

**TOWN OF CUSHING  
SELECTMEN MEETING  
May 28, 2008  
CUSHING COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Selectmen Present:** Alton Grover, Robert Worthing, Randolph Robbins, and Robert Stackpole Jr.

**Staff Present:** Town Clerk Lisa Young

Board approved Warrant #24 & #25

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Robert Worthing motioned, Robert Stackpole Jr. seconded, to approve the May 12, 2008 meeting minutes with one correction. The motion passed.

**Board Approved 4-0-0**

**Changes to the Agenda**

Selectman Robert Stackpole addressed the Board questioning the warrant process. He wanted to know if he or another selectman had a problem with something on the warrant when they were supposed to voice their concern. It was explained that at every Selectmen's Meeting the Selectmen look over the warrant prior to the meeting to save time, but if they have an issue with anything on it that they should voice their concern at the meeting. Since Selectman Stackpole had been on the Board no one had questioned anything on the warrant. Bob went on to say that he did have a problem with several items on the warrant; an item for Arthur Kiskila for road side clean up, Doug Fales Tree Cutting, and George Hall & Sons. He questioned what they were for and noted that he did not remember approving anything since he started as Selectman that would warrant their services. Chairman Alton Grover stated that usually every year the town makes arrangements with the Prison Farm to have prisoners assist in roadside clean-up, brush work, etc. on Town Roads free of charge, other than supplying lunch, and that the Prison Farm requires two certified people, which Alton and Arthur are, to oversee them. Doug Fales was for brush work on the Town Roads. The bill for gravel from George Hall and Sons was for fixing a culvert on Summer Road. In previous years if work needed to be done on town roads and the cost was around \$500.00 Alton had the ok to just go and fix the road. Mr. Stackpole stated that this was an issue of conflict of interest and proceeded to pass out copies of the first two chapters of the Maine Municipal Associations Municipal Officials Manual pointing out sections that he felt supported his points. He went on to inquire why this work was not put out to bid. He noted that he knew of several people that would be interested in bidding on them. Chairman Alton Grover suggested that it sounds like Mr. Stackpole has a problem with him directly. Mr. Stackpole responded by saying he probably did.

Selectman Worthing stated that they have two considerations; how can the Board act in the best interest of the Town, and how the Board can put together a list of road work that

needs to be done for bids in the future. He noted that he felt that a great deal of the work that Chairman Grover does the Board has general knowledge of. Selectman Worthing motioned to table discussion until the Board can get together to form a plan on how they are going to proceed. Chairman Alton Grover informed the Board that he had prisoners scheduled to work the next day and asked if they would like him to cancel. Mr. Worthing noted that since it was already scheduled that he felt they should finish the job. Selectman Randy Robbins seconded Selectman Worthing's motion. The motion passed.

**Board Approved 4-0-0**

Chairman Alton Grover reported that Beautification Committee member, Sandra Blanchard, seeks approval from the Board of Selectmen to schedule a flag dedication on June 14, 2008. She also inquired if there was any town money available to purchase flowers to put around the flag pole. After a brief discussion of how much money was needed, and what town account they could take money out of for this, Selectman Stackpole proceeded to give \$100.00 to Town Clerk Lisa Young to donate to the Beautification Committee for the flowers. The Board approved scheduling the flag dedication for June 14, 2008.

Chairman Alton Grover read a letter addressed to the Selectmen inviting the Board to the June 8, 2008 dedication of the Town House Loop Trail.

**Unfinished Business**

**By Laws/Ordinance List Ordinance Committee-** No new information. This will be put on the June 9<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**New Business-**

**Sign SAD #50 Warrant and Town of Cushing Warrant and Ordinance-** The Board of Selectmen signed the SAD#50 Warrant, Town of Cushing Warrant and certified the Coastal Waters Management Ordinance to the Town Clerk.

**Bids-** Chairman Alton Grover opened and read the six bids for the Cushing Community Center Roof Work. Murray Builders bid \$36,500, Miller and Miller Construction-\$39,786, Eastern Construction-\$40,670, Roof Systems of Maine-\$44,840, Lajoie Brothers Inc.-\$67,000, and Omni Builders-\$96,040. The Board discussed the bids. They had questions with two of the bids that were not clear on what materials they were using. It was decided that Selectman Robert Stackpole will contact the two lowest bidders to find out what materials they were planning to use and report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Tower presented each Selectman with a copy of a list showing the amount of money the Town of Cushing has paid for Attorney fees for the tree cutting issue and tax abatement issue. He noted that \$42,226.84 has been spent on the tree cutting issue and \$96,185.66 for the abatement issue. He stated that that amount did not include the attorney fees for the four day hearing and the Assessors Agent fee for the four days. He noted that he expected the fee for each day to be around \$1,000.00 per hour. The case he

stated would cost the town about \$200,000 or maybe more to maybe get back \$75,000. He proceeded to the Selectmen table and demanded to know if each selectman would personally make an investment like that. Selectman Robert Stackpole stated that if he felt he was right he may. The discussion went on with Mr. Tower demanding that the Selectmen end the hearings and to act on other violations that he says have been committed in Cushing. The Selectmen made no decision or comment.

Resident Cyrus Holmes addressed the Board complaining that Cushing Animal Control Officer, Kyle Martin, has not been doing his job. He has had a problem with two dogs that have been running on his property and he has contacted Kyle numerous times but he still has not taken action against them. He stressed that the Board of Selectmen needed to take action and hire a new Animal Control Officer. He proceeded to give them the name of the ACO in Thomaston who may be interested in the job. Selectman Randy Robbins stated that the Board will do something about the situation.

Alton Grover motioned, Randolph Robbins seconded, to enter executive session pursuant to M.R.S.A. § 405(6) (A) a personnel issue at 8:25 PM. The motion passed.

**Board Approved 4-0-0**

Selectman Randy Robbins motioned, Robert Worthing seconded, to return to the regular scheduled meeting at 9:00PM. The motion passed.

**Board Approved 4-0-0**

The Board directed Selectman Robert Worthing to contact Thomaston ACO to find out if she would be interested in working for Cushing. Selectman Worthing and Robbins will meet with ACO Kyle Martin on Saturday.

Selectman Robert Stackpole motioned, Randy Robbins seconded, to adjourn at 9:10PM. The motion passed.

**Board Approved 4-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Young  
Recording Secretary  
Town Clerk

