

TOWN OF CUSHING
SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
April 25, 2016
Cushing Community Center

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

Selectmen Absent: None

Staff Present: Lisa Young

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 Daniel Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martha Marchut, to approve Warrants #15 and #16.
Carried 5-0-0

3. Approve Minutes of 4/11/16:

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Heidi Alley, to approve the minutes of the 4/11/16 meeting as written.
Carried 4-0-1 (Laurie Haynes abstained due to not being at that meeting)

4. Additions or Changes to the Agenda:

Selectman Daniel Staples reported that he has not had a chance to make the changes to the Town of Cushing Drug and Alcohol Policy but will plan to this summer.

Chairman Alton Grover reported that the trimming has been done around the ball field and that new bleachers will be arriving tomorrow.

Chairman Alton Grover announced that the bids for the town trucks and unknown properties have been posted in town, Cushing e-mail, and the paper.

5. Unfinished Business:

A. Transfer Station: Chairman Alton Grover announced that Peter Lammert from Thomaston was here to address the Board. Peter Lammert gave a brief history on the Owls Head, South Thomaston and Thomaston Solid Waste Cooperative. He prefers to call it the Three Town Transfer which was formed back in 1984 and is located on Buttermilk Lane in Thomaston. They were one of the original towns to sign on with Perc; they are a Charter Community.

Mr. Lammert explained that they have hired various haulers in five year contracts to haul their waste. When they designed the new drive through they put in a compacter, for just single stream, that yields 3.4 tons per week but it is stagnant at that and they would like to increase it. Last year they received a letter from Pine Tree that they now are going to charge \$45.00 per ton to haul down to West Bath. Their transfer group did not have any money in the budget to be able to pay for it, so they talked to Scott Johnson, owner of Thomaston Recycling, and he said that he would haul down to Ecomaine for \$250. This was their first introduction to Ecomaine. He noted what he particularly likes about Ecomaine is that they provide a service that he feels is needed. They go into the schools and educate the students about recycling. He went on to say that what is very interesting to him is that Ecomaine is not out there pitching for their business, they just said that they would like to trade spot market for contracts with Maine towns.

He went on to say that he has seen the presentations from Ecomaine, Perc and MRC/Fiberight. He noted that when you look at front mileage only; Fiberight is the shortest distance, but you need to also look at where the residue goes. When you look at both you find that Ecomaine is the shortest distance because they have their own landfill.

Thomaston has done some research in regard to Fiberight and found that this is Craig Paul Stewart's fourth or fifth attempt to get this type of facility going. It seems that a lot of Federal money is always involved which makes him very nervous. He said he has researched the process and watched all of the videos from Europe. He said the report from University of Maine states that the sugars turning it into methanol technology is about five years away. It is in the MRC report, but no one ever talks about it. He said he would be glad to answer any questions that the Board had.

Selectman Martha Marchut asked how long their contract was with Ecomaine. Mr. Lammert thought it was longer than five years, which Selectman Staples had mentioned, but he didn't bring the paper work with him to know for sure.

Bob Butler member of the Waldoboro Transfer Station Committee commented that the 187 communities have been with MRC for close to thirty years. MRC represent the towns'. They have gone out and tried to find the best technology to handle municipal waste, and they have spent a lot of time doing this. He also has watched all of the videos from Europe, and he accepts the University of Maine study that vouches for the technical aspects of the process not the commercial.

He went on to explain that Waldoboro did talk with Ecomaine, and they were told that they will do a five year contract, they have 40,000 tons capacity, and once they fill that they will not contract with anyone else because they can't. Their plant can not handle anymore. He noted that he would rather stick with MRC as they have for almost thirty years. They have the knowledge, expertise, experience, engineering capabilities, and they have looked into this. He noted that it may be true in regard to Mr. Stewart's inability thus far to connect all of the pieces to the puzzle, but it is his understanding that it is related to financial not technical. He said that Covanta is backing the MRC/Fiberight project both financial and technical.

Mr. Butler said that Fiberight offers charter members the ability to participate in the rebate program the same way it has been done with Perc. He noted that if for some reason Fiberight can not start up on time, the waste will be trucked to Norridgewock, and Waldoboro will pay a much lower tipping fee. Mr. Butler said, for Waldoboro, MRC has represented them extremely well, they have no reason not to tell us like it is, they have no hidden agenda, and they have a back up in case Fiberight does not work.

Peter Lammert said he is hoping that Cushing is interested in joining the group on Buttermilk Lane. Chairman Alton Grover said that at this point they do not know. He said two residents notified the Board that the Thomaston Group may be interested in Cushing joining them so they felt they needed to find out more information.

Selectman Daniel Staples brought up the point that South Thomaston has voted to go with MRC and Fiberight so that must leave Thomaston in need of another town. Peter feels that South Thomaston will probably have to hold another special town meeting due to the fact that the South Thomaston representative was under the thought process that the Three Town Transfer would be going with MRC and Fiberight. Peter said if he had attended all of the meetings he would not have thought that. He also said that when South Thomaston put the article to vote for MRC and Fiberight on their warrant they thought they could not change it; although there seemed to be plenty of time to make a change.

Selectman Martha Marchut inquired if South Thomaston changes their mind and continues with Thomaston will there still be a place for Cushing. Peter said in the future there would be a place because they need more volume and the associated funds to keep their transfer station open six days a week and to make updates. He said their compactors are getting tired. He stated he would leave space for Cushing and Friendship to join them.

Selectman Daniel Staples asked if Ecomaine can only take up to 40,000 tons and in five years if they will not be able to take on anymore what will happen. Peter said he did not know. But he did say that the Three Town Transfer has to avoid the risk with Fiberight at this time. He asked the Board if they are interested in joining them to send a letter to the Town of Thomaston.

Selectman Daniel Staples said he wanted to be the devils advocate and asked, Waldoboro Transfer Station Representatives Selectman Marchut and Monika Magee, what would happen if Cushing did want to go with the Three Town Transfer. How long would it take to assess if it would be feasible, and is there enough time. Monika Magee stated that she did not think there was enough time, and she feels that MRC, as Bob Butler explained, has served The Waldoboro Transfer Group well. Selectman Marchut reminded the Board that the Waldoboro Transfer Station Committee has already made an assessment to not go with Ecomaine and going with the Thomaston group means going with Ecomaine. Selectman Staples then asked if after two years what would the Waldoboro Transfer Station do if Fiberight does not get the tonnage. Monika said she can't answer that because it would not be just Cushing and the Waldoboro Transfer Station Group but all of the towns that are a part of MRC.

Monika Magee told the Board that they have to remember that the Waldoboro Transfer Station is a well run and thought out complex. She said the budget established for the three towns is lower than any other town with an equal population. She noted it is a little over of a half of million, where most towns are over two million. She feels that the three towns are benefiting by really good fiscal policy. She said one thing that could cause a financial change would be if Waldoboro went to single stream; which would require a compactor. Another item is that the three towns are obliged to help pay into the land fill closing costs, but money is being set aside for that. She can not think of anything else.

Selectman Laurie Haynes said she researched online for finished Fiberight projects to look at their success rate and could not find one finished plant; she is concerned. Monika Magee said that there has been financial backing problems but the system does work. Selectman Marchut said that the system works and exists in Europe and that they have multiple sites that are up and running.

Selectman Marchut said that the research about Ecomaine has been done. If there is research to be done it is whether the Town of Cushing is better off being aligned with Thomaston than with Waldoboro. In her mind, it makes her nervous to join a small group that doesn't have a larger entity looking out for them as Waldoboro does with MRC. An important question is do we want to do that. If Fiberight doesn't, for some reason, materialize she feels that MRC and all of the towns would put together a plan. If we were with Ecomaine, and after five years our contract ends, or they are out of space, we would be a alone with Thomaston and any other town that joined their group to figure out what to do.

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to schedule a special town meeting preceding the Selectmen's Meeting on May 23, 2016 at 6:00PM to vote on MRC/Fiberight.
Carried 5-0-0

6. New Business: None

7. Comments from Citizens: Monika Magee reported that by Nick Gardner's house and between her house to Neville Lewis's the road is eroding and wondered if rocks could be placed to help hold the soil. The other item she was concerned about is the area across from the big culvert by Randy Martin's. It is dangerous and she was wondering if the guard rails could be replaced. Chairman Grover said it was posts not guard rails that were there before and the State is responsible. Town Clerk, Lisa Young, will e-mail Monika the phone number of DOT in Waldoboro.

8. Adjournment:

ACTION: Selectman Heidi Alley made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to adjourn at 7:25 PM
Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted by Lisa M. Young, Town Clerk