

TOWN OF CUSHING
SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
March 28, 2016
Cushing Community Center

Selectmen Present: Chair Alton Grover, Heidi Alley, Laurie Haynes, and Martha Marchut

Selectmen Absent: Daniel Staples

Staff Present: None

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 Warrants:

ACTION: Selectman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Selectman Heidi Alley, to approve Warrants #11 and #12.
Carried 4-0-0

3. Approve Minutes of 3/14/16: Selectman Marchut asked for a correction to the spelling of "Ecomaine".

ACTION: Selectman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to approve the minutes of the 3/14/16 meeting as amended.
Carried 4-0-0

4. Additions or Changes to the Agenda:

Selectman Marchut advised the board that Bill Aboud had accepted the position of Assessor.

Selectman Haynes reminded the members that they must elect a chairman.

ACTION: Selectman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martha Marchut, to re-elect Alton Grover as Chairman.
Carried 3-0-1 (Mr. Grover abstained)

5. Unfinished Business: None

6. New Business:

A. Salt Prices: Chair Grover said the town's salt supplier had called to ask if the town wanted to buy salt now at the same price (\$64.95/ton) as last year. Selectman Haynes said it was a good price and felt they should buy it. Selectman Marchut agreed, but asked if any salt was on hand. Chairman Grover said they had not bought extra loads this year and had about 30 tons on hand.

ACTION: Selectman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Selectman Heidi Alley, to accept last year's price of \$64.95/ton for salt and buy it now.
Carried 4-0-0

B. Expired Committee Terms: Selectman Grover read a brief list of the names of committee members whose terms had expired. He said he did not know if these members wanted to be reappointed. In the absence of the Town Clerk, Selectman Haynes volunteered to call them.

C. Mid-Coast School of Technology's Recent Facilities Study: MCST Director Beth Fisher said the current building was rotting away and the school was asking all towns in its region for a warrant to replace it on all ballots in November 2016.

She explained that MCST was part of the public education system and the 27 technology schools were administered by region in order to save money. The equipment for the school was expensive and must be updated frequently to keep up with the industries whose skills were taught.

MCST had been at its current location since the 1960's in a metal pre-fab uninsulated building. Ms. Fisher said a facilities study had been undertaken and the public had been asked what it wanted. The response was that a career and technical school was wanted. Ms. Fisher said the school ran 17 different programs, which trained students to go on to college or into the workforce. It was predicted that one-half of the jobs in the next 20 years would not require a college degree.

Ms. Fisher said half of MCST's students went on to higher education. In the last decade the school had provided dual enrollment, meaning a student could be in a course at MCST and at a community college at the same time. MCST classes earned these students college credits. She said MCST had to align its programs to national industry standards so students could apply for certification.

Ms. Fisher presented a slide show to illustrate her points about the current building's failures. She said the facility had not been designed to be a school and problems had been band-aided for decades. In addition to myriad structural problems, the school was also very crowded, with machines too close together, and had environmental issues, such as excessive noise and sawdust polluting nearby machines.

Ms. Fisher briefly explained each program offered and cited some students' achievements.

She said the building needed to be replaced. They had studied 200 sites and ultimately decided to build directly behind the current school, which would enable continued use of the current building for some applications. Funding the new building would require a 20-year bond supported by 19 towns.

Selectman Haynes suggested Ms. Fisher meet with residents closer to ballot time. Ms. Fisher said she was planning to do that in every town and thanked the Selectmen for their consideration.

7. Comments from Citizens: Chester Stephen Young of Meadow Lane was concerned about Article 31 on the recent town warrant, which requested \$102,000 from excise taxes for the Waldoboro transfer station. He felt it was not logical for car taxes to be used to pay for trash since people with second homes in Cushing got a free ride because they did not pay for vehicle registrations in the town. He felt transfer station costs should come from real estate taxes.

When told by Chairman Grover that the state mandated the amount of excise taxes and his suggestion would not lower them, Mr. Young dropped the idea.

Mr. Young then said most tax increases came from RSU 13 and he recommended that the cost per student stay in line with the consumer price index. He said if the number of students decreased, then the number of staff should also decrease. Mr. Young wanted the Selectmen and Budget Committee to recommend not to approve the RSU 13 budget.

Mr. Young explained which classes he felt were unnecessary and said he had proposed big cuts at School Board meetings. Selectman Haynes said these were good points but the board had no more voice than Mr. Young. Mr. Young responded that last year Thomaston had voted against the budget and cuts were subsequently made.

8. Adjournment:

ACTION: Selectman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to adjourn at 7:05 P.M.
Carried 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted by Deborah E. Sealey