

TOWN OF CUSHING
SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
November 10, 2014
Cushing Community Center

Selectmen Present: Chair Alton Grover, Laurie Haynes, Martha Marchut, Daniel Staples, and Robert Worthing

Selectmen Absent: None

Staff Present: Acting Recording Secretary Deborah Sealey

1. Call to Order: Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Approve and Sign the Warrant:

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to accept Warrants #46 and #47.
Carried 5-0-0

3. Approve Minutes of 10/27/14:

ACTION: Selectman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Selectman Daniel Staples, to approve the minutes of the 10/27/14 meeting as written.
Carried 5-0-0

Selectman Marchut said there had been a motion at the last meeting to transfer cemetery funds to cover the final mowing at the Norton Cemetery. The Town Clerk had subsequently found that the mowing bill had been charged to the wrong account; therefore, the Town Clerk had asked that this motion be reversed.

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to reverse the motion made at the 10/27/14 meeting to transfer cemetery funds.
Carried 5-0-0

4. Other Business:

A. Tom Mellor: Selectman Staples introduced Tom Mellor, who had recently been elected to serve on the Knox County Budget Committee. Mr. Mellor said there were 9 committee members who met each Thursday evening. He arranged for his business card to be distributed to the Selectmen and asked them to call him anytime. Mr. Mellor reported that the county budget had increased 5.27% over last year, largely due to health insurance and contractual step raises.

B. Transfer Station Committee: Selectman Marchut said at the first October Selectmen's meeting she had reported that the Town of Waldoboro Transfer Station Committee had voted in September to recommend the removal of the present hauler representative on the committee. This recommendation had not been acted upon, so Selectman Marchut had drafted a letter from the Cushing Selectmen to the Waldoboro Select Board asking that they act upon the recommendation. She asked if a board member would like to attend Waldoboro's next Select Board meeting on November 18.

Selectman Staples stated that every hauler had signed the petition to have their representative removed due to a conflict of interest. Selectman Worthing asked if any other towns had sent letters and Selectman Marchut said Friendship had. The Selectmen signed the drafted letter and Selectman Staples said he would try to attend the Nov. 18 meeting.

5. Unfinished Business:

Hot-Topping: Chair Grover said still no hot-topping had been done and he had called the company twice. Selectman Haynes said she would call them. Selectman Grover was anxious for the driveway to the sand shed to be done and had found a possible replacement to do the work. The board agreed he could be hired and Chair Grover said he would call Paterson and tell him not to bother.

6. New Business: None

7. Comments from Citizens: Pastor Scott Townsend read aloud a letter he had written to the Selectmen. Mr. Townsend was a resident and member of the Fire Department and was unhappy with a recent decision made by the board to have funds, both earned and donated, go into the Fire Department account. Among other things, Mr. Townsend said citizens had not been consulted about this, the money had been given as charitable contributions to the Cushing Fireman's Association, the money could be used by the Selectmen to reduce the Fire Dept.'s annual budget, and this action would make it more difficult for the Fire Dept. to use the money.

Selectman Daniel Staples responded that citizens had not been consulted because the fire trucks belonged to the town and money raised with them was under the control of the Selectmen: the equipment had been bought by citizens and money raised from it should go to their benefit. The Selectmen had previously had no idea for what the Fire Dept. money was used and transparency was necessary.

Chair Grover assured Mr. Townsend that it was not the board's intention to reduce the Fire Dept. budget and said the Selectmen did not want to take the money away from the department. Selectmen Staples added that if Fire Dept. personnel were paid a stipend and then charged an insurance company for costs, that money should go back to the town. Mr. Townsend responded that the Fire Dept. did not charge people who asked for its help.

Selectmen Haynes said the Selectmen wanted the Fire Dept. to have access to all the money, but needed to be able to respond when people asked what it had been spent on. Chair Grover said they were not trying to take away a nickel, but just wanted the money to be in an account. Selectman Marchut said this accountability would be a protection for the firemen, also.

Selectmen Staples said MMA had advised the money should be in an account so there would be a record of what the Fire Dept. did with the funds. Selectman Grover said the Fire Dept. had earned the money and could use it. Selectman Staples said they had a responsibility for the equipment the town had bought.

The Selectmen commented on what a good job the Fire Dept. had done during and after the Nov. 2 snowstorm and how fortunate the town was to have such a good volunteer department.

8. Adjournment:

ACTION: Selectman Robert Worthing made a motion, seconded by Selectman Daniel Staples, to adjourn at 6:40 P.M.
Carried 5-0-0

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Respectfully submitted,

Deborah E. Sealey