

TOWN OF CUSHING
SELECT BOARD
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, February 14, 2022
Cushing Community Center

Select Board Present: Chairperson Alton Grover; Selectpeople Martha Marchut, Craig Currie, Tracey Bally, and Daniel Staples

Select Board Absent: none

Staff Present: Town Clerk Lisa Young

Public Present: none

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 2022 Warrants 5 and 6

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Review and approve the minutes of the January 24, 2022 meeting

ACTION: Selectperson Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded Alton Grover, to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2022 meeting as amended

Discussion: Martha noted a couple little changes, where it says Selectman Present, it should be changed to Select Board. On page 3 under 6a, the 3rd line up, it should be the process approve. Martha also noted on page 2 the word sledge should be sludge.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. MRC Meeting

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Martha wanted to report on MRC she attended virtually on January 26th. She said there is another coming up tomorrow that she won't make, but on the 26th they did talk about the possibility of MRC taking over the running of the facility in Hampden and possibly even owning it. She said they have no viable buyers at this point. She thought tomorrow at the meeting they would talk more about that possibility. She said Mike Carroll, the president, has a lot of experience running those facilities so they

aren't sure what his role would be, but his name was mentioned as someone with a lot of experience. Dan asked where he was from. Martha didn't know his background but thought she could find out. Martha said they also mentioned tipping fees and for us it would be \$77.20 p/ton and for new members it would be \$79.41 p/ton. Dan said it has been going on about four years now. Martha thought it started in 2018 and the facility has been closed for at least two years now. Alton asked if the facility across the river was completely shut down. Martha said the Hampden facility has been running just a little to do what they have to do so it isn't damaged. Dan said tipping fees have gone up about \$5 roughly since all of this started.

6. Unfinished Business:

6a. Knox County ARPA Meeting

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig said they had another meeting last week and they talked about all of the County needs. He said the first meeting was all of the requests by nonprofits and other towns. He said the last meeting was all of the County things adding up to about \$6.5 million, reminding the County is getting \$7.8 million total. He said he doesn't feel they will fund all of the County requests, but he's sure they will give it a priority because it's their people and their stuff. He said the next meeting they will finish up the County stuff, and then go back and finish up the other stuff then there should be a public meeting at the end of it, probably sometime in March now. Martha asked if there was any kind of response to the complaints they've received. Craig said he isn't sure how many others aside from him had complained. Dan said originally there were some others. Craig said he thinks some people have just given up. He said technically our three grants are still alive in the process but the likelihood that any, or even one of them, get funded, who knows. He said the usage of County funds for broadband has already been voted out as many in the group feel it's good enough how it is and don't want to use those funds to help any of that. Lisa said she had a call from the County today asking for the Articles of Incorporation for the Town of Cushing. Lisa said she knows it was back in 1779 but isn't sure where to find those actual articles or anything like that, and they said they needed those asap. Craig said that shouldn't have anything to do with the ARPA requests. No one really knew why that was requested. Lisa said she would call and ask more about it tomorrow.

6b. Fire Station & Food Pantry repair quotes

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan said he got the reports [from the building inspector]. He said he is just telling is what he can see, but there could be more to be done. Dan said the building inspector couldn't get on the roof as there was too much snow, and it was hard to get around the buildings at the time it was done. He said it was obvious that there is a lot of work, and it's pretty detailed. Craig confirmed those reports have no cost estimates, just what needs to be done. Dan confirmed that, this is just what needs to be done so you know what to put out to bid for contractors to do the work.

6c. Remote access for meetings

ACTION: Selectperson Craig Currie made a motion, seconded by Martha Marchut, to have Lisa purchase from Amazon a meeting owl to test.

Discussion: Lisa said this was about the owl mentioned previously for remote access at meetings. Craig said it sits on a pedestal, he believes it does need a computer. Lisa said that is something the Board

should consider too, is to get a laptop for the town as it shouldn't be a personal one being used. Dan said you get a screen and people can join in remotely. Craig thought a monitor/projector should work, too. Craig said a personal laptop could be used during the trial, so that if it doesn't work the Town doesn't spend money on one for nothing, he said Amazon offers so many days return so you can try it before to make sure it'll do what we want. He said the ARPA money can fund it so that it doesn't affect the warrant.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

6d. Covid-19 and Other Pandemic Workplace Policy

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Martha said it's on to review monthly, but she hadn't given it a whole lot of thought. She said she hasn't heard of any changes yet that would really affect our policy. She said even with mandates being lifted, we currently don't have any mandates, only recommendations. She feels it can be left as is for now, and revisited next month. Martha suggested the first meeting of every month. She feels this is more for risk management reasons to keep paying attention to it and what's going on.

6e. Sand/Salt shed door

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton said there has been some trouble and Larry [Miller] said with the gearbox, the gears are worn pretty bad. He asked if they want to replace the whole door, or just the gearbox, if they're still able to get a replacement. Dan said they have been piece-mealing that thing, and he personally thinks they should just replace the door. He added you got thirty years out of this one. Alton said they suggested maybe using a fiberglass door, which would be way lighter than that metal door. Craig added that wouldn't corrode either. Alton said the framing that holds the door still could some. He said he noticed in Belfast they have some type of a mechanism on the outside of the door that the door goes up in it. He said he will look around a little more to see if they can find something good to replace it with. He said our current one is inside the building, other places that have it outside the building might be better. He said everything in there now is getting worn, and lots of the parts have never been replaced. Martha said you don't want it to break when it's down and not be able to get inside to get access to the sand/salt. Alton said that actually happened the beginning of this year when they were getting ready to put sand/salt in at beginning of the season.

6f. Buffer rental for floors

ACTION: Selectperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, to purchase two mats

Discussion: Lisa said Danika went online and found a 17-inch buffer and they range from \$1500 at Lowes to \$1700 at Home Depot but wasn't sure about quality or if you do want to purchase. She said Terry said he uses it twice a year and he can rent it for \$40 in Damariscotta, but he was fine with whatever the Board wants to do. Alton said he talked to Terry a little, and he didn't see the sense in buying one only using it twice a year. Dan thought when they were looking into purchasing one it was because there wasn't a place close that was renting them at the time. Dan agreed, now that he's found one it changes. Lisa said last time it was on the agenda he had found one to rent, but the Board thought if he uses it, it might be better to buy one. Alton said it doesn't take long to go to Damariscotta. The Board agreed renting makes more sense. Lisa added the entrance mat to the front door of the CCC is coming apart more and more. She said Danika found some online that withstand extreme conditions and

is durable for outside for \$170 and we would need two. Alton said he didn't know if you could buy them local. Tracey said no, you can't get anything like that at Lowe's.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

6g. Town report

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa said she went to talk to the Ed, the new town report printer. She said she is looking for a picture, at no additional cost, for the cover and wondered if she could go to the Cushing Post and allow people to submit pictures of Cushing that could be chosen. Craig thought that was a great idea. Lisa said it would be nice to revamp it a little in the coming years. She said he charges \$2500, last year was \$4,000 and it was basic. She said he is really nice and offers much more. Lisa said Thomaston adds more pictures of events and community happenings. Alton asked where it is located. Lisa said Park St. near the corner of Rt 90 and 17 going towards Camden. Dan asked if it should be a picture of the harbor by Sam Olson's with boats or what. Lisa said anything, she just thinks it would be nice to have something more personal on the cover. Lisa said in the future adding some pictures of the Pig Roast and community stuff would be neat too, depending on the cost, but added how much cheaper it is than the previous place. Dan said he would see what Cindy had for some pictures, they said they will revisit it next week. Craig thought opening it up on the Cushing Post might not be a good idea right now. Craig asked if he offered a digital version of the town report. Lisa said no, but she has a contact in another town that has a program that can do that she might need to look into at some point.

7. New Business:

7a. Review and sign Town Meeting Warrant

ACTION: Selectperson Tracey Bally made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to accept the Town Meeting Warrant.

Discussion: Lisa said she realized one of the questions isn't what we really wanted to do. She said on Article 42 it says, "dispose of" and said you won't be disposing of any items. She said it's in regard to finding out if you need permission from the Town to get rid of any Town owned items, but you wouldn't be disposing, you would be selling them. Craig thought dispose was the same and was okay. He said dispose can refer to sell, give a way, or throw away. Lisa said MMA's term of disposal was to get rid of so no one could use anymore. She asked if they want to leave it as is, or to do as Rockland has and make it over a certain amount needs to be put out to bid. Lisa said she assumes the Board would put things out to bid anyway but isn't sure if people will like that. Dan said you could have optional minimum amount bids on the Select Board's discretion. Lisa said she meant is there something over a certain dollar amount value, if it has to go out to bid. Alton said the Town Manager of Rockland can sell things that are under \$5,000. Over that has to go out to bid. Craig said there isn't that much stuff, and we want to put valuable stuff out to bid anyway. Martha said you could word it as sell or otherwise dispose of. Alton didn't think you should put sell he thinks it needs to go to bid; Tracey said that means out to bid, you put it out to bid and sell it. Craig thought dispose of is good as is as it means so many different ways of getting rid of it. The Board decided to leave it as is.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7b. Sand & Salt

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton said he had an idea that maybe they can save some money if the Board would want to put sand and salt in at the end of March instead of waiting until the end of August because salt has gone up tremendously in cost. He said right now under contract they have a real good price for salt. He said he thinks sand could also be bought for the same price they are getting it for now. He said if they fill the sand shed now, they could get a real good price, but he doesn't know for sure what will happen next fall. Dan thought it was a great idea, Craig agreed. Dan said we're doing it anyway; we don't need a motion because we're already buying it so he felt it was a good idea to fill it right to the ceiling. Lisa felt there should still be a motion. Dan said they're already buying it and already have permission. Alton added they bought some this week and said they'll just continue on and might save a little.

7c. Municipal Health Officer

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig said he wanted to bring up that he tried to get in touch with the Health Officer in Friendship and hadn't been able to. He said he might just be really busy, but said Mariann is leaving in March, and is that something that should be advertised for. Alton said last time he thought they just kind of asked around and thought she might be a possibility and she had said yes. Craig asked if that's the way they want to handle it again this time or do we want to post it and put it out that we are looking for a new one; Craig said March is coming right up. Martha felt she has been used more since Covid hit. Alton said it doesn't have to be someone in town, but it does help if you can get someone in town. Craig suggested asking around as well as putting it out on the Cushing Post with a job description and any criteria they must meet.

8. Comments from Citizens: none

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Chairperson Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to adjourn at 6:42 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary