

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Cushing Community Center
Minutes of Meeting
July 13, 2020

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: Judith Biscaia, Karin Strong, Jim Kalloch, Bryan Marshal, Leroy Firth

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 76, 77, and 78.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Review and approve the minutes of the June 22, 2020 2020 meeting

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2020 meeting with one change

Discussion: Martha found one typo on page 3, under the email paragraph about three lines down, the word since should be sense

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. Transfer Station

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Martha asked if Bob Butler had been informed about not having a meeting and approving the person they have to cover the landfill. Lisa said she would check; she wasn't told she was supposed to let him know. Martha said he had asked a while back, and added it was mostly for Alton. Alton said he did text him and said they were for George Hall. Martha also mentioned she attended a Special MRC Board Meeting via Zoom which they said would involve going into executive session. She added there

was nothing to report but might be of interest to know that they went into executive session for over an hour and came out saying there as nothing to report. She said they meet again on the 27th of this month.

5b. Fire Station Generator Servicing

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan said he did talk with Josh Spear about servicing the generator at the Fire Station and he is willing to do it. Dan said he will have to ask for a cost estimate, as he didn't think of that when he asked him.

5c. E-Mails

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig said he and Lisa met with Richard Provonchee and he was very helpful with setting up emails. Lisa said she hasn't switched anything yet, as the office has been busy with the election. Martha asked Craig if there was a fee to the email, he confirmed there is no charge on this.

5d. Town Trail

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig informed the Board that the Town Trail next to the school had been vandalized about a week or so ago. The signs that Gary and Ida Clarke had made have been ripped out, and numbered areas of interest for the kids have been smashed over and thrown around. Dan asked if it looked like ATVs had been out there. Craig said no it did not. Craig said it's not school property, it's Town property, so he wanted everyone to be aware of the senseless act. He added the amount of time Gary and Ida have donated to make the trail look great. Dan agreed it's a shame.

6. Unfinished Business

6a. Addition of business name, Bryan's Body and Fender, to the Automobile graveyard or junkyard permit issued to owners Leroy Firth and Bryan Marshall

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to approve adding Bryan's Body and Fender to the graveyard/junkyard permit to owners Leroy Firth and Bryan Marshall

Discussion: Bryan Marshall said he got the junkyard permit back when it was issued from the Town, he added he also needs a State permit so when he sent in all of the paperwork and information with his Bryan's Autobody name on it the State questioned why the town permit has A & J Inc. on it and who is that. Bryan said the guy was helpful and he told him the story and it is all fine as his name is on the permit as well, but the Town should also have his business name on it.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

6b. BC Electric, Inc. annual service contract

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: The Board will discuss this next meeting after Dan gets estimate from Josh Spear for comparison

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7. New Business

7a. Jim Kalloch and snowplowing

ACTION: The Board will advertise

Discussion: Corey said he had Jim come in to talk so the Board has an idea of what to expect if the plowing has to take the direction of going out to bid. Dan said it has to first be advertised for drivers, adding in the past no one has been knocking doors down. Dan said after that it would have to go back out for a general bid. Jim said basically you take the miles for your town roads, and it's a price per mile. He said the Town provides the sand and salt. Corey said if you can't find drivers and it has to go back out to bid, waiting until last minute could be a problem. Jim said when he does South Thomaston, they agreed on a price in which he ended up buying their gear off them and using that. Jim said in St George he does include putting the sand up in the bid, can be town choice. Jim added when he takes it on, he is responsible for all repairs. He added Clark's Truck Center in Vermont is good for prices/values and knowing where you are at with current trucks/equipment. Jim said he is interested, and when you put it out to bid, he would bid, and you might be a couple others too. Dan thought about trying to get it in the paper end of the week. Corey asked realistically, how early Jim would want to know. He said he usually has it all figured by August, come October they are prepping and getting everything situated and ready. Corey asked if Alton has talked to Myron to see if he still plans on plowing again. Alton said he hasn't yet. Dan said you should put an ad out to advertise for a couple drivers, as well as for company's interested in contracting it out. He felt bids should be due no later than July 31st, and they could be opened the first meeting in August, on the 10th. Corey will write the bid for the contract to be advertised. The driver ad is already written to advertise again. Corey mentioned again that this might be the time to offer a full-time road commissioner to be in charge of the plowing and make the position worth it year-round. Alton asked where they would find all the work to keep someone busy. Corey said there is a lot that needs to be done; a lot of ditching that needs to be done, especially along Hathorne Point and by the food pantry where the rocks run across the road every time it rains hard. He said that's the only way to keep a driver. Dan agreed adding there used to be a lot of people just looking for winter jobs but now you don't seem to have those people anymore. Martha added a good reason to go with a contract bid so it is the company's problem to have help, not the towns. She asked if a full-time person would have that many hours of work. Alton said not really, it depends on the week, you could have 2-3, or you could have 30-40. Corey added you are on call and as soon as the snow starts, you go out and sand, there's no waiting, it doesn't matter what time of day or what you're in the middle of. He added Thanksgiving, you plan on going to dinner with your family, it snows, you end up driving around in the truck all day; he feels despite the number of hours worked, that on call is worth something. He added it isn't for anybody, and the young generation won't do it.

7b. Cushing Historical Society Arts in the Barn request to use the Good Neighbor Park

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to approve Cushing Historical Society Arts in the Barn request to use the Good Neighbor Park

Discussion: Judith spoke about how they had to stop the Art Shows in the Barn for the season due to Covid and all of the regulations. She said they would like to take advantage of Good Neighbor's Park and do tentatively 10-100 artists with a 20-foot spacing in between. She said they are requesting use of the Park for pop up art shows on the weekend; one day either Saturday or Sunday. She added they would

provide sanitization stations, trash area, porta potty, and parking would be used in the lot. Karin made arrangements with the new owners of the Fales store and that parking lot could be used for the artists parking. They said each artist would have a 10x10 area and be charged \$25 and after costs associated are paid, half of the profit would be donated to the Historical Society and the other half would be donated to the Good Neighbor Park. Judith said they are thinking this would happen sometime in August, they have not made arrangements prior to getting approval.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7c. Open Salt Pond Road culvert bids

ACTION: Selectman Corey Jones made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to accept the bid from Donald Meklin and Sons for \$5,500

Discussion: Bids were opened and read as the following: Wilson's \$6,050, New Harbor Marine Construction \$9,000, Donald Meklin & Sons \$5,500, and S.R. Griffin \$6,850.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7d. Fire Station wall repair

ACTION: The Board will put this out to bid

Discussion: Alton said Lewis was supposed to give an estimate of what it will cost to repair the wall, he said in the meantime he fixed something else and put the two together and billed Lisa. Alton added it is all straightened out now, but they need to decide what to do with the wall that had a water leak. Alton thought they were going to take the wall out and replace it. Alton said the estimate was \$1,250. Dan said being over \$1,000 it needs to go out to bid. Dan said he will talk to Clarence to have him write up the bid.

7e. Sign July 28, 2020 Town Meeting Warrant and discuss logistics of the Meeting

ACTION: Warrant was signed

Discussion: The Board discussed rather they will need to find sound equipment in case they need to add a room for overflow that will need to hear. Craig said most have been half usual amount, he felt South Thomaston may have had their better turn out only because so many people wanted to see the airplane hanger it was held in. Dan said the gym can be limited to voting members only. Dan said he will go see Ray Sisk about sound equipment.

7f. Sign service agreement to allow debit/credit cards on Rapid Renewal

ACTION: Selectman Corey Jones made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to approve and sign the service agreement to all the use of debit and credit cards on Rapid Renewal

Discussion: Lisa said this is through maine.gov, she said we've had rapid renewal for a long time, and she thought when we began accepting credit/debit cards it would be automatic to accept them online as well, but it wasn't. She said right now for online renewals it still has to go through as an electronic bank charge and we've had requests to be able to use credit cards instead.

7g. Sand Bid

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Corey added that he had returned a call to the guy that had won the Knox County Sand Bid after he had called the office a couple times. Corey said he was pretty fiery because he knew that Meklin's had not submitted a bid and he wonders how someone can win a sand bid when they don't submit a bid. Corey said a couple towns had done it to them, but other towns had bids and this guy knew Meklin hadn't submitted one. He said he now has 4,000 yards of sand sold out of the 20,000 he put up. Dan said he should know that all towns have a right to accept or refuse any bid. Corey said that is exactly right, but we don't have a bid from Meklin's. Alton said this happened years ago and Alton asked MMA, and he was told he can pick out any bid you want it doesn't matter where it came from. Corey said but a verbal bid from a Selectman is a conflict of interest really. Dan said we all voted on it and he should have been discussed months ago if it was a problem, now Meklin has a signed contract so what do we do. Corey said it goes back to the bid process and said this guy could legally fight it. He said it just goes back to what he has been trying to push forward about doing things the right way, so that nothing looks shady. Dan said he sees his point and is glad he brought it up, adding if things are done wrong, they want to be corrected. Dan said calling things not done properly sounds better than shady, adding he doesn't feel he's ever been shady. He also added that obviously no one on the Board wants to do anything that is illegal. ; Martha said we would not have made the exception that we made if it had not been somebody that we knew, and that gives an appearance or impropriety. Corey said the Board should consider doing a workshop with Kristen, adding that when he heard the stuff she said at the Appeals Board Workshop applies to us too and feels somethings have been lost grip with; he said it would be better with her in person than over a screen. Dan agreed adding he's been to several Elected Official Workshops and he always learns/takes something new away from it.

8. Comments from Citizens: none

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary