

TOWN OF CUSHING
SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
October 10, 2016
Cushing Community Center

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

Selectmen Absent: None

Staff Present: Recording Secretary Deborah Sealey

1. Call to Order: Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:07 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 approve Warrant #37.
Carried 5-0-0

3. Approve Minutes of 9/26/16:

ACTION: Selectman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Selectman Daniel Staples, to approve the minutes of the 9/26/16 meeting.
Carried 5-0-0

4. Additions or Changes to the Agenda: None

5. Unfinished Business: Selectman Daniel Staples reported that the Sheriff's Dept. had come to Cushing 6-8 times in the past month for animal control issues.

6. New Business:

A. Waldoboro Selectman Bob Butler and Warren Selectman Wayne Luce Discuss Pay-As-You-Throw: Bob Butler gave a presentation regarding Waldoboro's upcoming vote on Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) trash disposal. He said the recent addition of scales at the transfer station had resulted in a cut of 1,000 tons of trash and a reduction in the budget; now Waldoboro was discussing moving to PAYT. Mr. Butler said it was a waste of town dollars to burn trash, which was why the November 2016 Waldoboro ballot would have an item to approve PAYT, which would allow charges to each household by usage.

Mr. Butler said PAYT would allow the town to control haulage costs and tipping fees. He displayed charts showing the rising transfer station budgets and the projected reductions in cost under PAYT. He said PAYT was a cheaper way to dispose of trash and with it the transfer station costs would decrease from \$474,056 in 2016 to \$156,225 in 2019. This would be a reduction for the average taxpayer from \$91/year to \$55/year.

Selectman Laurie Haynes asked why, after the Transfer Station scale was purchased, Waldoboro's costs went down but Cushing's went up. Mr. Butler replied that during that year Lincoln County Recycling lost money and the towns paid for it. Selectman Haynes said she wanted to be sure that Cushing, not just Waldoboro, would save money with PAYT.

PAYT bags would cost \$1.25 for the 15-gallon size, \$2.00 for the 33-gallon, and \$3.00 for the 45-gallon. 15% of these costs would go to the bag manufacturer while the rest would pay haulage and tripping costs. Helen Damara asked how there would be an advantage for her when she would be paying for the bags: this was just shifting costs back to the individual. Mr. Butler responded that she would not be paying for other people who threw too much.

Selectman Staples said younger people with children would have more trash and the biggest burden. He asked why, having just paid for a scale, our costs keep going up? Selectman Martha Marchut replied that costs would have gone up more without the scale. She said Cushing paid 19.77% of the transfer station costs.

Warren Selectman Wayne Luce said PAYT was a sticker shock to everyone and was just shifting the costs from taxes to people's pockets. He said select boards would see the money and use it for other things instead of giving it back to taxpayers. Selectman Staples said he thought PAYT was just shifting the cost to those least able to afford it.

There was further lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of PAYT.

B. Presentation by Helen Damara, Director of Cushing EMS: Ms. Damara said she proposed two changes in EMS procedure. First, she explained that for new calls in the middle of the day a paramedic was called in from another town; this cost \$500/call for Thomaston or approximately \$450 for Rockland. However, Warren EMS had someone on staff Monday through Friday and would charge \$200/call. The EMS Director wanted to make Warren the first call when it had a medic on duty.

Second, the accountant had suggested raising the EMS fees a little, to what Medicare paid plus 25%. Selectman Marchut asked about people who had no insurance. Ms. Damara said they would be billed but this would go into an uncollectible file. She also said they could request a hardship waiver.

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to implement Ms. Damara's suggestions.
Carried 5-0-0

C. Water Fountain: Select Board Chair Alton Grover proposed removing the water fountain in the Town Office because no one used it and kids just played with it.

ACTION: Selectman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to get rid of the water fountain.
Carried 5-0-0

D. Review Insurance Account: Selectman Alton Grover said the town had cut it too close on the insurance account, which was currently \$2,550.96 short. He suggested taking the overrun out of Professional Services or wherever the Board wanted.

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martha Marchut, to take out of Professional Services \$3,528.96 to cover overrun insurance costs.
Carried 5-0-0

E. Computer: Chair Alton Grover said there were two computers in the Town Clerk's office and Don Fowles said the second one, which Selectman Grover used, should not be used regularly. Mr. Fowles had suggested the town get another computer. Dan Remian said he had a Planning Board computer which he no longer used and suggested the office might be able to use that. The Board decided to table this issue for now.

7. Comments from Citizens: None

8. Executive Session Pursuant to M.R.S.A. Subsection 405(6) (A) on a Personnel Matter: The Board went into Executive Session at 7:50 P.M.

ACTION: Selectman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martha Marchut, to enter back to the regular scheduled meeting at 8:10 P.M.

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martha Marchut to have Sandra Blanchard come to the next meeting to discuss the Boards concerns.
Carried 5-0-0

9. Adjournment:

ACTION: Selectman Daniel Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Heidi Alley, to adjourn at 8:12 P.M.
Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Sealey