

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

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

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.

---Executive Session---

The Select Board entered into Executive Session, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(F) for consultation with legal at 6:00 p.m. A motion was made by Chairperson Alton Grover and seconded by Tracey Bally, to go into Executive Session.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Selectperson Craig Currie motioned, seconded by Martha Marchut, to enter back into the main meeting at 6:11 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

ACTION: Selectperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, to proceed with the violations

Motion Carried 5-0-0

2. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Approve and sign the Warrant:

ACTION: Selectperson Tracey Bally made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to approve 2022 Warrants 9 and 10

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 4-0-1, Dan abstained

4. Review and approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 meeting

ACTION: Selectperson Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded Tracey Bally, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 meeting as amended

Discussion: Martha noted on page 3, something she had said, she said she wasn't completely what was said that she responded to, but she clarified how she answered that question to be put into the minutes. She said that each town that has a contract with MRC has a vote. She noted on small change on page 4, the word one should be once

Motion Carried 4-0-1, Dan abstained

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. Health Officer position

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig asked if anyone had been interested in the Health Officer position. Lisa said Jessi Flanders, Clarence's wife, had expressed some interest and Lisa encouraged her to reach out to Mariann about what it entails. Craig said one thing to tell her if it goes to the next step is there is a free, six-hour online training.

5b. Covid-19 Policy

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Martha said the policy for Covid19 wasn't on the agenda. She said there have been some changes and feels they might want to take a look at it. Martha felt it might need to be loosened up a little.

5c. Credit Card Policy

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa said she got some recommendations from other towns on what they use for credit card policies. She said she is working on making it fit to our town and will have a copy for the board members for next meeting.

5d. Martha's Years of Service

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig said he just wanted to recognize Martha's nine years of service on the Board as it is her last meeting. Martha said it's a great group and she is blessed to be able to be a part of it and will miss everybody.

5e. Generator Service

ACTION: Chairperson Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to proceed with recommended service for the Cushing Community Center generator

Discussion: Alton said Power Products came down and looked at the generator and it had a couple issues that need repair. It needs a battery and a new computer board, some of the lights were out and the tech wasn't confident enough to trust it. Alton said he pretty much told him he thinks it'll be okay but

said they ought to vote on it. He said the parts and supplies are \$1838.90, travel and labor are \$1506.50 making a total of \$3345.40.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

6. Unfinished Business:

6a. Sand Shed

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton asked if the email came, Lisa said it had not. He said he talked to PDQ door as there was a problem with the remote at the fire station and they came down and fixed it. He said they were supposed to send an email of a cost for a couple different kind of doors for the sand shed. He said they'll have to wait until next meeting to have those prices.

7. New Business:

7a. MRC Notice of Fundamental Matter or Change per MRC Bylaws

ACTION: Selectperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to keep Martha Marchut on a liaison to the MRC even after the election until June 30, 2022.

Discussion: Martha wanted to report back on the meeting she attended. She said basically what they did at the meeting was to go through in more detail in what's going on which is necessitating a fundamental matter issue. She said the big issue is that MRC may end up being the one who buys the facility and in order for them to do that, it's a fundamental matter, so it needs to be brought before the members. She said members have an opportunity to request a meeting and have a chance to vote on this. She said it takes enough members to come up with an accumulated amount of 60,000 tons of waste for a request to be granted. She said we have less than 5,000 tons so by ourselves we couldn't do anything. She said it sounds like based on an earlier conversation that it's probably not we want to be involved with because it's basically the only option at this point is to go with whatever MRC determines. She said MRC has submitted a bid of \$1.5 million or possibly less with things that might be subtracted from it but would be no less than \$1 million. She said regardless of who acquires it in order to have it up and running and cover a period of time where it will probably be losing money during the startup, the total will be about \$20 million and if MRC acquires it, the most likely way of financing it will be to request that members contribute in some way and that's all on a voluntary basis. She said members that would contribute they envision would get, at least temporarily, reduced tipping fees. Other sources of funding basically aren't available quickly, so they feel their best option is to request the towns volunteer to loan money to pay for the purchase. She said the plan for the end date, the date in which this will be done is June 30. She said it will be done by then as the fallback position is that MRC will buy it and at this point, they are prepared to do so. Martha said they will definitely need the people's approval and the impression she got is the larger towns would contribute and we probably wouldn't. She said they hadn't determined how they would divvy it up; rather smaller towns would be asked to contribute less than larger towns. Dan felt they must have some other money behind it rather than expecting the towns to fund that much alone. Martha said that money isn't all needed upfront so she expects they could get money from other sources over time, as then they'd have the time to do it. She said only so much money is needed up front and quickly, but all of this does still need to be worked out. She said again, if there is a legitimate bid higher than MRC's bid, they won't get it anyway; she said MRC is the fallback position. Dan said there are way too many unknowns. Martha agreed there are a lot of unknowns. Martha said there will be a number of meetings between now and June 30th that will include the public and she is the person designated for it right now, and if everyone is okay with it, she will call Mike Carroll, the president, and let him know she will no longer be that contact person and that someone else will be taking over and will be in touch with him. Martha said she isn't sure what would happen in the meantime but feels they

will make a decision on who will be replacing her in that fairly quickly. Dan asked if Martha would be willing to stay on that position. Martha said she would be happy to stay on as a citizen representative, she said she can check with Mike on his opinion, but her assumption is that they would want someone with an official role in the town. She said she can certainly be involved. Dan felt the Select Board has the authority to authorize her to have that role. Martha said she would certainly be willing to do that through the rest of the transition period. Martha said if Mike had any objection on that she would let the Board know. Martha said the only other thing she wanted to mention was that she contacted John Daigle to get a budget number and he didn't have all the figures and hadn't got back to her yet. She said he thought it might be down a little from last year.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7b. Cushing Library tent

ACTION: Chairperson Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, to approve allowing the library to set up a tent on the lawn and use a sound system for various Library functions.

Discussion: Craig said the library tent and sound system are the same thing. Craig asked if we rent the sound system that Mike Mayo uses for the Town Meeting or do, we own that. Alton said we own it. Craig asked if it is available for use. Alton said we had one for use, but it isn't owned by the town and Mike doesn't use it. Craig said the library wanted him to ask the Select Board if it's alright if they get a grant for a 10x20 tent that they would use outside for various events in the summer as well as a sound system to go along with it. He said before they bother and go ahead with the grant application, they just wanted to make sure it was alright with the town. He said they will put it up and take it down the same day the event happens.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7c. Sound system

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: *see above*

7d. Town Sign

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa asked if there is any possibility of using some of the ARPA funds to do some type of sign for the town. Craig said he signed up for something on the final rules that is next week, and he will ask about that. He said his guess is yes.

8. Comments from Citizens: none

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Chairperson Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, to adjourn at 6:43 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary