

TOWN OF CUSHING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of Meeting  
Monday, April 12, 2021  
Cushing Community Center

**Selectmen Present:** Chairman Alton Grover; Selectmen Tracey Bally, Craig Currie, Dan Staples, and Martha Marchut

**Selectmen Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** Town Clerk Lisa Young

**Public Present:** Jennifer Benner, Erin Rodin, Jennifer Corbett, William N. Smith, Nancy Grover, Danika Poland, Corey Jones, Jason Ward, Cheryl Stackpole, and Jen Spear

**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 Martha Marchut, to approve 2021 Warrants 14 and 15.

**Discussion:** Tracey asked what Higgins is, Lisa answered it is the billing for the ambulance

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

**4. Review and approve the minutes of the March 22, 2021 meeting**

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded Dan Staples, to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2021 meeting with one change

**Discussion:** Martha noted one correction, on page 4, 5<sup>th</sup> line down, it says because they are sick; Martha said to add with Covid-19

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

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

**6. Unfinished Business:**

**6a. Establishing Term Limits for Selectmen seats**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Dan said he is not for this, he said he read in the selectman's manual that a good board is a board that has some new members and some seasoned members so the board isn't always reinventing the wheel with all new members. He mentioned they also make personal contacts over the years and in emergencies they can make some calls that others don't know about. He said this was also done hastily right after the last election and it's obvious that people didn't like the election results and it is easily directed at three people on the board. Corey Jones spoke up from audience and said he understood what Dan was saying but the whole point of it is for people not to be on there for twenty years. Dan said people are free to do what they want; he is just saying he doesn't support it. Nancy Grover spoke up and said they went through it when she was on the ambulance, she added it's the peoples right to vote and they vote for who they want, it's everybody's right to vote for whoever takes out papers. Corey agreed and said he felt that's what people were asking for, just adding it to the ballot and let the townspeople decide with their votes. Jen Corbett asked at what point the board is supposed to know everything. Lisa said she is asking how long it takes to be comfortable with how things are done. Alton said probably 5-6 years, you learn a lot of information on how things work. Jen Benner asked what happens when they move on and make no decision, does this continue on to unfinished business or is it done. Alton said there is nothing established so nothing to vote on. Dan said he gave his opinion and if someone wants to start a petition, they are free to do that.

#### **5b. Covid-19 Protocol**

**ACTION:** Selectwoman Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to approve the policy with Kristin's change

**Discussion:** Martha said the protocol was put together and Kristin did take a look at it with just a couple word changes.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

#### **5c. Town Meeting**

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, to hold the annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m. *The Board signed the Town Meeting Warrant*

**Discussion:** Dan said other towns are doing it and we should go ahead with the date we tentatively set up of April 27 and get it done. Dan said we could use the high school volunteers to help get everything set up. Craig asked if Mike Mayo is available, Dan said Lisa had checked.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

#### **5d. Outside steps coming out of the gym**

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to have Miller & Miller fix the steps

**Discussion:** Alton said Larry said the cement goes into the ground so taking them out will get into money, but he believes he can rebuild the ones that are there. He said the top step is 2.5" too low but he thinks he can revamp them and make them work. Lisa asked if they can be done before the RSU 13 election in June. Alton said he would ask. Dan didn't think it would take long the way he plans to do it.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

## 5e. Review winter maintenance agreement and costs

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to stay with J.K. Kalloch for the same price for the next two years

**Discussion:** Alton said he talked to Jim and he assumed it was two more years; he is willing to resign the last two years at the same price. Craig said the bid had been for three years, but the contract signed was only one year. Alton asked if all agreed to sign the next two. Craig asked if he would be willing to sign year to year, adding he hasn't done it during a bad winter. Dan said Jim has a lot of experience and other towns and parking lots. Craig felt it was smarter to do the two years, so the price doesn't go up after one year. He also clarified that it includes the Town buying the salt and sand. Alton said yes, the town gets those; he added they [JK Kalloch] have been great to work with. Craig said that brings up the question of what to do with the equipment the town owns. Alton said that's on the agenda

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

## 5f. Outside basketball court and hoops

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, to look into purchasing outside basketball hoops

*Motion amended to*

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, to add an article to the warrant to take \$5,000 out of excise tax to purchase two basketball systems

**Discussion:** Alton asked what wanted to be done, was it replace the posts and everything. Cheryl said she just gave the information on what they had done at the school to give a reference point. Tracey asked if there was anything at the school before they replaced or if they had just done new. Cheryl said there was a playground fiberglass type, but not like the actual hoop; she said they did need the full installation with cement and such. Cheryl said they had talked with other schools and the commercial grade were recommended. Alton asked if they were replacing posts and all or just hoops/backboards. Tracey said they're bolted to the posts so would need to be able to do that without ruining them. Dan said we really don't have a lot for the kids, and this would be for them. Cheryl said the one she is talking about is a whole system, new poles and everything. Dan said the current ones have been out there for many years and he feels this could be a onetime thing that would last years to come. Dan said to get money on the warrant it would have to be decided tonight; he asked if it's a onetime thing can it come from excise, so it doesn't need to be raised and appropriated. Jen Benner felt that even adults in town would enjoy the use, noting that they go to town and play and there is just nothing in town.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

## 5g. Volunteer work for Cushing high school students

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Dan said there were a couple questions answered and it says they would be covered as volunteers but not covered under workman's comp so basically just have them do "safer" duties under close supervision. Dan mentioned they also may be able to help out at the food pantry; also help town

meeting set up and cleaning parking lot. Jen Benner said kids need 50 hours and it is not as detailed as they make it out to be. She said her girls once stuffed envelopes with her mother in law for the rescue squad mailings, it's anything volunteering their time and not getting paid.

## 5h. Town Facebook page

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Jen Benner felt it was a good idea, many towns and businesses have Facebook pages, and aside from opinions on drama and issues, there are settings that can be set to avoid all of that. She said she feels everything is Facebook now, it's a great source to get information out quickly and to a lot of people. Tracey agreed. Dan said he talked to one town and they said it was a royal pain. Tracey said that's the good thing about it, you can start a page and delete a page; just because you start it, you don't have to keep it if it turns dirty or to be a pain. Jen said it's just information, there are no opinions, just facts/information. Tracey agreed and added you can post information and block commenting, so it is only information out, no opinions back. Martha felt maybe check with a couple other towns and bring it back to the next meeting. Craig said they're right, he said his question is who the gate keeper is, the one who has the right information in a timely matter. Lisa said she would pass it on to the girls. Danika said it would only be done in the office, not done at home, professionally in the office only. Corey said at the last meeting, Sami took comments made about it being only Lisa personal; he added she is the most professional worker you could have. He said if he has something to say, he's going to say it; she felt like comments made at the last meeting were to make her feel like there was an ulterior motive. He said we're two different people, like Lisa and Donny, I go straight to the source and she doesn't. He said he doesn't want he way he has acted or carried himself to give her any slack because he is his own person. Danika felt it shouldn't be put on Lisa; she added the board feels we [Sami & Danika] aren't capable with comments made the last meeting. Dan said if he directed comments the wrong way he didn't mean to, he said the concerns he had have already been answered and it was not meant directed at anyone, he just didn't understand. Jen Benner felt if it was a town page, it only makes sense to be run in the office by the office people; she said there is already a town message board for people who want to complain, but it is also used for a lot of good. Corey said there are a lot of people who live by that now, and pig roast and any of that stuff could be advertised on there. Jason Ward said there are other social media sites that can be used, such as LinkedIn, which has a higher level of formality. Craig said LinkedIn is another source but he's not sure town folk use that so it wouldn't necessarily solve the issue at hand. The board decided to discuss again at next meeting. Jen asked what more information they are looking to get. Martha said talk to other towns and get more feedback aside from just one that can't explain why it's a pain. Nick Smith said you can talk to ten more towns, but it kind of sounds like this town would like to see a Facebook page, where does that get us. Craig said if other towns say there is a liability issue then we would really need to understand that issue; if something like that were to come up.

## 5i. Appointments

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan staples made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to appoint Michael Roberts and Nathan Dinces to the Cushing Harbor Board

**Discussion:** Dan said no one else applied for these positions so they're going to appoint the two that had said they would serve. Dan said there are three people looking to serve on the Planning Board and one opening so they will hold interviews. He said last time they did interviews were staggered on a Saturday giving time for interview and then discussion. Dan asked if this Saturday would work. The Board agreed; Saturday morning 8:00 a.m.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

## **7. New Business:**

### **7a. Inquiry on putting a bench at the Good Neighbor Park**

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to approve placing a memorial bench, in memory of Daniel Spear, at the Good Neighbor Park

**Discussion:** Jen Spear said they were looking into a stainless-steel bench anchored with concrete, down on the edge near the ocean. She said it would be in memory of her brother Daniel Spear and Cole Merrifield had agreed to make it. Alton asked if she would like it placed right away. She said whenever would work is fine, she just wanted permission to place it out there.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

### **7b. Selectman Duties**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** The Board discussed the various committees and roles and who is in charge of supervising what. No major changes were made. Dan said he took a seminar on GA, Alton said he has taken a lot of them. He noted Dan took his on Zoom while he has done all his in person. Tracey asked if she can shadow some other things, Alton said he could take her with him on some stuff he does.

### **7c. Paving**

**ACTION:** Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to put out to bid Davis Point and the intersection of Hathorne Point and Pleasant Point Road

**Discussion:** Alton felt this needed to go out to bid asap. Lisa asked who would write up the specs. Alton said you could use the one from last year. Lisa said someone asked how they were going to fix the end of Hathorne, not just repave over it. Alton said they make a cut, he added he would make sure they do it right. Corey asked if the Town had ever considered doing a good apron at the end of Pine Ridge to keep rocks from spinning out in the middle of the road. Alton said that's a State road; but he feels it would be up to the homeowners in there to do that.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

### **7d. McCarter Point Rd**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Alton said there was a complaint that the plows damaged the road. He said the history behind it, after researching, it's not a town road. Alton said he and Dan looked at it and it wasn't that bad; he felt maybe he was just looking for free gravel. Alton said there were a couple potholes, but he didn't think it was too bad. Alton said if it's an issue in the future the snowplows can stop before they get down that far.

## 7e. Town Garage

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to lease the Town garage to Jim Kalloch for the summer months for \$500.00 a month (May – October)

**Discussion:** Alton said Jim Kalloch called and asked if he can use the garage for the summer for \$500 a month without the use of heat and lights. Dan felt it was a smart thing to make some money rather than let it just sit there. Dan also asked if he would go up in price when the plowing contract starts, Alton confirmed it would go back to \$800 a month during plowing when the heat and stuff is being used, too.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

## 7f. Sign Quitclaim Deeds for foreclosed properties

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Lisa said both buyers have come in to pay so this is the next step.

## 7g. Town Trucks

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to put the two Town trucks out to bid

*Motion amended to*

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples amended the motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to state that the funds for the sale will go into the winter maintenance account

**Discussion:** Dan said since we are signing a contract, he figures the trucks should go out to bid. Alton said Jim Kalloch is real interested in the blue one; he said we can't just sell it to you outright, it has to go out to bid. Dan asked if Alton will write spec sheets for the sale. He said he can.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

## 7h. Approve Septic Waste Disposal Facility Agreement

**ACTION:** Chairman Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, to accept the annual Septic Waste Disposal Facility agreement from Interstate Septic Systems, Inc.

**Discussion:** none

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

**8. Comments from Citizens:** Jen Corbett asked if the meetings could stream live for people that are unable to attend in person. Jen said prime example of if you had a Facebook, you could live feed and watch the whole thing right there, without being able to chime in. She said that would also be a great place to advertise trucks going out to bid to get it out to a big population of people. Craig said you could livestream meetings, he added you would need to get some equipment, but he feels it's absolutely

something worth looking into. He said he knows Camden, Rockport, and a lot of other Towns do it but he's not sure if it's two way like Zoom, or just a livestream to watch, one way. Someone asked if you could do Zoom; Craig said he is not sure thinking it could be hard to do a hybrid Zoom with in person and online. He said he just knows what other towns just do the livestream to watch, but isn't two way. Corey Jones said he was speaking on behalf of Sami as he was curious about it; he said she had spoke with Martha about a schedule change who had said she would talk to the board and get back to her. He said she then got an email from Dan which made her pretty upset. He said Sami waited quite a while to see if the rest of the board would reply, they never did. He said she then wrote back asking for others input and still has not got any other responses. He said he finds it very unprofessional that you can't take the time to write an email to respond to one of your office helpers. She explained how hours would be met and worked out, asking for help to give time to raise kids. He said he is just curious, this executive session coming up; if it has to do with the email, why isn't it on there because he's pretty sure it has to do with that. Dan said you all know, I don't like email, but we've had it and different people put things on a few times a week, we were chastised for not responding so I waited before responding. He said he did not make this about Sami, he highlighted it was the position, he said I said in there I value her work, it's not about Sami it's about the position. He said the executive session, they just did a training, and they can put it on the agenda without needing to post a reason until you enter it at the meeting itself. He said it basically is about everybody's position in the office and what we perceive it to be as Board. He said if we have questions down the road, we can invite the office staff in. Danika said so you don't feel if it's about our positions we should be there. Dan said no, it's not about anybody's individual position. He said he checked with two different lawyers to be sure he dotted his I's and crossed his T's and that's all they are doing. Corey wondered why that couldn't be done in a workshop; he said with everything said between Sami and Martha and then the email, you don't like when I say it but this is the shady stuff I refer to; it's flat out shady. Dan said it's not; he said I am doing what you asked. You tell me to respond, then I respond, and you don't like what I respond, he said he doesn't know how else to do it. Jen Benner said if she has emailed the Selectman and has asked for a response, as if anyone did, why wouldn't you reply. Martha said we have an email policy where our lawyer has advised us, we shouldn't be doing town business on email, it should be done in a public meeting. Jen clarified then someone from in the office looking to make a change should come to a meeting and ask it in comments from citizens with everyone sitting here. Martha said she's not totally comfortable answering that because in her mind it should be confidential. Jen made the point that at least replying with the answer it can't be done via email is something that replies. Corey said you all know how I feel about email; it shouldn't be all the talk that goes on with cell phones. He added with lawyers, he should be able to ask to view that lawyer's question and response right now, and it should be able to be printed off and viewed because everybody takes laws different when you hear them. He said if everyone reads the same question and response, everyone is on the same page. Martha said there is a written email policy and it's clear that email use should be limited. Alton said he has a copy of Dan's email and it states these are my thoughts only, not the board's. Corey said we have three people in the office that are awesome, they work good together, and you hear it from people all around the community; he said he feels whoever works in the office is talked to, Lisa should be there too, together with a witness, instead of everyone getting spoken to separately. He said its Lisa's office and she's the overseer.

### **---Executive Session---**

The Select Board entered into Executive Session, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) at 7:40 p.m. A motion was made by Selectman Dan Staples and seconded by Tracey Bally, to go into Executive Session.

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

Selectman Dan Staples motioned, seconded by Craig Currie, to enter back into the main meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to do warrants and minutes, then go into executive session with all three clerical staff next meeting

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

## **9. Adjourn**

**ACTION:** Selectman Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

**Motion Carried 5-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones  
Recording Secretary