



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

**Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Selectman Carroll, Selectman Desmond, Selectman Talbot, Selectman Fountain, Selectman Whitney, Stuart Beckley, Mary Midura, Stanley Ciukaj

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

Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair

Selectman Desmond noted he is not seeking re-election, but will be back on the Board of Health. He noted that the backbone of town government is volunteerism. Selectman Desmond thanked Joe Pellissier, a friend and mentor, David Flanagan, Greg Harder, who had the best understanding of town government, and Donna Pulchtopek. Selectman Carroll presented a plaque with a Resolution honoring Mr. Desmond. Selectman Talbot noted that the Annual Election is April 10, with voting from 7am to 8pm. Selectman Carroll noted that the Selectman's race has five candidates, so every vote. Selectman Desmond noted that the town needs to take care of the issue of the 5pm stop transfers by ambulance.

Consent Agenda

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2017**

Selectman Talbot moved approval of the above minutes; Selectman Desmond seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Request of Citizen to Amend Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2017**

Selectmen did not discuss and did not take a vote. Selectman Carroll noted a thank you to the citizen for their interest and awareness.

Comments and Concerns of Citizens

Resident Bill Jackson questioned which property was recently bought; Mr. Beckley stated it was 94-102 Main Street, fence is down, work begins.

Resident Cathy Cascio also thanked Selectman Desmond for his service to the town. Ms. Cascio questioned the status of South Street School; Selectman Whitney answered that the company board did not approve the plan. Ms. Cascio expressed her concerns for the upcoming April 11, 2017 joint meeting of Ware and Hardwick Boards of Selectmen regarding ambulance agreement: department oversight, vehicles, fees, what impact to taxpayers if Ware takes this on. Ms. Cascio noted funds spent to fight the dump in Hardwick, dealing with Palmer race track, the town should not act like a business, not a for-profit. Ms. Cascio stated that private ambulance services v. this agreement bring issues of costs, hire, budget, regionalization. What is the next step? Will there become a need for a substation? A decision like this should be public hearing, and should have a short period out clause to pull out of the agreement if there are budget cuts.

Resident Jack Cascio also thanked Selectman Desmond for his service to the town; glad Mr. Desmond will be on the Board of Health. What is the status of the GPS? Mr. Beckley stated that 2 systems are purchased to

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

test on Quaboag Connector vehicles, but there is a lack of funding. This could be part of Town Meeting funds. Cost is \$3,000 to implement, \$3,000 to license.

Selectman Desmond asked how the Quaboag Connector has worked to date. Mr. Beckley noted the need for 2 or 3 more drivers. Selectman Carroll stated that use has been increasing: 5 users in January 2017, 66 users in February, 240 users in March. Mr. Beckley noted requirements are defensive driving class, able to operate the lift, CORI check.

Dan Flynn announced that Scouts will present Eagle Scout Plaque on May 23, 2017. The plaque has every Eagle Scout. The Annual Scouting for Food drive will include girl scouts, cub scouts, organizations and churches. Bags will be left on doorsteps on April 15, with pickup April 22. Collection was 15,000 pounds in 2016; more than Providence, Hartford and Worcester. Thank you to all residents who donate!

Five eagle scouts will be added to the Ware Eagle Scout Honor Roll on May 21, 2017 at 1:00 pm at Ware High School: Martin Flynn, Derrick Legault, Benjamin Silverio, Calvin Cieslak, Jr., and Jude Killian.

Scheduled Appearances

Old Business

New Business

- **Vote of Award of Bonds**

Mr. Beckley explained the bond is \$1.3million, 3.3% over 18 years, down to 2.6%, with \$52,000 received in premiums. Borrowing articles last year include fire truck, dump truck, mower, Morin landfill, schools.

Selectman Talbot moved approval of bonds to 2030 and 2035; Selectman Desmond seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Approval of Warrant – Special Town Meeting**

Selectman Talbot moved approval; Selectman Desmond seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Approval of Warrant – Annual Town Meeting**

Mr. Beckley explained that Special Town Meeting takes care of this fiscal year, Annual Town Meeting is next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017. Funds for GPS will be added to Article 2 of Special Town Meeting.

Selectman Talbot moved approval; Selectman Desmond seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Reappointment of Veterans Agent and Veterans Graves Officer – Mark Avis, Term to Expire March 2020**

Mr. Beckley noted that Mark Avis has done an outstanding job.

Selectman Talbot moved approval; Selectman Desmond seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Town Manager Report

Mr. Beckley stated there was no reason for an Executive Session tonight. School Committee presents their budget at 6:30 pm at Ware High School. Joint meeting of Ware and Hardwick Boards of Selectman will be held on April 11, 2017 regarding ambulance agreement.

DPW yard waste days will be April 29 and May 7, 2017 from 8am – 2pm at Robbins Road.

Baseball Opening Day is Sunday, May 7 at 12pm.

Pathfinder Budget increase from \$150,000 to \$1.2million, 19 students from Ware.

Finance Committee meets April 5, 2017 at 7:00 pm with final recommendations. Capital Planning

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

Committee meets April 6, 2017 with recommendations.

Selectman Desmond questioned the insurance increase; Mr. Beckley noted that Insurance Advisory Committee has 12.6% increase, or \$400,000 increase. Health insurance is at \$3.75million, includes retirees. Standard & Poor has rated Town of Ware as strong AA Stable.

Mr. Kilhard, DPW Director, will attend the April 18, 2017 meeting to present the USDA Water Treatment Plant program. This is not required by DEP; the program will bring 2 wells online at Barnes Street.

Mr. Beckley thanked his assistant Mary Midura for the 2016 Town Report is very well done; the report is online on the town website and copies are available in the Town Manager's office and will be available at Town Meeting.

Selectman Desmond moved to Adjourn at 7:57 p.m.; Selectman Whitney seconded. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

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