

**TOWN OF CUSHING
SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
July 27, 2015
Cushing Community Center**

Selectmen Present: Chairman Alton Grover, Laurie Haynes, and Daniel Staples

Selectmen Absent: Martha Marchut and Heidi Alley

Staff Present: Lisa Young

1.Call to Order: Chairman Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was recited.

3 Approve and Sign the Warrant: Chairman Alton Grover said all members present had signed the warrant.

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, Selectman Laurie Haynes seconded, to approve Warrant # 28 & # 29.
Carried 3-0-0

4.Approve Minutes of 07/13/15:

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, Selectman Laurie Haynes seconded, to accept the minutes of the 07/13/15 meeting as written.
Carried 3-0-0

5.Other Business:

Town Clerk, Lisa Young, reported that Selectman Martha Marchut wanted the Board to know that the Municipal Review Committee meeting at Rockland City Hall is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29th at 10:00am. They will be talking about the company Fiberight.

6. Unfinished Business:

7. New Business:

RSU#13 Finance Director Peter Orne and Cushing Representative Loren Andrews to answer any question in regard to the RSU#13 Budget- Loren explained that one million has been cut from the original budget. The cuts to the budget included an assistant principal position, not replacing people who had retired or resigned, reductions in the transportation budget, and a \$300,000 contingency fund planned for facilities. He noted that Superintendent John McDonald and Finance Director Peter Orne are doing a great job.

Selectman Daniel Staples stated it appears that Cushing has gotten hit the hardest. Finance Director, Peter Orne, explained that due to St. George's withdrawal they now have a lot less revenue and the State is using a higher milrate. A higher valuation and a lower student population mean less State funding. RSU #13 receives less than 15% from the State. He explained that every time we lose a student we lose subsidy. A question was asked why the Board did not present this new budget in May. Mr. Orne explained that the first budget was prepared before the year end, so he did not have the actual numbers; he had to estimate. He said if the budget process was later in the year they would know what they spent. He noted that he is convinced that there is still money that does not need to be spent. In the future they will be looking into building closures.

Loren noted that they will be holding meetings to get input from the towns on what they want to see in their schools; more information will follow. He also reported that RSU#13 is one of 13 in the State to start a Pre-K program.

Fire Chief to Address the Board- Fire Chief Kiskila explained that the pump on Engine 3 needs replacing and the cost of replacing it is \$35,000. He informed the Board that they have found a 1993 KME Freightliner Pumper Tanker in West Virginia for \$65,000. It has a 1500 GPM pump, a 1500 gallon polypropylene tank, and an Akron foam system. He noted that it does look a little rough inside but he feels it would work well for Cushing; he has made a counter offer of \$57,250. He also is suggesting that the Board approve renting a car and having Chair Grover, Tony Winchenbach, and Clarence Flanders go to West Virginia to look at it. Chairman Grover noted he would not be able to go.

All three Selectmen voiced their reservations of purchasing a truck from West Virginia. Selectman Laurie Haynes said she is in favor of them getting a truck but she is concerned because the truck is 23 years old and is afraid that in a short time they could be in this same situation. Selectman Daniel Staples strongly feels that if the Board approves the trip that a local reputable mechanic should go and look it over; he knows someone from Warren that would be good. Chairman Grover agrees with sending a mechanic and noted T.J. from Copeland's would also be good. Fire Department Member, Holly Scribner, feels that they can not put a lot of trust in a 23 year old truck. She noted that if they could not take care of the inside what kind of care did the outside get. She stressed that we need a truck that fits the town. She recommends looking at the needs of the town and submitting a needs assessment to the town. A lengthy discussion ensued on the pros and cons of purchasing the truck.

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, Selectman Laurie Haynes seconded, to approve sending Assistant Fire Chief Tony Winchenbach, Fire Department Member Clarence Flanders, and a mechanic to West Virginia to look at the 1993 Fire Truck, and if everything looks ok to approve purchasing the truck with funds coming out of the Fire Truck Replacement Account.
Carried 3-0-0

Fire Chief Kiskila mentioned mechanic Joseph Hatch may be interested in taking the trip to check out the fire truck. The Selectmen agreed that he would be good; Chief Kiskila will contact him tonight.

Chief Kiskila informed the Board that the Fire Department has been trained through the Red Cross to install smoke detectors; the smoke detectors and installation is free.

Application for pole location Northern New England Telephone- The Board approved an application for pole location from Northern New England Telephone Operations LLC and Central Maine Power Company. The pole is located on Stones Point Road; approximately 1276 feet southeasterly of Pleasant Point Road.

Local Road Assistance Program Certification 2015-2016- The Board signed the annual local road certification to send to the State so the Town will be eligible for the Local Road Assistance Program. The Town will receive \$21,600 for capital improvement to town roads.

8. Comments from Citizens: No comments from citizens.

9. Adjournment:

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, Selectman Laurie Haynes seconded, to adjourn at 7:40pm.
Carried 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa M. Young, Town Clerk