

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
September 10, 2018
Cushing Community Center

Selectmen Present: Chair Alton Grover; Selectmen Laurie Haynes; Corey Jones; and Martha Marchut

Selectmen Absent: none. [Selectman Dan Staples joined the meeting in progress at 6:20 p.m.]

Staff Present: Cushing Treasurer/Town Clerk Lisa Young

Public Present: Planning Board Chair Bill Aboud and Planning Board member Frank Muddle; and Cushing taxpayers Dawn Jones and Emily Currie

1. Call to Order: Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Approve and Sign the Warrant:

ACTION: Selectman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to approve
2018 Warrants 33 and 34.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 4-0-0

4. Approve Minutes of the 8/27/18 Meeting:

ACTION: none taken.

Discussion: Recording Secretary Kate Hoyt had not been able to get the minutes of the August 27th meeting to the Selectmen in time for this meeting. The Selectmen agreed to review two sets of minutes at the next meeting.

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. News from the Cushing-Friendship-Waldoboro Transfer Station

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Selectman Martha Marchut briefed the Selectmen on some recent news regarding the Transfer Station.

5b. Hiring Additional Office Help

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Put it in the paper that the office is looking for an assistant, 10-15 hours a week, during the regular M-W-F hours, with additional availability to work elections. Wording drafted by former Selectman Heidi Alley would be sent to the Selectmen.

6. Unfinished Business

6a. Discuss Appointments for Planning Board

ACTION: Selectman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to appoint Austin Donaghy member of the Cushing Planning Board.

Discussion: Two people turned out to be competing for the one open position on the Planning Board. Austin Donaghy had been recommended to the Selectmen at the August 27, 2018 meeting, and his appointment discussed. A motion to appoint Austin had not carried, however, because the Selectmen felt they needed to consider issues expressed by Cushing taxpayer and resident Bob Stackpole at that meeting. The Selectmen had in front of them a letter that Bob had submitted, following up in writing to express his interest in becoming a member of the Planning Board. (See letter, attached, at the end of these minutes.) Bill Aboud reiterated support for Austin Donaghy (see paraphrase of his comments in the minutes of the August 27, 2018 meeting). Alton Grover declared that a conflict of interest prevented him (Alton) from voting either way.

Laurie Haynes said there were pros and cons of having Bob Stackpole as a Planning Board member. She said she liked having varying opinions on a Board, and that Bob's ideas were so different from the rest of the Board's that it would make for a strong Board, but that that Austin Donaghy was more likely to be a member who would agree with the aims of the Board. Martha Marchut commented that Austin's appointment would help the Board be up and running again more quickly. Corey Jones said he could see pros and cons to working with either.

Planning Board Chair Bill Aboud said he admired [Stackpole] because he speaks his mind; however, Bill thought Bob Stackpole would not be a good choice for the Planning Board because he had made it very clear that he was against land use planning. Frank Muddle felt Stackpole to be disruptive and argumentative. He said the work was hard enough as it is, that there was a lot to know.

Motion Carried 3-0-1 [Alton Grover abstained due to a conflict of interest; Dan Staples arrived late to the meeting and the Selectmen voted without him.]

6b. Sand Shed Update

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Select Board Chair Alton Grover reported that the repairs to the sand shed were complete.

7. New Business

7a. Cushing School Principal, Dawn Jones, To Address the Selectmen

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Cushing School Principal Dawn Jones announced a night-sky viewing that the school has planned at Good Neighbor Park in October. An astronomer from Camden has been invited to speak at the assembly. All present were invited. Parking was discussed. Dawn Jones wondered if she should approach the Select Board each time the school had a request to use the Park. The answer, informally, was yes. Town Clerk Lisa Young agreed to put activities on the office calendar, and Dawn Jones said she would put an email out to Town residents.

7b. Animal Control Officer William Demmons To Address the Selectmen

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Mr. Demmons had planned to discuss the possibility of charging every dog owner seeking to redeem an impounded animal at Pope Memorial Humane Society, but he was not in attendance.

7c. Changing the Next Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

ACTION [Informal]: The Selectmen agreed to meet on Tuesday, October 9 instead of Monday, October 8, due to the Columbus Day holiday.

Discussion: Minimal

7d. Setting Bids for Foreclosed Property

ACTION [Informal]: The Selectmen agreed to set Friday, Oct. 5th, as the deadline to submit bids on Cushing foreclosed property.

Discussion: Available Cushing foreclosed properties for sale will be advertised in the local paper Sept. 20th, 27th, and Oct. 4th—the necessary three times—and the deadline to submit bids is Oct. 5th. Bids will be opened by the Selectmen at their meeting on Oct. 9th.

ACTION: Selectmen Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to set \$50,000 as a minimum bid on the foreclosed property on Sheep Point Lane, with a minimum amount down of \$5,000.00 in the form of a cashier's check.

Discussion: Centered on the condition of the property and various other specifics. The concern at setting the minimum bid was to recoup the tax money. Pros and cons of setting a minimum bid were discussed. Town Clerk Lisa Young also reminded the Selectmen to include wording to the effect that Selectmen reserve the right to refuse any and all bids.

Motion Carried 4-1-0 [Selectman Corey Jones voted against setting a minimum bid.]

7e. Wording of the Three Warrant Items—Deadline

ACTION [Informal]:.

Discussion: Town Clerk Lisa Young needs the Selectmen, by Sept. 24th, to submit the official wording for the three requests to take money to fund expenditures for the Good Neighbor Park. Laurie Haynes asked if the wording could specify that the initial \$10,000 for maintenance is not to be included in these expenditures. Lisa said the wording of the questions had to be fairly simple, but that the Selectmen could write an explanatory piece to go along with them.

7f. Set Public Hearing for Annual General Assistance New Annual Maximums

ACTION: Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to set September 24th as the date of a Public Hearing to set General Assistance new annual maximums.

Discussion: minimal

8. Comments from Citizens – none

ACTION: Selectman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Selectman Laurie Haynes, to adjourn at 6:52 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Hoyt,
Deputy Town Clerk