

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
May 28, 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, Austin Donaghy, Johnathon Young, Robert Ellis, Bob Rasmussen

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 Laurie Haynes, to approve 2019 Warrants 19 and 20.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Approve Minutes of the May 13, 2019 Meeting:

ACTION: Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2019 meeting as written.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. Parking at Pleasant View Cemetery

ACTION: none

Discussion: Lisa had received an email requesting permission to use the parking area at Pleasant View Cemetery for a wedding to be held on September 7th. The Board noted that there isn't that much parking

at the cemetery and mentioned a nearby field that in the past people had used that might be better. The Board is concerned that a funeral may be scheduled on that day and recommend that the requestors look into other options.

5b. Poverty Abatement

ACTION: none

Discussion: Martha Marchut reported back to the Board that she had contacted the Legal Department at Maine Municipal Association regarding the questions the Board had about Poverty Abatements. She found that the abatement is appropriate only for the homestead property. The separate land the Town could proceed as they normally would with foreclosure; although they can encourage the landowner to sell the property. Dan Staples mentioned that he believes the abatement is a one-time thing, although the Town can abate several years. Martha Marchut thought so as well.

5c. Barge update

ACTION: none

Discussion: Harbor Master Austin Donaghy updated the Board on the issue of the abandoned barge in the Pleasant Point Gut. He added that it was not removed as requested by the State, it was moved to shore. He said there were parts that were cut off and he was going to go and mark those as they were at water level. He noted an email exchange between he and Randy over the weekend stating that Randy was waiting for a better tide to finish removing the barge. Austin filled him in that Kim & Bob (neighbors to the area) had complained about the placement. Randy said that as soon as Bob Stackpole was back from vacation, he was going to help dismantle the barge. Randy said he wanted to get it done because he was tired of the town's pressure and is planning to get it finished up. Austin said he was contacted by the State, who was preparing to send a letter allowing the town to authorize the removal of the barge by the Town, Austin asked if the Board wanted to go ahead with that or to wait and see what happens. Dan Staples said to wait the two weeks until the next meeting to see what the status was at [if Randy finishes it up himself before then] and also noted he didn't understand the statement about the pressure from the Town as it had been 16 months. Alton asked about the parts that were cut, Austin explained Randy plans to cut those down to the bottom of sea level which is okay to do.

6. Unfinished Business:

6a. Discuss parking lot for the Good Neighbor Park

ACTION: Selectman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to put the parking lot out to bid

Discussion: Alton informed the Board that they can't make a change to the original plan of the parking lot. The State won't allow them to haul gravel and make the side of the road parking as previously discussed. There needs to be a road in and a culvert to get it away from the highway as the DOT told him. Alton said they need to go back to the original plan and suggests putting it out to bid. He added a plan needs to be drawn up, what needs to be used for gravel, how many feet, etc. He thought Lisa had a plan with the permit. Corey mentioned going to measure it up and bringing Scott Bickford, the Code Enforcement Officer, with them to be sure all will be okay as far as Shoreland Zoning goes. Alton added that in the DOT specs, they request metal culverts.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7. New Business:

7a. Open bids for the foreclosed property located at Map 011 Lot 08

ACTION: Selectman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to postpone opening the bids for two weeks due to a legal issue that has been raised about the foreclosure

Discussion: Alton said the Town has run into a legal problem and it needs to be postponed for two weeks due to those legal problems. He added that waiting the two weeks will give time to sort out the legal issues. Lisa mentioned that bidders should be informed in case they want their bid back. Dan Staples said bids won't be opened and will just be held until we hear back from legal, if people want to retract bids they can.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7b. Discuss Planning Board Member

ACTION: none

Discussion: Alton said three people have applied for the open Planning Board seat. Dan Staples spoke about a letter received, written by Chairman Bill Aboud, and added that he can't be part of the [choosing new member] process. Alton asked how the Board wanted to go ahead with choosing. Dan mentioned interviews, Martha agreed and felt they should happen within the next week or two. Alton mentioned scheduling during the afternoon before the next Selectman meeting. Dan said interviews could be held at 3:00, 3:30, and 4:00 that afternoon. Lisa mentioned it could be a problem for people who work. Alton said Carolyn Ahlstrand should be able to make it work, Jay Jones too as he's usually right around the house, and then giving Bob Stackpole the latest time slot because he works. Martha asked who would be a part of it, Alton suggested the whole Board since they'll all be coming for the meeting that night anyway. Martha asked if it would be a public meeting people can attend, Laurie said no it would be done as executive session. Bob Ellis commented regarding the letter by Chairman Bill Aboud, stating he was speaking for himself but it was his impression that the general consensus of the Board is they trust the Selectman's judgement and aren't trying to influence in any way, he just felt the wording was unfortunate in Bill's letter. He added if there's anything they need to know as things come up to ask the Planning Board's help. Dan added that they won't necessarily choose a member the same night as the interviews. Bob added they all have opinions and can see strengths and weaknesses in all three candidates. He added that one candidate is out of town a lot and they really can't have that due to a lot of upcoming workshops they need someone that is able to make all of those, he also added the learning curve; as one candidate has a fair amount of experience and that would speed up that learning curve. Martha asked for resumes on the candidates, Dan added the Board should have those before interviews. Corey felt that if the Board has the resumes [information/background] on the candidates and then do all the interviews, he didn't see why a decision couldn't be made that same night, Alton agreed. Dan said it all depends what comes out of it, sometimes it doesn't always happen that way. Corey stated they'll have all the facts after that meeting. Lisa will reach out to candidates to request their relevant experience.

8. Comments from Citizens: Mr. Rasmussen asked about the foreclosed property, now that bids have been put off for two weeks due to the legal problem, is the ability to submit bids extended for two weeks also. Alton said no, that's done, the bids are still closed. Carole Leporati, in regard to the Good Neighbor Park, requested that when the bid [on the parking lot] goes out if someone can let Kristi know so she's aware. Alton asked why she needed to know when bidding goes out. Carole explained just to keep an idea on the timeframe as it's been a while and they want to get an idea. She added that over the long holiday weekend several parties went down to walk the field and didn't know where to park, adding they were confused due to no signage and parking lot. Dan Staples added that after it was voted on in the fall, the spring has been all rain, and there has been no chance to put the parking lot in. Carole just added

she meant would the bid go out in September or in June, she wasn't making controversy, just looking for an idea of timing. Laurie added it was dependent on weather, and Alton said a lot of it depends on what Scott says. Corey said if Scott gives it the okay, they'll draw up the plans and it'll be posted.

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Selectman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to adjourn at 6:35 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary