



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

**Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

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

Also Present: Richard Starodoj, Dan O'Connor, Marlene Dileo, Laurie Whitney, Cathy Cascio, Dennis Ouimette

Meeting Opened: Chairman Carroll opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair

Consent Agenda

- **Approval of December 20, 2016 Regular Session Meeting Minutes**

Selectman Talbot moved approval of the December 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes; Selectman Desmond seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Comments and Concerns of Citizens - None

New Business

- **Approval of Appointment of Director of Planning & Community Development**

Mr. Beckley introduced Ruben Flores-Marzan, the search committee's recommended choice as Director of Planning & Community Development. Based on his resume and impressive experience, the search committee believes Mr. Flores-Marzan is ideal for the Master Plan and future growth of Ware. Selectman Desmond noted his objection to this hire based on the financial situation of the town. Selectman Whitney noted the need to look at the strategic plans of the town, and stated his approval of this hire. Selectman Carroll noted his approval of this hire.

Selectman Talbot moved approval of Mr. Flores-Marzan as the Director of Planning & Community Development; Selectman Whitney seconded. The motion was approved on a vote of 4 Yes, 1 No (Selectman Desmond).

- **Animal Control Officer Designation 2017**

Selectman Talbot moved approval of the ACO designation of 2017: Sara Prideaux as part-time, primary, and Wendy Lesage as per diem, assistant; Selectman Whitney seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Approval of One-Day Liquor License- St. Mary's Church Dinner, Saturday, January 28, 2017**

Selectman Whitney moved approval of the one-day liquor license; Selectman Talbot seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

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

- **Appointment of Records Administrative Officers**

Mr. Beckley noted the new public records law which requires the town to designate Records Administrative Officers who will be responsible for responding to public information requests.

Recommended appointments:

Nancy Talbot – Records Administrative Officer

RAO Fire Department – Chief Coulombe or designee

RAO Police Department – Chief Kovitch or designee

RAO DPW – Dick Kilhart or designee

RAO Building Department – Chris Rice or designee

RAO Town Hall/Finance – Stuart Beckley

RAO School – Marlene Dileo

RAO Board of Health – Judy Metcalf

RAO Planning & Community Development – Ruben Flores-Marzan

Selectman Talbot moved approval of the appointments; Selectman Whitney seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Scheduled Appearances

- **7:15 p.m. Joint Meeting with School Committee and Finance Committee for Financial Projection and Budget Priority Discussion**

Town Manager Stuart Beckley and Town Accountant Tracy Meehan presented the Pre-Budget FY2018 Financial Presentation. Mr. Beckley noted expenditures, with state aid predicted at 3 percent or less when the Governor presents his budget on January 25, 2017. Mr. Beckley noted salaries and benefits with reasonable and steady growth in the town. The town has been successful with negotiations with unions. Capital planning process has maintained debt service consistently. The community with strong reserves in the 5-15 percent range helps borrowing. New growth in the town has steady revenues for several years. Selectman Talbot questioned training, Selectman Whitney questioned priorities, Selectman Desmond questioned health insurance. Mr. Beckley noted the review by the state and the need to address a \$1 million gap. Presently, employees pay 20 percent of insurance, while state average is 24 percent. The Board noted basic and essential services. Superintendent Dileo noted the school budget will be presented to the School Committee on January 11, 2017. Mr. Beckley requested priorities from the Board and departments. Resident Cathy Cascio questioned the discretionary funds and the need to address the roads and infrastructure.

- **Police Chief Hiring Process**

Mr. Beckley explained that 6 internal candidates may apply for the assessment center. The Board may want to do an in-house or open competitive assessment center. Cost is approximately \$6,000 for 5 applicants. Resident Cathy Cascio stated that this is a very important position and the town should get the best candidates. **Selectman Whitney moved to approve an open competitive assessment center, with caveat when number of applicants is known, the Board reserves the right to change the decision; Selectman Desmond seconded. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Selectman Talbot).**

- **Recommendations on Plowing and Sanding Unfinished Subdivision Roads- Winter 2016-2017**

Mr. Starodoj noted the annual review of privately-owned roads and the recommendations of the Planning Board.

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

Selectman Talbot moved approval of the recommendations; Selectman Whitney seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Late File: Request from Town Clerk to Place Unexpired Term of Cemetery Commission (2 Year) and Ware Housing Authority (1 Year) on Annual Town Election Ballot**


Selectman Talbot moved approval to place the above on the April 10, 2017 ballot; Selectman Fountain seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Town Manager Report

Mr. Beckley was instructed to give a report at the January 24, 2017 meeting regarding the process of fines on the Hitchcock building on Main Street and property at 73 West Main Street. Mr. Beckley noted that Gandara would like to present at the January 24, 2017 meeting. Mr. Beckley announced a new grant received for LED lights. The Board of Selectmen are invited to the Ware Eagle Scout Honor Roll Plaque Dedication Ceremony on January 29, 2017 at 2:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Residents can contact the DPW to dispose of Christmas trees at the highway yard.

At 8:30 p.m., Selectman Talbot made the motion to adjourn; Selectman Whitney seconded. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously (5-0).

Attest:



Mary L. Midura, Executive Assistant