

TOWN OF CUSHING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of Meeting  
December 23, 2019  
Cushing Community Center

**Selectmen Present:** Chair Alton Grover; Selectmen Corey Jones, Laurie Haynes, and Dan Staples (Dan joined by phone)

**Selectmen Absent:** Martha Marchut

**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:** Selectwoman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to approve 2019 Warrants 50 and 51.

**Discussion:** none

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

**4. Review and approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 meeting**

**ACTION:** Selectman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 meeting as written.

**Discussion:** Alton wanted to correct the fact about a letter being sent to homeowners on Spears Mill Road in regard to a fence, he stated that it says a couple years ago and that it was actually seven years ago. Lisa said in the meeting that's how it was said, as they weren't sure until she later found the letter from 2012. Alton said it should be changed to seven years ago. Lisa said Sami has to go with what was said in the meeting on the minutes. Laurie agreed; adding you can't change what was written if it was said at the meeting. Dan added that since that letter had been sent, rather or not the owners choose to move the fence or not, the Town is covered and not responsible for any damages that could occur from plowing or anything else in the Town's right of way.

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

**5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:**

**5a. Rugs in the office**

**ACTION:** none

**Discussion:** Lisa discussed the mats in front of the door outside are getting kind of dangerous and that it would be good to have a couple new mats for the office entry to help keep the dirt and mud. She said we had looked on U-Line and they were kind of expensive but had found some cheaper ones online. Laurie said she had got some at Lowe's. Lisa said U-Line was very expensive and online it was under \$100. Laurie thought about checking a couple local places first. Lisa said we were looking for a 4x8 and a 3x8 commercial grade runner for the office and then a big mat for outside that dirt will go through. Laurie said she would look at pricing on the ones like she has at home. Alton said he can go look at Lowe's and Spear's.

## **6. Unfinished Business:**

## **7. New Business:**

### **7a. Grate on Stones Point Road**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Dan said it is in hard shape and should probably be replaced. He said it sagged with his weight not to mention a car going over it. Alton said he had put it in, and it was paid for by a homeowner at that time. Laurie asked if someone was to get hurt would the Town be liable for it. Dan thought so and suggested putting a new grate in. Corey wondered if a manhole cover would work. Alton thought that seemed like a good idea trying to get a thicker one. Dan said he, Martha, and Corey had all looked at it. Corey said it is pretty tender and the weight of snowplows going over it could do it in.

### **7b. Culvert on Town House Road**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Alton said a week ago Saturday when it rained so hard, he got seven phone calls from the homeowner of the trailer calling about all the water running on his property. Dan said the culvert was there before the trailer so it should have been taken into consideration before he put the trailer there; he also added that it's only a problem when you get that real heavy rain. Laurie agreed with Dan. Alton said there isn't anything that the Town can do about it.

### **7c. Oldest male in Cushing**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Lisa said we should look to see who the oldest male resident in Cushing now is. She said it was now a man named Robert Lowe that rents Jim Corbett's house. Lisa said Richard Gardner is second and is only a month younger than this man. Laurie asked why we need the name of the oldest male in town. Lisa said now that John Olson has passed, previously it was he and Alma, they had been presented awards from the Town, such as the Boston Cane, so thought it would be good to know who it is now. Corey asked if it is resident, even though that guy rents, wondering if it's taxpayer. Laurie said it's who is registered to vote, resident who lives in Town. Dan had brought up residents at the Homestead, Lisa said not all of those are residents of Cushing. Laurie asked why there isn't the oldest person, Lisa said there is man and woman. Dan suggested asking other Town's how they do it, asking if there is a protocol.

## 7d. Budget

**ACTION:** Selectman Corey Jones made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, that all of the Selectmen will be in attendance to start the budget process

**Discussion:** Corey said he feels when the budget is started this year all five Selectman should be there, so they all become fluent with it. Alton said it takes forever to do it, if two guys do it and get it pretty well prepared then bring it to the rest of the Board it goes a lot faster. Corey said he wants to be there regardless because he feels if he doesn't start going, he'll never know it. Alton said he can go in his place, he doesn't care. Corey said it's not that, it just makes sense. Alton said Corey wants to go to the budget meeting when they first make it up, in fact he wants all of them to go, what do you think. Dan said it's not necessary, the budget belongs to the Selectman, it does not belong to the Budget Committee, it is very, very well stated in the manual and the only thing they do is they come and they recommend or don't recommend, it is the Selectman's budget. Alton said no, that's not what he means, he wants the Selectman there when we make it out, when you and I get together, he'd rather have all the Selectman there to do that. Dan said Martha wanted that as well. Alton said it will take longer, that's all. Laurie said she agrees with the two of them [Corey and Martha], adding what if something happened to you and Staples and we are sitting here twiddling our thumbs not knowing what to do. Laurie asked how the rest of them would know what to do if they have never participated. Alton said it's not very hard. Laurie said it is if you've never done it. Alton said he doesn't care; it's just going to take longer that's all. Laurie said that doesn't matter, we need to know in case something ever happened to you guys. Alton said okay, Danny they all want to be there so let's say okay, when we have the meeting, we'll all do it. Alton said he doesn't care but be prepared to take the whole morning instead of a couple hours. Laurie said she didn't think it would take that much longer if you explain as you go. Alton laughed, saying do you know how many years I've been here; I've been through it. Laurie asked him to listen to her for a minute; she continued on with what if you and Danny got lost in a snowstorm and me and Corey had to do the budget. Laurie asked if Alton was listening to her, she said you're not paying attention. Alton answered he's reading; he doesn't pay attention most of his life. Laurie asked if he understands. Alton said I know. Laurie said you're acting like you're sluffing it off, like we should know what we're doing. Alton said we voted on it didn't we, what's the problem, we're going to do it Laurie.

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

## 7e. Review and sign annual automobile graveyard or junkyard permit for A&J Enterprises, Inc. located at 9 Lion Lane

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to accept the annual automobile graveyard or junkyard permit for A&J Enterprises, Inc. located at 9 Lion Lane

**Discussion:** none

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

## 8. Comments from Citizens: none

**---Executive Session---** The Board did not enter executive session as stated on the agenda

## 9. Adjourn

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones  
Recording Secretary