

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF
SELECTMEN

Minutes of Meeting

November 27, 2017
Cushing Community Center

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

Selectmen Absent: none

Staff Present: Cushing Town Clerk Lisa Young

Public Present: Cushing taxpayers T. R. Jackson and Donald B. Young

1. Call to Order: Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Approve and Sign the Warrant:

ACTION: Selectman Danny Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martha Marchut, to approve Warrants 48 and 49.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Approve Minutes of the 11/13/17 Meeting:

ACTION: Selectman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to approve the Minutes of the 11/13/17 meeting.

Discussion: Selectman Danny Staples commented that during the discussion at the previous meeting, members of the Cushing Recycling Committee said the Selectmen should have handled the matter differently, invited them in for a discussion. Danny said the Selectmen had handled the issue in the only way they could: by inviting the Recycling Committee to a meeting of all the Selectmen. "We could not have gone to them as a Board, and there was no grounds to go into Executive Session on the issue. They said we were disrespectful, but we did it the only way we could have."

Motion Carried 4-0-1 [Heidi Alley abstained, not having been present at the 11/13 meeting.]

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. Updated 2015 Foreclosure List

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Cushing Treasurer Lisa Young summarized the remaining foreclosures for the Selectmen.

5b. Upcoming Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Town Clerk Lisa Young reminded the Selectmen that the next meeting fell on Christmas Day and that they might want to reschedule.

6. Unfinished Business:

6a. Taxes Owed for 2017 by Former Owner of What Is Now Good Neighbor Park

ACTION: Selectman Danny Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to abate the taxes on [Map 15: Lot 54] from April 8 to the end of 2017.

Discussion: Selectman Danny Staples summarized the issue. Kristi donated the land, but owned it on April 1 and was technically responsible for the taxes for the rest of 2017. Laurie asked whether there were legal problems with the Selectmen waiving taxes. Heidi said the legal issues had been addressed and that the action was proper.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7. New Business:

7a. Retaining Town Auditor

ACTION: Dan Staples made a motion, which Laurie Haynes seconded, to retain Mindy Cyr as the Town's auditor for 2017.

Discussion: Lisa Young reminded the Selectmen that the Town auditor comes twice, once in mid-December to do prep work, and again in January to finish up. This is so the information can be prepared in time to meet the deadline for publishing the Town Report.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7b. Town Dump Truck Purchased from City of Rockland

ACTION: [Informal] Alton Grover agreed to follow up on accepting bids. Town Clerk Lisa Young agreed to put the bid ad in the paper informing citizens that the Selectmen would be taking bids at the next meeting.

Discussion: The Selectmen discussed selling the truck, which is in pieces. The group discussed specifics of the truck and of the bidding process.

8. Comments from Citizens

8a. Suggested Moratorium

ACTION: Dan Staples made a motion to schedule a Special Town Meeting on Monday, December 11, 2017, at which Cushing residents could give input on a moratorium to prevent offshore wind power cables from coming ashore in Cushing. Laurie Haynes seconded. [Informal] Selectmen agreed to talk to CEO Scott Bickford whether or not the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance would have any impact on the issue.

Discussion: Donald Young addressed the Board about offshore wind and the Maine Aqua Ventus Project, that was attempting to develop wind turbines off the coast of Maine. He asked if the Town had an ordinance against high-voltage wires coming ashore from the ocean. If not, he suggested that Cushing develop one, or put a moratorium in place until the Ordinance Committee, or whoever it falls to, would write one. Donald said that St. George and Bristol had been resisting companies' putting wind turbines in the river and stringing lines ashore in these towns. Donald said the company had lied to Maine lobstermen about specifics. He had asked if lobstermen would be given notice about the project, and a representative of the company had told him they had permission from the Commissioner to do some sort of preliminary survey without notifying them. Donald called the Commissioner and found out that this was not true. He said the ideas and specifics keep changing—1/3-scale windmills or full-size? Off Monhegan, or where? Donald was concerned that, if for instance St. George develops an ordinance against wires coming ashore, and Cushing does not, the power

companies might approach individual Cushing landowners with a lucrative deal that leaves the Town and others with an eyesore that benefits just one landowner. Donnie said St. George was worried that, the way their ordinances were structured, it was easier to run wires ashore than to put a deck on a house. He asked that the issue be looked into. As Bristol had been approached, Donnie suggested Bristol might have wording.

Danny thought the Selectmen should do something sooner rather than later. The Selectmen wondered if a procedure for placing a moratorium could be followed that was similar to what was done to place the moratorium on the commercial growing and storage of marijuana. Laurie asked if the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance would regulate running high-voltage wires ashore. Heidi and Danny said no. Heidi commented that the companies could put the pole far enough offshore that it would not violate Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. Martha commented that Cushing had an active Ordinance Committee at present, so they could develop wording if the Maine Municipal Association found that appropriate.

The Board discussed putting a notice in the Rockland Courier Gazette the following day.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

---Executive Session---

The Select Board entered into Executive Session, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A), a personnel matter, at 6:30 p.m. A motion was made by Select Board Chair Alton Grover and seconded by Danny Staples, to enter into Executive Session.

Select Board Chair Alton Grover motioned, and Selectman Laurie Haynes seconded, to enter back into the main meeting at 6:53 p.m.

---The Selectmen rejoined the main meeting at 6:53 p.m.---

ACTION: none taken as the result of the discussion in Executive Session

9. Adjournment:

ACTION: Select Board Chair Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Selectman Danny Staples, to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Hoyt,
Deputy Town Clerk