

TOWN OF CUSHING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 27, 2020  
Cushing Community Center

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

**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 Laurie Haynes, to approve 2020 Warrants 53 and 54.

**Discussion:** Dan mentioned a bill from Copeland's and asked if any of the smaller work could be done at another garage. He asked what they got an hour. Alton thought \$87.50. Dan said the labor on that bill was \$900 something, it was just food for thought. Alton said his thought was when it happened, he was some happy to get it done. He said he had to run to Skowhegan and get the chain, we had snow coming again that night. Alton said they agreed to get it done and that price included unloading the truck, they shoveled the sand out. Corey said he had talked to Jim Kalloch about the sander, and eventually upgraded, he had said he would stick to that same kind of sander but they have the Fire Dept. stick the hose in the truck and it cleans it right out. Dan asked where you could do that, especially if you have a truck load. Corey said it's like a load of fish, once it starts, it all goes. Dan said it would just make an outside pile outside the sand shed, or where. Corey said probably at the garage, somewhere it would rest up against a snowbank or something, you can scoop it up. Laurie asked if Todd worked on those kinds of vehicles, adding she has always found him to be very fair. Alton said he doesn't. Alton said the morning, the truck broke down at 2:30 am, he finished Myron's route, went to Skowhegan to get the part, they had the truck fixed at about 5:00 pm and we had snow again by 8:00pm; adding he was in a hurry to get it done.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

**4. Review and approve the minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting**

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded Corey Jones, to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting with one change

**Discussion:** Martha had a comment that on page 3, at the bottom, talking about the holiday schedule, it got changed to talk about an email exchange about Randy Martin. Martha said when she looks at it and thinks if she was a citizen reading, she would have no idea what it was about and feels it should be put in

parentheses referencing an email exchange between Randy Martin and Austin Donaghy just so it makes some sense. Martha added it should also be made into a separate paragraph as well.

### **Motion Carried 4-0-1, Dan abstained as he was absent from that meeting**

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

### **5a. Pope Memorial Humane Society**

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to assess an impoundment fee from Cushing residents who are seeking to redeem an impounded animal, as provided in §8

**Discussion:** Dan brought up the Pope Memorial paperwork that he had read in the office. He said they had talked about it last fall because Bill Demmons had come in and mentioned it. Dan said he thinks as long as Pope Memorial will go along with it, where it says any fee collected by Pope Memorial on behalf of the Town would be credited back to the Town on the quarterly invoice, it's a good idea. He added a person going over there to pick up their dog would pay \$25, that money would credit our account; it would make it less for us to be spending and put the burden back on the dog owner for not taking care of their pet. Laurie agreed.

### **Motion Carried 5-0-0**

### **5b. Transfer Station**

**ACTION:** none

**Discussion:** Dan talked about the transfer station and the possibility of it going up 4%, he asked why. Dan said when they first put those scales in and thought it would save us money, and in the first couple of years we saw the bill hadn't gone down any, John Daigle's answer was they hadn't paid for the scales. Dan said he is now assuming those scales are paid for and is wondering why we're not seeing a savings and why they project the bill will up 4%. Martha said she didn't know. Dan said it wasn't sure it was going up yet or not, but is a change it will go up 4%, he added they bought the scales to save money so three of four years out, they paid for the scales and it's still going up, it doesn't seem right. Alton said John had told him they should plan for the 4% instead of 3%. Martha wondered if it had anything to do with the fact that a certain amount of recyclables are no longer recyclable. Alton said that had been a big problem. Dan said an explanation would be nice on the reasoning of the increase. Alton asked when the transfer station meetings were starting again. Martha said last she had heard was Bob Butler asking if we [Cushing] had representation, she wondered if maybe they were still waiting on Friendship. Martha said she would call Bob and ask. Alton said that's a good idea to get that rolling, then maybe find out about the 4%. Dan said he would go to a meeting sometime too.

### **5c. Budget Meeting**

**ACTION:** none

**Discussion:** Dan asked if a date should be set to meet with the Budget Committee. Laurie asked when it needs to be done by, Lisa said soon. Dan suggested next Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Lisa said town report goes to print February 10<sup>th</sup>. Dan said it would have to be the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 8<sup>th</sup> then, let's try for the 1<sup>st</sup> first. Laurie suggested 8:00 am. Dan said yes, as long as everyone else agrees. Dan said he will call the Budget Committee members.

## 5d. Claybrook Landscaping

**ACTION:** none

**Discussion:** Martha mentioned Claybrook Landscaping and that we were going to see if the police could deliver that letter. Lisa said yes, they're going to do it, there was just a couple things and it's ready to go. She said it was going to go today but then she had looked at the envelope and noticed it said unclaimed with the dates, but then had a sticker that said no receptacle so she checked with the Post Office and Jana [mail lady] to be sure it had been out for delivery. She said Jana confirmed it had gone out, and she didn't know why someone put that other sticker on there. Lisa said it was going out to civil services tomorrow, and there was a charge. Dan thought the charge was around \$30, Lisa didn't dare to say for sure. Alton asked why there is a fee when that's what the Town pays for services for, Lisa agreed adding we pay over \$300,000 for the year. Dan agreed and thought that was a good question and should be asked why there's a fee when we use the services we pay for.

## 6. Unfinished Business:

### 6a. Stones Point Fence protocol

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Alton commented we do this every week now. Dan said no, this was no reflection on him. He said Corey questioned but a few years back there was a policy that anything under \$1000 didn't need to be put out to bid, he said his only thing was if it's under \$1000 none of them can do the work without checking with the Board, but other than that it was his understanding you can do the work. Dan said another reason for the policy was so that if something had to be fixed in a hurry, there wouldn't be time to put it out to bid, adding it costs money to put in the paper, too. Dan said that's why he talked to Larry Miller about it and didn't see a reason why he couldn't do it for that price. Dan said he thought it was going to be a \$14-1500 job, and Larry came in at half that. Corey said yes, but his only reason for bringing it up (adding he even went back and listened to the tape) was they agreed to get estimates and more information. He said that's how it was left and they just thought they were all gathering quotes, not out to bid, it just surprised him when they met again and it was done, Miller and Miller were doing it, and it had never come back to be discussed with the Board. Martha said she was also under the impression that it was going to be talked about too. She said she certainly agrees if it has to be done right away just get it done, but this doesn't have to be done right away, which this didn't, it seems it would be better to bring it in here. She said it isn't even that we might do the work without consulting anyone, it's also that we might toss the work to a buddy rather than checking to see who the best person might be. She said not that that's what happened, but people might get that impression if we're not talking about it. She said it creates an opportunity for people to criticize us. Dan said it could, but he didn't feel in this situation it did. He said most of the time you can do that but there are situations you can't, and this is the reason the window was kept so low, \$1000 in repairs is low and not worth putting out to bid. He added he doesn't distrust one person on this Board to get a buddy to do it, he added Corey got an estimate that was double the one he got. Martha added she doesn't distrust anyone either. Dan said if you'd prefer in time to discuss it, we can do that, but that's not the way it was set up originally. Martha said she didn't know how it was set up originally. Dan said there really was no policy written down, one of the mistakes they do a lot of, they come up with ideas but don't always write policies. Laurie said when there is time to discuss it, we should. Corey said if it's an emergency, then whatever, we're all in Town, call an emergency meeting and get everyone involved. Corey said he's just talking about in general moving forward, everyone should be involved in the decision or at least notified. Dan said a policy should be written. Alton said he has a couple examples he made decisions on his own and maybe he did the wrong thing. He continued to say Lisa called him one morning around 5, the boiler room was half full of water, he said he got it taken care of but he didn't call everybody. Another time he said he came in and the well

didn't work, do you call everyone, or just find someone to fix it, what are you going to do, it needs to be fixed. Martha said those are extreme situations. Alton said it's just the point, what do you do, call everybody or get it fixed. Dan agreed he was just clarifying where do you draw the line. Corey said you all know what he means, it's a Board of five making decisions amongst us, you don't call the three people you know will give you the answer you want while the other two are sitting there twiddling their thumbs, you know what I'm talking about. Dan took the blame back to himself about the fence, he said he felt he did the right thing about how it was set up originally. He added he doesn't think there's always going to be a time you can get a hold of everybody, and special meetings cost money with advertising, but he agreed to keep it in mind moving forward. Laurie said Dan was going by what they remember being put into effect, she said if they want to change to how Corey and Martha see it, it should be put in writing as some kind of a policy so everyone is on the same page. Martha said she would be happy to write something up, not that it would be the final word but to give everyone a place to start. She said she will bring it to the next meeting or get it to them before so they can discuss it at the next meeting.

## **5b. Oldest male in Cushing (Boston Cane)**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Lisa said they were waiting for Dan to get back because he was going to ask Thomaston how they did it. Dan said he didn't do it. Lisa said it will be on the agenda again next time unless they want to just do it as they've always done it. Dan said if he thinks of it he'll ask Thomaston. Alton added they lost the actual cane years ago, now it's just a certificate.

## **7. New Business:**

### **7a. Animal Control Officer application**

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Laurie Haynes, to hire Kendra Hubbard as the new Animal Control Officer

**Discussion:** Lisa said they received an application and a copy was in everyone's folder. Dan asked if she was the only applicant, and if it was advertised. Lisa said yes, so far she is, and it was posted, put on the email and Sami had put it on the Cushing Facebook group, and that there was a write up in the paper on Bill Demmons so they didn't have to post it there. Dan asked how long they had to wait. Martha asked when Bill was done, Lisa said the 31<sup>st</sup> [January]. Laurie said we need to get someone in there, they need education too. Lisa said they have up to six months to get the education after being appointed. Dan said we don't meet again until the 10<sup>th</sup> of February, Laurie said it needs to get taken care of. Martha added she has lots of experience at the Pope Memorial, so she knows animals and has something to offer. Martha added that for the record, she does have experience and we aren't taking her because she is the only applicant. Dan said he read that also and it's amazing she has 29 years of volunteering, has done it since she was in school. Lisa said she will have an appointment sheet that needs to be signed. Alton added she was also a vet assistant. Laurie suggested getting it set up as quickly as possible.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

### **7b. Review two requests to use the Cushing Community Center for a birthday party and a Cushing Library event**

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Laurie Haynes made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to approve the use of the Cushing Community Center for the birthday party from Sarah Hiller and the Library event from Debby Kraft

**Discussion:** Dan said it is in use Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup>, for the oyster talk, Lisa said he wanted the Selectman room. Laurie asked if the dates were open and if they both had insurance. Lisa said yes, she added the Library has their own insurance and they just use the room for overflow, and that the birthday party had given the proof of insurance.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

#### **7c. 2020 Spirit of America Foundation award recipient**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Martha said she asked for this to be put on because she didn't know if they had anybody in mind for this year. She thought last year was the first time they had done it. She said they have until June 30<sup>th</sup> to get the information to them about who they've chosen. Martha said it would be good to choose somebody early so it can be announced at Town Meeting if they are going to do it. She asked if anybody had any thoughts but added we don't have to do it at all either. She continued to say we do have a Selectman who's been on the Board for over 30 years and another person who has been on many committee's over the years just for starters. Dan thought it would be good to have some time to think on it. Martha said there isn't a lot of time if we are going to do something for it at Town Meeting. Dan said there are a couple more meetings and Laurie suggested adding it to the next agenda.

**8. Comments from Citizens: none**

#### **9. Adjourn**

**ACTION:** Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones  
Recording Secretary