

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
May 26, 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: 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 Corey Jones, to approve 2020 Warrants 70 and 71.

Discussion: Dan told the Board he had not signed the warrant due to a discrepancy he felt about one of the bills; he felt that signing meant he approved it and he didn't feel he should sign it when he didn't know if it should have been paid or not. He added he didn't have all of the information at the time, so he didn't sign it. Lisa said she had looked back from 2018-2019 and saw boots that had been purchased but not in that size; she said she could look back farther if they wanted her to. Martha asked if they [boot purchase] would have definitely gone through her [Lisa]. Alton said yes, if the Town had paid for them, they would have. Martha said she felt if they have looked back two years, maybe that's enough as much as she understands what Dan is saying. Dan said he understands, after she looked he probably could have signed it but he felt that feeling any discrepancy, if you sign the warrant it means you approve it, and he didn't feel comfortable doing that at the time. Alton said it had already been paid but understood it had been a question. Craig asked a couple questions, stating only because he is new. He asked what CCC on one CMP bill stood for. Lisa answered Cushing Community Center. Craig also asked about a phone bill made out to the Town of Cushing Select Board. Lisa said there is a phone for the Town Office, and one for the Fire Station. Craig said one bill was billed to the Board and he wondered if that was a phone for the Board only, adding it was for \$52. Lisa said that one should be for the Fire Station and added she will look into that.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Review and approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020 2020 meeting

ACTION: Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, 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. Information from Laticia at Emergency Management

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa informed the Board she spoke with Laticia at Emergency Management and she mentioned a County GIS Program. She was helping with ways to hold a Town Meeting. She said she can create a matrix with articles and information to be posted on the website, a program could be shown on a big screen or on people's own devices; giving help to Town's to get through with the way things are right now. Dan said he called MMA after checking in with a few different towns about the social distancing and limited space to hold a Town Meeting. Dan asked if you could have one for just voting residents rather than anyone being able to come take up space, MMA informed him no. They advised if you think a meeting with have more than 50 people, it would go against the Governor's orders at this time, too. MMA said by September hopefully things will change, and Town Meetings will be able to be held again at that point. Lisa asked if waiting until September, would be commit taxes with last year's budget numbers as they are usually committed before then. Dan said he didn't ask but added this year's budget to raise and appropriate is about \$28,000 less than last year. He suggested contacting MMA to ask that question. Corey asked if you tried to have a Town Meeting and more than 50 showed up, could you cancel it. Dan said if you feel there's going to be 50 or more, which there usually is, you should just wait to comply with the Governor's order. Dan added things could change between now and then too. Lisa asked about a drive up, could you have more than that in that way. Dan wasn't sure of a place to have a virtual meeting that could fit 60-70 cars. Martha asked about parking in two different locations since communication would be through phone. Dan said he wasn't sure. Craig said he would be happy to speak with Laticia about options. Dan suggested speaking with the MMA lawyers first to have everything in order and additional questions asked/answered. Martha mentioned the talk of a possible resurgence in the fall and felt it would be best to get it over with if possible. Dan said it's not just an issue to Cushing, it's a state-wide problem. Corey suggested 45 people in one location such as the gym, and another 45 at the fire station and have it video monitored like they do at some funeral homes. Lisa said you would need two clerks to count votes. Dan said that might work but could be trouble with a controversial article if a split vote were to happen. Lisa agreed to contact MMA to gather the requested information and the Board will go from there.

6. Unfinished Business

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

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa said Dan had suggested part of opening would be one person inside the office at a time, but also using the side window by the door to help wait on a second person or to guide people when it is okay to enter or when to wait. Dan said using that window, you can see everything and is a good way to control the flow of people. Lisa asked if you want to make entrances one way, in one door and out the other, or not. She added you don't know if you'll have any people waiting or not and added we may need to adjust it as we go. Martha said it would be easy to direct people to enter by the office and exit down towards the library. Lisa asked about requiring masks and sanitizing; possibly making Scott's meetings by appointment only. Lisa also said many other offices aren't letting the public use the restrooms. Lisa said the girls had talked about only two at a time, but taking turns you are all together anyway, so she felt it was possible to have all three together and keep the six feet apart. She added all girls feel safe and comfortable with that starting out and can be fine-tuned as it goes. Corey said he feels that is up to Lisa as she knows functions and how things go best in the office. Martha mentioned

Selectman being in the office during open hours, and suggested they keep waiting and visiting during closed hours; Lisa agreed adding three max in the office at a time. Craig said the face masks is a Governor order in public places right now and felt you could absolutely make that a rule. Martha agreed and added we could supply them for anyone who doesn't have one. Dan agreed it was up to Lisa and the office girls and what they feel comfortable with rather than being micromanaged on all the small details. Lisa said we will post signs to make customers aware of requirements. Lisa suggested beginning to try this and open on Monday, June 1. The Board agreed. Martha just wanted to be sure all the pieces can be in place by then, Lisa said she thinks so. Lisa also mentioned the 6 ft marking/spacing for people waiting. Dan felt outside for waiting would probably be a good idea but didn't feel it was necessary inside if we utilize the window to keep contact with customers. Lisa added we will need the 6 ft markings inside when it comes time for the election in July. She added we will need sneeze guards for the clerks during the election and asked if Miller and Miller would be able to construct those for three tables. Alton said he will have Larry check in with Lisa to see what she wants and thinks he can do something. Corey suggested something like we have at the window now but with fold out legs so you can store them and have them for re-use when needed.

6b. Update on E-Mail Addresses

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa told the Board the e-mails are \$5 per e-mail, and that it does include the storage in the cloud. Dan asked what is a cloud. Craig said it's basically storage that is rented from servers that are anywhere in the world so the data isn't kept in the computer, it's kept in multiple places. Lisa said the \$5 per e-mail per month is for hosting the email. Martha asked how many there would be. Dan answered about ten. Martha didn't think it sounded like that much. Corey felt it was simplifying so everyone would have the same e-mails. Lisa said it would be more than ten, because the Planning Board would have them too. She added he suggested everyone switching over if you do go ahead with it. Dan asked if we already have a server why do they charge us again. Craig said generally speaking e-mail is kept on different servers than those for general use but felt it was a good question. Craig said he would speak with Don about it, as he was still curious why there is a charge per user. Craig thought for a legal prospective it would be good for all of the Town email to be kept in a central location, and kept; adding that using personal emails things can be deleted so he felt for that aspect it seems worth it.

6c. Follow-up with Cemetery Chairman, Bob Weisert, on Killeran Lane Cemetery repair

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig said he spoke with Bob and he was waiting to get a couple more bids as of this Friday for the concrete and pipework. Craig said Bob brought up a good point wondering if where the tree went down on those sections of pipe, if the Town has any kind of insurance that would go in towards helping with the repairs. Craig said he wasn't sure about that, or deductibles or anything, but would bring it up with the Board to check. Craig said Bob is expecting it to be more than \$1000 and thought about the insurance possibly being an option to help. Dan suggested having Miller and Miller check it out and give a quote, too. Dan asked if the piping has to be put back, or could you repair the cement and put nylon rope or something instead of the piping and would look nice and might save some money. Alton mentioned galvanized chain. Dan said that can be costly too. Alton asked how long rope would last. Corey felt 5-8 years anyway; Dan thought even longer than that. Dan said he is just mentioned ideas to make it look good and keep repair costs down. Dan said he would get costs on rope and chain from Hamilton Marine.

7. New Business

7a. Seletman Workshop

ACTION: Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, May 30 at 9:00 a.m. in the Cushing Community Center Gymnasium

Discussion: Dan asked when would be a good day and added Martha would rather use the gym instead of the Selectman's Room. Alton suggested holding the next Selectman's meeting in person in the gym, too. Corey didn't see a problem with it. Dan and Craig agreed. Martha said they can give it a try; she added they're all starting to feel quarantine fatigue and cautioned to be careful of it. Martha asked what the workshop is planning to be about. Dan said there are a couple issues with the Fire Department, more information on the happening of the Town Meeting, and about the attorney. Dan added he and Corey went to the last Fire Department meeting and have some information to discuss. Alton suggested a Saturday morning workshop. The Board agreed. Lisa asked what to post for topics being discussed at workshop. Martha suggested issues connected with the ongoing Coronavirus requirements, adding she didn't know what the Fire Station issues were. Dan said that would cover everything.

7b. Attorney

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan asked to move this item to the upcoming workshop.

7c. New Mail

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Martha mentioned a few pieces of mail that has been received. One of which was from the Department of Marine Resources offering a program of funds available and wondered about applying for funds to put towards the property we are eventually hoping to acquire. Dan said he had Lisa forward that to Austin and was waiting to hear back from Austin about that. Another she mentioned was from MRC; she said it does not sound good. She added it is what it is, but it really sounds very worrisome that they are at a \$14.7 million loan coastal resources is looking for to continue operating property. Craig agreed that the tone of the letter didn't match the facts in the letter. Lisa added she sent the Board an email at the end of the day to do with the Transfer Station from Bob Butler. Craig said they basically want to charge some poundage for demolition debris. Martha said they have been talking about that. Dan asked if Martha had a meeting with the other group yet. Martha said the Transfer Station Committee has had one meeting and that's it. Dan said Ben Lash had an interesting take on the demolition and the different ways its being run over there. Dan added he was hoping Martha could get his perspective and hear his take on it. Martha said she would give him and Bob Butler each a call.

7d. Flags at cemeteries

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton said Gene Grant has been placing the flags at the Veteran stones in the cemeteries and felt the Board should send a Thank You card or letter. The Board agreed.

8. Comments from Citizens: none

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

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary