

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
July 8, 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: Andy Blanchard

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 27 and 28.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Review and approve the minutes

4a. June 24, 2019 4:30 p.m. meeting:

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2019 4:30 pm meeting as written. Selectwoman Martha Marchut seconded.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 3-0-2, Laurie Haynes & Alton Grover abstained they were absent from meeting

4b. June 24, 2019 6:00 p.m. meeting

ACTION: Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2019 6:00 pm meeting as written. Selectwoman Laurie Haynes seconded.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. Generator Servicing at the Cushing Community Center and Fire Station

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to accept contracts from Power Products for the Town Office generator and BC Electric for the Fire Station generator servicing's.

Discussion: Alton read letters about the generators needing servicing. Cost would be \$320.00 for the Cushing Community Center generator by Power Products. Dan Staples asked what that cost covers. Alton said oil and filters and the stuff like that. Corey asked if that was the one under warranty. Alton said he assumes it is and Power Products is the place that warranties it. Alton said the Fire Station generator is liquid cooled and has a radiator on it. The cost of that one is \$289.95 and would be serviced by BC Electric. Alton said he has checked before about it being done less expensive somewhere else but was told it wouldn't save much. Dan Staples asked how long warranty was. Corey asked if Power Products would give a break on servicing both while they were here for the one instead of using two different companies in the future, explaining how with the problems they just had with that generator at the Fire Station the Town was basically on their own and responsible for any repairs anyway. Dan Staples informed anyone who wasn't aware that the propane tank there doesn't need to be moved, it is grandfathered in its current placement.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5b. Rescue Squad Director, Andy Blanchard, addressed the Board

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Andy and his department would like to have the minimum age for driving the ambulance lowered. He said he had spoken with MMA and was told each department should have their own policy and the recommended age is 21, however it can go as low as 18. Laurie asked if he knows if that would increase the cost of insurance by the risk being higher. Dan Staples said he had asked the same thing regarding the Fire Department and feels if they change the requirement that it should be done for both departments. Andy said they are a separate entity from the Fire Department and that the Rescue Squad themselves have come up with a policy that they would use if this was to go into effect. He said that policy is pretty strict and would involve background checks and warnings. He offered the Board to read over the policy if they want before making any decisions. Dan Staples asked if there would be training or if someone would just jump in and go. Andy answered that State of Maine requires certain training for driving emergency vehicles regardless of age and they would have to go through that anyway. Corey suggested if it were to move forward, beginning with 10 hours of driving with someone, to see how they do under pressure and in stressful situations before being alone. Andy agreed and said what started it is that they are beginning to get younger members and also have other members who can't drive, and some who work in town and then have to come back and get the ambulance and then got to a scene, and that in a life or death situation, an ambulance should be able to get out within 10 minutes. Martha asked if there are any that are 21 and older and in town, Andy said yes but it's not always a guarantee that they are around. Dan added that it probably also depends on what day it is as to who is around. Andy said for EMT's, paramedics, or any member to be on scene without any tools is basically useless, so to be able to drive the truck and get it on scene and have the tools is important. He said the ambulance really needs to be able to leave the barn within 10 minutes of a call and get on scene and not have to wait for somebody to come from out of town and drive it. Martha said she would like to look over the policy they came up with. Alton asked if they had people on call, Andy said there is a roster but during the days are their hardest times as most of the members are at work. He added they're getting

younger kids interested and he hates to turn them away because they can't do everything they need to. Corey said basically they want to have someone like Ian Smith, being in town and able to get the ambulance to the scene and meet someone coming from out of town, Andy agreed. Martha asked if they had to turn someone away if they didn't meet the requirements, Andy answered no anyone above 18 can obtain an EMS license. Dan said there was one boy between 18 and 21, and asked if there were anymore. Andy said no but they have some prospects coming up through and some are fire guys that are interested in joining the EMS side of things and aren't 21. Dan said it was originally done for insurance purposes. Laurie said they would find out about the insurance side of it. Corey added making stipulations or certain training of the younger members, and it should follow to the rescue and the fire side of the departments. Andy said you have to take what you can get for help and these young people coming up through, its important to keep them interested; adding that Ian Smith is really gung-ho and wants to make a career out of it. He added that some towns have gone to 18. Martha asked if the new policy applies to all, Andy added this was made to just apply to the 18-21-year olds. Martha suggested making it apply to all members, Andy said they could look over the current policy and make some adjustments. Corey asked about a drug testing policy. Alton said they don't do that, fire department either, they're all exempt from it. Andy added the Rescue Squad itself has a zero-tolerance policy. Corey suggested it being mandatory to pass one to begin and be subject to random checks, especially when you get down to that low of an age bracket. Martha said it should be looked into to see if insurance costs would go up at all from the lower age driving. Andy said the Rescue Squad has been going over this for quite some time now, at one point it was brought up to the Fire Department and they didn't seem to have much interest in the change, but Andy would like the Board to make a decision and so the issue can go one way or the other and can be put to bed. Corey said if it is decided to move forward, why couldn't the same guidelines be used going forward with the Fire Station. Dan agreed that would make things simpler vs. having a bunch of different policies. Laurie said the rules look great but asked who is the enforcer to make sure the rules get applied, Andy answered that would be him, as Director, and the Assistant Director.

5c. Pleasant View Cemetery

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton said he was finally able to get a hold of the prison to get some help from the prisoners to fix up the upper side back area of the Pleasant View Cemetery on Davis Point Rd.

5d. Emergency Management Director

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan Staples asked about what was going to happen with the vacant Emergency Management Director position, adding he had mentioned it to Clarence. Alton said he didn't think it sounded like Clarence wanted to do it. Dan said he didn't say yes and didn't say no, at the time he was waiting to hear if he was going to get appointed to Chief. Dan said he could bring it up at the next fire meeting. Andy Blanchard added that Sandy Blanchard and Carol Moody were assistants and possibly one of those two might want to step up and do it since they were already involved with it. He added he wasn't speaking for anyone; he was just mentioning it as a thought. Both had assisted Arthur and worked with Ray on things.

5e. Town Mowing

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton had spoke with Arthur Kennedy about mowing the sides of the town roads the end of July. Dan Staples mentioned having him see about mowing the field at the Good Neighbor Park as well;

adding that it was safe to do so at that time as he had seen a printout on the bobolink birds and that they nest the middle of June and are gone by the middle of July.

6. Unfinished Business:

6a. Culvert and ditching on Salt Pond Rd

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Laurie said they get many phone calls about the flooding on Salt Pond Rd due to the pond next door to her house. She added that after the last storm it was not due to it being clogged because she reached in and pulled everything out and it was still almost halfway across the road. She added the ditching part in the winter, the water goes down the side and out into the road in front of the road and freezes which is also a hazard. Laurie said Alton had said probably a larger culvert would fix it. Alton said they were supposed to be in the process of getting a grant from the Emergency Management in Rockland and maybe it had got dropped and should be looked into again. Corey asked how big of a culvert was there now, Alton answered a 15 ft so it should probably be switched to an 18-20 ft. Alton then added that if you change the culvert size you need to go through DEP, without changing the size you don't. Laurie questioned that without changing the size won't you have the same problem. Alton said you can change it to a plastic smooth instead of a corrugated one the water will go through a lot faster. He said he thinks it's a good idea to make it bigger but would have to follow rules and regulations to do so. Corey added that going bigger the top can't change, it would have to go lower and added that before making a decision, the grant should be looked into. Alton said he will follow up with Ray Sisk and Laurie said they'll come back to it next meeting.

6b. Discuss shingling roof of Food Pantry

ACTION: Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to put out to bid the job to replace the sill on the Food Pantry.

Discussion: Alton said the insurance company wants at least the front of the Food Pantry building shingled; cedar shingles on the building itself, not the roof. Dan asked how soon it had to be done as it hadn't been planned into the budget for the year. Alton said it should probably be done this summer. He said it could possibly be put off again, as they [insurance company] wasn't real loud about it and the sill was supposed to be fixed too and hasn't been yet. Martha asked if the company had said anything about it effecting rates rather it was done or not, Alton said no. Dan said should get a cost idea and might be other projects that need to get done and added to the budget for next year. Corey mentioned Larry Miller coming down to give a quote for the sill. Alton added he probably could but it's going to be a dirty job and a lot of people don't like doing that. Alton was thinking of contacting Guy to get prisoners to do it and get it done this year, adding it's only on the one backside of the building. He added the propane tank would need to be moved and this would be a good time of year to do it as it [propane tank] isn't used during the summer. Martha said it sounds important, Alton added it kind of is as the building has settled down into the ground. The Board discussed putting it out to bid just to get costs ideas, noting they don't have to move forward with it if more than budgeted. Dan Staples added that you could run into more, if it the sill is rotted there's a chance there's more rot somewhere. Laurie said if someone looked at it and saw that they'd bring that to our attention. Alton said sometimes you can't see until you're in there. Martha felt that the longer we wait the worst it's going to get, Alton agreed.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

6c. Appoint Planning Board Member

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, that we move Jay Jones to be the new member of the Cushing Planning Board.

Discussion: Dan Staples spoke about having three interviews that lasted about a half hour each, after each interview they sat and talked a good twenty minutes about the pros and cons of each candidate. He added each candidate brought their own unique opinions and styles to it and there were pros and cons. He said the consensus was to recommend Jay Jones and that was after about forty minutes of deliberating and that recommendation comes from the committee that was Corey, Martha, and himself. Martha added they were fortunate to have three qualified candidates. Corey said he had been thinking a lot about it and Jay sounds real good and he's thought a lot about the issues they had with Bobby and some of his things that he has like truck registrations. Corey feels a lot of it is things that have happened that he holds a grudge and feels that is why he registers his trucks out of town now. He said he leans more towards Bobby [as the new member]. He said Jay's paper almost sounds too good, his first paper was a little different than his second one. He said he might be going out on a limb but he feels Bobby brings a little more to the table and is from town, he's old school and things are black and white and he [Corey] feels that if they can find a way to work together then it'd be a good thing for the Board. Dan said he felt Corey had completely flipped from the other day. Corey said the other day he told them he didn't know where he stood, those two [Jay and Bobby] were his main two. Corey said he knows where Bobby comes from and he knows he comes across a little rough at times but that he has a lot of good ideas and that if the Planning Board could find a way to bring his style to the meetings and work with him a little then he feels things could change and work good together. Dan said he stands corrected, that the recommendation has then changed, there are two for Jay Jones and one for Bobby Stackpole. Dan said it's the first he's heard, he told Alton he can't vote because it's too close of a family member, and said it's a 2 to 1 recommendation, unless Martha has changed her mind as well. Martha said no she has not, and she has a couple concerns about Bobby. She agrees that he does have some good ideas, but he was asked to bring something in writing, and the other two did, he did not. She said to her that indicates one of two things, either he didn't think that what we asked for was particularly important and we're going to have some difficulty getting him to work cooperatively or he doesn't have the skill to do it in which case being on a board like that will probably be difficult for him as you really do need to have those types of administrative skills. Martha then added the other thing that concerned her was that he made a comment about feeling threatened by that Board or something to that effect [couldn't remember exact wording] and she thinks that is a rather extreme statement and wonders how someone would work with a Board that they have such feelings about. She said those are her concerns, she does agree that he does have some good ideas and is from town and says what he feels and is straight forward, but she reinstates the fact that her recommendation is with Jay Jones. Alton asked if Laurie was able to vote. Dan said she can vote she just couldn't come up with a recommendation because she wasn't at any of the interviews. Dan added recommendations are coming back to the full board, the full board votes, Alton just recused himself because he's a family member. Corey said he feels Laurie should have been at Bobby's interview because she asks a lot of questions. He added just because she couldn't make the other two, he feels the four of them at an interview would have been fine. Dan said if you have a Board interviewing people, you have three candidates and three interviewers, bringing a fourth person in on the last one is wrong. He said everyone needs to be at all or none, adding this is the first time he's been involved in any of the interviewing processes. Dan said how is it fair for her to ask Bobby questions that she didn't ask the other two. Corey said everyone has work schedules, and doing them in the middle of the day, it can be hard for everyone to be there at the same time. He said to hold someone to a standard to fill out a resume seems wrong to him because as Selectman you don't need a resume to run for the seat. Martha said maybe at some point they will ask for something like that. Dan added he did have to when he ran in the past. Alton said they have a question and answer board asking them questions when he has run for Selectman before. Corey just said his thing with Jay is that the second one sounds awesome, the first one was a lot different. Dan said his explanation was that the first one was something he had thrown

together for Bill Aboud, he didn't at first realize it was for the nominating committee. Martha said it was just a standard resume, any college graduate can put together a resume like that. Corey said another thing that bothers him, which isn't even about the candidates, is that he has heard certain members of the Planning Board have threatened to quit if one person is chosen. Corey said he feels that is childish. Corey added people on the Board all basically have come from recommendations of themselves, he added the Select Board are all different, and to him that is what makes a good board. He added if you have all the same type of people who can get along and manipulate each other it's not good. Martha said that was the first she had heard of anyone saying they would resign. Laurie said she agrees with Corey that Bob has really great ideas and thinks outside of the box, not like everybody else, and she thinks that is a huge benefit for any board, however she's not sure he can play well with others. She added it's okay to have varied opinions but it's not okay to shut someone down; you share an opinion and then you sit back and listen to another opinion and then come to a civil conclusion and she's not sure that that would happen. Lisa asked who would call all the nominees with the results, Dan said he would.

Motion Carried 3-1-1, Corey Jones against, Alton Grover abstained

7. New Business:

7a. Adopt Knox County Hazard Mitigation Plan – 2019 Update

ACTION: none

Discussion: document was signed

8. Comments from Citizens: none

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Selectman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary