

TOWN OF CUSHING
SELECT BOARD
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, April 25, 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: Rescue Squad Director Andrew Blanchard, Craig Lord, Gene Grant

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Dan Staples 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: Chairperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to approve 2022 Warrants 15 and 16

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Review and approve the minutes of the April 11, 2022 meeting

ACTION: Selectperson Craig Currie made a motion, seconded by Cheryl Stackpole, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2022 meeting as written

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. Basketball Hoops

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan said in the last meeting they were talking about the hoops. He said he went out and checked them out and they are built strong and will be fine; nothing to worry about. Lisa added that Terry welded the part to raise/lower hoop on.

5b. Food Pantry

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan said he spoke with Rich Moody in regard to the Food Pantry and they plan to be in the new building in Friendship around June 1st and will have no use for the current building. Dan said they are going to take the generator.

5c. Summer Garage Lease

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa said it's that time of year to renew the lease for the garage rent for summer months, it was the exact same lease as last year, only this year. She said it is May 1st through October. Alton said he does want to rent it again for the summer months for the same \$500 per month price. The Board signed the lease agreement

5d. BBQ at the GNP

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa said she received a call today from a woman who would like to host a BBQ at the Good Neighbor Park for the town. Lisa said she needs to get more information, but it was a Cynthia Gardiner who wants to host. She said she has done so in other towns and would like to do one in Cushing. Lisa asked if you're able to have BBQ's in the park. Dan said the park belongs to the town now, so we can do what we want, just have to check on insurance stuff. Lisa said she was hoping for Memorial Day Weekend, but she will call for more details, and will ask MMA for details on that, too.

6. Unfinished Business:

6a. Local Health Officer status

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa said there still hasn't been anything yet. She said Jessi Flanders was interested at one time but hasn't heard anything since. Cheryl said it would be good to put it back out on the Cushing Post but to make qualifications a little more clear this time. Craig said once we get one, they take an online course anyway, the only thing they should have is a medical background. Cheryl said she didn't think it was clear that they don't have to be a Cushing resident to do it, but they don't need to be so might be worth reposting making that part clear.

6b. Sand Shed

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan said he was supposed to write up a bid with Alton's help. Dan felt the electric was just another thing that could break, and he feels the chain pull is better. Alton said all the new ones he has looked at have all gone to electric and chain, so without power you can still use it by chain. Alton said he realized electric might be a little more expensive, but the one we have now pulls hard just by chain. He said they will write up a bid; Alton said lets get it going, we got to get it done.

6c. Ambulance ad Fire Truck open house

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan said the open house will be Saturday, May 14th from 10 am to 12 pm for the public to see the new trucks. Andy said he and Clarence had talked and mentioned about having some type of refreshments there and wondered if the Board would be okay with that. Dan thought it would be a good idea and thought they might be able to get some volunteers to make some things but keep it simple. Dan thought getting the paper down here that day to do a story on it would be good too. Andy asked if the date is weather permitting or rain or shine. He said there is a garage, but if it was a nice day, it would be outside; decision was rain or shine. Andy talked about the new ambulance and the things they are waiting for to get taken care of being placing it in service. He asked the plan for the old ambulance; Alton asked if he still had someone interested in it. Andy said he was contacted by the Town of Union about the ambulance, and he had given them some information on it. He said he told them it would go out to bid but he would keep them in the loop about it.

6d. Electronic Town sign

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig asked if they saw the bid he sent around, \$35-37,000. He said this was just a smaller one, from the advertising company on Rt 1. He said he didn't bid it out, he was just looking. Craig said at that price he is thinking it's not worth doing. Alton said when he looked at prices it was only \$15-16,000. Lisa said she could look back and there were two names she got that they could look into to compare prices.

6e. Cemetery CD's

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Lisa said she called the bank and Peggy who works at the bank wanted her to let the Board know they have an 18-month special, but it's still only 0.75. Lisa said rates will probably go up and she doesn't think they'll want to do it for that long but wondered if they want to do that or just put it in a savings or money market. The Board decided to put it in a savings for now.

6f. Covid-19 Policy

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan feels they don't need to revisit it every month, he feels quarterly would be plenty unless there is a big change. The Board agreed

7. New Business:

7a. Flags for Veterans graves (Gene Grant)

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Gene Grant handed out copies of the cemetery maps that the VFW Post has served since around 1998. He said they took it over after Pete Karonis stopped. He said they have served Cushing and Friendship Cemetery's and the VFW Post is now on one of its last legs. He said they have been proud to serve those towns for Memorial Day, but with memberships slowing, they fear they are close to closing and want to make sure this work still gets done. He said he would like this to be passed on to a Town Committee to get this done, but he wants to ensure that the Town isn't being left alone. He said he is still willing to participate in it, but hopes they see the necessity in having a committee to make sure the work gets done and to have a fund to purchase the flags and markers. He said he will support anything he can personally, with leaving the VFW out of it. Dan said he remembers it had been mentioned a while

back but forming a committee hasn't been thought much about yet. Gene mentioned two other members that would help serve if the Town presents them with a letter requesting the help. Dan asked the rough expense for the flags; Gene thought it was about \$1 a flag. Lisa said she thinks they have donated around \$200 for it in the past. Gene said he would also offer having some kids from the schools go help for community service hours. Gene said it is a privilege to pass it on to people who respect it. There was a little more talk about the process and how to find which graves require flags, adding the State law that all Veterans must have flags and they must be maintained. The Board thanked Gene for his years of service doing this.

7b. Pleasant Point Cemetery

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan said it needs to go out to bid to repair the damage from the beetles. He said it needs to be re-seeded and have hay laid down. Dan said Guy needs to let the grass grow a little longer to discourage the grubs from laying eggs. Alton said you need to put some loam down too, he said it's all sand so growing grass on top of just that is a waste of time and money. Dan said he has had many complaints about that cemetery and when the town will do something about it. He said it's an absolute mess down there. Craig suggested having a landscape company look at it and ask what they recommend to get it back to looking decent. He said he agrees it could get expensive if you have to start hauling in dirt and stuff. Alton said landscape companies are expensive, and he feels doing it the way before would be best and asking Guy to get some prisoners down there to do the work, then we just have to deliver a load of loam down there and they'll do the work. Tracey thought we had to address the infestation first. Dan said there isn't much infestation left. The Board decided to all go look at it and then talk to Guy.

7c. Roadside Clean-up

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan said Lisa refreshed his memory and read the response from MMA received last year. He said you can't do much at all with kids under 16, but once they reach age 16 it's a little different. Alton said Guy told him that he thinks the prison is going to start the program up again, and he's thinking they'll have another school to train people to be able to take the prisoners so if any of the new members want to take the class they could. Guy said they'd be welcome to have the prisoners do it again, but Alton said he isn't sure he can do it this year because he's working full time, and that leaves Dan as the only other certified person. Dan said he was talking in the office today about getting a bunch of volunteers to meet at the CCC and have the town purchase bags and get a community clean up day together. Dan said he would volunteer his truck to drive along and have a couple people walking along side picking up trash. Dan said everyone would need safety vests, and gloves, and the long pickers would be good, too. Dan felt by the time the prison could get out this year the grass will be too high for this year. He thought about announcing a date trying to get volunteers to come meet and do it this year. Tracey said last year Juliette Laaka organized one and Ben Lash did volunteer to come take all the garbage away. Dan decided to get something posted by Wednesday and see what happens.

7d. Mowing Ball Field

ACTION: Selectperson Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Craig Currie, to approve Guy Barter to mow and weed whack the ballfield per Rec. Directors specs. For \$150 per time

Discussion: Alton said he talked to Guy and he is willing to do it for \$150 per time and the school is done with it. Craig said Gretchen did put it in her budget for this year, too. Cheryl said Gretchen should be consulted on the specs of what needs to be mowed and how often, which could vary a bit per season, but it needs to be kept down for tic control.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

8. Comments from Citizens: Craig Lord said he wanted to know where the hazardous waste from the Rockland Harbor is actually getting dumped. Alton answered on Sandy Lane off from Rt 97. Craig said he didn't feel it was a good idea. Dan said he agreed it was a bad idea, but the DEP had contacted all abutting landowners and not one person spoke up against it. Craig said with all of the forever chemicals going on in the State he feels we shouldn't create a problem that could show up 10 years from now. He said the arsenic levels are double the allowed amounts. Craig asked if he's lining the pit with plastic first, he didn't see that in the permit. Dan thought they were according to the stuff we had received and read, but Dan said he could be wrong. Craig asked if the Town has any ability to do anything against it if they have a State permit to do it. Dan said if the citizens around the area complain, but he isn't sure really, it's a good question. Dan said you can have a public hearing if someone requests it, but no one came forward or had anything against it. Craig said it could contaminate the air from stuff being blown off the trucks, but he feels the contamination of the ground water is the most concerning of getting into wells of the houses around and stuff. The Board agreed. He asked if the Town gets a kickback from the hazardous waste being dumped in the town; the answer was no. Craig C. said he would be willing to make a call and see if there is anything that can be done if the Board is okay with it; they agreed. Andy Blanchard had a request from the ARPA funds to buy a Lucas device for about \$16,000. He said it is an electronic CPR device and added that in the time of Covid they are recommended because its less first responders being exposed and you can operate them with one person. He said you hook it up to the patient and it begins compressions and doesn't stop until you shut it off. He said with our response and memberships we don't always have a lot of people to respond to a scene and it can be pretty labor intensive, so a lot of services are purchasing these devices for those reasons. He said he requests use of some of those ARPA funds be used for this device. Andy presented a letter on that piece of equipment. Dan felt it was a good use of the ARPA funds. He said it is from Stryker who is the same company that provided us with the power stretcher. Craig said it brings up another question and feels use of the ARPA funds could go to a town vote with our recommendations, or we could just piece meal it. Dan said he agrees with getting approval for using the funds for the Station repairs, but he feels a piece of equipment that can save a life, is an important piece of equipment for the town to have and we can make an approval for that. The talk continued a little about the company and the relationship the Squad already has with them for other pieces of equipment.

ACTION: Chairperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, to take money from the ARPA funds to purchase a Lucas CPR device from Stryker pending exact price

Motion Carried 5-0-0

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Chairperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Alton Grover, to adjourn at 7:04 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary