

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, February 22, 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, Andrew Blanchard, and Wayne Delano

1. Call to Order: Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:20 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 Craig Currie, to approve 2021 Warrants 8 and 9.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Review and approve the minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting and the February 10, 2021 Emergency Meeting

ACTION: Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting and the February 10, 2021 Emergency meeting with one change

Discussion: Martha noted a change on page 4 of the February 8th minutes in the large paragraph; the word rather should be whether

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. LD101 Bill

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan introduced Wayne Delano who wanted to address the Board in regard to the bill LD101 about the windmill cables. Wayne said someone from down east has a proposal that goes above and beyond the 10-year moratorium on wind power in State waters that the Governor is talking about. He said it sounds like it could have an impact on the Monhegan project that is in the process now. He said it will impact the local fishermen, that one project alone, as well as where the cable will go will be un-fishable area. He said they are starting the bottom survey soon, so they are trying to get some support from the towns. He is asking towns to send emails to the committee saying they support this bill, as he said the more support the better the chance of supporting this bill. Dan said after talking to Gerry Cushman what this bill does is block the cables from coming across the State waters to the mainland. Dan said the committee is asking Cushing to sign on with other towns to be in support of this bill. Wayne said the support would mean a lot; right now, there is a 16-turbine project in the works that is going somewhere between here and southern Maine and wherever that 16 square mile area gets put, there's no fishing there. Dan said there are 500 plus families that could be affected by this just between Cushing, Port Clyde, and Friendship, not to mention other surrounding towns. Wayne added it will affect other fisheries too; if we ever get a shrimp season again, scallops, etc. Wayne said many down east towns are already behind this bill. Dan asked how to go about supporting it as a town. Wayne said he could provide a link; he added an email to a local representative could help too. Martha asked if you are legally allowed to say the Town supports it without asking the town. Wayne said other towns are, adding the Select Board kind of represents to the Town so he would think you could, but wasn't sure. Craig said he would like to read the bill himself and thinks it would be helpful to see what other towns are writing in terms of specifics and how they read. Dan said they could get that information; he said if we aren't able to do it as a town we can always do it individually.

5b. Food Pantry

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, that the Board adds an additional \$11,000 to Town Buildings Repair & Maintenance, to be taken from excise, for a total of \$19,000 for that article

Discussion: Alton said he thinks the food pantry was forgotten. He said the sill needs to be fixed and it needs shingles, but siding would be cheaper. Alton asked if there is enough money in there, he said Larry guessed it would be about \$12-15,000 to re-do the whole building. Dan asked if there is still time. Lisa said the warrant hasn't been posted, so what went into the town report isn't necessarily official because it hasn't been posted. Dan said he is thinking they need a buffer and suggested \$19,000. Alton agreed because he said his price didn't include the sill. Dan said that was really the only project planned. Corey said at some point they had mentioned fixing the front of the Fire Station and those doors too; Dan said an estimate would be good. Adding a little extra would cover what you want to spend and have some in there for other stuff if it comes up. [Alton disconnected from meeting] Corey asked what that was if it didn't include the sill, just siding? Dan said that was a good question and Alton isn't here to answer. Dan said this is one of the years we need to have some extra to do stuff and the money is there in excise; he added if we don't spend it, it will still sit there but you can't spend it if it isn't there. Dan explained adding the extra will make the account have around \$30,000 total.

Motion Carried 4-0-1, Alton had technical difficulties at time of vote

6. Unfinished Business

6a. Earned Paid Leave

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Martha said they are waiting on word back from Kristen in regard to carrying time forward. Martha said Kristen hadn't really addressed it in the policy she put together, but Lisa had seen something that talked about being able to carry time forward up to 40 hours. Lisa said she emailed Kristen but hadn't heard back yet. Craig said if the law says it can be carried over, we need to make our policy match that. The Board decided to move this to the next meeting while awaiting response.

6b. Transfer Station

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Martha spoke about a list of questions Bob Butler had put together for Lincoln County Recycling for the meeting they will be joining. Martha couldn't imagine they will get through the long list of questions but wondered if any Board members had questions they wanted to add to the list before the meeting. She also noted she didn't have any new information on the Hampden facility, there was nothing new on the MRC site.

6c. Covid-19 Protocol

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Martha said they are also waiting on Kristen for this. She said they had sent Kristen a one-page policy from another town and she [Kristen] didn't seem thrilled with it. Kristen had sent back a long policy from a bigger city; Martha felt we didn't need something that big but thought maybe there were parts that could be pulled from it.

6d. Reopening of office and library plans

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig said he felt they should talk about how they are thinking about re-opening. Lisa felt things were going good, she said she has no problem of having one person come inside the office to be waited on, she felt comfortable. Martha asked if she meant inside instead of window. Lisa said yes, adding the window is fine, but when it's windy it's not great. Craig said he spoke with Wendy Roberts at the Library and she would really like to re-open but with the restrictive situation they had before things shut down. Wendy had said patrons would like to be able to come in again, so Craig wanted to inform the Board and get thoughts. He said he feels something happening at one end of the building needs to be the same at the other end of the building. Dan asked Lisa if she is okay with people coming in but would still prefer to have one worker at a time, adding if two of three people are in there and someone does come down with it, everyone is affected, and the office has to shut down completely. Lisa said she would love for everyone to work together again, but she doesn't know how the Board feels about it. Corey said if one gets sick, it really does put it all at risk. Craig said if that were to happen the office wouldn't be open at all. Lisa agreed that easing into it might be best. Dan suggested two people at a time in the library, and one at the town office. Corey asked about Garnett and Scott, would they still be meeting people only outside the building. Alton said he thought it would be good to keep going along the way we are right now, saying it won't do any harm to ride it out a couple more weeks, and discuss it again at the next meeting. Dan said by going with what we just discussed we're slowly opening while keeping it safe. Dan added the numbers are going down and as long as all protocol, and wearing masks, are followed. Martha asked Alton if he means keeping things the same in the Clerk's office as working one at a time or not letting people inside. Alton said that is up to Lisa, whatever she feels comfortable with, but he thinks right now it's going pretty good. Dan said they are all in agreement; one worker at a time, and using the

window as much as you can, but weather dependent allowing people inside and the library can allow two people inside at a time.

6e. Leak in hallway and Library update

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton said Larry went inside the ceiling and didn't find anything wet. He said there is a relief valve in the ceiling above the hallway, so maybe at one point that let go. He said in the library there are two roofs that come together, and a long time ago there was a leak that was siliconed, but if it leaks again maybe he will have to go silicone it again. He said for now just keep an eye on it.

6f. Midcoast Regional Broadband Coalition

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig said there isn't much to report but he contacted Deb Hall out of Camden who is a Selectman there, and she pulled together a broadband coalition in the Midcoast. Craig said he reached out for information but hasn't received any yet.

7. New Business

7a. Inquiry into using the Good Neighbor Park for a wedding

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa said they received a call from a citizen asking if he was able to use the park for a wedding in July. Lisa asked if they should fill out the form like they do to use the building. Corey asked what was done for the arts in the field. Lisa said they had insurance and she thought they filled out a form. Dan reminded it is town land and would not be able to have alcohol. Martha asked if we needed to have a number of people. Lisa said she will look over the form, and added they would need to have insurance, too. Craig also mentioned parking if it is a big wedding. Martha felt a limit would need to be put on number of cars. Corey added with the arts they were parked on the sides of the roads from Killeran Lane to the store. Dan said there are some questions to get answered and discuss at the next meeting. Martha felt there should probably be a form for use of field, like the building use one but separate. Craig asked if this is free to residents, or a fee if it becomes popular. Dan also mentioned trash and clean up.

7b. Proclamation for Alma Black's 100th birthday

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa said it was brought to her attention that Alma Black is turning 100 on March 22, and there will be a birthday parade the Saturday before starting at the Church and coming down. Lisa said someone thought it might be a good idea for the Town to make a proclamation; Lisa said she looked online and there is a form you can do on there. She added it is something pretty special and she is an amazing lady. The Board agreed it's a wonderful idea.

8. Comments from Citizens: Dan commented he thought Brook Hobbs wrote a great little thing online in regard to the fire truck, he felt it was well done and thought it should be recognized.

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary