

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

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

Staff Present- Treasurer Janet Plona and Town Clerk Lisa Young

Board approved Warrant #53 & #54

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

Peter Haviland motioned, Robert Worthing seconded, to approve the November 24, 2008 minutes as written. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Additions and changes to the agenda

Chairman Alton Grover announced that several residents in Town have inquired if the Town will be accepting donations for fuel assistance for those in need in Cushing as was done last year. Selectman Peter Haviland motioned, Randy Robbins seconded, to accept donations for fuel assistance. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Unfinished Business

Selectman Robert Stackpole read out loud the written response the Town had received from Richard Flewelling of Maine Municipal Association. The Board of Selectmen, at the last Selectmen Meeting, approved sending four questions to the legal department of MMA. (The questions and response are attached). Selectman Robert Stackpole asked for the Boards thoughts on the response. Selectman Robert Worthing, along with Peter Haviland, felt that the answers supported what the Board has been doing between Selectmen Meetings, although Mr. Worthing noted that they may want to set more explicit parameters on what is delegated to the Chairman and the dollar amount. Selectman Randy Robbins stated that he agrees with Selectman Worthing, but noted that the real problem is that a situation came up in which the Chairman altered specifications that the Board had approved without contacting all of the Selectmen. Robert Stackpole stressed that altering a Board decision is not allowed.

Observer Robert Ellis stated that it is embarrassing to see the Board spend so much time and energy on such minor issues. He went on to say that the way the Board has conducted business for years has worked perfectly fine, and that he hates to see board members become frustrated and get fed up and give up. He went on to say that the Planning Board has adopted by-laws that save a lot of time and animosity among

members, and that once a decision has been made the only way it can be revisited is by a member that voted for it originally.

Resident Will Payson stated that if specifications are written too tightly it leaves little room for making any changes.

After a brief discussion on the issue Selectman Robert Stackpole stressed that he is done with it and asked to move on.

New Business

Trio System Budget- Treasurer Janet Plona updated the Board on entering the budget information into the Trio System. She reported that Trio is a double entry system which is the true accounting system whereas the Excel set up that the former Treasurer used was only single entry. She noted that she and Town Clerk Lisa Young met on December 2nd to try and enter the numbers into the system but found that due to the very detailed system they needed to first have the Selectmen advise them on how detailed they want the accounts to be. After a brief discussion, Robert Worthing motioned, Alton Grover seconded, to set up a workshop to review the accounts on December 15, 2008 at 6:00PM at the Cushing Community Center. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission- Town Clerk Lisa Young presented the Board the Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission's annual municipal membership form for 2009. In the letter they ask for an elected official and a resident of Cushing to serve as representatives and annual membership dues of \$600.00. After a brief discussion on how much the Town uses Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission, it was decided to give the information to Chairman of the Planning Board, Dan Remian, to get his input on how much the Town uses their services.

Sign Town Warrant for Secret Ballot Election for the RSU Board- The Board signed the warrant for the notice of election for the Regional School Unit scheduled January 20, 2009 from 10:00am until 8:00 pm at the Cushing Fire Station.

Comments from Citizens- There were no comments.

Alton Grover motioned, Robert Worthing seconded, to adjourn at 7:15PM. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Young
Town Clerk

