

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
February 25, 2019
Cushing Community Center

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

Selectmen Absent: none

Staff Present: Town Clerk Lisa Young

Public Present: ACO William Demmons

1. Call to Order: Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. and a quorum was determined.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Approve and Sign the Warrant:

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectwoman Laurie Haynes, to approve 2019 Warrants 7 and 8.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Approve Minutes of the 1/28/19 Meeting:

ACTION: Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2019 meeting as written. Selectman Corey Jones seconded.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda: none

6. Unfinished Business:

6a. Approval of application submitted by the Cushing Library for use of the gym

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to accept the application

Discussion: Alton read the application requesting date of April 7, 2019 from 11 am to 12pm for the Easter Egg Hunt if it is raining for games and activities to be in the gym. Alton noted we have done this before, Dan Staples agreed.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

6b. Cushing Spirit of America Award

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to honor Dan Remian for the Spirit of America Award for the Town of Cushing

Discussion: Martha Marchut said how something was received a while back about the Cushing Spirit of America Foundation Tribute Award and asked if we {selectman} wanted to do anything about that. Alton asked if we had done that before. Laurie said she thinks we ought to. Dan Staples mentioned Martha's husband, Dan, who had just passed away and he had been on a lot of stuff, he said he wasn't sure what the criteria involves as he had read it a couple months ago, but he did read it. Martha mentioned tabling it until the next meeting. Laurie asked if we had time to do that. Martha said from what she understood if you want to do something in time for the town meeting, we would get recognized in some sort of way by the state as a town for having done that. From what she {Martha} read she thought if we didn't do something in time for town meeting we might have until June to let them know what we're doing. Dan Staples said if we were going to do it we would have to do it tonight. Martha added if we were going to do it by town meeting. Dan Staples said there is only one more selectman meeting before town meeting so we wouldn't have time. Martha said a decision could be made at the next meeting. Dan said the next meeting will be on the 11th {of March} and town meeting will be the following week, asking if that's enough time. Martha wasn't sure and asked if maybe it should be done tonight. Dan asked if everyone had read it, adding he had read it a while back. [selectman then re-read over the criteria] Dan said we could have a declaration of it but the actual honor of it would be in the fall where anticipated event honoring 2019 Great American Award winners throughout Knox County, then asked in other words do they have a banquet or something. Martha said she didn't know. Dan asked if anyone had any recommendations for nominations. Laurie said she had two pop in her head, Alton asked to hear them. Laurie said Dan and Renie. Alton added Evelyn. Martha said she thought it was about volunteers, Laurie said "oh is it, then Dan, Dan is a perfect candidate then." Laurie added those were the only ones she thought of. Alton asked what has to be done, do we send it to somebody or what?. Laurie said somebody probably has to write something. Danny pointed out the criteria said to write something. Laurie said Lisa probably has all of the dates of the service he put in. Lisa said Martha would better than she would with that. Martha said that yes she can come up with a list, just looking at the town reports. Lisa added he did other stuff too like the historical society. Martha said yes. Dan asked who wanted to write something up, Martha said she would. Dan asked Lisa if Martha wrote something up if Lisa would send it, Lisa said absolutely.

Motion Carried 4-0-1

7. New Business:

7a. Animal Control Officer, William Demmons, to address the Board

ACTION: Selectwoman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Selectwoman Martha Marchut, to charge a \$25 fee for any animal taken to Pope Memorial and that Pope Memorial will keep the \$25 and deduct it from our quarterly bill

Discussion: Bill said he was there about the \$25 late dog registration fee. He said that in the book it states that there is a \$25 fine. It doesn't say per dog or per household or anything, it just says \$25 fine. He stated that according to his boss in Augusta, it is per dog, even though it doesn't state that in the book. He said he got it straightened out, and Lisa added we had always been doing it per dog. Bill said other towns have complained about it too, he was just saying that is what he was told by his boss. Dan

said we already had that policy as it had come up a couple years ago. Bill then added the other thing is that he was wondering if he has to take an animal from Cushing to Pope {humane society}, does the town collect any money from that? Lisa said no, we don't even know about it when that happens. Bill said that he has written a letter addressed to the Board of Selectman, Town of Cushing, proposing that we charge a \$25 fee for any animal that he has to take to Pope, that they {the owner} has to go and get. Especially if the animal doesn't have any tags or anything, he added he would just as soon take the dog home, but if doesn't and he can't, then it goes to Pope. That \$25 would go to the town which would help pay his salary. He added that Warren and South Thomaston have accepted it and Thomaston has even accepted it. Laurie said so owners will pay \$25 no matter what. Bill said they would pay \$25 to get their dog out of the shelter, plus whatever the shelter fee is, and that \$25 does one of two things. They {Pope Memorial} can either send you {Town of Cushing} the \$25 or you can take it off their bill that you have to pay them every year, which is what they do with Warren. He said since Warren has done that, their bill with Pope has gone down. Martha asked wouldn't it be easier for us to do that rather than having little checks sent in. Bill said that's how they do it. Martha added it would certainly be easier. Dan confirmed that right now the only fine is whatever the fee is that Pope takes in, Bill agreed. Dan said an additional fee could go towards that. Bill confirmed towards us, not to Pope, but to the Town of Cushing. He reaffirmed that they can do it one of two ways, either send the town a check every time, or take it off the town's bill, whichever way the town decides they'd want to do it. Dan asked if before we can do something like that, wouldn't it have to go before the voters, or can we {selectman} set the policy? Bill said that as the selectman you can set the policy, Lisa agreed that she thought so as well. Lisa said the selectman can set fees, and that would be considered a fee. Dan said there was one thing they've done over the past few years and that's being sure to dot the I's and cross the T's. Lisa said it was voted on that you {selectman} could set fees. Dan added that he'd have no problem then. Bill lastly asked if the town has any kind of ordinance on chickens and stuff like that. Dan said we just said no, people can have chickens, there's no ordinance against it, but there was a letter from up on Weymouth Ln, but that person had goats, chickens, pigs, and Lisa added that was also in a subdivision, which has its own rules. Dan said that according to the Code Enforcement Officer there is a nuisance law and a couple other state laws that might come into effect on it, the town doesn't personally have one, but it depends. Bill said a lot of people are having issues with chickens, and when he asks people, they reply "well they're free range chickens." Bill said he doesn't care what they do with them, but when neighbors don't want them in their yard keep them penned up. He said doing his thing he can cite people for animal trespass. Laurie said that makes sense. Dan added if people want to let them go loose on their land that's fine, but when they go on someone else's land, they shouldn't, it's just a nuisance and goes the same idea as a dog.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7b. Road Signs

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton wanted to inform the board that we had been "hit" again, down to the lower end of town. Said it always happens from Gaunt Neck and down, usually, although this time they did take the Gravel Pit one. Alton said we just have to buy and replace them again, there was about 12 or 13 missing. Dan added that he has put lock tight and bolts on the signs before, but they still find a way to bend them and break them somehow.

7c. Certify Site Plan Review Ordinance to Clerk for March 18th Election

ACTION: document signed

Discussion: Lisa said it just needed to be signed and wanted to make sure everyone had the most recent one.

7d. Sign Annual Town Meeting Warrant

ACTION: document signed

Discussion: none

8. Comments from Citizens: none

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Selectman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary

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Discussion: none

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9. Adjourn

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Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary