

TOWN OF CUSHING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of Meeting  
Monday, February 8, 2021  
via ZOOM Video Conference due to COVID-19

**Selectmen Present:** Chair Alton Grover; Selectmen Craig Currie, Martha Marchut, Corey Jones, and Dan Staples

**Selectmen Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** Town Clerk Lisa Young

**Public Present:** Clarence Flanders & Tom Shook

**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 Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to approve 2021 Warrants 6 and 7.

**Discussion:** none

**Motion Carried 4-0-1, Alton abstained**

**4. Review and approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting**

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting with changes

**Discussion:** Dan said under call to order and action, he didn't recall them saying he was interim until Alton was fit to perform his duties, he thought it was that he couldn't do it because of Covid sickness but said maybe it was worded that way, he didn't know. Martha said she couldn't remember how she worded it, didn't think that was a word she would use but couldn't remember and felt she was trying to be careful for confidentiality reasons and trying not to highlight that was the reason Alton was out in case he wanted to keep that private. Dan also noted on page 6, starting halfway through the second sentence, it just doesn't read right. Dan asked if the Board agreed that it doesn't sound right. They did, Lisa mentioned having Sami re-listen and redo that part. Dan then noted on page 7, the top paragraph, the last sentence the word away should be aware.

**Motion Carried 4-0-1, Alton abstained**

**5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:**

## **5a. Rescue Squad Funds**

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, that the article for the ambulance account on the Town Warrant will be taken from the excise tax

**Discussion:** Dan said on the budget, the \$15,000 for the ambulance was taken from excise tax last year, this year Lisa did it from the same and Dan thinks that is the best to leave it that way as it will help decrease the amount needed to be raised and appropriated.

## **5b. Grub issue at Pleasant View Cemetery**

**ACTION:** moved to next agenda

**Discussion:** Dan mentioned the guy that they were going to hire to take care of the grubs [at Pleasant View Cemetery] wanted to start the first of April and Dan thinks that is too soon. He said he has two separate reports he got this afternoon that has some specific information on how to attack the grubs. He said he will make copies and get them to Board members to look over.

## **5c. Foreclosure Bid Deposits**

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to require a \$100 deposit by certified check for the foreclosed property

**Discussion:** Lisa asked a question in regard to the foreclosures. She said she was writing up the ad for the paper and had forgot to ask what kind of a deposit the Board would like to be included with bids.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

## **5d. Ceiling Leaks in Library**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Lisa said Terry Melanson had mentioned going into the Library from the outside door there is a leak in the ceiling tiles. He also mentioned an area inside the Library on the left. She said Terry had painted them and now you can clearly see the leaks coming through. Alton asked if it was new; Lisa said she wasn't sure about inside the Library but knew the one by the door in the hall was new. Corey suggested having Larry Miller stop and take a look at it. Alton agreed and said he would give him a call and have him stop by to look. Craig thought it could be due to an ice dam.

## **6. Unfinished Business**

### **6a. Maine Municipal's answer to insurance coverage for non-town owned vehicles**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Lisa said she spoke with Corrina at MMA and they do not insure vehicles that the town doesn't own. She said part of the coverage that they do do is offering that deductible reimbursement.

Dan said he checked with other towns and they do about the same. He noted everybody is a little bit different, but they're all about the same. Craig asked if other towns also covered the deductible. Dan answered some do, some don't. He added years ago when he was on it he was responsible for his own vehicle and getting to the calls. Corey thought if they ever decide to do something down the road, it could be good for the Chief, adding if now that Andy has claimed that on his own insurance, he might not want to take his own vehicle to a scene again, and if something happened in the south end of town, him going to the station first could add another 15 minutes and sometimes that could be a matter of life and death. He also mentioned the other option down the road could be having a \$5,000 account or something to help people out on the occasion it's needed. Dan felt if you do for one, you have to do for all and that could turn into a very expensive proposition. Martha said if you had a limited amount of funds available as a first come first serve. Corey agreed with Martha saying any issue would go before the Board for approval. Corey said to him it's more he is an EMT and time can be crucial. Dan said we paid his deductible. Corey realized that, but added it was still claimed on his personal insurance and could cause his whole policy to go up. Dan said we are doing the same as other towns and this town has a habit of going a little bit beyond what other towns do and he doesn't know if we have the resources to do it. Dan mentioned it could be a discussion to come back to in the spring.

## **6b. Approve articles for the secret ballot election**

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to approve the articles for the secret ballot warrant **Motion was later rescinded by Dan**

**Discussion:** Alton said the Board must all have the copies and asked if anyone saw anything that needed changes or anything. Lisa said there will need to be another motion after the bids are opened. Dan decided to wait to make a motion

## **7. New Business**

### **7a. Open Ambulance and Fire Truck bids**

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to put \$370,000 for the fire truck and \$250,000 for the ambulance on the Town Warrant pending voter approval

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to accept Greenwood's bid pending voter approval

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to approve the warrant for the March 15, 2021 election

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

**Discussion:** Alton opened and read the bids as follows:

Greenwood's – Fire Truck \$380,000 and Ambulance \$250,000 – noting if the Town purchases both the fire truck and the ambulance through them they will take \$10,000 off of each item making the fire truck \$370,000 and the ambulance \$250,000.

Allegiance Fire & Rescue – Fire Truck \$377,571 – offers a \$6,236 discount if paid all upfront

Autotronics - Ambulance \$216,233 – 5 other options added on for additional costs including power cord \$20,000 and power load \$25,000. Fire truck \$475,000

Alton said that was it for bids. Clarence said Andy had told him the power structure was supposed to be added into that last bid, but it wasn't. Clarence noted that would be another \$45,000 onto the \$216,000. Tom Shook asked to speak about his bid. Dan asked if that is allowed. Corey didn't see why not now that all bids are opened and public, as long as he doesn't talk about the price, he said it's no different than someone being in the audience the night previous bids had been opened. The Board agreed, Dan said he just wanted to make sure they weren't putting themselves liable. Tom said his bids are what they talked to Chief Flanders and Andrew about and had all the options that those guys wanted included. He said with the discounted prices, the Town doesn't have to pay until the trucks are delivered. Dan said the whole next motion is dependent on voter body approval and financing; he said the next motion will be weird to begin with. Tom said the first page of his bid includes a leasing program they offer; he added you obviously don't need to go through them whether they finance or not, but they are pretty good interest rates. Tom also noted he is local, only 10 miles away, and they're on the road service is right out of Brunswick. Tom described his bid a bit more. The Board realized the struggle of accepting bids without everyone having the paperwork in front of them, as well as the timing of needing to get things together for the secret ballot election. Martha asked how much time there was to decide. Lisa said ballots need to be ready for absentees beginning Friday. Martha mentioned holding an emergency meeting before Friday. Dan said it would have to be Wednesday to have time to get ballots printed Thursday. Corey suggested having Andy and Clarence look over the bids tomorrow to assure all is correct. Dan said based on the bids Alton read off he would be inclined to go with Greenwood, adding if you add all the extras Andy wants on the Autotronics bid it would be much higher than what Greenwood would be. Dan also noted the Autotronics fire truck was almost \$100,000 more and had the aluminum body that would corrode up more than the stainless would. Craig asked if articles 3 and 4 are kind of separate than accepting a bid, can you put in a dollar amount to cover a bid to be safe and able to print off the warrants that need to be approved by taxpayers. Dan said it's not accepting a bid, it's a preliminary accepting pending approval. He added if you go with Greenwood it can also come with financing but could check with a couple local banks to see if you can do better, and if not just go with them. Craig said the articles don't say anything about financing, they would basically just be approving a number that we would not exceed for purchase of a fire truck and an ambulance. Dan said if we are going to allow Andy and Clarence to look at them, we could do all of that Wednesday night. Lisa said if they come up with a number, she can begin printing ballots, but if they don't feel comfortable that's okay, too. The Board discussed the benefits of Greenwood; number one being their local service. Martha was also happy he took the time to join the meeting, and Corey noted he is not just a salesman, he has worked with and has lots of experience with fire trucks and ambulances and knows what the guys are looking for. Minor budget discussions continued ahead of motions.

## **7b. Policy and Protocol in response to COVID-19**

**ACTION:** Seletwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to contact Kristen Collins for guidance on putting together a policy pertaining to the COVID-19

**Discussion:** Martha said she and Lisa attended a webinar on the whole Covid situation and how to address policies, and the pitfalls involved in dealing with it. She said Lisa also got sample policies from different towns and they range from 13 pages to 1 page, with a variety of things included. Martha feels this is another one that is a little beyond what they should do without legal opinion and would like to have Kristen Collins weigh in. She said she would personally think something briefer and more general would be better, adding that longer policies had details that have already been outdated and you don't want to

have to re-write it every month. She asked if the Board was in agreement from getting guidance from Kristen. Dan noted that cases are falling dramatically lately, and it appears the State is heading in the right direction, but he does agree that the policy is needed, and guidance would be good. Lisa said she can contact her as she needs to touch base with her about the EPL, too.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

**7c. Discuss 2021 rate for delinquent and abated taxes**

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to stay at the same rate as last year; 6% for delinquent taxes and 2% for abated taxes

**Discussion:** none

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

**7d. Review Maine Municipal Legal Department opinion on who can work during the election as well as process absentee ballots prior to election day**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Lisa said she added this because of Corey and Sami. She said she knew before that Sami couldn't work the election [because Corey is running in the election] but that MMA had said if possible, it's better for her to not even handle the absentee ballots. She said that is hard when there is only one person working in the office at a time, so she wanted to see if the Board thought it was a problem. She noted if someone drops a ballot off, they can put it in the mail drop, but if someone calls and requests a ballot, can Sami take down the information and process or just take it down and have Lisa or Danika send it out. She also added during absentee people should be able to vote when they come into the office, so she would only hand them the ballot and then they seal it, but she would have to sign that she was a witness they voted so she wanted the Board's input. Dan said election is the easy part, she just won't work, but the absentee is tricky. He said it is a unique situation, he feels if they seal it right there, but it could also open up to interpretation if somebody was to contest it. Martha asked if voting needs to be available whenever the town office is open or can we limit it. Lisa said she would have to check; it has always been whenever we're open. Martha thought if you could limit it and have Sami and Danika have set schedules between now and the election, you could advertise certain days for absentee. Craig thought that was a good solution if you can make it work. Dan asked when two people will begin being in the office again, adding numbers are going down. He mentioned still leaving the office closed, but when could you begin having two people inside again, and how do we make that decision. Lisa said another tricky thing is if people can't come inside the building to vote, to vote absentee they have to do it in front of us to witness, there's no real privacy outside, but could do it there. She added if they take it to the car, they have to fill out another form because its not in our presence, so everything gets a little complicated there. Martha said she is not anxious to see them come into the building yet; Craig and Dan agreed. Craig felt a decision really can't be made yet to when we can have two people working or customers inside again right now; he feels we're in the middle of a real transition and maybe we table it to the next meeting in two weeks and then possibly another two weeks after that, it really depends how it goes. Lisa said she will research the election stuff before Sami works again next week.

**7e. Discuss timeline on when customers can come inside the Cushing Community Center**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Lisa said Wendy Roberts from the Library had asked if the Board had discussed it at all. Dan said it will be at least two more weeks. Corey asked about Bill Aboud coming in to meet with Garnett the other day; he added he thought all of those meetings were shut down right now while the building is closed. Craig thought Garnett was working remotely right now. Lisa said Scott comes in as well. Dan said it is fine for Scott and Garnett to come and work, but they shouldn't be meeting with anyone else inside the building; he added they could meet remotely. Martha asked if Lisa feels comfortable/safe with the extra people such as Scott and Garnett in the building. Lisa said yes, they are in a separate room and safety is followed. Lisa also mentioned Tom LeBlond was wondering about coming in, but the Board felt it was best for him to wait.

#### **7f. Town Report Dedication**

**ACTION:** Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to put the picture of Arthur Kiskila in his uniform in the town report.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to approve the description that Clarence wrote up for Arthur for the dedication of the town report

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

**Discussion:** Dan said Clarence had written up a piece about Arthur for the Town Report and they were choosing a picture. Dan said personally he liked the picture of him in full uniform; he said if he knew Arthur at all he thinks that would be the one he would like the most. Alton said his sisters called him today and they would both like the one of him in the uniform to be in the town report.

#### **8. Comments from Citizens: none**

#### **9. Adjourn**

**ACTION:** Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones  
Recording Secretary