

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Cushing Community Center
Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Selectmen Present: Chair Alton Grover; Selectmen Craig Currie, Corey Jones, Martha Marchut, and Dan Staples who arrived a little late

Selectmen Absent: none

Staff Present: Town Clerk Lisa Young

Public Present: none

1. Call to Order: Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M. and a quorum was determined.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Approve and Sign the Warrant:

ACTION: Selectman Corey Jones made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to approve 2020 Warrants 91 and 92.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 4-0-0, Dan absent

4. Review and approve the minutes of the September 28, 2020 meeting

ACTION: Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2020 meeting with one change

Discussion: Alton noted on 7c where it says the culvert is full of sand and grass; that's not what he said. He said it is the ditch not the culvert, the ditch down near the stop sign.

Motion Carried 4-0-0, Dan absent

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. MRC Town Meeting

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Martha gave an update; she said they've narrowed it down to 3 entities that are bidding to take over the place; she added they had begun with 7. She said the next step is for the bond holders and receivers to meet with MRC. She said right now 75% of the trash MRC is involved with is going to Pert, the rest is going to the landfill. She said Maine DEP will have to get involved some too and hopes that

won't slow things down too much. She said tipping fees won't change because they're under contract, and that would have to be a vote of the members to increase. She added the only change would be cost of living increases which is in the contract. She said they're hoping to have a contract in place by December, but that is not a definite by any means. Martha added they're not sure when it'll be up and running. She said the next meeting should be sometime the end of October.

5b. Ambulance

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Corey said Andy had told him that they had sold the ambulance that they had all looked at the other night. He said they can get the same one in white, instead of red, right now, but after that it would be about six months out before they could have one. Corey said he told them they can't do anything until it's voted on anyway, which would most likely be the March Town Meeting. Corey said Andy was wondering if that could be bumped up sooner than that. Corey said he would ask Andy to come to a meeting to discuss but added the price on the ambulances are going up, too. He said he liked the service feature that came with the one they looked like, as well as the layout, too. Martha asked if Andy planned to talk to any customers that had purchased through them; Corey thought he already had talked to a couple.

5c. Governor's Order

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa discussed Governor Mill's latest order requiring face masks in municipal buildings. Alton asked if you'd have to wear them all day. Lisa felt we probably should when customers are present, especially now that we have voters coming in. Corey mentioned having the early voting set up in the Selectman's Room, so all the towns people weren't coming in the office. Lisa said we could, but someone would have to go down and monitor the vote. Corey felt that if that was happening, and door was shut, and plexiglass it up, he didn't think you'd have to wear masks in the office. Dan pointed out that Lisa had said only when people come in and added that's what people are doing in other offices. Dan added St. George is going back to virtual meetings soon and added that the Governor is tightening up on some things and lifting others and feels it could send mixed messages. Lisa thought maybe St. George has more people come to their meetings. Martha thought that Dr. Shah explained on tightening up on some things and not others was to allow them to be able to loosen up on other things. She added if people are wearing masks more consistently you can have more freedom in other ways for businesses.

5d. Election

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa updated that Corey re-did the drop box, so it is now compliant with the way it is supposed to be set up and now goes right down to the floor. She said the State now requires for two-people to open the drop box now, and that is has to be done daily. She said two people will have to make times to come in and check the box daily up to the election. She said Thursday the 29th will be the late day people can request a ballot or vote in person the regular way so she will be open that day from 9am-5pm for people to vote. She said she will work Thursday instead of Tuesday that week, and then the following Friday we have to stay open for voting until 5pm. She said we plan to process our absentees at 2:30 on that Friday, too. Lisa also added that on Election night at 8:00 pm we have to check the ballot box but then it needs to be sealed up so nothing can go in after that. Corey said he would screw a piece

of wood over the box for the night. Martha asked about checking the box on weekends and asked if it could be somebody, such as a Selectman, to come in and help. Lisa said she would check into that. Craig asked if they, as Selectman, are allowed to do that. Lisa didn't think so but said she would look into it. Corey said there are three office girls, so they can rotate schedules. Lisa added that Tuesdays and Thursdays Sami drops Parker off anyway so can stop right in. Corey felt that coming in on weekends should count as a half hour of time regardless. Dan wondered about getting ballot clerks to come help check. Lisa said we really can't because we need to say when we get it and it needs to go in the vault, adding it won't be a problem because we have three of us.

5e. Generator at the Food Pantry

ACTION: Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to accept the generator that the Friendship/Cushing Food Pantry will purchase and install at the Food Pantry

Discussion: Alton said Rich Moody called him the other night and wanted to know if the Town had money to buy a generator for the Food Pantry. Alton said no, there was no article for it, so you'd have to wait until March. He said they had enough money to do it themselves and asked if it needed to be approved by the Board. Alton said he didn't think so if they had enough money to put a generator in for free. Dan felt it would be a good idea to give permission since it is a Town building. Martha agreed, adding if anything ever happened as a result of that generator running, such as a fire, they'd like to have it covered. Corey asked if it was going to be an automatic one, Alton confirmed it is. Corey added to just be sure they don't place it in the way of the sills that need to be replaced. Martha asked if the money being used is money that would be being spent on food. Alton felt it was money that they get through donations and such, adding that he asked if it would cut them short and he was told no. Dan asked if it's money they should be replacing through the Town Warrant this spring, adding maybe that would be a good gesture. Alton said he would ask Rich and see what he says. Craig asked what part Friendship plays in the Food Pantry. Alton said they do about half of it. The Board discussed building maintenance and most of it being on Cushing; Alton added he knows Friendship helps run it. Martha wondered if Friendship should vote on this too, adding she remembers some issues that came up with the Good Neighbor Park and some people not wanting their donations to go towards certain things. Alton said he would check into it with Rich.

6. Unfinished Business

6a. Killeran Lane

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton said he called Dave at DOT and he hasn't got in touch with him yet. He added he will keep trying, as Dave was supposed to find out the speed limit for the road.

7. New Business

7a. Center for Tech and Civic Life Grant

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa said she applied for this Grant for elections and received \$5,000 to spend on elections. She said it is pretty wide open on what you can spend it for to help out with elections. She said we'd like to get new tables. She added also doing something towards ventilation, adding maybe something with the windows in the gym. Corey said to get windows that would open would probably be about \$400 a piece. Alton and Corey thought ceiling fans might be a good idea, too; Craig agreed. Martha wondered if fans were considered to be a good idea with no exterior ventilation. Corey thought it was a good idea if you're being economical because it keeps the heat down. Lisa added we also need air flow, which was why she mentioned windows that open. Martha said she would like someone with some expertise to talk about the fans before they do it, as if she is sitting there coughing, it might not be helpful. Dan said everyone should be wearing a mask too. Martha said the mask is not 100% effective. Dan said she's been preaching the masks for 6 months and now she is telling him that. Lisa asked for better ideas for ventilation. Corey said two fans moving the air around seems better than the air not being moved around; he added it's a good long-term benefit to the room, too. Craig asked if there were protocols for the election, asking how many can be in at a time. Lisa confirmed there are rules and it will be basically the same as it was in July. Corey said he will price out some windows for ventilation; Alton said he will look into the cost of fans and how soon they could be installed. Lisa said they encourage you to use the full amount, and added the grant is good through December 31st, so even if it can't get done before the election, if it could be done by the end of the year it would still work. Dan brought up the plumbing at the Fire Station, adding he thinks about this stuff later after the fact. He said he appreciates Corey's help in trying to save the town money, but felt where he's not a license plumber he probably shouldn't be doing anything over with that at the Fire Station, saying if anything was to happen it might hold them liable. Corey added that he has his own construction insurance and is covered through his own business; he added he can't install the new plumbing because he isn't a licensed plumber but taking it out isn't a problem. That comment brought up other discussion about work being done in the Fire Station.

8. Comments from Citizens: none

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to adjourn at 6:49 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary