diane Campbell to review the financials for February 2025. The public is welcome to observe but will not be allowed to comment.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Chapman at 7:47 pm, with a second by Mr. Wallingford, voted and approved unanimously.

Submitted by Norma Dulac, Select Board Secretary