

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
May 11, 2020
via ZOOM Video Conference due to COVID-19

Selectmen Present: Chair Alton Grover; Selectmen Dan Staples, Craig Currie, Corey Jones, and Martha Marchut

Selectmen Absent: none

Staff Present: Town Clerk Lisa Young

Public Present: Debra Morgan & Jason Ward

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 Corey Jones, to approve 2020 Warrants 67 and 69.

Discussion: Lisa noted there was a glitch with the computer software program and that's why there is no 68

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Review and approve the minutes of the April 27, 2020 2020 meeting

ACTION: Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2020 meeting as written

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. Road Erosion

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig asked if and who we have for a DOT contact if we have issues with one of the roads that was paved. He said on Cross Road there is a lot of run off that is starting to go underneath the asphalt. He said it's also starting to happen down on the end of Pleasant Point. He feels they just need to come back and put some more gravel on the edge, so we don't lose the nice, new asphalt. Alton said there is a number for them and if Craig wants to show him where, Alton can get the DOT foreman in Waldoboro to come take a look. Dan thought he knew where he meant on Pleasant Point saying down

near Makie's driveway to the pond, it washes away with hard rains. Alton and Craig agreed to get together and take a look at the areas.

6. Unfinished Business

6a. Killeran Lane Cemetery Repairs

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton asked where we were at with the fence repairs at the cemetery on Killeran Lane. Lisa said Bob Weisert has hired someone; she wasn't sure if it is finished yet or not but knows it is lined up. Dan asked if he is supposed to put it out to bid or bring it back to the Selectman before hiring someone. Lisa said she didn't know but said he told her he was supposed to report back and had someone who was going to fix some of the stones and the fence work with concrete. Corey asked if Laurie was a part of that towards the end of her term. Dan thought when he, Corey, and Alton looked at it they were going to get bids and go from there; he thinks they need an idea of what it will cost before moving ahead with repairs. Dan said he has a problem with Bob just hiring and wants to see a bid come back to the Board first. Martha suggested contacting Bob about. Craig said he could do that. Dan agreed, saying he doesn't want to face it blindly. Craig asked what the policy is as far how many bids to get. Alton said if someone can go in and fix it for under \$1000 they can just hire someone without bidding it. Martha added they [the Board] would still like to know before moving forward. Lisa said they will have to confirm with him about where it stands. Craig said he would talk to Bob and find out and noted they definitely don't want him to move ahead without approval. The Board agreed.

6b. Update on plans to re-open the town office to the public

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to hire Miller & Miller to put a Lexan barrier at the front desk

Discussion: Alton updated the Board on prices he got for the glass window barrier. Pen Bay Glass safety glass window was \$640, plexiglass was \$765, and Lexan is \$865. He said a price for Lexan from Miller and Miller was \$645. Martha asked what Lexan is. Alton answered its 4-5 times stronger than plexiglass and is used a lot at the prison. Dan added that plexiglass gets scarred up easy and can't be cleaned, this Lexan can and is a lot better than plexiglass. Corey said where Miller and Miller did the window, it would make sense to have them do it anyway. Martha asked if Lexan is better than safety glass. Dan answered he thinks it's just as good. Alton said he talked to Larry Miller about putting it in and he suggested he would put it in so you can leave it there if you want to, but would be easy to take out if you wanted to, too. Larry said he was concerned it could make for a voice barrier and might want to be removed at some time down the road. Corey asked if he would leave an 8" gap at the bottom to pass papers through. Alton said Larry said 6". Alton suggested trying it as is with the 6" gap at the bottom and go from there. Craig agreed adding the gap at the bottom might help with sound and work fine. Lisa also wanted to make sure the Board all saw the tentative re-opening surveys from other towns. Craig said Thomaston and Rockland were both planning to open June 1 unless something happened before then. Martha said it seems that's when many towns seem to be opening and added we certainly wouldn't do it before then. She wondered if we would even want to do it at that point and said a big part of that depends on if we have the Lexan installed by then. Alton thought the window should be put in just as soon as possible. Martha said assuming we might open by June 1 there are other decisions to be made and things to get in place before then. She thought maybe Janet Mills would have input on it, but she hasn't said anything yet. Martha also suggested maybe a workshop before then. Lisa said we need to figure out if it'll be by appointment or how; adding that if we need to follow social distancing having even two customers inside at one time will be tricky. Martha said if the public will be required to wear masks, we may need to provide those and we will also need adequate cleaning supplies. Corey suggested maybe having Terry come in more often and sanitize direct touch areas. Dan said you can put a sign that

says one at a time, when one person comes out, another can go in. Martha said by appointment would save wait times. Dan said in a perfect world she's right, but we are a public entity and thinks that would be hard. Lisa said as of now we are still waiting on everyone; it's in a different way but we aren't turning anyone away. Corey said if things open and numbers climb, we'll be in a worse boat and it won't matter but hopes that won't happen. Martha asked what is next. Dan said wait for the window and go from there; he said if we aren't opening until June 1 we can talk about it all at the next meeting on the 26th. Lisa asked the Board to buy supplies such a Clorox cleaning wipes and toilet paper if they see excess while they are out, as they have been hard to order for the office. Lisa said she would talk to Andy about masks. Dan said we're still three weeks away and don't know what will happen by the 1st of June or if masks will still be required by then; he suggested waiting to see. Martha said it's not just about State requirements but what we feel makes us comfortable, adding Lisa and the other two women have some say as they are the ones being put in a vulnerable position. Dan thought everyone should think about some ideas and talk about it on the 26th, at the next meeting.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7. New Business

7a. Sand/Salt Bids

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to accept New England Salt for the salt bid for \$48.48 per ton and Donald Meklin & Sons for the sand bid for \$12 per yard which will include the use of their dozer

Discussion: Salt Bids Received: Morton Salt \$51.50 p/ton, New England Salt Co \$48.48 p/ton, Harcros Chemicals \$59.75 p/ton, Eastern Salt Co \$73.9 p/ton. Sand Bids Received: D.R. Flagg & Son \$12.50 p/yard, George Hall \$15.75 p/yard, Jake Barbour \$12.90 p/yard. Dan said everyone should have the bids Lisa gave out and suggested sticking with the same two people as last year, New England Salt and Meklins. Corey asked how much were Meklins. Dan said 50 cents cheaper than everyone he thought. Lisa said she didn't have them on her list. Alton said he wouldn't be, he just got it this morning. He informed the Board Meklin would deliver sand for \$12 p/yard. Dan added they are right in town, and we've been pleased with them and had no problems the last couple years. Alton added they let us use their dozer too so that's handy.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7b. Heating Oil Bid

ACTION: Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to accept the fuel bid from Maritime for \$1.88 per gallon

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7c. Cushing Community School request to use the Good Neighbor Park to place signs, balloons, etc. to honor and congratulate their 5th graders who will be moving on to middle school in the fall

ACTION: Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to approve CCS to use the GNP to honor and congratulate their 5th graders

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 4-0-1, Craig abstained

7d. MEMA Disaster Declaration DR-4522-COVID-19 Applicant Briefing

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Martha updated the Board from the meeting she listened in on. She said the initial period covered is January 20, 2020 and is open ended going on indefinitely. She said it's funding provided for up to 90% of what gets provided from the federal and state; applicant pays the 10%. She said it covers state and local government, tribal, and private non profits, which would include Fire, EMS, rescue, food, etc. From what she understood you must have at least \$3300 in costs in order to apply; it's strictly COVID related expenses, but they could be covered. She provided the follow website where you can listen to the meeting or watch a presentation on it; www.maine.gov/mema/grants/public-assistance-grant-program. She said you can also email maine.recovery@maine.gov to get any questions answered. Martha said she wasn't sure the town would have enough expenses, but projects such as the Lexan could be covered if she understood right. Martha said she wasn't positive it was the \$3300 and would want to double check on that threshold.

7e. Local road clean-up

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig said he asked this, he knows in the past he has seen crews out cleaning the roadsides and asked what is involved with that. Alton said this year they couldn't do it because the inmates are on lock down. He said in past years they have had 4-6 inmates and he and Dan have taken them along all town roadsides, but this year they can't get them and that's why it hasn't been done. Dan added in order to be able to take them you have to go over and do a 3-4 hour training at the prison.

7f. RSU 13 Zoom call with Peter Orne

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig wanted to give the Board a summary on the meeting he attended this week via Zoom in regards to the school budget. He said they [RSU 13] are hoping to get about \$550 thousand from the Federal Care Act due to the COVID-19 situation. He said that number is not for sure, but an estimate on what they think they will get. He added in a \$20 million budget that still won't go that far. He said their citizen budget meeting is scheduled for June 22 at Oceanside High School. He said they are trying to get a waiver for that meeting from the State but haven't heard back if they'll get that or not. He said the budget vote will definitely be on the July 14th election. Dan asked if they will hold the line on the budget because staff and students haven't been in the building for the past two and a half months, adding there should be a major savings on heat and lights and things like that but understood the staff is still getting paid. Craig said Peter was been told by Loren Andrews that they want a zero percent tax increase budget. He said they're still working out what exactly that means but they are worried that the State will have a \$1 billion shortfall on tax revenue this next year which is a big number for this State. He said with no restaurants and hotels bringing in tax revenue and income tax projected to be low, they are worried they'll lose a lot of aid from the State. He said that for the first time in many years it looks like Cushing will actually get some state aid this year though. They weren't sure on how much but said for the past few years Cushing hasn't gotten any. He said they are looking to reduce a number of things because they have some increases that they can't do anything about, but they are really trying to keep it as a zero-tax increase budget. He said if the State doesn't come through with what they have in the past that might turn into a problem. Dan thought in these hard times they may need to renegotiate some of the benefits. Craig said there was talk of that, adding they couldn't go into that because those are personnel and union issues, but he felt they were looking into everything. He said they don't have a board approved budget yet, that should come up in the next week or so but will then have to go to public meeting/vote. Dan said it won't happen this year but the State really needs to re-do the formula they use to reimburse

the towns because as long as we live on the coast we're going to get really hammered and there are other towns that get a lot more due to lower valuations. He said the formula itself just isn't fair the way it's been done, but that won't change this year.

7g. New E-Mail Addresses for Town Officials

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan thinks it's a little expensive and doesn't think it'll work out good for himself. Lisa said the reason it has been mentioned is so that Board members don't use their personal emails. You can view it at home but won't be your personal email doing town business adding it's a safety issue. Corey feels it should be set up that way as it's the legal way it should be done. Lisa said the Planning Board could also be on this. Corey said it doesn't need to be answered immediately, it's more so that when one person writes it goes to everyone. He added if there's an emergency you have to call everyone anyway, but it should be call everybody, and not just the three people you know will agree; he said it keeps everyone on the same page. Martha felt the cost of set up at 10 hours at \$55 per hour seemed reasonable. Lisa said that was a worst-case scenario too, as he isn't sure how long it'll take, then it'll be \$5 per user per month. Alton asked who pays that. Lisa answered the town. Alton asked how many users. Corey said there are five Selectman, and Lisa added Don suggests the office should go to the same. Craig asked if the office would be 1. Lisa wasn't sure, adding she has a roadrunner e-mail address now, while Sami and Danika have horrible e-mail addresses. She said when it switched out to Time Warner it went to ne.twcbc which is not user friendly to give out over the phone when needed. Martha said this would standardize things and that has some value. Dan said what Craig meant was is the office 1 account, or would Lisa, Sami, Danika, Scott, and Garnett all have one, making it 5 more users. Lisa assumed that's how it would be but said she would follow up with Don to confirm. Craig said he is surprised in this day and age you have to pay anything to have an email, as gmail and all of that is free. He added he can see the set-up cost but is surprised about the monthly fee. Lisa said she will ask why, wondering if there is more protection or storage of emails. Corey said the new ones are linked through maine.gov. Craig asked if those are controlled through Augusta. Corey thought it was tied in through it and why many towns use that, but he wasn't sure. Lisa said she could get more details and get these answers from Don.

8. Comments from Citizens: none

ACTION: Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary