

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF
SELECTMEN

Minutes of Meeting

August 14, 2017
Cushing Community Center

Selectmen Present: Dan Staples, Chair Alton Grover, Martha Marchut, Laurie Haynes

Selectmen Absent: Heidi Alley

Staff Present: Kate Hoyt, Deputy Municipal Clerk

Public Present: Representative of Brad Aiken, bidder on Spear Mill Road culvert repair, and t.r. jackson, Cushing taxpayer

1. Call to Order: Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Approve and Sign the Warrant:

ACTION: Selectman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martha Marchut, to approve Warrants 34 and 35.

Motion Carried 3-0-0 [Dan Staples arrived at 6:10, after this vote was taken.]

4. Approve Minutes of the 07/24/17 Meeting:

ACTION: Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martha Marchut, to approve the Minutes of the 07/24/17 meeting with changes.

Discussion: None.

Motion to Approve 7/24/2017 Minutes Carried 3-0-1 [Dan Staples abstained.]

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda: none

6. Unfinished Business:

6a. Procedures for Donating Fales Field to the Town of Cushing.

ACTION: None taken.

Discussion: Kristi Niedermann, on behalf of Terry Dodge, deceased, has donated the parcel known as the "Fales Field" and named Good Neighbors Park, to the Town of Cushing. She brought a tax form with a request that a representative of the Town sign it to accept the gift. Kristi's appraiser has signed; Chair Alton Grover said that Assessor's Agent Garnett Robinson would be the one to sign. Discussion of the date the deed was transferred; taxes due. Kristi's form has to do with her (income) taxes: She said she believes she will receive a tax deduction for having donated the parcel. Alton Grover said he wanted Garnett to see it. Selectman Martha Marchut suggested, and the Selectmen agreed, that Town Attorney Kristin Collins should be consulted about what, specifically, needed to be added to the tax document by Kristi Niedermann before the Selectmen could/should sign it.

Another issue brought up: 2017 taxes are out; Kristi received a tax bill for the property she deeded to the Town and has not owned since April 3rd. She wondered if she would be responsible for the taxes for the whole year. Usually, when property changes hands by means of a real estate purchase/sale, proration of taxes is involved. Dan Staples commented that this was a question for Garnett Robinson, as well. Martha Marchut asked if it would make sense for the Selectmen to speak with Garnett about the issue. Selectmen agreed to follow up.

7. New Business:

7a. Spear Mill Road Culvert Bids.

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to accept Meklin and Sons' bid for \$6,000.00 to repair the two culverts on Spear Mill Road.

Discussion: The Selectmen considered five bids:

Who:	Amount of Bid:
1. JBI of Owls Head	1. \$7,700.00
2. Ford Enterprises of Hope	2. \$5,995.00
3. Donald Meklin & Sons of Cushing	3. \$6,000.00
4. Brad Aiken of Monroe	4. \$11,700.00
5. Doug Fales of Cushing	5. \$10,700.00

Selectman Laurie Haynes asked if the five bidders had agreed to do the same work. Alton Grover showed the Selectmen a list of required tasks that all bidders were given. Brad Aiken's representative asked if the bids included hot-topping the road, and was told that they did. Chair Grover passed on Meklin's request that, if they got the job, Spear Mill Road be closed on the day that they do the work. Agreed. (Does not require motion.)

Motion Carried 4-0-0

7b. Louis Orff Bid to install new door at Fire Station: Louis Orff joined the meeting in progress to inform the Selectmen that he could install a new door at the fire station for \$722.82, a price that included labor and materials.

ACTION: None taken

Discussion: Selectman Laurie Haynes suggested that the Selectmen ought to consider other bids, as well. Selectman Dan Staples suggested reconsidering and going back to keyed locks. Selectman Martha Marchut asked about the unsafe door, and the consensus among the Selectmen was that it was not necessarily an issue. There was agreement among Board members that the door does not need to be replaced; its lock could be protected by installing a metal plate over the lock, which would save the Town a lot of money.

7b. Renting of Flail Mower¹

¹ [from Wikipedia] "A **flail mower** is a type of powered garden/agricultural equipment, which is used to deal with heavier grass/scrub which a normal lawn mower could not cope with. Some smaller models are self-powered, but many are PTO [power takeoff]-driven implements, which can attach to the three-point hitches found on the rear of most tractors. This type of mower is best used to provide a rough cut to taller grass where contact with loose debris may be possible such as roadsides.

The flail mower gets its name from the use of "flails" attached to its rotating horizontal drum (also called tube, rotor, or axle). Many implement companies also refer to the flails as knives or blades. The rows of flails are usually staggered to provide a complete cut. The flails are attached to the drum using chain links or brackets, depending on the manufacturer. The rotating drum is perpendicular to the axis of the tractor. The PTO driveshaft along the tractor's axis must make a right angle through the use of a gearbox in order to transfer its rotational energy to the drum. As the drum rotates, centrifugal force pushes the flails outward. [...] If a flail strikes an immovable object, it simply bounces off. Other rotary-type mowers have a tendency to grab and throw the object out of the mower deck if its small enough. This fact makes the flail mower best suited for areas where thrown objects would cause damage. [...]"

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to rent a flail mower from Fairfield.

Discussion: Chair Alton Grover reminded the Selectmen that, last year, on the same date, Cushing rented this mower from Fairfield to mow along the roadsides. Fairfield has informed him that this year, the price is the same. Grover thought Cushing should rent from Fairfield again.

Motion Carried 4-0-0

8. Comments from Citizens: none

9. Adjournment:

ACTION: Selectman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to adjourn at 6:39 p.m.

Motion Carried 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Hoyt,
Deputy Municipal Clerk