

TOWN OF CUSHING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, January 11, 2021
via ZOOM Video Conference due to COVID-19

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

Selectmen Absent: Corey Jones

Staff Present: Town Clerk Lisa Young

Public Present: Nancy Grover, Clarence Flanders

1. Call to Order: Chair Alton Grover called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 Martha Marchut, to approve 2021 Warrants 1 and 3.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 4-0-0

4. Review and approve the minutes of the December 28, 2020 meeting

ACTION: Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2020 meeting as written

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 4-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. Fire Truck

ACTION:

Discussion: Dan said they had talked the last meeting about the fire department specs and having to have those in order to put it out to bid. He said the specs are 10-12 pages long; his question is if they put it out in the papers, could the ad have any interested bidder go to the Town of Cushing website for specs. Craig asked if you'd want them on the website or to just have interested bidders email Clarence or

Lisa for those specs. Dan said either of those would work, but it's too just to put out in an ad. Craig agreed. Martha said putting it on the website would be one less thing for Lisa to have to deal with. Craig also suggested maybe adding to an online bidding site. Dan felt that would be good too, might get some other places from New England. The Board agreed to upload the specs in pdf form on the Town website. Craig asked Clarence how many manufacturers manufacture the type of truck his specs cover. Clarence said at least a dozen throughout the country. Lisa asked if there aren't many places, can you just send proposals to companies that do it like we do when we are looking for an auditor or is it better to put it out in the paper for bids. Dan asked if we know any of the manufacturers. Clarence said if you search online you can find them. Craig noted the manufacturers all have dealers and he assumes they don't sell direct. Dan said Alton might in insight since he's bought a lot of trucks. Alton said the chassis are built specific for a fire truck. Dan said if we're going to do this, the first meeting in February to opens bids would be on the 8th which is about a month from now; can we put that out and say all bids must be in by February 8th. Lisa asked who was going to write it up. Craig asked if the specs were already written. Clarence said they are. Craig asked if these are someone's proprietary specs received from a specific company. Clarence said they are, but they didn't have names on them. Dan said the front page has the specs, then the rest are details, but you could use that front page to write ad then put the rest on the website. The discussion about the specs needed for the new truck and getting it out to bid continued. Craig felt the vast majority of this kind of business is done online now a days rather than the newspaper. The cost of posting ads in papers were talked to be pretty costly where emailing companies for interest/bids wouldn't be. The Board looked over the budget for the new truck and discussed costs for replacement. There is currently \$179,000 in the account now with the addition of \$25,000 coming from this year's budget. Dan asked if you can do a payment system on new trucks. Alton said in the past 30 years he knew of they had never financed and always had the money and bought out right so this will be new. Dan asked with a lease on a big vehicle how does it work, you obviously don't give it back at the end of the lease. Clarence said basically you just pay it over the 5- or 10-year lease plan. Dan said that could be done. Clarence added most of them you don't make your first payment until after the first year. He said the Greenwood company they had looked at; the first payment wasn't until after your first year. Dan asked if you could put some down, maybe you could get it a little cheaper. The Board decided to look into the manufacturer's and their regional distributors. Craig said if someone gets the specs together, he is happy to get them sent out to people for bid and on the website. Dan thought it should get done within the next week or so for bids to be returned by February 8th. He added if and when we do this, he feels it should be a secret ballot question on the Town Election in March, rather than just being a town meeting vote in case Covid is still around and keeps numbers down in meeting attendance. Lisa added ballots need to be available 30 days before election which would be February 12th at this point for the March election. Dan asked if opening bids on February 8th would be cutting it too close. Lisa said just asking the question about purchasing a new truck would be fine. Alton asked how you do it without having the money. Dan said it's a purchase lease. Alton said that would have to be written in the article that goes to the people. The Board agreed.

5b. Assessor's Agent Contract

ACTION: Selectman Craig Currie made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to have the Select Board put out to bid the contract for the Assessor's Agent that is coming up for renewal this spring.

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 4-0-0

6. Unfinished Business

6a. A question if the land located at Map 007 Lot 012 and Map 015 Lot 019 will have a minimum bid when it is put out to bid

ACTION: Selectman Craig Currie made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to put the land out to bid for a minimum bid of \$500.00 plus legal fees and back taxes.

ACTION: Selectman Craig Currie, seconded by Dan Staples, rescinded the first motion

ACTION: Selectman Craig Currie made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to put the land on Sandy Lane out to bid for a minimum of \$750.00 and the land off Killeran Lane for a minimum bid of \$500.00

Discussion: Dan asked what the back taxes on both pieces of property are. Lisa said for 2018 tax year one was about \$170 and one was about \$115. She added they also owe tax for 2019 and 2020. Lisa said we haven't foreclosed on many properties, but we normally didn't put minimum bids besides the one that was ocean frontage where we did put a minimum. Dan said he was just thinking of putting it out to bid as is because there's only a few people who might bid with land around it, otherwise it's useless. Alton asked if there would be a minimum adding he thought you'd at least want a \$500 minimum bid as the valuation is for \$7,350 on one and the other is \$3,400. Martha suggested trying the minimum and running it again if you don't get the minimum. Dan asked how much in legal fees it'll be. Lisa didn't think so as it's just a quitclaim deed. Martha said there will be the cost of the ad running it twice. Craig asked if it's legal to let the abutters know. Alton said he has some of them. Dan felt maybe take it a step farther and put the minimum bid plus the legal expenses and any back taxes. Lisa said there aren't legal fees, there is just the recording fee at the registry and the tax. Martha felt seeing a minimum bid plus legal fees plus back taxes might put her off as a bidder. She felt you would be better to guess what those would be all together and put the minimum bid of one single number. Lisa agreed that a single number sounded good to her, too.

Motion Carried 4-0-0

7. New Business

7a. Review, sign, and approve annual Policy Regarding Check Disbursement Prior to Expenditure of Warrant Approval

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded Alton Grover, to approve the Policy Regarding Check Disbursement Prior to Expenditure of Warrant Approval

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 4-0-0

7b. Review and accept Holidays for the 2021 year

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded Alton Grover, to approve the 2021 Holiday schedule

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 4-0-0

7c. Budget Meeting

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig asked the Board if they wanted him to go ahead and schedule another Zoom budget meetings for this Saturday. Dan said not at this time as it is an extremely busy time for Lisa getting all her 1099s and stuff out and there is plenty of time, so he suggested waiting 10 days or so. Dan felt there is plenty of time and the next meeting they should be able to get everything finalized, so the following meeting could be with the Budget Committee. Alton said he had got a quote of paving of \$65,000 to do Davis Point Rd and to fix the intersection of Hathorne Point Rd where is there is a big bump for some reason from the last time. He said that's not a bid, just a quote. Dan felt that was pretty good compared to what they've done in the past.

8. Comments from Citizens: Nancy Grover wanted to state that she is talking as a citizen and taxpayer and she is very tired of citizens telling her it's too bad Alton's health wouldn't let him be able to plow this year. She said she wants it on record, so the Board knows that is not what happened, and she thinks it is very unprofessional for a Board member to call and brag that he got him out of there. She said Alton has never done anything to warrant the way he has been treated in these matters of this year and she wants the people to check the 34 years he did it and what it cost and then hang on to their pocketbooks for the next three years. She said this is a very bad handling of this whole situation and very bad back biting from a Board member. She said she is very put out with the way this has been handled and she wants this talk to be addressed by the Board and that this is printed up in the minutes of the meeting so the citizens can read it. She then thanked the Board for their time.

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

Motion Carried 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary