

TOWN OF CUSHING
SELECT BOARD
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, September 27, 2021
Cushing Community Center

Selectmen Present: Chairperson Alton Grover; Select people Tracey Bally, Craig Currie, Daniel Staples, and Martha Marchut

Selectmen Absent: none

Staff Present: Town Clerk Lisa Young

Public Present: none

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. Approve and sign the Warrant:

ACTION: Selectperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, to approve 2021 Warrants 38, 39, 40, and 41

Discussion: none

Motion Carried 5-0-0

4. Review and approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021 meeting

ACTION: Selectperson Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded Craig Currie, to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021 Select Board meeting with one change

Discussion: Martha noted a change under the broadband discussion the word tampers it should be hampers. She also asked Craig about discussion on page 4 under ARPA funds, where it says we are at least due the interest, is that correct. Craig confirmed it is correct.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

5. Additions and Changes to the Agenda:

5a. ARPA funding

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig said he and Lisa got the ARPA funding set up and they had to send some things back. Information has been sent but funds haven't been received yet.

5b. Dog poop in GNP

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig said he was asked by a citizen if the Town could put some doggy doo doo bags and a trash can down at Good Neighbor Park. He had told the person he would bring it up tonight; he wondered though with the new bag mandate in Maine, are you allowed to use plastic disposable bags now. Tracey said you can still buy them, and they can also be made biodegradable now. Martha asked if we want to take on that responsibility. Craig said that's why he wanted to bring it up and said there seems to be a big problem with dog poop down there. Dan said he hopes there isn't because they have a sign that says you need to pick up after your dog as they are hoping to leave that cove open [for clamming]. Dan said people can dispose of their own waste, the town isn't in the garbage business. Tracey said that was her question too, who is going to be responsible for emptying the garbage. Tracey added any dog owner has their bags and they should be taking them and taking care of it. Craig asked if we want to put bags there. Dan said no, he feels people should take care of their own dogs. Alton said isn't that what the sign says. Craig said it does, there is a sign there. Tracey said if you put bags and no trash can, then they will leave bags around.

6. Unfinished Business:

6a. Staff Scheduling Plan

ACTION: Selectperson Martha Marchut made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, that the Cushing Town Office Temporary Staff Scheduling Plan signed on 05/03/2021 be extended indefinitely with the understanding that the scheduling plan may be changed by a vote of the Select Board if the needs of the Town change and that a copy of the motion will be attached to the scheduling documentation in the Town Office.

Discussion: Martha said this is just a follow up to the temporary plan as they said they would review it in September. She said she has talked with Lisa, and everyone is fine with it and it seems to be working well.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

6b. Broadband

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig said they have information from Thomaston, and he also talked to Tom Lutrell, the City Manager of Rockland, and he had their outside counsel review it. He said they had almost the same issues everyone else has but they felt that since you can change the bylaws once you join, and every town gets a representative they felt it was okay to go ahead and sign the agreement. He said their town lawyer also noted there was no taxing authority. Craig said he still hasn't got an update on the feasibility study but hoped to have that by the beginning of October. He mentioned tabling this to the next meeting in hopes of having those results but wasn't sure if that would really impact signing the agreement to join the utility because all the study will tell us is what it will cost. Dan felt tabling it was a good idea, he thought there would some revelation in information and instead it was information they already knew. Martha thought it was helpful to have the information and reading.

6c. Town Truck

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton said there have been a lot of tire kickers, but no one wants to give anything for it. He said the brakes and drums are all new on it, too, which is another plus. Dan noted it started right up after sitting there too. Alton suggested just keep trying. Craig mentioned adding new brakes to the sale ad.

6d. Ambulance/Fire Truck update

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan said he called the salesman, and they think it'll probably be at least next June for the Fire Truck. The ambulance should be done in November so he and Andy were thinking they should have that around the beginning of January. He said it's been hard to get the chassis and the chips are hard to get like the trouble with all other new vehicles right now. Alton asked if the ambulance was on the assembly line. Dan thought it was. Alton said Andy told him it wasn't, but he was hoping.

6e. Ballfield mowing

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Craig said he had emailed Gretchen about it, and they just need to let her know if it needs to be in the rec budget next year. Craig said he noticed on the warrant it was \$100 per time but he wasn't sure how many times they mow it. Alton said it does get pretty thick down there.

6f. Transfer Station

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Martha said there has been some information from MRC lately she wanted to share. She said they want to be able to end the site lease agreement they have with Coastal for two different reasons. She said one is because if they end up with a buyer other than the one, they've been working with for so long then they may need to change that and they want to be able to do it quickly. She said the other reason is if this continues on without a buyer it's possible that they may want to make some sort of a change of how we dispose of our trash, and this will allow them to do that quickly. She said because it's called a fundamental matter, something we've been through with them before, they need to give the town's a chance to request a hearing about this. She said in order for that to happen towns representing 60,000 tons of trash need to come forward and request it. She said ours is only like 2,000 tons or something so we alone couldn't do it. She added the chances are there won't be a hearing. She said she talked to Bob Butler, and he really didn't have any more to say other than that there are several other potential buyers. Dan thought there were three other potentials. He said he felt that unless they change the financial format of it no one will say anything, but if they went considerably higher, you'd probably see some public outcry. Martha agreed and said when we considered staying with Perk one of the reasons we didn't was because they had talked about going considerably higher. She said the bottom line is she expects this will go through. Martha said she noticed the MRC is also looking for people to run to be on the Board, she felt Bob Butler represents us pretty well, but wanted to put it out there in case anyone had any interest.

7. New Business:

7a. Sand Shed door

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Alton said the door has a broken cable on one side and the bottom panel needs to be replaced. He said we have the panel, just need to find someone to put it in. He said the sand shed is now full of sand so we'll probably have to wait a little bit until the door can go back down. He said hopefully this winter people will have a little more time to do it and not be so busy.

7b. Shades for Gym windows

ACTION: Selectperson Dan Staples made a motion, seconded by Tracey Bally, to purchase shades for the gym windows for \$2,490.

Discussion: Dan asked why this is such a problem when they're only used 3-4 times a year. Lisa said it's not a problem you just need something there. Alton said the price will put new shades in all four windows. Martha asked if it really is a problem. Lisa said we need shades up, when the sun comes in, it is a short time, but it is a problem during voting. Alton thought if you just got two, they wouldn't match, and it would look kind of funny. Martha thought once they're done, they will last for a while. Lisa agreed and felt down the road if we fix things up a little, people might use it more.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

7c. Vinalhaven Fisherman's Co-op intentions to file a permit with DEP to place dredge materials on Sandy Lane in Cushing

ACTION: none taken

Discussion: Dan said he was thinking, they really don't know what kind of toxins are going to be in there, perhaps we should have a public hearing on it because it could affect people's wells. Lisa said a booklet about it came in and is in the new mail. Martha said there is a list of toxins that might be in it. Dan thought it was important to give the public an opportunity to speak on it. Martha agreed. Alton said it is in a gravel pit and they have been clay coating the bottom like DEP makes them do so it can not leach through the bottom like it would sand. Dan said he asked Scott about it and wondered if there should be a public hearing and he felt it would be a good idea. Martha added it would be more of a courtesy. Alton asked who we bring into a hearing that will have information about it. Craig said there is a number of someone in August who can represent it [as shown on bottom of a paper]. Alton asked when they were hauling it in. Dan felt an intent to file must mean they haven't filed yet. Martha read you have 20 days after the application is accepted. Craig said this is just the intent and asked if we will get the notice. Dan said he hopes so and said we just want to stay on top of it. Craig agreed, adding we don't want to have a public hearing if the application doesn't even get accepted. Martha mentioned Lisa could call the number and ask to be kept informed.

8. Comments from Citizens: none

9. Adjourn

ACTION: Chairperson Alton Grover made a motion, seconded by Dan Staples, to adjourn at 6:29 p.m.

Motion Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Jones
Recording Secretary