

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
June 22, 2020

Selectmen Present: Chair Alton Grover; Selectmen Dan Staples, Craig Currie, and Corey Jones were present while Martha Marchut joined by phone

Selectmen Absent: none

Staff Present: Town Clerk Lisa Young

Public Present: Clarence Flanders & Anthony Winchenbach

1. Call to Order: Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:15 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 74 and 75.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Review and approve the minutes of the June 8, 2020 2020 meeting

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2020 meeting as written

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. Library Storage

ACTION: Selectman approved letting the Library store children's table and chairs in the gym behind the large screen until they open

Discussion: Craig said Wendy Roberts from the library had asked to temporarily move a couple items from the kid's area and store in the gym until the full re-opening. He said they are beginning to open on July 1st but don't want kids in there at that point. Corey mentioned needing the space if Town Meeting happens, Craig said it could always be moved back if needed for extra space.

5b. Mowing

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to hire Ricky Parlin to mow the field next to the Pleasant View Cemetery

Discussion: Alton asked if they still want the guy to mow the field around the cemetery on Davis Point. Dan asked if there was money. Lisa said there will be after Town Meeting. Dan asked if you can still run off last year's budget numbers. Lisa said you can, it just takes a lot of time to enter it all and she doesn't want to do all that yet if it's going to change, but regardless of this year's numbers or last year's there will be enough.

5c. Transfer Station

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton said the place in Bangor has closed, but Fiberite is hoping to get a loan to get some money, but right now everything is going to Norridgewock. He said at the meeting the other night they talked about taking the charge off from iron because they are getting \$75 a ton paid to them. He said the company that gets tires, we have to pay \$3 for car tires and \$10 for truck and tractor tires. Martha said Fiberite they talked quite about how they got in such a financial downfall, they had a shortfall in revenue, a loss and delay in opening, the recycling market collapsed, and they had DEP delays with the permitting process. They said the pandemic also limited pulp sales to Canada. She added they are closed but are doing everything they can to not lose permits or licensing so they can re-open immediately after they get funding but added they can only do that for so long. She said MRC still has a valid contract with all of the towns, which she thinks means that if they try to get out of their relationship at this point, they could be at a breach of contract. Dan asked why after four years they still were waiting on the DEP permits. Martha said she wasn't sure but knew they had been working with them for quite a while. She said DEP can be slow, but she hadn't heard a reason to the question. Martha said they did stress that the technology is fine, they need to make it work financially, but the products are good. Alton added they will start weighing everything in July and said they are going up on the prison's rates; right now they pay \$120 per ton but it will go up to \$150 per ton.

5d. Junk Yard Permit

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa informed the Board they signed the junkyard permit for A & J Enterprises. She said Bryan was in and on the actual permit it has owners Leroy Firth and Bryan Marshall. She said he received the paperwork from the State but the A & J Enterprises Inc, Leroy has not kept up with the incorporation so Bryan was wondering if since his name is already on it can they change it to A & J Enterprises and Bryans Auto and Fender. Dan felt a new permit should be issued rather than adding a name onto something that's already been issued. Dan suggested putting it on the next agenda.

5e. Appeals Board Workshop

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa reminded the Board of the Appeals Board Workshop coming up this Thursday and said there are a couple technology issues going on. She said the lawyer wants to do it remotely and would like to be able to send a link and show a power point presentation. She said there is a screen, and Craig added the library has a projector, if someone had a laptop that could connect. Lisa said she sent an email to Brooke asking if he would mind using his laptop. Craig said if he says no, he does have a spare one at home they could use. Dan thought it was good doing it remotely, as it will save travel time on costs. Lisa said this is just by laws, electing officers, and training. Corey said moving forward if we are

going to try to get set up in doing these things virtually, or being able to join by phone, we should look into a set up of having all the technology available in the room. Dan said first thing would be the expense and if it's in the budget.

6. Unfinished Business

6a. E-mails

ACTION: Selectman Craig Currie made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to proceed with using town emails in lieu of the current email situation we have here now

Discussion: Craig said he and Lisa had coming up with some generic emails for the town positions, he said his question would be should there be one address for the whole Select Board and have it sent to all five members. Dan said his problem with that is now that they are meeting live, there's no sense to go back and forth on emails, any issues should be talked about in the meetings. Craig agreed the Board's discussions should be in the meeting setting, but the email is more for the towns people to get in touch with the Board if needed with any problems or suggestions, adding more people do like to email vs call. He said it would be more for information coming in vs information going out. Corey said his point was getting more used to the email system than the call system, adding sometimes you don't hear from people in between meetings, but then you come to a meeting and certain members know about things that others haven't heard anything about. He said he feels the call system is abused in this town and by sending emails, everyone knows what is going on if things need to be dealt with in between meetings. Craig said if email is something we want to proceed with Richard Provonchee can set it all up.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

6b. Assessor vacancy

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to appoint Charyl Matheson Assessor

Discussion: Lisa said it had been posted last week and there has been no other interest yet. Dan said Charyl was interested and would jump right in, with commitment coming up it should be filled.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

6c. BC Electric, Inc. annual service contract

ACTION: Clarence will ask Josh Spear if he would want to service the generator at the Fire Station

Discussion: Corey said the people he was going to have look at it and give a price weren't able to make it down with all of their own stuff going on. Dan said B C's price is in the price area, although they don't do much. Corey suggested the Town buying the parts and having someone like Josh Spear change it and check it over. Dan agreed he would be a good one, adding he was a heavy equipment maintenance man in the National Guard. Corey thought it would be nice to use someone local, and he is at the Fire Station anyway.

7. New Business

7a. Sign Warrant and Notice of Election RSU #13 District Budget referendum

ACTION: The Board signed

Discussion: Dan mentioned the increase is almost all due to spouse's benefit premiums, and he feels its too bad our budget goes up due to the school. He said he is all for doing for the teachers and stuff but feels many businesses only pay 50% of spouse's insurance, why do they need to keep 100% during these times.

7b. Discuss Town Meeting options

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to schedule an indoor Town Meeting on July 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion: Dan said he would like to have an indoor meeting with multiple rooms if needed. He felt anyone who attends that can't vote could be in the Selectman's room, and in the gym, he felt you could get 50 people in there with maintaining 6 ft distancing. Martha felt the problem would be if too many people came to accommodate between the two rooms. Dan felt you could add the Library if needed but didn't feel it would be an issue. Dan said South Thomaston is doing theirs right off, and Dan asked what happens if you end up over the 50, he said her response was have people sign a waiver and hope they don't get sued. Dan said he feels a lot of towns just want to get it over with. Martha asked about making the town meeting part of the referendum. Corey felt it would be a lot of work. Alton added the counting would take a long time. Lisa agreed and added the amount of time it would take people to vote going through all 55 warrant items. Martha asked how soon they are thinking of making this happen. Lisa said she would like to get the July 14 election over with first. Dan suggested a couple weeks after that, Tuesday the 28th of July, asking if that would be too soon. Lisa asked if any changes would be made to the Warrant, the Board said no. Lisa said it's not a problem then, they can sign it at the next meeting then it can be posted and can't be changed after that.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7c. Ambulance

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Corey said he had talked with Andy, and it was almost at the time where the radios were becoming insufficient, the analog is going to digital. He asked Clarence if the fire side of things were the same. Clarence said you can buy them beginning in September, it's a couple hundred per radio, adding you need to be able to maintain communication with Knox and necessary places/people. Corey said the radio in the ambulance now, after they switch, the current radio will not work, and added they have been having issues with it in between the driver and the back of the ambulance now. Alton asked when it happens, Clarence said it will start phasing out in September, but dispatch has already switched over, so sometimes you only hear half the conversation. He added by the first of the year it needs to be done, so many people are gearing up now rather than waiting until the last minute. Corey said Andy also was going to look at a 4-wheel drive ambulance that was going to be brought down to check out, adding it was the same deal as the Fire Truck they had looked at. Dan asked if \$225,000 was the price, Corey said yes for the 4-wheel drive. He added the 2-wheel drive was around \$218,000. Dan said they will have \$185,000 after town meeting as long as everything passes, so they would almost be there. Corey said the ambulance needs to be replaced every ten years. He said putting the budget numbers in every year that we do now, you would basically be where you'd need to be again ten years from now. He also added you may be able to do the remaining lease through our own bank and get the interest rate down. Corey just wanted to confirm the Board is okay with him looking at ambulances. Alton asked if the Town can vote to do a lease where you are voting ahead. Lisa assumed other towns must do it. Dan said he would call MMA and ask. Clarence asked if the discussion would be followed up, the Board agreed it would after Town Meeting.

7d. Plowing

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to put an ad for a snowplow driver in the paper

Discussion: Alton said he doesn't want to plow this upcoming season, he added the issues he has been having with sciatica and his knee, he isn't sure he'll be able to do it. He said thirty years ago, he said he would do it until they found someone, and he has been doing it ever since. He said he hates to say it, but he doesn't want to do it. Dan said it will have to be advertised early, and also mentioned the trucks were supposed to go over to get looked over this spring too, so that should happen soon. Alton asked who's going to do that, and put the sand in, and the mowing on the side of the road. Corey said this all kind of goes back to needing a road commissioner position to do all of this stuff moving forward. Alton asked if the advertising would be for one or two. Dan asked about Myron; Alton said he would ask him and find out if he wants to do it again or not. Dan agreed it would be nice to do it like Corey said, instead of having the Select Board do it, but added there wasn't money budgeted for it as it wasn't expected. He mentioned you might be able to do a special town meeting for it. Lisa asked about contracting it out like St. George does. Alton said they usually get so much a mile. Dan said they all should put their thinking caps on and come back with some ideas for the next meeting and added it should be advertised now. Craig suggested a salary being negotiated based on expertise and experience.

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)(A), for a personnel matter, at 7:40 p.m. A motion was made by Selectman Dan Staples and seconded by Alton Grover, to go into Executive Session.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Selectman Dan Staples motioned, seconded by Alton Grover, to enter back into the main meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary