

**TOWN OF CUSHING**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Minutes of Meeting  
Monday, December 14, 2020  
via ZOOM Video Conference due to COVID-19

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

**Selectmen Absent:** Daniel Staples

**Staff Present:** Town Clerk Lisa Young

**Public Present:** Casey Taber, Stephanie Leclerc, Julie Crane, Jennifer Corbett, Margaret Troost, and Susan Lewis

**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 Corey Jones made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to approve 2020 Warrants 99 and 100.

**Discussion:** none

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

**4. Review and approve the minutes of the November 23, 2020 meeting and the Emergency Meeting on December 3, 2020**

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2020 meeting with one typo change

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 Emergency Meeting as written

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

**Discussion:** Martha noted one typo on the November 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes; on page 4 under 6c, the 3<sup>rd</sup> line up from the bottom of discussion the word mean should be meet.

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

## 5a. MRC annual meeting

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Martha wanted to inform the Board that on Wednesday there will be the annual meeting of the MRC and after that meeting there will be a special Board Meeting where it looks like they might vote on a possible new owner for the empty facility. Martha said she was going to join virtually if she could.

## 6. Unfinished Business

### 6a. Town road speed limit

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Alton said he's been talking to one of the inspectors and the guy in Augusta does know he's supposed to come down and he keeps saying he is going to. Alton said it's slow, but it is in the process

### 6b. Killeran Lane culvert

**ACTION:**

**Discussion:** Alton asked if everyone had looked at the culvert. They all have. Corey was thinking maybe they should do some preventative maintenance and replace the culvert. He added they could do one a year as preventative maintenance here and there. Alton asked if he saw a problem with the culvert. Corey said yeah but the water is still flowing through it. Alton said he saw a State Inspector the other day and asked him what he would do; he answered Alton that if there are no holes in the top or sides that allow gravel to go in and it isn't bent up on the end to restrict water flow then he wouldn't touch it. Alton said that's what the State does but not necessarily what we have to do. Craig agreed that he didn't see an issue with water flow but wasn't sure about preventative maintenance. Alton thought if you put a little gravel on top of it; Craig agreed saying he noticed the culvert was exposed on the top. Alton said if you cover the culvert that's exposed, put some gravel over it and it would be good for another year or so until it starts leaking gravel then it would be a problem. Martha asked about putting a layer of gravel over it and asked if that would kind of lump up the driveway. Alton said the homeowner did that himself last year but thought we could go put a little more if the Board agreed. Corey asked if doing that is more of the homeowner thing adding dirt to the end of a driveway. Corey felt the end of the driveway is only our responsibility if we replace the culvert, as for maintenance to a driveway is more on the homeowner. Alton agreed. Martha asked if the homeowner just adds dirt, will the ridge create problems for the homeowner. Alton didn't think so and said it would have to be spread some. Alton suggested re-looking at it in the spring. The Board agreed.

### 6c. Town plow truck

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to have Corey Jones steam clean and spray snowplow truck with rust retardant that he uses on his own trucks.

**Discussion:** Corey said he was getting ready to do the plow truck he uses at his job and he would clean the town snowplow truck up and spray the frame with the additive to get it back in the garage if the Board is in agreement. Corey said it wouldn't be fluid film, it would be something else that is equivalent. He said he has the stuff and has to do his own anyway so didn't mind doing the town truck, too. Martha asked if that takes care of all the things that needed to be done. Alton said it wouldn't have a sticker, but it covers it for winter. The Board agreed to let Corey go ahead with it.

## **Motion Carried 3-0-1, Corey abstained**

### **6d. Schedule for budget workshop**

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to schedule the budget workshop for Saturday, January 9, 2021 at 8:00 am

**Discussion:** Craig said he put it on to try to get a date on the calendar. Alton said he looked it up last year and the budget meeting was February 10<sup>th</sup>. Lisa thought that seemed late. Craig asked if that was the final meeting with the budget committee and asked if the Selectman met before that. Alton said yes, they always meet before that so maybe they should meet sometime the first of February. Lisa suggested January because things need to go to the printer in February for Town Report. She said she always thought they met in January after Lisa got the numbers ready. Corey suggested sometime the first week of January, Lisa agreed. Alton asked about January 9<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday like they usually do. The Board agreed. Alton said they'd have to decide at a later date to decide how; if it would be zoom or in the gym. Craig agreed that can be decided as it's closer.

## **Motion Carried 4-0-0**

### **6e. Fire Station bathroom and account balance**

**ACTION:** Selectman Craig Currie made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to take funds from the Town Buildings Account to deal with the overdrawn Fire Station Operations Account of \$839.64 with the understanding that the Town will apply for reimbursement from the insurance company

**Discussion:** Alton said the account is overdrawn by about \$800. Alton said if the Board agrees they can take it out of the town buildings account. Corey said the plumber has been there today and asked if anyone knew about how much more it will cost. Alton wasn't sure if the plumbing was even done and suggested someone should find out for next meeting. Lisa clarified the reason it was overdrawn was due to a problem at the station and insurance money will be coming back. Craig asked if Scott had been involved. Alton said they got a permit for it from Scott and he will have to inspect it. Corey said he knew the electrician still had to go in and move some things around and add outlets.

## **Motion Carried 4-0-0**

## **7. New Business**

### **7a. Lovers Lane request**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Craig said in the new mail there was a card from someone on Lovers Lane who was proposing to make that lane into a town road. Alton said the card came from one person and wasn't directly to the Selectman; he said he was told it should have come from the association on Lovers Lane to get more people involved on what they want to do. Margaret Troost spoke up as a resident at 84 Lovers Lane and said as far as she understands there is no formal association. She said there is the front road which is paved and the back part which is not so there are two different road situations going on. Julie Crane, owner of 52 Lovers Lane said she is the first house when it turns to dirt, she said she is the one who wrote the note. Alton said there needs to be a request from more than one person. Julie said Susan Lewis also is an advocate for this project and Casey Taber and his wife are also in favor of the idea being entertained. Casey said they are certainly interested in the details of it. Alton asked how far out they would want to go as a town road. Margaret said they had heard that once upon a time the

road had one all the way through to Summer Rd. She added the gravel starts after the Homestead and goes all the way to the end where the Ames live. She said it falls upon those homeowners to maintain the road, plowing and replacing materials that get dug up and thrown aside. She said in the previous seasons they have pooled monies together to maintain the road. She said she had a quick opportunity to look at the Public Road Design and Construction Ordinance and thought it looked like quite a few things that the road would have to be qualified for in order for this to be a public road and she felt it seemed the expense would fall to the group of them on the road and they were not yet an association. She said it appears there are quite a few hoops to jump through in order to be qualified and considered a public road. Alton said yes, it would have to go by the road ordinance. Alton said if it was to even be started, they really need a formal letter to the Selectman from the people on the road. Corey asked Alton if he was correct that Lovers Lane would then have a 50ft right of way all the way down through. Alton confirmed yes, right from River Road. Corey just wanted to make sure the homeowners were aware that if this ever went through. Alton added there would also need to be a turn around at the end as stated in the ordinance. Jen Corbett asked if you needed to know who actually owns the road before it could go through, adding no one really knows who owns the road. Corey said it would have to be researched back through the deeds as it was split up. Martha asked if our assessor's agent could shed some light on that. Craig said he would have the deeds and the place to start. Casey Taber believed he, the Lewis's and the Homestead owned most of the road but said that would obviously need to be confirmed. Casey Taber asked who would be up to pay for it and said that would be a major factor in the deciding of moving forward. Alton said the owners of the road would have to pay to get it up to par for the Town to take over. Corey said there is a lot too it; you have to have an engineer, you have to have the core drilled to see if the material is up to spec. Casey felt there is no space for a 20 ft turnaround, Margaret agreed. The discussion continued with the understanding that there is a lot more studying that needs to be done before anything can move forward. Julie Crane said Susan Lewis is unable to join by audio for the zoom but added she has been in contact with a lawyer about the project. Alton suggested contacting Scott, the CEO, or the assessor's agent for any help if they want to look into moving forward. Lisa informed the citizens the ordinance is available online at the Town's website for more information on what it consists of and needs to follow, too. Julie read certain parts of the ordinance questioning parts; such as where it says something about if the implementation of the ordinances doesn't fit with what the need is then some of the rules can be adjusted to fit the needs. She said for instance if there's only three houses at the end there they don't need a 50ft right of way then it could be modified slightly. She said it's not like a public road people would need to come down to get to anything other than the houses at the end. Alton said if that becomes a Town road it is a public road; Corey added you wouldn't be able to stop it. Julie added it won't be a through street. Jen asked if then the bus would deliver kids to her home and would need a place to turn around after; Margaret added there is no place for that. She said she is not addressing Jen's situation, but adds if the turnaround must be at the end of the road and there is no place to do that then the point is almost moot to make it into a town road because one of the important requirements is the turn around and there is no place for it. Conversation of right of way and cost continued. Alton said there are many things that still need to be looked into before things can even get started and suggested the residents should start with Scott and Garnett before proceeding.

## **7b. Cemetery Turf Doctors quote**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Craig said in reaction with the massive damage caused by a flock of turkeys at Pleasant View Cemetery, Bob Weisert got a quote from Turf Doctors for \$965.11 to kill the grubs which would solve the turkey problem. Alton said the problem is the budget is under that amount already. Craig said his gut is to not do anything until Spring so felt it would be dealt with at the budget workshop in January. Craig said Bob got a discount from \$1100 to \$965 if they assure them, they will go ahead with it in the Spring. Alton said it really can't be assured until after the vote on the budget. Craig said he can pass that on to Bob. Corey felt they would most likely give the same price in the Spring when they can go ahead with it. Craig said it can't be guaranteed but could most likely still be honored.

### **7c. Update on County Budget**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Craig said last Thursday the County Commissioners made a final vote on the County budget and Cushing's portion is going up \$4,000 this year. He said the actual budget went up 7% but they were able to come up with some other funding, so it was a much less than 7% increase for the towns. Craig said St. George actually went down. Martha asked how they managed that, and Craig answered it's all in property valuations.

### **7d. Foreclosure Update**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Lisa said there are two pieces of property that have been foreclosed on. She said it is landlocked properties and the owners said they couldn't sell it, so they let it go. She said the parcels are Map 7 Lot 12 and Map 15 Lot 19. Alton said it will have to go through the bid process. Lisa said it also needs to go in the paper two times. Lisa said the owners said in order to sell it there are heirs associated and they didn't want to deal with it, but Lisa said we don't show that in our records. She said if we sell it that's why we always tell people to seek legal advice and do the quit claim deed for those situations. Lisa said our research to send to everybody we haven't seen that. Alton said we should have Garnett look at it and find out. Lisa said our system doesn't show heirs, just that the sister gave it to the brother. Lisa said she will follow up with Garnett and bring the information back to the next meeting.

### **7e. Annual Town Junkyard Permit at 9 Lion Lane**

**ACTION:** Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to grant the junkyard permit at 9 Lion Lane.

**Discussion:** Lisa said it's that time again and we found out a few years ago there doesn't need to be a public hearing if it's not a new establishment. She said this is just a renewal and there haven't been any complaints that she was aware of. Lisa said the document to sign will be in the new mail.

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

### **8. Comments from Citizens:**

### **9. Adjourn**

**ACTION:** Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to adjourn at 7:51 p.m.

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones  
Recording Secretary