

TOWN OF CUSHING  
BOARD OF  
SELECTMEN

Minutes of Meeting

July 24, 2017  
Cushing Community Center

**Selectmen Present:** Dan Staples, Chair Alton Grover, Heidi Alley, Martha Marchut, Laurie Haynes

**Selectmen Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** Kate Hoyt, Deputy Municipal Clerk

**Public Present:** Alan Magee, Monika Magee, Willard Payson, Randy Robbins, Dan Remian, and t.r. jackson (all Cushing taxpayers); Helen Darmara, Arthur Kiskila, and Andy Blanchard of the Cushing Rescue Squad; as well as John Daigle of the Waldoboro Transfer Center

**1. Call to Order:** Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

**3. Approve and Sign the Warrant:**

**ACTION:** Selectman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martha Marchut, to approve Warrants 32 and 33.

**Motion Carried 3-0-0** [Heidi Alley and Dan Staples arrived late and did not vote.]

**4. Approve Minutes of the 07/10/17 Meeting:**

**ACTION:** Chairman Grover made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martha Marchut, to approve the Minutes of the 07/10/17 meeting.

**Discussion:** None.

**Motion to Approve 7/10/2017 Minutes Carried 3-0-1** [Laurie Haynes abstained, absent from 7/10 meeting. Heidi Alley had not yet arrived.]

**5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:** none

**6. Unfinished Business:**

**6. Keyless or Keyed Locks for the Fire Station.**

**ACTION:** Alton Grover made a motion that the Town of Cushing install keypads. Selectman Laurie Haynes 2nd.

**Discussion:** Andrew Blanchard of the Rescue Squad summarized the issues surrounding keyed versus keyless locks, and said keyless locks would mean rescue squad personnel would not have to worry about forgotten keys in an emergency situation, or about lost keys. Chair Alton Grover commented that an additional \$100.00 would have to be added to the cost, in order to weatherproof the locks. Helen Darmara of the Rescue Squad commented that it would be good to get a keypad that allowed for additional numbers to be added.

**Motion Carried 3-2-0**

**7. New Business:****7a. John Daigle, of the Waldoboro Transfer Station, Addressed the Board on Specifics of WTS Budget.**

**ACTION:** Chair Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martha Marchut, to send money from tipping fees to Waldoboro, going forward, as requested, effective with the start of the 2018 agreement.

**Discussion:** John Daigle made a presentation to the Board. He began by saying that, understanding that there were concerns about money, he had brought copies of the Transfer Station's budget so the Selectmen could review it thoroughly. Copies were distributed. Last year, \$610K, last year's budget; this year, \$539K in the budget. Even with that drop, we've hired a part-time employee, and we're also paying ourselves back \$40K/year for the money we borrowed for the scales. He encouraged Selectmen to review the breakdown.

Daigle explained that, under a previous system that was amended in 2013, if we (Cushing, Waldoboro, Friendship) did not meet the minimum agreed-upon tonnage, we would be assessed a sort of fine. By the same token, if we met our quotas, each town would get a certain amount of money back. Waldoboro put this money back into the transfer station; Cushing and Friendship were under no obligation to do so; there was no mention in the agreement about what was to happen to that money. (*Note:* Cushing put ours in a separate account, per then-Selectman Will Payson and Town Clerk Lisa Young.) Daigle said he thought this was unfair to Waldoboro, and that his suggested improvements going forward (see minutes from previous meetings of the Cushing Board of Selectmen) would rectify the situation.

In the new budget, Waldoboro's costs go down, and so do Cushing's and Friendship's costs—although by a smaller amount, commensurate with their use of the transfer station. The new budget reflects that, while Cushing and Friendship will no longer receive tipping fees, they also will pay less into the operation of the transfer station. Martha asked when these savings would show in the budget, in 2017 or 2018, and Daigle answered 2018.

There was some discussion of the savings account that Cushing kept its tipping fees in, and what that account was for. Cushing Selectmen had understood all along that the monies were being saved against the day when Cushing and Friendship would have to pay in to help finance a new transfer station. Daigle had said at a previous meeting that this would not be the case, that this had been a misunderstanding. The fact is that the towns have been being charged each year for (a) the purchase of the set of scales, which Selectmen agreed after some discussion had been a benefit to all; and (b) the new transfer station, Phases 1 and 2. He assured the Selectmen that he was not out to get Cushing and Friendship to "pay back" the monies; rather, he just wanted to amend the situation going forward. There was discussion of specifics of the 2017 budget as well as more specifics of the 2018 agreement with Fiberight. Daigle reminded the group that going with Fiberight there would no longer be credits.

Daigle added that the transfer station does not get money for recycling. Recycling was briefly discussed.

Daigle said that what he was worried about down the road was that he would end up splitting revenues with Friendship and Cushing (i.e., by visits to transfer station) when the costs of operation are not split three ways. Brief speculation of what might happen to costs, going forward.

Daigle reminded the group that a committee doesn't have authority; a Board does, and he supports the change. Danny asked if, when there's a major decision—such as pay-per-bag was—if that decision would come back to the citizens of each town. The answer seemed to be yes, though it was not clear whether the representative selectmen on the new Transfer Station Board would vote on behalf of their citizens, or there would actually be a vote by all the people. Martha Marchut rephrased the question and Daigle said yes: citizens of Cushing, not just those of Waldoboro, would be able to vote. Selectmen one by one expressed confidence in the new budget and the new agreement. Daigle said he felt the new way took the politics out of the situation. Daigle said we'd notice savings more, down the road.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

**8. [Out of Sequence] Comments from Citizens:** Will Payson asked if the money [that is currently in the Cushing Transfer Station account, from tipping fees from previous years] belonged to the people, since it had came from their contributions. He began to discuss status of Cushing's Transfer Station account. Will thought you would have to have a vote by the people in order to send that money [to Waldoboro]. Heidi Alley and Martha Marchut explained that Cushing is not sending it back. Daigle cautioned that this money was revenue, coming in from Transfer Station. "It keeps getting called a credit. It is revenue." Payson worried that the credit situation would continue, going forward, but Daigle assured him it would not.

**7b. Local Road Assistance Program Certification**

**Action:** Signed around.

**7c. Letter to MRC In Regard To Ex Put Option**

**Action:** Signed around.

Chair Alton Grover brought the Selectmen up to date on tree-trimming that is being done by the state on state roads in Cushing.

**9. Adjournment:**

**ACTION:** Selectman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Selectman Dan Staples, to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Hoyt,  
Deputy Municipal Clerk