

TOWN OF CUSHING  
SELECT BOARD  
Minutes of Meeting  
Monday, November 22, 2021  
Cushing Community Center

**Selectmen Present:** Chairperson Alton Grover; Selectpeople Tracey Bally, Craig Currie, and Daniel Staples

**Selectmen Absent:** Martha Marchut

**Staff Present:** Town Clerk Lisa Young

**Public Present:** Cheryl Stackpole

**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:** Selectperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to approve 2021 Warrants 49 and 50

**Discussion:** none

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

**4. Review and approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021 meeting**

**ACTION:** Selectperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded Craig Currie, to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021 meeting as written

**Discussion:** none

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

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

**5a. Health Officer**

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Lisa informed the Board that Mariann Ahola has her given notice and will no longer continue to be the Health Officer as of March. Craig asked if the Health Officer has to live in the town to serve; he said if not he may have someone that would be interested in replacing her, but this person doesn't live in Cushing. Lisa said she would find out.

## 5b. Auditor

**ACTION:** Selectperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to schedule the annual audit, with Maine Municipal Audit Services, for January 19, 2022

**Discussion:** Lisa told the Board she has spoken with Mindy, the auditor. She said although we have a contract, and put it out to bid every few years, each year we still need a motion, and she would like to come this year on January 19<sup>th</sup> to do the annual audit.

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

## 6. Unfinished Business:

### 6a. ARPA funds

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Craig said he had sent an article to fellow board members about what Rockland is doing. Craig said to think about expenses, adding anything ambulance services uses can be used from those funds, too. He thought people could keep a running list of ideas that come up. He asked Lisa about a grant she had previously received. Lisa confirmed all the improvements to the gym for elections was done out of grant money and added that Andy had received a grant, too. Craig said anything in excess of that should be kept track of. He said repairs to Fire Station are also allowed because it houses the ambulance, as well as the Food Pantry. He said other than that he doesn't have any other information and other municipalities don't feel comfortable doing anything with the funds yet, either. Lisa said she is on a list serve and has received several e-mails about what other towns are using with the funds. Craig said towns have until 2026 to spend the funds but were asked to decide what you were going to spend it on by the end of 2024. Dan asked if Craig has heard anything after different towns wrote letters to the County. Craig clarified this money he was talking, was just the towns, but the County Commissioners in their last meeting basically said they are not doing this process anymore and will be turning to a regular budget process and now include the budget committee in addition to the three County Commissioners, themselves. Craig said they don't have to agree, the commissioners can override the budget committee, but the law is making them all be involved. Craig said Charles Grover from Thomaston is the budget representative for Cushing and Thomaston, but said they are in very early processes of it but are interested in town specific requests unlike the commissioners were. Craig said they had received some outside legal advice from a firm in Portland and straightened out how the process needs to be handled, and the town grants seem to be back in the running. Lisa asked about the big infrastructure bill that had just passed, and some of that going towards broadband. Craig confirmed. Lisa asked if we would then want to put money, we got towards that if we're going to be getting some of that. Craig said he heard there won't be anything done on broadband for at least a year, as they need to create a bureaucracy around it in Washington. Lisa asked if the tax relief Craig had once mentioned was out the window for sure or not. Craig said no, he hasn't heard that is out yet. He said definitely for the State money it is out, but not sure about the local funds. Dan said his thoughts on that, is it could be done for a onetime thing, but it would be better to take it and put it into something such as the Fire Station and you get years out of it.

### 6b. Trees on Killeran Lane

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Alton said he still hasn't received a call back after multiple attempts. He said he will stay on it for a price but has nothing yet.

## 6c. Servicing CCC Water System

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Alton informed the Board the water filter system in the Cushing Community Center needs to be serviced. Alton said Scott noticed while inspecting the new water tank, so he has that being done.

## 6d. Oil for GA Customers

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Alton said he might as well tell the episode he's had with Maritime that he finally got straightened out. He said they weren't going to deliver to a GA customer because that person wasn't a customer of Maritime. Alton said but they're not going to pay for it, we are. Alton asked if she was sure. The lady said that was what she was told. Alton said he later talked to someone else, and they were in a similar situation with Rockland and their GA people. He asked Chris at Maritime if that was true; he said no, but the girl did what he was told. Alton confirmed we can get oil from Maritime for GA customers, but it won't be for our contract price, it will be for the oil price at the time. Lisa said we always used to. Alton said he told the guy that, but he did say things are changing. Dan and Craig agreed to remember that next year when we go into a contract. Alton added if you order oil any day other than Wednesday (for emergency cases) they charge \$105 extra for bringing it to town of their off day.

## 7. New Business:

### 7a. Addressing Officer, Tom LeBlond, to address the Board to seek approval of a new driveway name

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** *Not discussed, did not need Board Approval for the private road*

### 7b. New Monitor for security system

**ACTION:** Selectperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded Alton Grover, to approve installing a new monitor for the security system

**Discussion:** Lisa said Mike from Pro Tech was here installing the updated cameras and he suggested updating the monitor for a better picture. Lisa said in suggesting the upgrade, he said getting a larger model that would hang above the window rather than sit on the small shelf would be best. Lisa said the cost would be between \$320-400 to upgrade. She said we do still have enough money in the account but wanted the Board's approval. Alton asked if it would be clearer. Lisa said yes, the new cameras do that, but the current monitor is one we've had since we got security, this would update that to a newer one that is larger.

## 7c. Food Pantry

**ACTION:** none taken

**Discussion:** Dan said everyone saw the letter (from the Food Pantry), but he said there are a few false statements in there that kind of upset him and made him look bad. He said the first one being that “the initial meeting was called by Selectman Dan Staples”; he said he went to the Food Pantry meeting; he didn’t call the meeting. He said the second thing was that the first thing he had said was that he was not there as a selectman, he was there as a private citizen to talk over the Food Pantry and things that were going on. He said the next thing was that they said they came to see the Board, he said that was the meeting he was in Florida and missed the meeting. He said during the summer he did ask MMA if we should be deeding it over to the Food Pantry or if we should bring it before the people at the Town Meeting. He said MMA agreed and said the town attorney should be involved. He said Lisa mentioned it could have been done in the fall election, but that wasn’t the discussion he had with the attorney, they had talked about doing it at Town Meeting. He said next the Food Pantry states in the letter that they want some stability. He said when he went to that meeting, he said it’s going to take some money to repair, the whole southern wall is in rough shape. He said they walked around the building and looked at the rot starting all around the building. He said they thought they hadn’t heard anything from us, but if a few meetings ago, he said he had asked MMA about using the Amish to update the building. Dan said it isn’t like it’s just been put on the back burner; it has been talked about in meetings. He said Rich Moody said they hadn’t heard though and asked if that stuff was posted. Dan said yes, it’s all posted. He said he admitted to Rich they hadn’t reached out to them, but it hasn’t been forgotten and has been talked about. He said during that meeting he had also mentioned fundraisers and stuff to raise money to fix the building or perhaps put up a new one and they (the Food Pantry) took that as they were going to be relocated. He said he never said anything about relocating, but now what did they do, they went out and purchased a new building and are relocating. He said it’s just the opposite of what he was thinking, he said they felt like they were going to get moved so they went and did it anyway. He said there are a lot of statements in the letter that really upset him. He said now they will go into a new building down in Friendship. Dan said he called and explained it all to Rich Moody, he said he agreed with some but not all of it. Rich had said he didn’t see the letter; Dan said his name was on it. Dan said he feels much of that letter isn’t true. Craig said he was surprised they moved that quickly without coming back to us. Tracey thought they knew we were going to get back to it in the fall after doing some research. Craig added there was also a serious legal question involved with handing the deed over, too. Alton said it would need to be voted on by townspeople. Dan said it also would have been written so if it came back, it would be in as equal shape as it was to begin, if not better. Lisa said she thought they were able to get grants if it was theirs. Tracey agreed she remembered that too, which was why they wanted it deeded over. Lisa said she did call, and Lisa had mentioned it, but wasn’t sure if anyone got back to her after they said they would. Craig mentioned the generator they just bought too. Alton said the generator, as of right now, isn’t going to be moved to Friendship because they’ll have power down there at the new place. Craig said his other worry is the location they are planning to move to, and the potential inconvenience of customers for the Food Pantry. Craig said we are kind of in between Friendship and other places people may go; he added to go to Friendship there aren’t really many reasons to travel through, you go there to go there, and he feels it could be an inconvenience for people from here to get there. Dan said there seems like there was a lot of planning, with lack of communication, he feels they aren’t getting the rest of the story. Craig mentioned the idea of having two locations, would we want this location for Cushing residents and that for Friendship. Tracey asked how many Cushing families use the Food Pantry, Craig answered a lot of families in the area that use it but wasn’t sure the division of each town. Cheryl Stackpole asked a couple questions for clarification; she asked if Cushing residents will still be able to use the new Food Pantry. The answer was yes, they are, it will still be for residents of both towns. She then asked what their thoughts were on the current building as they sound invested in it. Dan answered that building is the Town’s. Cheryl then asked the reason why we are combined with Friendship. Alton said at one time, back when Friendship was trying to get started, they didn’t have a place to go so he assumes someone in Cushing must have said let’s get together. Cheryl said she agrees with Craig, it could be an inconvenience, and added it’s also somewhat secluded as for someone feeling uneasy about going it’s not right front and center. Dan feels it’s going to be extremely inconvenient for the people of Cushing, too. Craig said he is happy to talk to them and see if a two-location option could work. Alton thought it could be worth a conversation since the generator and everything is already there. Cheryl

summarized we are basically stuck with an empty building; Craig agreed adding a not in great shape building, too. Tracey said it was one we finally figured out the funds to fix it, and now can we if the Food Pantry is no longer there. Craig said unless we find another use for it that would fit the parameters of the ARPA money.

**8. Comments from Citizens:** Cheryl updated the Board that the Christmas Shop for the school will not be happening this year as the teachers opted out and did not support the idea of hosting it here. She said we will still utilize the space on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> for the wreath's fundraiser. She said Sami is the one heading it up, and it will be us and maybe one other person sorting them out and people will drive up to pick up.

## **9. Adjourn**

**ACTION:** Chairperson Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

**Motion Carried 4-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones  
Recording Secretary