



Board of Selectmen

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Opened

6:00 p.m. Executive Session: MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) #1 Discuss Individual, #3 Collective Bargaining or Litigation

Meeting Opened at 6:02 p.m. by Chairman Carroll.

Absent: Selectman Whitney

Selectman Kruckas made the Motion to Adjourn Regular Session at 6:02 p.m. to go into Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) #1 Discuss Individual, #3 Collective Bargaining or Litigation, TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION by 7:00 p.m.; Selectman Fountain seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman Whitney).

Selectman John E. Carroll	Yes√
Selectman Michael P. Fountain	Yes√
Selectman Keith J. Kruckas	Yes√
Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski	Yes√
Selectman Alan G. Whitney	Absent

Selectman Carroll made the Motion to Adjourn Executive Session at 6:42 p.m., TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION; Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman Whitney).

Selectman John E. Carroll	Yes√
Selectman Michael P. Fountain	Yes√
Selectman Keith J. Kruckas	Yes√
Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski	Yes√
Selectman Alan G. Whitney	Absent

Regular Meeting Opened at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Carroll.

Present: Selectman John E. Carroll, Selectman Michael P. Fountain, Selectman Keith J. Kruckas, Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski, Selectman Alan G. Whitney, Town Manager Stuart Beckley, Clerk Mary L. Midura, Ware Community TV General Manager Stanley Ciukaj.

Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair

Chairman Carroll asked for a moment of silence for Theresa Kularski.

Selectman Opalinski noted the WBCA will meet Tuesday, January 15, 5:30pm at E2E, 79 Main Street.

There will be discussion of the TIP plan and tree placement. Selectman Opalinski noted that ClayWorks has opened for classes!

Consent Agenda

- **Approval of Application: Bike Race Through Ware, April 27, 2019**
- **Approval of 2019 Common Victualler: Villa's Pizza**
- **Approval of One-Day Wine & Malt Liquor Licenses: Workshop 13 for January 18, February 9, February 15, March 15, April 19, and May 17, 2019**

Selectman Whitney made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **Joint Meeting/Vote with Ware Housing Authority**
 - **Appointment: George Staiti, Term to Expire April 8, 2019**

Jon Hogan and Frank Nevue were present to represent the Ware Housing Authority.

Selectman Whitney made the motion to appoint George Staiti, term to expire April 8, 2019 to the Ware Housing Authority; Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes (Board of Selectmen), 2 Yes (Ware Housing Authority), 0 No.

- **Appointments to Bylaws Review Committee**
 - **Nancy Talbot, Town Clerk**
 - **Mary Midura, Executive Assistant to Town Manager**
 - **James Rutherford, Citizen**

Selectman Whitney made the motion to approve the appointments; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

The next Bylaws Review Committee meeting will be on January 17, 2019.

- **Authorize Town Clerk to Place Offices on Annual Town Election Ballot**

Selectman Whitney made the motion to Authorize the Town Clerk to Place the Offices of Cemetery Commissioner – One Year (Unexpired Term) and Ware Housing Authority – Three Year (Unexpired Term) on the Annual Town Election Ballot of April 8, 2019; Selectman Fountain seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **PVPC Technical Assistance Request – Regional Animal Shelter**
- **PVPC Technical Assistance Request – Complete Streets**

Mr. Beckley explained that the request is for State funds for a Regional Animal Shelter at the former Monson Developmental Center for Warren, Ware, Palmer and Monson. The Complete Streets State program would be for streets or sidewalks on West Street.

Selectman Whitney made the motion to have the Chairman sign the requests; Selectman Fountain seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **Open Warrant – Special Town Meeting**

Selectman Whitney made the motion to Open the March 11, 2019 Special Town Meeting Warrant, to be closed at 12:00 p.m. on January 31, 2019; Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Scheduled Appearances

- **7:15 p.m. Public Hearing: Application by Melha Shriners, 126 West Main Street, for New Annual All Alcoholic §12 Club License, Common Victualler License, and Entertainment License**

Russell Mitchell, proposed manager and Recorder for Melha Shriners, was present for the application. Mr. Mitchell told the Board of plans to be open for rentals, for a summer carnival, Halloween parade,

Clown Jamboree, and other events. Melha Shriners annually gives over \$700million to hospitals. All abutters were properly notified, and no objections were submitted.

Selectman Fountain made the motion to approve the Common Victualler and Entertainment Licenses for Melha Shriners, 126 West Main Street; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Selectman Fountain made the motion to approve the New Annual All Alcoholic §12 Club License for Melha Shriners, 126 West Main Street; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Selectman Opalinski made the motion to approve the 16C for Melha Shriners, 126 West Main Street; Selectman Fountain seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **Fiscal Budget Presentation with School Committee, Finance Committee**

Mr. Beckley presented the Pre-Budget FY2020 and requested the Board let him know of any goals and priorities. The first two pages show growth and spending, employee benefits, and general government with modest growth rate of 2 ½ - 3 % aim for each year. Page 3 shows numbers change in spending. Selectman Kruckas questioned the negative \$100,000 for Public Works; Mr. Beckley noted the fluctuation in department personnel. Chairman Carroll noted the charts/percentages and need to look at the numbers as well as percentages. Selectman Whitney noted that education is up by 2.9%. Mr. Beckley noted the last page in which the Town is allowed to raise 2 ½% and includes new growth and State aid. Reserves are stable and the Town has experienced a steady period of free cash for several years. Free cash is a one-time revenue, but guidelines say to grow more. The last page also shows sources of revenue with 6% increase for insurance, although the exact number from BC/BS will not be ready until month end. Selectman Whitney requested background detail; Mr. Beckley noted that detail will be provided with the budget. Selectman Opalinski asked that the model look further out; Mr. Beckley and Town Accountant Tracy Meehan noted that the State model looks out five years. Mr. Beckley noted the need to repair roads and the Capital Planning process. School Committee Chairman Aaron Sawabi noted the school priorities. Selectman Opalinski questioned funds for code enforcement. Selectman Kruckas noted that tax rate is down, but valuations are up, and he does not believe he would get what his home is reassessed at now. Selectman Opalinski questioned the study on debt going forward; Mr. Beckley noted the DLS model for fiscal review, and the last payment in September on the schools will decrease the debt. Selectman Opalinski questioned the estimated new income from cannabis revenues, and noted the town's new growth should add to the long term future projections.

Old Business

- **Discussion of Site Visit Form**

Mr. Beckley noted that the Town scheduling software can print out site visits at any time. Selectman Kruckas prefers to see a paper trail of history and information on all complaints. Selectman Opalinski noted the importance of DPW information to be tracked. Mr. Beckley noted there can be a form to enter time, place, complaint, purpose and findings.

- **Town Committee to Recommend Action Regarding Sex Offender Density**

Selectman Whitney noted that concerned citizens wanted the Town to form a committee to focus on this issue, and he would tentatively like to represent the Board on this committee. The Committee should have representatives from Police, Schools, and Selectmen. Selectman Whitney would like to have 4 citizens on this Committee. Mr. Beckley noted that the Committee information will be posted on the Town website.

Comments and Concerns of Citizens

Selectman Kruckas questioned the TIF for G&G Medical, as he noted the building is still standing that was to be removed as part of the TIF. Selectman Whitney noted that the company also is behind on hiring. Mr. Beckley noted he could check with the Building Inspector and Deputy Wloch. To revoke a TIF, there must be a Town Meeting vote.

Selectman Whitney made the motion to investigate; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Selectman Kruckas stated that no Selectmen should be on boards without a Board vote. Selectman Opalinski noted that she had only a two-hour notice to represent the Board on the East/West Rail Trail committee. Mr. Beckley suggested the Board have a written policy. Selectman Opalinski asked if there will be an article regarding solar moratorium on the warrant; Mr. Beckley noted there would be a separate warrant article for solar moratorium. Selectman Kruckas noted that the town attorney should be at Planning Board meetings to answer threats from solar companies.

Town Manager Report

Upcoming dates:

January 9 – Meeting with School Committee

January 14- Community Development Authority Public Hearing

January 15 – Ware Business and Civic Association, Main Street design discussion

January 16 – Planning Board meeting/hearing

February 5 – CDBG Public Hearing

Regional Schools – The School Committee invites the Board to their January 9 meeting to continue discussion and begin the process.

Personnel. Kristin Fredette will start in the DPW office on January 14.

The Town has submitted its revised staffing plan to the DEP. This includes an additional hour of distribution time for a consultant license holder. The Town will send out a letter with the February water/sewer bills explaining the staffing status.

Mr. St. George Sorel will attend the Selectmen’s January 29 meeting to update the board on the Water Treatment Plant project.

Planning Board. On January 16, the Planning Board will continue their public hearing on the proposed zoning bylaw changes related to:

Solar bylaw modifications – change in setbacks, Solar bylaw – temporary moratorium to consider other amendments, Craft/agricultural marijuana, language,

Use table amendments. Language amendments

I will be at the MMA Annual Conference January 18-19.

At 8:14 p.m., Selectman Whitney made the motion to Adjourn Regular Session; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Attest: 
Mary L. Midura, Executive Assistant