



Board of Selectmen Ware Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Meeting Room

Regular Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Selectman Nancy J. Talbot, Selectman Alan G. Whitney, Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski, Selectman John E. Carroll, Selectman Michael P. Fountain, Town Manager Stuart Beckley, Clerk Mary L. Midura, Tree Warden Josh Kusnierz, Cemetery Commissioner Craig Simmons, Cemetery Commissioner Julie Bullock

Meeting Opened by Chairman Talbot. A moment of silence was held for the Parkland, Florida school victims.

Proclamation: Arbor Day 2018

Josh Kusnierz, Acting Tree Warden, noted that Arbor Day will be on April 27, 2018. He has been in communication with Dr. Dileo and the schools will observe this day with activities and planting of trees. Mr. Kusnierz also noted that he has donations in the amount of \$500 total toward this observance. **Selectman Whitney made the motion to add the proclamation to the grant application; Selectman Fountain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

Scheduled Appearances

- **7:05 p.m. Joint Meeting with Cemetery Commission to Fill Vacancy in Office until April 9, 2018 Annual Town Election**
 - **Applicant: Lucas McDiarmid**

Selectman Carroll made the motion to appoint Lucas McDiarmid as Cemetery Commissioner, Term to Expire April 9, 2018; Selectman Whitney seconded the motion. The motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of 7 Yes (Cemetery Commissioner Craig Simmons, Cemetery Commissioner Julie Bullock, Selectman Talbot, Selectman Whitney, Selectman Opalinski, Selectman Carroll, Selectman Fountain), 0 No.

Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair

Selectman Opalinski questioned the following items:

Ballot question on roads – Selectman Opalinski noted that a public forum is needed to listen to citizens, assess the list of roads, learn how this will be implemented, will there be RFP. Mr. Beckley responded that this topic needs explanation from DPW to included funding, costs, and DOR guidelines.

Marijuana forum – Chairman Talbot responded that two separate forums may be needed. Mr. Beckley noted that Attorney Hurley or other qualified expert should present a forum.

Update on Water Treatment Plant – Mr. Beckley responded that the Town is paying the engineering bills and site design for the other side of the softball field, and this will go out to bid in the Fall of 2018.

Estimate is of one year to construct the Water Treatment Plant.

Consent Agenda -none

Comments and Concerns of Citizens

Phil Bourcier stated his concerns regarding the job done on Church Street and asked why a charged line was left under the street; this is a disaster waiting to happen.

Cathy Cascio questioned the ballot question on marijuana; Mr. Beckley noted it would ban recreational sales. Ms. Cascio stated that the Town Manager evaluation was not goal oriented or specific, and professional courtesy should be given to Stuart Beckley.

Pat Skutnik introduced herself, Jane Desjardins, and Carol Soltys as the Friends of Town Hall committee. There will be a Fashion Show and Luncheon on April 22, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at All Saints Parish Hall. Tickets are \$15 sold in advance at Town Clerk's office, Dance Unlimited, and Crystal Springs Dairy Bar.

Bill Jackson stated that the Town Manager Evaluation appears to be a popularity contest; the Board of Selectmen should be doing this evaluation.

- **Request to Speak: Keith Krukus**

Keith Krukus stated that his concerns regarding the vehicles and ambulances were a result following the November 2017 town meeting. He has lived in town his whole life. The Fire Department budget seems to be controlled by one or two people, with accountability needed for vehicles, mileage, accidents, paper documents, requests for travel and reimbursements. Mr. Krukus presented copy of information he requested regarding Fire Department expenses and reimbursements, and questioned several individual items. Mr. Krukus asked for a State audit of this department. He had to pay for the provided information; Mr. Beckley noted that the charges of \$35 were for staff over two hours' work searching information in the basement. Mr. Beckley noted that the Chief and several staff participates in the National Fallen Firefighters events with funds that are donated. Mr. Beckley explained that stamps purchased were used for the letters sent to 4,500 residents for the Ambulance subscription notices. Mr. Krukus questioned accountability of the Hardwick ambulance use. Mr. Beckley noted an item questioned on page 3 of the presented information is currently being investigated. Mr. Krukus again asked for an audit to be done; Mr. Beckley noted the professional financial oversight of the Town Accountant, including the annual outside audit currently being conducted. Mr. Krukus stated there was nepotism in the Fire Department; Mr. Beckley noted that civil service is used for hiring of employees. Mr. Beckley noted also that any State audit would be costly to the Town. The Board of Selectmen further discussed the request for further audit; Mr. Beckley noted that the annual audit focuses on different departments as needed.

Cathy Cascio thanked Mr. Krukus for his questions and stated she has always had concerns regarding the Fire Department's need for an in-depth review and need for transparency.

Old Business

- **Report of GPS Units Installed in Municipal Vehicles**

Mr. Beckley presented a list of twelve vehicles to have GPS units installed. Three must be approved at union discussion; the union questions how discipline would be implemented.

Jack Cascio questioned the steps necessary if the union did not want the GPS units installed; Mr. Beckley noted that, in theory, the town could still implement the GPS units, and the union could appeal. The Board requested that Mr. Beckley present an explanation of which units are turned on at the next meeting.

Selectman Opalinski made the motion to Table to March 20, 2018; Selectman Whitney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

New Business

- **Retroactive Approval of Conservation Commission Reappointments**
 - **Kristen Rosenbeck, Term to Expire June 30, 2019**
 - **Dennis Cote, Term to Expire June 30, 2019**

Selectman Opalinski made the motion to retroactively approve Kristen Rosenbeck and Dennis Cote to the Conservation Commission, each to a Term to Expire June 30, 2019; Selectman Whitney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Approval/Acceptance of Restriction Limiting Discharge of Dredged and Fill Material: Wildflower Drive Lots 5, 6, 7, 11, and 21**

Mr. Beckley noted the letter from Conservation Commission with stated order of conditions.

Selectman Opalinski made the motion to approve/accept Restriction Limiting Discharge of Dredged and Fill Material for Wildflower Drive Lots 5, 6, 7, 11, and 21, as recommended by the Conservation Commission and DEP; Selectman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Approval of Appointment, Building Inspector**

Selectman Whitney made the motion to dismiss to March 20, 2018; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Request to Open Warrant for Annual Town Meeting**

Selectman Opalinski made the motion to Open the Warrant for Annual Town Meeting, with deadline for submission of warrant articles to be Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.; Selectman Whitney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Request to Open Warrant for Special Town Meeting**

Selectman Opalinski made the motion to Open the Warrant for Special Town Meeting, with deadline for submission of warrant articles to be Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.; Selectman Whitney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Request to Set Hearing for Dangerous Dog – March 20, 2018**

Selectman Whitney made the motion to Set Hearing for Dangerous Dog for March 20, 2018 at 7:05 p.m.; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Town Manager Report:

Upcoming dates:

March 6 – Open Meeting Law Training, Monson

March 10- Rabies Clinic, Warren

March 14th – Pathfinder Vocational High School Budget hearing

April 9 – Town Election

April 21 – Clean up Ware

Town Manager: *Stuart Beckley*
sbeckley@townofware.com

Budget. The Draft FY 2019 budget will be distributed to the Finance Committee by Friday. The total budget should be just over \$32 million, which is approximately a 3% increase over last year. Department budgets are still being tweaked, but some notable costs will be health insurance with a very modest increase of 0.9%, Pathfinder which had growth in enrollment, borrowing and retirement costs.

The Solar project for the landfill and Banas property has submitted plans to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board for permitting.

The Town hopes to submit a *Green Communities grant* for the replacement of existing streetlights with LED lights. This grant is due March 9. Cost savings is estimated at 30% of current budget.

Personnel. Postings for the Deputy DPW Director are up. Interviews for DPW Truck Driver and Building Inspector are being conducted.

Mary Midura has successfully sold the surplus police vehicles on Municibid, and will next sell surplus DPW vehicles.

The Capital Planning process includes taking inventory and long term planning.

Selectman Opalinski noted that the whole town is invited to participate in Clean Up Ware on April 21, 2018.

Documents presented at meeting: Arbor Day Proclamation, Application for Cemetery Commissioner: Lucas McDiarmid, Conservation Commission letter regarding Wildflower Drive Grant of Restriction Limiting Discharge of Dredged and Fill Material, Approval and Acceptance of Grant of Restriction Limiting Discharge of Dredged and Fill Material, Request to Speak letter from Keith Krukus, Documents of Fire Department expenses presented by Mr. Krukus to the Board of Selectmen, GPS Report, Notice of Opening of Warrants for Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 14, 2018.

Selectman Whitney made the motion to Adjourn Regular Session at 8:38 p.m.; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Attest: *Mary L. Midura*
Mary L. Midura, Executive Assistant