



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

Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Opened

Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair

Chairman Talbot requested a moment of silence for Al Albrecht, who was 98 on Saturday, January 6, 2018 and passed away on Tuesday, January 9, 2018. Mr. Albrecht was a veteran and outstanding community leader of Boy Scouts and many veterans' organizations.

Consent Agenda

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

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

Selectman Opalinski announced that the Ware Fuel Bank is still taking applications through Community Action for fuel assistance – citizens can call 967-9981. Selectman Opalinski asked that items assigned to the Town Manager be tracked, and that Selectmen be given follow-up on these items. Selectman Opalinski asked about the By-Law Committee; Chairman Talbot noted this Committee would meet soon. Selectman Opalinski noted that the Board of Selectmen should be notified when a lawsuit has been filed against the town. Selectman Opalinski requested updates from Palmer Planning regarding the racetrack lawsuit. Selectman Opalinski noted the schematics list of a previous meeting related to RT's Welding; Chairman Talbot noted that a meeting needs to be set up for affected departments to attend and discuss this. Chairman Talbot also noted she is compiling the list of licensed storage of flammables. Selectman Opalinski stated that the press release and survey for the Town Manager evaluation and almost ready. Selectman Whitney requested an updated status of the burned house at West Main Street.

Scheduled Appearances

- **7:10 p.m. Public Hearing: National Grid/Verizon New England Pole Petition #25236124 Gould Road**

Selectman Opalinski moved approval of Petition #25236124; Selectman Fountain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Comments and Concerns of Citizens

Keith Krukas noted he previously requested FOIA of Fire Department information, and there are many discrepancies in the information. He requested that the Fire Department have a State Independent Audit done, and questioned what is going on behind the scene.

John Desmond questioned the status of the ER at Baystate Mary Lane Hospital; Mr. Beckley noted that a monthly advisory group is working on this situation and the ER remains open. Mr. Desmond stated that the Town needs to do a critical review of all departments and use of town vehicles. Mr. Desmond suggested that the Town Manager relocate to the Town. Mr. Desmond noted that the Division of Local Services shows a bleak forecast, and the Town should push for changes in School Choice. Mr. Desmond noted that over \$600,000 insurance costs for employees should be addressed.

Phil Bourcier questioned why the Town does not have a fully licensed water operator, as this is a public safety issue.

Randy Letourneau, RT's Welding owner, stated that they are continuously singled out for discussion; Chairman Talbot noted the discussion must be of all licensees, not any business to be singled out.

- **Commendations: Kevin Lizak, Edward Wloch**

Mr. Beckley explained that Mr. Lizak and Deputy Wloch responded quickly to the transformer explosion at Barnes Street on December 13, 2017, and their quick actions saved town services.

Selectman Whitney read the commendations; Commendations were presented to Mr. Lizak and Deputy Wloch.

Old Business

- **Approval of Assessment Center – Sergeants**

Chairman Talbot recused herself and turned the gavel over to Vice Chairman Whitney.

Chief Crevier presented the information to seek approval of the assessment center for a sergeant position. Selectman Carroll stated that the Board of Selectmen should have input in the process, noting his 20+ years' police experience.

Selectman Opalinski moved approval of the assessment center for a sergeant position; Selectman Fountain seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Chairman Talbot recused).

- **Approval of Language for Road Bond Ballot Question**

Mr. Beckley noted the specific ballot question language with a Yes/No vote.

Selectman Whitney moved approval of the ballot question; Selectman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 1 No (Selectman Fountain).

Selectman Fountain stated he believed there were other options to save funds.

New Business

- **Retroactive Approval of Common Victualler License #28: DMD Pizza, LLC d/b/a Domino's Pizza, 124 West Street (opened December 18, 2017)**

Mr. Delisle, manager, was present. Ms. Midura explained that the Building Inspector and Board of Health were correctly contacted for the December opening of this business, but the application for a Common Victualler license was overlooked.

Selectman Opalinski moved approval of the Common Victualler License #28; Selectman Whitney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Town Manager: Stuart Beckley
sbeckley@townofware.com

- **Approval of DEP Administrative Consent Order**

Mr. Beckley noted that the Board must choose an option and return this order by Friday, January 12, 2018 to remain in DEP compliance. The best option at this time would be #3 to hire a contractor for the remaining 19 hours/week for 5 months for approximate total of \$29,000.

Phil Bourcier questioned why work on Church Street was not properly supervised.

Keith Krukas questioned why no ads for operators have been placed.

Mr. Beckley noted that the chief sewer system operator will become licensed and full-time in June 2018.

Selectman Whitney moved approval of option #3 on the Administrative Consent Order; Selectman Fountain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Vote on MMA Business Meeting Resolutions**

Selectman Opalinski moved approval of the three resolutions for the MMA Business Meeting; Selectman Whitney seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 1 No (Selectman Carroll).

Town Manager Report

Mr. Beckley has presented a level-funded budget cover sheet to departments. The Governor's budget may provide a 3-4% increase in local aid to towns. The LED lights have been installed; the State will reimburse the town. The Senior Center was closed on Monday and Tuesday due to repairs needed to sprinkler valves; insurance will cover these repairs. The Solar lease will be a topic on January 23, 2018 agenda. The 5 year TIF language for the South Street School building will also be presented to the Board. Mr. Beckley is in touch with Berkshire Bank and the owner regarding Wildflower Drive. Articles on this and sidewalks may be ready by Town Meeting. With expectation of a large rainstorm on Friday/Saturday, the DPW has been cleaning catch basins; residents are welcome to help with clearing catch basins and hydrants to make the whole town safer. The Quaboag Connector van system is transporting approximately 800 riders per month. The MMA conference is January 19 and 20, 2018.

Selectman Whitney moved to Adjourn Regular Session at 8:09 p.m.; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a Vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Attest: 
Mary L. Midura, Executive Assistant