

**TOWN OF CUSHING
SELECTMEN MEETING
April 13, 2009
CUSHING COMMUNITY CENTER**

Selectmen Present: Alton Grover, Randy Robbins, Robert Stackpole, Daniel Staples, and Robert Worthing.

Staff Present- Town Clerk Lisa Young

Board approved Warrant #13& #14

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

Randy Robbins motioned, Robert Worthing seconded, to approve the March 23, 2009 minutes as written. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Additions and changes to the agenda

At the beginning of the meeting the Board elected a Chairman. Daniel Staples motioned, Randy Robbins seconded, to elect Alton Grover Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. The motion passed.

Board Approved 4-0-1 Alton Grover Abstained

The Recreation Department addressed the Board requesting approval for Sports Fields Inc. to upgrade the Cushing infield for a fee of \$2,310.00. The Recreation Department had given the Board of Selectmen the quote describing what that would entail. They also sought approval to have the fence and gate repaired. They had received a quote of \$915.22 from Tom Fence. Daniel Staples motioned, Alton Grover seconded, to approve the two requests as long as there is enough money in the field account. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Sonia Verge member of the Recreation Department inquired if the Town has a policy that if an article at town meeting is defeated that one must wait until next town meeting to bring the question back to the residents. Selectman Randy Robbins thought that a policy was approved at a selectmen's meeting three or four years ago. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the policy was in regard to voting on ordinances in November when there is historically higher voter turn out. The Recreation Department was informed that the only way for an article to be brought back to the residents of Cushing is if the Municipal Officers request it or if a petition is presented to the Board of Selectmen requesting a special town meeting or to have the article presented at the next secret ballot election. Sonia Verge informed the Board that the Recreation Department intended to meet after addressing the Board and a decision would be made at that that time. Selectman Daniel Staples inquired if the Recreation Board has thought to have a part-

time Recreation Director in Town instead of paying \$26,000.00 for the children to go to Thomaston. They said due to this option of joining with Thomaston they had not really thought that through.

Kathy Robinson inquired if there is money in surplus that could be used if it was needed. She is concerned that Thomaston will send the Town a bill which may go over the amount approved at town meeting. This brought up a lengthy conversation on the reason for the bill. It seems that a fee may be sent for cleaning the gym and for time the recreation directors from Thomaston and Saint George spend at the gym on Saturdays. Kathy said that members from Cushing Recreation do not want to stay at the gym all day. The Board of Selectmen stated that a bill for those services would not be paid due to there were no provisions for this in the budget. This brought up quite a discussion on the fact that the gyms in Thomaston and St. George are owned by all three towns and the unfairness of charging Cushing for cleaning the gym when Cushing Recreation have asked about cleaning them after their scheduled games.

Silver Star Day- Chairman Alton Grover read a request from Nancy Spoerke member of the Silver Star Families seeking town, city, or counties to recognize the wounded or ill that have returned home from all wars by proclaiming May 1, 2009 Silver Star Banner Day. Selectman Robert Worthing motioned, Randy Robbins seconded, to proclaim May 1, 2009 Silver Star Banner Day in the Town of Cushing. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Abatement transcript- Selectman Robert Worthing announced that he contacted Robert Crawford from Bernstein Shur as directed at the last meeting to find out more information in regard to supplying transcripts to the Maine State Board of Real Estate Tax Review.

He asked the following: Will there be any additional cost to provide the transcript to the Board? The answer is only the photo copying charge. Can the transcript be provided to the Board and prevent Mr. Tower from using it? The answer was no in all probability it will be used to verify points of testimony of both parties, and lastly, Do you believe our case is improved with the Board if we provide a transcript? The answer was that he believes that it will strengthen some points in our testimony. After a brief discussion, Robert Stackpole motioned, Daniel Staples seconded, to spend approximately \$3,000.00 to provide the transcripts to the Maine State Board of Real Estate Tax Review. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Food Pantry Parking Lot- Richard Moody member of the Food Pantry reported that due to the increase of people coming to the Food Pantry that there needs to be safer parking. At this time people are parking on Town House Road which is dangerous, especially during the winter months. They really need a parking area for at least six cars. Mr. Moody felt that the best and most cost efficient would be to remove the loam off the ledge and put in gravel on the left side of the building. After a brief discussion, Robert Worthing motioned, Daniel Staples seconded, to direct Robert Stackpole and Alton

Grover to look at the area and to report to the Board at the next meeting on what they feel would be the best place to put the parking lot. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Emergency Management Ordinance- Robert Worthing motioned, Randy Robbins seconded, to accept the Emergency Management Ordinance given to them by the Ordinance Committee. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

The Board signed the certification for the Emergency Ordinance and presented it to Town Clerk, Lisa Young, along with the ordinance.

New Business

Selectmen Duties-

Alton Grover – (Chairman): Selectmen Meetings, incoming mail, keeping Board informed, agenda, newsgroups, GA Administrator, oversees local and state roads, Legal and MMA Representative and Insurances

Daniel Staples: Board Representative to the Shellfish Committee, Knox County Departments and Committees, Recycling Committee, and Harbor Committee.

Randolph Robbins: Ordinance Committee and Waldoboro Transfer Station.

Robert Worthing: Cemetery Board, Rescue Squad, responsible to the Board for employees for all Departments and Members of all Committees, back – up GA Administrator, Internal audits of Treasurer, Town Clerk and Tax Collector and oversees office operations.

Robert Stackpole: Recreation Department, Buildings and Properties, and Grant Coordinator.

Harbor Master- Selectman Daniel Staples announced that he would like to continue serving as Harbor Master until next year. The reason for this is that he would like to finish work on Meduncook and then Crotch Island and he would like to work with the new person until they could be State certified; which the next certification is March of 2010. Selectman Robert Stackpole stated that he feels that the position of selectman and harbormaster are incompatible noting the opinion from Maine Municipal Association Legal Department. Selectman Daniel Staples noted that he could not find anything in the Municipal Officers Manual that stated that these two positions were incompatible. Selectman Robert Worthing stressed that the Town of Cushing pays dues and depends on the opinions of the legal department of MMA and therefore Mr. Staples gave up the position of Harbor Master when he was sworn in as Selectman.

Selectman Robert Stackpole motioned, Alton Grover seconded, to advertise for a new Harbor Master. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Hot water tank for Cushing Community Center furnace- Chairman Alton Grover reported that the hot water tank needs to be replaced. He wanted to know what size the Board wanted to purchase. A 40-gallon tank cost \$365.00, 10-gallon tank \$400.00, and a 6-gallon tank for \$370.00. Selectman Randy Robbins motioned that an automatic timer be installed. There was no second. Selectman Robert Stackpole motioned, Daniel Staples seconded, to go with a 6-gallon tank. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Selectman Robert Stackpole motioned, Robert Worthing seconded, to get two quotes for installing the water heater. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Hot Top- Chairman, Alton Grover, reported that the fee for hot top this year had increased to \$70.00 per ton and that to hot top one mile it would cost \$60,300. It was determined that there really was not enough money to do it this year.

Municipal Officers Course-Chairman Alton Grover announced that there is an Elected Officials course coming up and recommended anyone that has not attended before to try and attend. Lisa will get the time and dates to Randy Robbins and Robert Stackpole. Danny Staples is all signed up to go.

Roadside Clean-up- Chairman Alton Grover inquired if the Board would like to have the prisoners from the Bolduc Unit provide roadside clean-up this year as they have done in the past. Alton and Arthur Kiskila are allowed to take two prisoners each. The two get paid hourly for this work. Selectman Daniel Staples motioned, Robert Worthing seconded, to have the prisoners from the Bolduc Unit provide roadside clean-up with Alton Grover and Arthur Kiskila overseeing the project. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Groundwater Pollution Information- At the last Selectmen Meeting the Ordinance Committee had presented the Board a list of phone numbers to give guidance about how to reach each agency in regard to groundwater pollution. The Ordinance Committee recommended that the Board of Selectmen authorize this list to be posted on the town web site and at appropriate locations around town. Selectman Robert Worthing motioned, Robert Stackpole seconded, to approve having the list on the web site and at the town office. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Cemetery Accounts- Selectman Robert Worthing proposed authorizing the Treasurer to withdraw all interest up to December 31, 2008 and allocate this to the various cemetery accounts. In addition when the six additional CD's come due in April, May and June that the principal be put in one cemetery savings account and the interest allocated to the

various cemetery accounts. The idea is that more interest will be earned by combining all of the accounts. Selectman Robert Stackpole motioned, Randy Robbins seconded, to accept the terms as Robert Worthing stated. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Chairman Alton Grover motioned, Robert Worthing seconded, to adjourn at 8:23 PM. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Selectman Robert Stackpole motioned, Randy Robbins seconded, to reconvene at 8:24 PM. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Selectman Randy Robbins motioned, Robert Stackpole seconded, to appoint Peter Haviland Alternate Board Representative to the Shellfish Committee. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Chairman Alton Grover reported that Joe Carr seeks permission for the Rescue Squad to price out a new ambulance. After a brief discussion, Robert Worthing motioned, Robert Stackpole seconded, to allow the Rescue Squad to price out a new ambulance and then come back to the Board with the proposal for review and approval. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Robert Worthing motioned, Alton Grover seconded, to adjourn at 8:45 PM. The motion passed.

Board Approved 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa M. Young
Town Clerk