

TOWN OF CUSHING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of Meeting  
Wednesday, January 6, 2021  
EMERGENCY MEETING  
via ZOOM Video Conference due to COVID-19

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

**Selectmen Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** Town Clerk Lisa Young

**Public Present:** Claus Metzner, Samantha Jones, and Marion

**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. New Business**

#### **3a. Discuss office schedule**

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to have Lisa stagger the office schedule starting Friday, January 8, 2021 until further notice

**Discussion:** Dan said Lisa wondered about staggering the schedule again like it had been done last spring. Lisa said she had spoken with Martha about some concerns about one of the office staff getting Covid or being in contact with someone with Covid and then coming in and the whole office would have to close due to the exposure. She thought because of that concern maybe they should think about doing something for a little bit. Martha said there is actually a lot more going on now than there was when we did this in the spring. Dan said Thomaston had someone test positive and they shut right down for a couple days and had a maintenance company come in and clean and they will be staggering their help now as well. Dan asked if Lisa made the schedule last time and can she figure out how to best make that work again. Lisa thought it worked out good last time they did it. Lisa asked Samantha if she felt it worked well last time. Samantha agreed it did. Martha asked about the public and how they should be handled. Lisa said her and Danika had discussed that a little today but felt with only allowing one person in at a time anyway it would be must better to allow them inside vs having to use the window in the cold or having to work through the outside door. Dan said a mask must be mandatory or no service. Lisa said there really hasn't been a problem having people wear them.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

#### **3b. Transfer Station monies**

**ACTION:** Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to approve transferring \$12,000 from the Transfer Station savings account to the Transfer Station expense account.

**Discussion:** Alton said there is a shortage in the Transfer Station account right now. He said he was studying the balance sheet and he thinks you can transfer from the savings to the expense account. Dan asked why we were short when we budgeted for it. Lisa said the problem is we are a calendar year, and they are a fiscal year so when we do our budget, we don't know what their increase is going to be until it happens. She added they give you an idea but sometimes the percentage goes up more than anticipated. Alton said when he had asked at our budget time, they weren't able to give a true figure but had said if we figured 4% we'd be close. Dan said they go from July to July, and we didn't have our town meeting until after July. Martha said our numbers were already together. Lisa confirmed that saying we had already had the warrant, and it had been approved. Dan asked how much we were over, Lisa said about \$11,000. Alton suggested moving \$12,000 to cover it all and have enough. Lisa said any extra would roll over to the next year. Dan asked why it went up so much, adding this was above and beyond the 4% increase. Martha said she would check into it and see what she can find out. Corey said he feels it's going to be one of those things that will creep up every year as they seem to be living above their means. Dan said before Corey had come on the Board, they [transfer station] had talked about how it was mostly commercial haulers in there and they were cheating the system, so the point of the new scales were that they were going to get the money they had been losing and that the scales would more than pay for themselves.

### **Motion Carried 5-0-0**

#### **3c. Table in gym**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Lisa said there is an old table in the gym that was left from the old school and that someone would like to have it if the Board would give it or they would pay for it. Lisa said it was a table we never purchased, it was left behind and she would love to get rid of it. Dan said he knew which table it was and it's not that great, go for it. Lisa added it's real low and meant for kids. Alton agreed to just give it to them.

#### **3d. Budget Workshop Zoom**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Craig just wanted to confirm; he had set up a Zoom meeting for Saturday's budget meeting and assumed everyone was okay with doing it via Zoom. Dan said his honest opinion is it's going to be a lot harder. Craig agreed it probably would be. Dan said sometimes to get figures together something they needed was in the other room, and sometimes they need Lisa to get stuff together. He acknowledged this is a strange year and Covid has messed a lot of things up but suggested getting a couple people willing to stay socially distanced but to get together Friday in the office and start to get things together before Saturday's meeting when they bring it back to the group. He said it doesn't have to be him, he just feels that will save a lot of time. Alton agreed, and thought a couple people could go in Friday so Lisa is there to help and get most of it together and have Lisa to help get it ready. Martha said if she remembers correctly that's typically how it had been done in the past; Alton and Danny gone in Friday with Lisa's help and the rest meet Saturday. Lisa said she will have packets of information and budget sheets together for each Board member. Dan said it was a suggestion and feels Alton and someone else could do it, and he doesn't need to do it. Corey said he couldn't do anything until Monday, he had to test and was on restriction until Monday. He felt whoever goes in should meet in the Selectman room though, so the office isn't full of people. Craig said he would do it but admitted he had never been through the process before. Corey said that's why they started doing it together; he said he pushed it so he as able to learn it and see what goes into it. Corey asked if Lisa would be alone Friday and able to have time to help; Alton said they can wait for her. Craig told Alton to give him a call when he's headed down to do it

and he would meet him here to do it with him. Alton said oh god I'd rather have Danny because he knows some of the figures, he [Craig] probably doesn't know anything about. Craig said exactly, I'm kind of a babe in the woods at this point. Alton said that's what he's afraid of. Corey said no better way to learn, jump right in, we'll correct you on Saturday. Craig said he was happy to do that. Alton asked what Danny thought. Dan said he was on budget committee for 13 years and when he first come on as a Selectman the Budget Committee would run the meetings and it would mess everything up because it was our [Selectman] budget. He said that's when it came from the State that the Budget Committee only approves or disapproves. He added a lot of things on this budget are going to have to go up, and a lot more will have to be drawn from the vehicle excise for the roads, and now the transfer station might have to change to raise and appropriate vs taking it from excise like we have in past. He added yes, I've done it for years and I do know it, but a lot could change this year. Alton felt Dan really should do it because he and Dan really know it all. He continued to say it isn't that it's not that he doesn't want the others to be involved; they'll bring it to them Saturday and they can do whatever they want to. Corey said that wasn't why he pushed to change it last year, it was so the other three can know how. Dan said he agreed with Corey, but again the Covid has changed a lot this year. Martha said when they go over it Saturday it's usually pretty quick, maybe if they could go slower and explain the figures a little better it would teach the three of us a little more too. Craig added they are starting early enough that if they have to continue another time there is time. Dan agreed and said he expects to do this the next two or three Saturdays. The talk continued and came to the decision that Alton and Dan would meet in the office Friday to begin the budget and the others would all join by Zoom on Saturday to go over it all.

**4. Comments from Citizens:** none

**5. Adjourn**

**ACTION:** Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Corey Jones, to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones  
Recording Secretary