

TOWN OF CUSHING
SELECT BOARD
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, April 11, 2022
Cushing Community Center

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

Select Board Absent: none

Staff Present: Town Clerk Lisa Young

Public Present: Edward Amoroso, Martha Marchut, and Robert Ellis

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. To elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Board

ACTION: Selectperson Craig Currie made a motion, seconded by Tracy Bally, to nominate Dan Staples as Chairperson of the Board

Motion Carried 4-0-1, Dan abstained

ACTION: Selectperson Tracey Bally made a motion, seconded by Cheryl Stackpole, to nominate Craig Currie as Vice-Chair of the Board

Motion Carried 4-0-1, Craig abstained

Discussion: Craig said per the discussion last year we were going to start rotating positions.

4. Approve and sign the Warrant:

ACTION: Selectperson Tracey Bally made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to approve 2022 Warrants 13 and 14

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Review and approve the minutes of the March 28, 2022 meeting

ACTION: Selectperson Cheryl Stackpole made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2022 meeting as written

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

6. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

6a. Garden Club

ACTION: Chairperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to approve allowing the Garden Club to take care of the flower beds outside

Discussion: Lisa said the library has formed a Garden Club and they would like to have permission to fix and maintain the garden beds outside the CCC.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

6b. Basketball Hoops

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa said Danika had mentioned seeing some people hanging on the rims of the basketball hoops and wondered if we should put up a sign. She said she's afraid that bigger kids/adults could break them. Dan said they should be strong enough, but if we really wanted to get rid of the problem, we could put the hoops up to the legal 10 foot. Cheryl said they are supposed to be strong enough, but over time, it may be good to keep the cranks inside to prevent it. Cheryl asked if the cameras show that and said you could just post a sign saying cameras in use that could deter it. Cheryl said there has been a lot of up and down with the hoops. Dan felt leaving them up and if someone wants to lower it, they can come in and ask for permission. The board decided to see how it goes then add signage if needed.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

6c. CD's

ACTION: Chairperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, to put the CD's that are coming due into savings accounts until further notice

Discussion: Lisa said there are some CD's that are coming due. She said she didn't have a lot of time to research rates, so she wasn't sure if they want to move to a savings to have time to figure out what to do or to another CD. She said on another note Necole Janczura would like to come in and talk to the Board about putting some money into investments but noted that one thing we don't have is an investment policy. She said that is something the Board really should have. She said you are limited to what you can do and what not. Dan thought interest rates might start to go up and it might be best to wait.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

6d. Stand for Meeting Owl

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa said Sami looked it up and this was the only one she could find with outlets in it. They discussed the points the stand had and how it would be used and stored. The Board felt it was pricey at \$800. Craig said the Amazon ones he saw were more \$300. They decided it was the power strip making the price up. Cheryl said they ran into that at the school having to have all the extension cords to power the things on the cart. Lisa said that was only one she saw with power in it. Craig said he would look into it a little more and other options, too.

7. Unfinished Business:

7a. MRC Survey

ACTION: Chairperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, that we cannot fill out the survey at this time other than to make comments

Discussion: Martha said there is a voluntary survey that MRC has put out to get a sense from the towns how they would feel if MRC were to acquire the facility as a fallback. Martha said there are a few contenders so it may never come to that, but there is a real possibility that MRC may acquire it. She said the survey is just looking for information where the towns stand. She said first, you don't have to even fill it out if you don't want to; second, it's a non-binding survey so whatever you say you wouldn't be held to. She said there are only a few questions that need to be thought about. She added Lisa had reached out to Kristen about a couple things and asked to get back to them by tonight, but she hadn't. Martha said that was about a couple questions that Martha didn't understand and thought they'd want a legal understanding. Dan said in that case he's not interested. Martha said another question was what do you think your community would feel about this. Dan said we can't speak for the community. Martha said maybe it's all irrelevant if you're not interested in anyway. Martha continued on with another few questions from the survey. Martha later said if MRC were to acquire it with help from towns, it would kind of be like co-signing a loan. She said we wouldn't be putting up any money but would be saying if MRC can't pay and defaults on the loan then all of the towns involved would be responsible. She said in exchange for this, for the time period until the loan is paid off, the towns involved would be a reduced tipping rate. Craig said he wondered specifically what that would be, if you're on the hook for that, what kind of a discount are they offering. Martha said they don't have those figures yet. Martha said surveys are due the 18th and they have a meeting on the 20th to discuss the results of the survey. Martha said there are 115 towns, some may be larger and have more resources and capital than us and be able to step up easier. She said there is no requirement, you can just say no. She added the only other problem would be if no other buyers pan out, and MRC doesn't have enough towns backing them to fund this, that facility could be liquidated and who knows what would happen to it. Cheryl asked if you would be better off the answer the survey by making your questions/concerns in the comments aside from answering the questions. Martha thought that would be best. Craig said there are specific answers the town will need to make any further decisions, as citizens will want to know answers before deciding too.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7b. Local Health Officer status

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa said a woman came in today that was interested. A previous person with interest is no longer interested. Lisa said she had one other person in mind that hasn't been back in touch which may mean she is no longer interested either. Craig said Dr. Li may be able to fill in. He said we had about a month to find someone and we're there so I can ask Dr. Li if he could temporarily do it until we find a permanent person the Board agrees. Craig said we could probably take another couple weeks if we want to see if the new person is interested. The Board felt Dr. Li as a temporary fill in would be good if he can.

7c. Sand Shed

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Discussion: Alton said he got some prices for the sand shed door, but he said it has to go out to bid. He said something needs to be written up so people know what they're bidding on. Alton said new sand sheds being built today, the system that opens the door up is on the outside of the building and he said that must be working better because it's not inside the building with the salt. He said you can buy it to do

it with a chain or have an electric motor and the chain as backup for no electricity. He said or you can install it like the door that's currently there. Alton said the problem right now is the gear box, so the door won't go up and down. Dan said we've been piece-mealing it the last few years, we've got out money's worth and it's time to fix it right. Alton said money is another thing; where are we going to take the money from to fix it. He asked if we could use ARPA funds; Craig didn't think so. Craig said his understanding is it's not meant to be used for road things; buildings that are health related are the only ones covered. Dan asked if it could come from winter maintenance. Alton said you want to make sure there is enough to cover the last of this year, and the beginning of next winter, and still have enough to do the door. Dan said there is enough in there, and we'll be getting more next January to cover the last of the winter season next year. Craig thought maybe putting out to bid beforehand would make sense to get a real number of how much we'll need to cover it, and then we can either accept or not accept the bids. The Board decided to put this on the next agenda and work on the specs beforehand.

7d. Estimates on Fire Station and Food Pantry

ACTION: Chairperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to put bids out based on the survey for the Fire/Ambulance Building

Discussion: Craig said this is money we can definitely use ARPA funds for. Dan said we have two surveys, and he feels they should put out to accept bids to fix the Fire Station and fix what needs to be fixed. He said he feels they should hold off on the Food Pantry, because why fix a building that will serve no purpose, that seems like a waste of money.

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7e. Killeran Lane

ACTION: Chairperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, that we will not act on the culvert on Killeran Lane; a letter will be sent

Discussion: Dan said he talked to the MMA lawyer and basically, he said the same as what the State does, they [homeowner] can put one in and the expense would be theirs. After that, any maintenance would be the towns responsibility, but the initial expense is the owners. He said if she disagrees with that, she can get a lawyer.

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8. New Business:

8a. Select Board assignments

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: The board discussed and assigned the various assignments among each member.

8b. Budget Committee appointments

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan said there were three empty slots; one was voted by write in at Town Meeting, the other two are now being appointed to fill the vacancies.

8c. Conflict of interest discussion

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig asked to table this item to do some additional research

8d. Sign annual appointments

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: The Board signed the annual appointments.

8e. Sign CMP application for pole location

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: The board signed the CMP application to place power from Kirby Lane across Hathorne Point Road to the Benner's land.

8f. Schedule workshop with Planning Board

ACTION: *Workshop planned for Saturday, May 21st at 8:00 am*

Discussion: Craig said this was a follow up to a letter. He thought maybe right before a regular Select Board meeting would be a good time to discuss the letter. Craig thought the first or second meeting in May would be a good time. Bob said he would ask the Planning Board members; he noted they had been having their workshops at 4 in the afternoon. Craig also suggested a Saturday morning could work. Dan thought Saturday morning would be better as before meetings they go over warrants and added a workshop could get lengthy. Bob asked about their 4:00 workshop time; would that be problematic. Dan said there was something else he wanted to bring up, about the assessor's workshop they just had. Bob said they just signed a couple abatement requests and really didn't have anything on the agenda. Dan said regardless, the really need to be announced. He said even a 5-minute meeting, it needs to be posted. Dan said they have had this conversation before with Bill [Aboud].

8g. ATV's on River Road

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig said he's been noticing out his front door a bunch of folks riding up and down; he asked if it's legal. The Board answered no, it is not legal. Craig said no one has complained, he's just noticed, and he feels it doesn't look safe. Craig asked if the Sheriff would stop them. Dan said yes, if there is a lot of activity and you're afraid someone will get hurt, call the Sheriff.

8h. Ambulance and Fire Truck open house

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig said this was an idea he's had. He felt it would be nice sometime when the weather gets better to showcase them for the public. The Board agreed it would be nice to do once they're finished and ready. Dan thought out in the CCC parking lot would be a good place to do it. Dan said he would talk to Andy and Clarence and try to find a date some Saturday, open to the public.

8i. Electronic Town Sign

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig asked if there was any real interest in the group for getting a quote for an electronic sign. Dan said he thinks the girls would like it and the ARPA money would pay for it. Craig said it doesn't have to be anything big or fancy, just something to put messages out on. Craig said he would call around and get some pricing. Craig thought it might have to be officially put out to bid if it's a big cost range. The Board decided to bring it back to the next meeting.

8j. McCarter Point Road (school bus turn around)

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan said there is landowner complaining about their land being all dug up from being a turn around. Alton said what happened is when the snowplow used to turn around there was no problem because the ground was froze, then the school bus was turning around and didn't seem to be a problem, but then a fed ex truck turned around and got stuck and had to be pulled out. He said the fed ex truck has nothing to with us, but now that the driveway was cut up, they were unhappy. He said the driveway was fixed, they thought she was happy again and it wouldn't affect the school bus turning around but now she doesn't want it turning around there anymore anyway. Dan said he called Loren Andrews [RSU 13 representative] and said there's a problem, no place for the school bus to turn around. He said there's someone that's willing, but they need a turnaround put in, he said Peter Orne, or the transportation director would get back to them. He said he left a message and will check back with them; the next thing is whose expense is it; \$333,000 every payment, RSU should cover it. Alton said he knows where they can put one in, but it'll cost some money and there's only one child on that road that gets picked up. He doesn't feel it should be the town that has to pay for it, it's not a town vehicle, it's a school vehicle. Alton added it we do pay for it, the snowplow can't turn around there anyway, he has to go to the end of the road. He said the turnaround would just be on the corner by Eric Meklin's driveway, who agreed to have one put in for them. Alton said we need more information, this can be put on the next agenda, too.

8k. Sand & Salt Bids

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton said all we have right now is the paperwork to send back to them to get the bids. He said you go with the County to get bids for sand, salt, and fuel. Lisa added you don't have to accept any of them. Alton confirmed if you get someone to give you a better price you can go with them instead.

8. Comments from Citizens: Martha added if anyone wants to attend the MRC meeting on the 20th on Zoom, you just need to sign up.

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Chairperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary

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