

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
May 13, 2019
Cushing Community Center

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

Selectmen Absent: none

Staff Present: Town Clerk Lisa Young

Public Present: Carole Leporati, Kristi Niedermann, Anthony Winchenbach, Clarence Flanders, Robert Ellis, Edward Amoroso, and ACO William Demmons

1. Call to Order: Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Martha Marchut, to approve 2019 Warrants 17 and 18.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Approve Minutes of the April 22, 2019 Meeting:

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2019 meeting as written. Selectwoman Laurie Haynes seconded.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 4-0-1, Martha Marchut abstained as she was not at the meeting

ACTION: Selectwoman Laurie Haynes made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2019 emergency meeting as written. Selectman Dan Staples seconded.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

6. Unfinished Business:

6a. Fire Department Officers

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, that if everyone has seen it [letter] and is okay with it that we sign it and send it to Arthur.

Discussion: Dan Staples discussed how he and Corey Jones attended the last fire department meeting and while at the meeting they asked each person in attendance to secretly write down who they would like to see run the department as the new chief. He read the tally results; 12 for Clarence Flanders, 8 for Tony Winchenbach, 3 for Darren Hill, 3 for Eric Fitzmaurice, 1 for Brooks Hobbs, and 1 that had Clarence and Darren written followed by no one else is qualified. Dan said his own observations after being at a couple meetings now, they are being run very good and getting training in. Corey added that he felt things were working pretty good the way they're set up right now and he thought everybody was responding well to it. Dan added there is a kitchen over there and it is now unbelievably clean. Corey added asking members to vote the way they did, having people write down their thoughts secretly, things came out the way he thought they might, and the numbers speak for themselves, and after seeing a few things he thinks the numbers match the right choice. Dan asked about the previous Fire Dept issue needing to be reported back. Laurie Haynes questioned if that should be an executive session thing, Dan Staples informed that no, it's now public knowledge. Laurie talked about her and Corey meeting with Arthur Kiskila, Laurie said she first sat and asked him how he was doing, and specifically told him that it's time again for the Selectman to appoint a Fire Chief and because he is unable to fulfil the duties required we found it necessary to appoint someone different this year. She then added that nothing was said about his sickness, the only conversation about sickness was after that conversation was finished, she did ask how he was doing and if he was feeling better and such. Corey added that they had offered making him an Honorary Fire Chief and he flat out shot it down. Corey said he asked him his thoughts into possibly dedicating the fire station to him where he had shot the honorary thing down and he didn't say no to that which made Corey believe it was more of the shock, he thought they were there for another issue and was caught off guard. Laurie added that Arthur had made a comment on a fire truck and that the hose on engine 4 won't pass inspection. Dan brought up that Arthur had written a letter stating he had never received a letter [from the Board], Dan pointed out that they couldn't send a letter until they had a chance to speak to him and had been reported back to the next meeting. He said there is a letter drafted now everyone has now seen and can be sent. Dan added lastly that he had the slips [votes by fire department members] and he thinks its overwhelming that the fire department is pretty strongly behind Clarence so he was asking if things should be left as interim for a month or two of if they [Select Board] should take a vote. He doesn't think its necessary to do interviews because he's been talking with Clarence, and also with Tony, on the positions and everyone seems happy with the way it is and the rest of the department obviously agrees due to the way they voted. Dan asked if now that the letter is being sent out do we want to make it official or do we want to keep it as interim and wait until the next meeting. Martha added that she was away through a lot of it and asked if there was more than one person who was qualified and wanted the position as Chief. Dan added that there were two people that he knew of, and both were in the meeting tonight. Martha asked if both people were qualified and wanted the position, Dan said right now one. Martha added that if there were two then there should be interviews. Corey added that the numbers of their votes, the two highest ones were both sitting here tonight. Martha said if there is only one candidate for each position and one candidate is qualified based on what they had discussed before, then it sounds fine, but if there is more than one who is qualified and wants the position then the Board should be talking to the candidates. Dan clarified that there are two people who are actually qualified, and both are sitting right here, and both have agreed that they'd like to have it go the way that they've [the Board] has suggested. Alton suggested waiting until the next meeting to see how things go, Laurie agreed thinking the letter should be delivered first. Corey agreed adding

he's totally on board with the way it's set up after seeing it and being around them, putting faces to the names, and he thinks it's a good move.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7. New Business:

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

ACTION: none

Discussion: Dan Staples discussed following up on the unpaid dogs. Bill said he has been down here three times and they [unpaid dog owners] don't answer the door or they're not home. Laurie asked what the next step is, summonses. Bill said yes, he's already issued some and that's what he's talking about, knocking on the door and issuing them, some have already come in and paid. Laurie asked how many were left, Bill said 16 on the list, he's issued about half, the other half won't answer the door. Dan mentioned having the Sheriff's Dept. serve some summons and Bill said that is his next step is to contact them and have someone go that is more official than he is. Laurie asked if there was a time frame for completing. Bill added the ones he has now are June 10, but he can change that date to the ones he can't deliver. Laurie asked if his plan was to get this behind him relatively quickly. Bill agreed, he said he's gone as far as he can go, if people are home and won't answer, he can't just leave it, it needs to be signed, there's not much he can do. Laurie asked if it goes to Sheriff, Dan asked if it's been sent registered letters. Bill said he thought they were sent out in January, Lisa said Sami sent letters out but they weren't registered letters because that gets costly. Dan said there was no proof they were notified unless it's sent registered so that should be the next step. Lisa asked what was the 17th, Bill said that is the date he needs to send the summons in to get the June 10 court date. Laurie pointed out summons can't be mailed certified, they need to be hand delivered, Bill said yes because they need to get signed then they get a copy, he gets a copy and a copy goes to the court. Laurie questioned the cost of the Sheriff, Dan said they pay the Sheriff. Bill added one person is out of state and he can't deliver, Dan added you can send a check by mail. Bill said he went as far as he can go, he can go to the Sheriff's then go from there.

7b. Rescue Squad Director, Andy Blanchard, to meet with the Board

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to accept Andrew Blanchard's resignation.

Discussion: Dan said that Andy was not able to be present but had given him a letter to give to the Board at the meeting. Alton read the letter, "Due to my work schedule I am unable to attend Planning Board meetings. I have tried my best to make it to these meetings, but my work schedule has made it impossible to do. Planning Board by laws state that you must attend 75% of the meetings and not miss more than four consecutive meetings. With fairness to the Planning Board and the residents of Cushing I am resigning the Planning Board effective May 6, 2019. Signed Andrew Blanchard."

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7c. Tax-Acquired property clean-up?

ACTION: none

Discussion: Dan spoke of how it had been discussed having Ben go over to clean it out, but Corey had come up with another plan. He added that the one building is solid full of garbage and out back there's a lot of fencing and post, had thought of Ben hauling it away for whatever he could make off it, to not charge the town anything but if it'd be worth it to him. Alton added that the power has now been shut off over there so someone should probably at least go over and clean the refrigerator out sooner than later. Corey said he had been planning on going over maybe Friday with the town truck and loading all the garbage and it'd be free for us to take it to the dump. He said he would load the garbage and then load everything else around there, he could take the metal and stuff to Jack Firth, he might even come get it. Alton asked about having Jack come get it and saving Corey the work, Corey said by him doing it they can get rid of a lot more, if he [Jack] comes to get it he'll probably just take the metal and stuff, but if Corey does it he can load up all of it and dump it in his pile, adding he takes a lot of stuff to Jack. Corey added the belongings that are left in the trailer belong to someone who is in rehab, the guys father has mentioned wanting the contents and should be calling the town office to arrange pick up.

7d. Sand & Salt bids

ACTION: Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, that we take New England Salt

Discussion: Alton said salt bids are New England Salt \$47.07 delivered, \$47 picked up. Morton Salt \$52.75 delivered, \$52 picked up. Marcos Chemicals \$59.75 delivered, \$59 picked up. Eastern Salt Company \$73.90 delivered, \$73.90 picked up.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

ACTION: Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to accept Meklin's bid

Discussion: Alton said sand bids are Hartland \$13 p/yard, FRP Inc \$14.50 p/yard, Jake Barbour \$12.75 p/yard, George Hall \$16.25 p/yard, Farley \$12 p/yard, Atkin & Sons \$16 p/yard, Meklin's \$11.50 p/yard. Meklin's and Hartland also get \$1 p/yard extra for using their dozer.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7e. Review Fire Department invoice

ACTION: Corey Jones made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to pay the bill.

Discussion: Alton read an invoice from Prior's for \$240 labor. He assumed it was taking the lights and radio out of the Chief's car. Corey asked if we had the radio back. Interim Chief Clarence Flanders answered yes, we have the radio, not the lights, the lights belonged to him [Arthur]. Dan asked if they're his private lights, is it our [the Town's] responsibility to have them taken out. Dan said he understood if the radio was ours, it was our responsibility to have that removed. Alton asked about the siren and such. Clarence said that was his, too. Clarence added the radio works just like the ones in the fire trucks. Corey said realistically it takes about an hour to install a radio in a vehicle, 3 hours labor if they're his own lights and sirens he feels it is kind of on him, but felt if we just pay it, it's over. Martha said the only reason she felt that town could pay is because if legally he's not supposed to have those things on his vehicle if no longer in the position it's a reason to justify the cost to the town. Laurie said she would advise it's not our responsibility but should just do it and be done with it. Dan added separately, at the fire department meeting he talked with Scott Townsend, in regard to another pig roast this year. Dan said he read him right out of the MMA handbook where the money is supposed to go and it's the second time he's had to tell him. He said he is supposed to be bringing the money in [to the office] and putting it in the working account, not the fire department account, but the actual fire department working account. Being in that account it is still the fire department's money; it just shows transparency to the town.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7f. Approval to add electrical outlets in the clerk's office

ACTION: Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to put electrical outlets along the wall

Discussion: Alton said he assumes they want to add electrical outlets to the outside wall. Corey added he felt where there is going to be a remodel [in the office] he thinks there should be a few more than normal put around the perimeter because depending on how things get laid out, if you're going to have them do it, you're better to have more than not enough. Dan added Achorn's will know how many can be put on each breaker. Alton added that they just came in and added one because there had been some trouble with it in the office.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7g. Town building propane tanks

ACTION: none

Discussion: Corey said that Dead River unhooked the generator feed at the fire station and locked it out because they heard a leak. Someone looked at it and found the leak. They called today and it was \$110 for the parts to fix it. Corey had to wait to talk to the manager at Dead River, the worker that came down wanted us to move the tank, as when it was put in it was up to spec, but now the specs have changed. CEO Scott had thought it was grandfathered and the tank shouldn't have to be moved. Corey wondered if they have a loophole now that they've disconnected it. Dan said the tank needs to be recertified. Corey is hoping now that the manager is back he can talk to him and they will agree that now the leak is fixed, they can come test it, and hook it back up. Dan said it could be turned towards the road if it needs to be moved and a new line would have to be run. It was discussed as of right now [with generator unhooked] if there is an emergency call and power happens to be out, the doors will have to be opened manually and rescue workers have been made aware of that.

7h. Sign Recreation Director's & Interim Deputy Fire Chief appointments

ACTION: documents were signed

Discussion: Gretchen Tripp as Recreation Director, and Tony Winchenbach as Interim Deputy Fire Chief

7i. Waldoboro Transfer Station & Sundog Solar contract

ACTION: none

Discussion: Laurie Haynes said it was brought to her attention that Waldoboro [transfer station] was putting up solar panels and was asked if they were spending all of this money, was it coming out of our pocket too. She researched it a bit and understood that they weren't spending money on solar panels, the company is coming in and putting them in. Alton asked if they were putting them in or if they were already there. Laurie said they could already be there, she wasn't sure. Alton said the whole field over there is covered with them. Laurie said the deal is this company puts in the solar panels, they are their solar panels, and then they sell the town electricity at a much cheaper cost so from what she's read without a ton of research, the town doesn't pay anything for the panels, they buy their energy from Sundog which comes from the solar energy and that seems to be it; you get cheaper electricity and save the environment. Alton asked what was running from the solar, just the transfer station? Laurie said she needed to do more research. Dan asked if it was anything to do with the transfer station or helps the

whole town. Corey asked if it was the transfer station property they used to place the panels. Martha added if it is running the transfer station it might be worth looking into to see what they're saving because we could be effected by that. Laurie read, "Sundog Solar was recently awarded a contract to install a 110 kW solar array at the Waldoboro Transfer Station. This project will save the town \$380,000 over the life of the system. Sundog Solar will install and own the solar system and sell the power to the town of Waldoboro for a lower rate than it currently pays. In addition to saving money from day one, this solar installation is a great way to hedge against rising energy costs. The town will have the option to purchase the solar system, starting in year six." Dan felt it is all Waldoboro and doesn't have anything to do with the transfer station from the way he understood it. Laurie said her two thoughts were should we be seeing savings from our bill from the transfer station, and could this benefit the town of Cushing at all, green energy and saving money with cheap electricity if we were to get on board and do this ourselves. Alton asked where would Cushing put it. Laurie said she wasn't sure, but if it could put power back into the grid and save the town some money. Martha said we could check with Waldoboro to see if we should be seeing a reduction in our WTS bill

7j. Review request to use the Cushing Community Center (all purpose room)

ACTION: Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to accept the application.

Discussion: Salt Pond Lot Owners Association [Raccoon Rd] wants to use the all purpose room for their annual meeting of SPLOA on September 14 from 10am -12pm, they do have insurance.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7k. Discuss parking lot for the Good Neighbor Park

ACTION: Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, for Alton & Corey to stake out the area, talk to Scott and DOT for permits, and get the ball rolling on the side of the road parking lot without culverts

Discussion: Carole asked about a schedule and if anything has been put out to bid yet, and a sense of timing for getting the issues that were voted on get in place; the signage, the parking lot, and the bench. She was wondering what has happened up until this point if anything. Corey asked if bench and sign being set will be a part of the bid for the parking lot, Kristi agreed the sign should go up the same time as the parking lot gets put in. Alton asked what was going to be done with the parking lot, if it was going to be beside the road. Carole said the suggestion was made to be beside the road and she understands the reason but has concerns with that as a grandparent, getting kids in and out on the side of the road being a safety issue, and believes parking should be off the road. Alton said he and Corey could do a lot of the work with the town truck and save some money. Corey said a benefit doing it beside the road, if you pull in 8ft or so from the back of the car to the road when plowing snow in the winter, it's easy to set over and keep that wing out and clear it out, if it's a drive in parking lot it'll be hard to keep clear for use in the winter or another cost for the town. Kristi said last time her and Crystal were there they said the people voted to have the big parking lot and that was what was going to be done and that was the last she had heard. Alton said the people voted on the money, not the design. Corey said opposed parking on the side of the road vs a parking lot, you have more room, probably twice as many cars because you won't need the room to pull in and turn around. Alton said it's more convenient to pull in and out from the road and a lot less expensive. Corey pointed out its not parallel park, it is pull in, similar to Thomaston's Main St; you pull in and having parking lot 10 ft from the back of a normal size vehicle to the road, when you back up to leave you'll be able to see, it won't be like Thomaston when you're blind backing out. Carole asked about expense, is the difference hundreds of dollars or thousands of dollars, money has been allotted. Corey & Alton said the cost of culverts are over \$500 because you have to go all the way to the brook and doing it with the town truck you're only paying an hourly rate. Corey said this way water will flow and everything will be more natural too, and eventually culverts would need maintenance. Laurie

asked what needs to be done to get ball rolling. Alton said DOT just needs to be notified and nothing should be a problem as long as water is tapered to run away from the road. Alton said he would check with Scott again, too. Corey suggested going down to measure and stake it out and see how it will lay out with a drive-in parking lot but deep enough to set off from the road and take care of the safety concerns. Was discussed to be completed as soon as weather and conditions permit, will probably be sometime in July or August to be sure field is dry for best results. Unstable soils will also be checked into before beginning project.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7I. Sign Warrant and Notice of the Election for the RSU Budget Validation Referendum

ACTION: documents signed

Discussion: Lisa said the first meeting is on May 23rd at Oceanside High School where each article will be voted on. The election will be held on June 11

8. Comments from Citizens: none

---Executive Session---

The Select Board entered into Executive Session, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(F), to discuss confidential records, at 7:24 p.m. A motion was made by Selectman Alton Grover and seconded by Corey Jones to go into Executive Session.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Selectman Alton Grover motioned, and Dan Staples seconded, to enter back into the main meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Selectwoman Laurie Haynes, to table action from executive session until we complete research

Motion Carried 5-0-0

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Selectman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary