

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
November 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: none

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 44 and 45.

Discussion: Dan Staples brought up a \$16,000 bill that was on the warrant from Copeland's garage for the 2007 plow truck. Dan asked about funds in the truck account for replacement, mentioning that the last new truck cost about \$150,000 all said and done. Corey said that the new trucks have the sanders in the body so the sander replacement money could be added to that account if you were to buy the same kind of truck, meaning on top of the \$112,000 in the truck replacement account now, you could add the \$20,000 from the sander replacement account as well, all going towards a newer truck when the time comes. Corey felt if they had known the money that just went into the 2007 truck, they could have just considered using the money towards a newer truck, but now that the repairs have been made that truck should be good to last a couple more years. Alton said the current sander is old and came out of a previous truck. Corey asked if you can take the trucks to Copeland's and have him go through them quicker and get estimates before they actually complete the work and send a bill. Alton said they fixed everything needed to get a sticker. Corey agreed but said had they known how much the repairs were ahead of time; it could have been discussed amongst the Board to decide if it was worth the work or looking towards replacement. Dan felt maybe finding a place where the work could be done a little cheaper, possibly asking Cushing Diesel in the future. Alton agreed Copeland's is expensive but added that they also will come out at night and help/make repairs, Cushing Diesel won't. Laurie said there is value to that for sure. Alton said if you were to trade the truck in without repairs you wouldn't have got anything for it. Corey said he felt the Town has got their moneys worth and you could sell it for whatever you can get like the last time. Laurie asked if you were to trade it in would you get the \$16,000. Alton said you could. Alton asked Dan why he brought that up, Dan said he wants the food for thought out there, it's a major expense. Corey said we're a group, it should all be brought up and discussed, Dan agreed. Martha asked if they were saying they [the Board] should have heard about it before the money was spent. Dan said Corey was just suggesting there should have been an estimate of work before it was completed so the Board could discuss their options before repairs had been made, especially since the truck had set over there almost all summer. Martha thinks they should consistently hear about these things before moving forward, before the money is spent. She questioned if this had come before the

Board [previously] and she was missing something. Alton answered no, it is right now. Dan pointed out it has already been fixed. Corey said this bill isn't a breakdown, the truck was dropped off and fixed and the money is spent; realistically it shouldn't be done that way. Martha said that was what she was asking, moving forward it should be consistently talked about beforehand. Alton said whatever you want to do. Corey said it's not what we want to do, it's kind of what's right. Alton said he was going to throw another thing into it. Corey said he always does. Alton continued to say the truck has never had good care, never. Corey said he's fixed a lot of stuff on that truck. Alton said the truck hasn't had good care since day one, and that goes into play; if you don't take care of anything, you're going to pay. Corey said coming from all of us, we shouldn't just drop trucks off and have them fix it [with no estimates beforehand]. Alton said next year Corey can do it, he will walk away, no problem. Corey said there you go, that is kind of childish. Corey went on to say you're a big f----- baby on this s---. Laurie commented to play nice. Corey said it's what he [Alton] does all the time. Alton said he doesn't have to; he doesn't even have to be there; they can fire him right now. Corey brought up the backhoe, stating it doesn't go out to bid, it should every year. Alton said okay, I'll take it out tomorrow and it can go out to bid. Corey said we [Selectman] can't benefit from our position, things need to go out to bid every year, that's the issue. He said it gets under the rug every year and goes over there, if it went to bid and no one bid then great, but it needs to go out to bid. Alton said Corey seemed sore that's he's here. Corey said it's not about that; it's common sense. Dan said it is all about proper procedure, that's the point Corey is trying to make. Alton again said, he can take it out tomorrow, won't hurt his feelings at all. Dan said it's too late in the season. Alton said that's not his fault, he moved it down there to help out, we needed something to load sand. He asked what he should do, tell everyone to bring a shovel with them. Martha suggested continuation of this should go on the next agenda so people can think it over before moving forward. Laurie agreed, saying that way there might not be so much hostility. Dan added a workshop would be a good idea to work on things, we just come to meetings and things are here, we never have a chance to sit down and kick the ball around the room a bit, so to say, as a Board. Alton laughed and said I have to laugh, you guys are talking about me, you guys [the Board] don't have a clue what goes on, how many people ride around in their own pick-ups and check the roads and stuff like that, nobody. He went on to say how many people call the Sheriff's Department and let them know what you're doing, they want you to. Laurie said none of us belittle anything that you [Alton] do, it's only about staying away from appearances of evil and following proper procedure, so nothing looks bad. Alton said he knows. Laurie said she thinks that is Corey's point, there is just so much hostility going on between you that I don't think it absorbed. She went on to rephrase so he gets it. She said had it gone out to bid and everyone had an opportunity to bid on the job, and maybe and probably nobody would, but everyone would have had the opportunity and you ended up with it then yay, we followed procedure, but since we didn't, we didn't follow procedure, right. Alton said right on. Laurie added she didn't feel Corey was degrading Alton at all, just trying to make sure things are done correctly moving forward. Martha asked about adding to next meeting agenda or reaffirmed the idea of a workshop, Dan agreed, stating those are still open to the public. Alton again said put it out to bid, let's go somewhere and find one to buy, or rent one, rent would be good they'd get a new one. Corey said the Town ought to just buy one. Corey added no matter how things are approached, you're [Alton] going to take it personal, as I would too, because you're benefitting from it financially. He said you can call it helping out but it's not just helping out because you make \$6,000 from it a year. Alton questioned that he makes that off it. Dan said \$1,200 a month for five months is \$6,000. Alton said oh okay, Corey said it is right in the book. Alton said take it away from him, just take it, he doesn't care. Corey said it's not about that, you take it personally, but it is not meant to be personal against you. Alton said he doesn't take it personal; he knows there's a lot of whining about it going on and he doesn't care. Corey said it's everywhere in Town, you hear everyone in Town talk about it. He added it's one of the key things, before he ever started here and plowed here. He added we all signed up for the same thing and we can't profit from our position, it says it right in the book. Alton said okay, I'm profiting from driving the snowplow truck. Corey said that's different you're getting paid, Alton answered oh that's different. Corey said that's your personal backhoe, it's different how you profit from that. Alton said he can leave and take the backhoe with him. Corey again pointed out this is nothing personal against him. Alton said he didn't care; he hears this and it's b-----. Corey asked how many years it's gone on. Alton said it doesn't have to and told Corey he hasn't been here long enough to know how it started. He said he's doing this because one year it came to it and it all went out to bid and no one bid or applied

and David Glidden asked what they were going to do and Alton said he would do it until they find someone, and that's how it all started. Dan said Alton was allowed to do it because it says in the MMA handbook that if all five Selectman are road commissioners you are allowed to drive, so technically that's why it is set up that way. Dan added that Alton and Corey are the most knowledgeable and he is probably the third, just guessing not trying to belittle the ladies, but he doesn't know a lot about what you guys do as far as snowplowing, trucks, and such. Dan said we aren't going to recreate the world right now, but we ought to talk more about it. Laurie agreed. Alton said okay.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Review and approve the minutes of the October 28, 2019 meeting

ACTION: Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2019 meeting as written.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. Rec Department

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan told the Board that Gretchen had talked to him about work that Clay Philbrook was supposed to do down at the field. He was paid when part of the job was finished, but then never finished what he was supposed to come back and do. Gretchen has tried to contact him several times and isn't having luck. Dan said hindsight is 20/20 and we took his faith on the work, but from now on all work needs to be finished completely before payment is made. He asked if the Board feels a letter should be sent estimating work that was completed vs what was paid for and an estimate of funds that should be paid back to the Town. Corey asked if he signed a contract, Lisa didn't think so and said he was hired by Gretchen. Lisa said they had the same company that has always done it, but Gretchen thought it would be nice to work with local companies and gave him a try. Dan said a letter should be sent, and at least try to get some of the money back. Martha asked how the payment was made before work was completed. Lisa said it wasn't all paid upfront, he had completed some of the work, just needed to finish the rolling of the field, and on good faith he was paid for majority of it before the rolling was finished; it was then he never came back to finish. Dan said he will ask Gretchen to attend the next meeting. Martha added if a letter is being sent, it should be sent certified.

6. Unfinished Business:

6a. Annual Town Meeting

ACTION: The Board decided to keep Town Meeting as it has been previous years

Discussion: Lisa said the last meeting they discussed the primaries being an election in March this year and possibly changing the Town Meeting to hold one election instead of two. She added she spoke with the auditor and she said the finished report would not be completed in time for the Town Report for the earlier meeting and would have to state it is only a draft for publication. Lisa added that as Laurie said, if it does get changed it should be consistent every year, but she isn't sure how often it will be the secret ballot primary election. Dan said Lisa takes a lot of responsibility, but there is good help now in the office

and they're all well trained. Dan said he doesn't just say it so he can attend the meeting as it was once mentioned, but he feels it is just time better spent. Alton said people are used to having it when it is every year, and one-time Thomaston did that and people had a fit. Martha thought if it was something important and only published in draft form that doesn't sound very good to her. Dan said Town Meeting gets smaller and smaller every year as compared to when he began [on the Board]. Lisa reminded you can always decide to change it again at a later date if it continues to be a secret ballot election for primaries.

7. New Business:

7a. Craig Currie to talk to the Board about a State grant that is available to put towards a Maine Bicentennial event in Cushing

ACTION: none

Discussion: Craig was not in attendance

7b. Vote for individual to serve on Municipal Review Committee Board of Directors

ACTION: Selectman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to vote for Bob Butler to serve on the Municipal Review Committee Board of Directors for a three-year term

Discussion: Dan thought this had already happened. Lisa told the Board last time was nomination, this is the actual vote.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7c. Office Remodel

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to accept the estimate of \$12-15,000 from Miller & Miller

Discussion: Alton said Larry Miller gave an estimate of \$12,286. He said he wasn't completely sure of what the girls decided they need for shelves and drawers under the new counter once complete, but he would like to do that for time and materials afterwards. Alton said the estimate he did give does include the floors, too. Lisa asked if that price changes with the counter being more of a U-shape. He said about \$1200 more but estimate won't be more \$15,000. Dan asked if he is willing to work during closed hours, Alton said yes he will do mostly Tuesday's & Thursday's, maybe a Saturday here and there.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

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 a confidential record, at 6:45 p.m. A motion was made by Selectman Alton Grover and seconded by Laurie Haynes to go into Executive Session.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Selectwoman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to enter back into the regular scheduled meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary