

**TOWN OF CUSHING
SELECTMEN MEETING
September 8, 2008
CUSHING COMMUNITY CENTER**

Selectmen Present: Alton Grover, Peter Haviland, Randolph Robbins, Robert Stackpole, and Robert Worthing.

Board approved Warrant #40& #41

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Peter Haviland motioned, Robert Stackpole seconded, to approve the August 25, 2008 minutes as written. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Additions and changes to the agenda-

SAD #50 Chairperson, Jamie Doubleday, and Co-Chairman of the RPC, Dave Matthew, gave a brief overview of the consolidation between SAD#50 & SAD#5. Ms. Doubleday stated that the intention of the consolidation is to be an administrative consolidation. There is no provision for closing schools or for reducing teacher positions. The first order of business, if the consolidation passes, is to elect a new thirteen person school board. The voting system would be a weighted system which SAD#5 now uses but SAD #50 does not. The number of directors each town would have would be determined by population. The result would be five for Rockland, three for Thomaston, two for St. George, and one each for Cushing, South Thomaston, and Owls Head. In July of 2009 a new superintendent would be hired.

In regard to assets and liabilities they would transfer to the new unit and be shared by the six communities. In regard to personnel those employed will automatically be transferred into the new RSU after that the budget would determine who would stay. They are going to try and get a two year extension on current contracts.

Mr. Matthew stated that the Essential Program and Services (EPS) is set by the State. Anything that is above this is the responsibility of local communities. SAD #50 spends more per pupil than SAD #5 due to SAD #50 offers more specials outside of classroom activities. Therefore SAD #50 on a percentage basis contributes more toward their school budget. Another big concern was the cost sharing formula. At this time in SAD #50 it is based on 50% valuation and 50% student count whereas SAD #5 is based on 100% valuation. Mr. Matthew stated that they considered all scenarios and felt that the scenario with the least impact was to change it to 75% valuation and 25% student count. The change will be phased in over several years. He noted after four years all communities will be assessed at 75% valuation and 25% student count. The first two

years there would be no change other than some of the amounts over EPS. The ultimate cost to the Town of Cushing is not clear.

Ms. Doubleday stated that if we fail to implement a plan one penalty is a 100% exemption from school construction. This could mean no funding for the Many Flags Project. She noted the cost of the project is 65 million which she stated that the State will pick up 95% of the cost. She informed the Board that they will be coming back to Cushing for a public meeting soon.

Chairman Alton Grover read a letter from resident Julia Palm noting she would be interested in becoming a member of the Ordinance Committee. The Board will make a decision at the next meeting.

Selectman Robert Stackpole reported that he had a request to lower the speed limit on the Spear Mill Road. Chairman Alton Grover stated that a letter has been sent to the State to look at several roads in Cushing. He noted two years ago the State felt that the speed limit on Spear Mill Road was fine.

Selectman Robert Stackpole reported that resident, Sam Olson, said that tree limbs on the Hathorne Point Road are damaging his trucks, and force him to drive in the middle of the road or he will lose his mirrors. Chairman Alton Grover reported that they did cut tree limbs about three years ago. He asked if Mr. Stackpole could find out the problem areas and let him know.

Unfinished Business

Roof Bids- Selectman Robert Stackpole reported that Architect John Hansen estimates the roof project could cost \$55,000 to \$65,000. Chairman Alton Grover noted that the Town has \$40,000, so we will have to wait until next year to seek approval in March. Peter Haviland motioned, Randy Robbins seconded, to postpone work on the roof until next year's budget. The motion passed

Board Approved
5-0-0

New Business

Norton Cemetery Committee- Chairman Alton Grover reported that an ordinance entitled the 'Cemetery Ordinance' was approved by the people of Cushing in March of 2001 which would cover the Norton Cemetery. The Cemetery Board will have to add Norton Cemetery to their budget for the March warrant. Robert Worthing motioned, Peter Haviland seconded, to add an article to the warrant for the 2009 year to be voted on in March to add a member from the Norton Cemetery Association to be on the Town of Cushing Cemetery Board. The motion passed.

Board Approved
5-0-0

Fire Station storm windows- Chairman Alton Grover reported that all the storm windows were not missing but already in the windows except the one in the Rescue

Squad room. He noted that they have some prices but he thought Larry Miller may be able to make one for a lower price. Alton will contact him and report back at the next meeting.

Piano- Doug Hartley has a circa 1930's Mason Holmin grand piano that he would like to donate to the Town. He will pay for the delivery and the tuning. Chairman Alton Grover voiced several concerns. He noted that the temperature in the gym is set at around 40-50 degrees and that the room gets moist, and that in the near future the voting booths will be in that room. He noted that the not too long ago the Town finally gave away a piano that the school had left behind. Mr. Hartley noted that the piano has been stored in an unheated room, that it has been tuned every four to five years, it has a keyboard that is lockable, it is on wheels, and it has a value of \$5,000. Selectman Peter Haviland stated that the library would love to have it accessible to them. He inquired to when a decision would have to be made. Mr. Hartley responded that he would like to know by the end of the year or beginning of 2009. Randy Robbins and Robert Worthing both felt that it is too bad not to take advantage of this generous offer. Mr. Hartley noted that if the Town finds that they don't use it they can return it. Robert Worthing motioned, Randolph Robbins seconded, to accept the gift. The motion passed.

Board Approved 4-0-1
Peter Haviland abstained

Comments from Citizens- Bob Baker, a resident of Cushing, introduced himself to the Board and informed them that he is running for State Representative for District #49.

Selectmen Peter Haviland motioned, Alton Grover seconded, to adjourn at 8:03PM. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Young
Town Clerk
Minutes taken by Crystal Robinson