

DRAFT
TOWN OF CUSHING
SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
March 14, 2016
Cushing Community

Selectmen Present: Chairman Alton Grover, Laurie Haynes, Daniel Staples, Martha Marchut and Heidi Alley

Selectmen Absent: None

Staff Present: Lisa Young

1. Call to Order: Chairman Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Approve and Sign the Warrants:

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to accept Warrants #9 & #10
Carried 4-0-0 (Heidi Alley had not arrived yet)

3. Approve Minutes of 02/22/16:

ACTION: Selectman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martha Marchut, to accept the February 22, 2016 meeting minutes.
Carried 4-0-0 (Heidi Alley had not arrived yet)

4. Additions or Changes to the Agenda:

Selectman Daniel Staples announced that there will be a Tidelands Coalition meeting coming up in Brunswick, and that the group has been certified by the State as a non-profit.

5. Unfinished Business:

Chairman Alton Grover reported that he and Selectman Daniel Staples called Shakerly Fire Truck Sales as directed at the last meeting. They would not take the fire truck back, but the Town has received reimbursement from Shakerly and the Town of Richmond for a little over \$3,000. Selectman Laurie Haynes asked if they have heard how much Copeland's thinks it is going to cost to fix the truck. Chairman Alton Grover said they have not heard yet but it will be a lot less than sending it up north to K&T. He did say that they are waiting for two more parts which he believes is two valves and that Copeland's has an employee that is on the Union Fire Department who will be testing the pump(there is a pond out back of Copeland's) and all operations of the truck.

Foreclosure of unknown properties Map 15 Lot 60 and Map 6 Lot 5 - Town Clerk, Lisa Young, announced that the Town has fulfilled its responsibility of sending letters to the abutters and putting a notice for three consecutive weeks in the paper. At this time no one has come forward with proof that they own the properties. She inquired if the Board wanted to keep the properties or put them out to bid.

ACTION: Selectman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Heidi Alley, to put the unknown properties out to bid.
Carried 5-0-0

6. New Business:

A. Insurance question: Chairman Alton Grover reported that in filling out the annual Property and Casualty renewal application that they have an optional coverage called road treatment coverage. It is something that MMA at one time offered and has now brought back. It provides coverage for road salt contamination to private water

supplies resulting from plowing/sanding operations. The cost is \$13.50 per mile of roads plowed, which the town has 27 1/2 miles, so the cost would be a little over \$350.00 per year.

Selectman Laurie Haynes asked if the Town has ever had a problem with this. Chairman Alton Grover noted that about 45-50 years ago they did but it didn't come from plowing and sanding. The Town kept sand up by Robert Stackpole's driveway and a landowners well was contaminated. Chairman Grover thought a new well was drilled.

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to add the road treatment coverage to the Towns' insurance.
Carried 5-0-0

B. Transfer Station: Selectman Martha Marchut reported that there now is composting going on at the transfer station. If you bring your compost to the transfer station they will give you top soil in exchange for it. There is a brochure that explains all of this and she will get the brochure to Lisa to have at the town office.

The main reason Selectman Marchut wanted Transfer Station put on the agenda is to make sure the Board is aware of an ongoing problem with a former selectmen that sends e-mails that are critical of what goes on at the transfer station and the staff. Recently he has sent an e-mail accusing the manager, John Daigle, of being a thief. As far as Mr. Daigle is concerned this crossed the line and he is very upset about it. Selectman Marchut said he showed the e-mail to her, and although she was not able to read the whole thing, she was able to see what the person who sent it hi-lighted and that was enough to be concerned. Mr. Daigle said he is thinking of going to an attorney and looking into the possibility of not having Cushing be a part of the Waldoboro Transfer Station. He has since backed off from that position after talking to the town manager. Selectman Martha Marchut thought the Board should know that it has come to the point where it's really causing a problem, it has gone beyond somebody disagreeing with the way the ordinance is being interpreted, it has reached the point that somebody has made remarks that are potentially libel. She wanted to have John come to talk to the Board but now he has backed off from that position and doesn't think it is necessary.

Selectman Heidi Alley inquired if Mr. Daigle knows that the person sending the e-mails is not speaking for the Town of Cushing. Select Martha Marchut said he is aware of this, but what is concerning to him was that when the most recent ordinance was signed the former selectman was one of the signers. Selectman Alley then asked if Mr. Daigle has asked the Board of Selectmen to address the former selectmen. Selectman Marchut said he has not but others have addressed him in regard to other e-mails he has sent, but it does not seem to help, if anything it has added fuel to the fire.

Selectman Daniel Staples feels Mr. Daigle overreacted and that he does not have the power to have Cushing removed from the group. He noted that this individual is around 89 years old and has done this before with e-mails. At one time he called the Board "drunken sailors" so Selectman Daniel Staples took him aside and told him he was damaging neighbors and friends with what he was saying and that he needed to back off and he did. Selectman Staples thinks if you know where the source is coming from to not be over sensitive and move on. Selectman Alley noted he does have a right to say what he wants to say. Selectman Marchut agreed but there will be consequences, and if they affect the Town of Cushing in anyway, at this point she doesn't think it will, but if there was even discussion on whether Cushing should not be a part of this group it isn't a road she would want to see Cushing go down.

Selectman Staples said that if John Daigle has a problem and feels he is being slandered it isn't against the Town of Cushing it is against the one who sent the e-mail. It has nothing to with the Town. He recommends not sending any reply because it will just get the town in the middle of it. Selectman Haynes and Alley both said it is freedom of speech and it is up to Mr. Daigle to address any problem to the person who sent the e-mail.

The Board discussed in length whether they should send a letter to John Daigle or the Waldoboro Select board to say that this person writing the e-mails does not reflect the feelings of the Board of Selectmen. It was the consensus of the Board to not get involved and to send no letter at this time. Chairman Alton Grover recommended going to Waldoboro and meeting with John Daigle. He said talking face to face is better than a letter. Selectman Marchut agreed that is why she invited him to come. She said that the next time she sees him she will mention to him that the Board would be happy to meet with him.

Selectman Marchut reported that there is a third entity, Ecomaine, joining Perc and Fiberight to become the waste management facility. There is an engineering study being done and the committee should have the results by the end of March.

Selectman Heidi Alley announced that as of Friday she and her husband have signed papers to put their home up for sale. They have purchased property in Augusta and are planning on building a new home there. She noted that they would not be leaving Cushing until their house is sold.

7. Comments from Citizens No Comments from Citizens.

8. Adjournment:

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Heidi Alley, to adjourn at
6:35 PM
Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Young, Town Clerk