



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

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 24, 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 pm. Mr. Carroll requested a moment of silence to honor Wayne Higney, former Ware High School teacher, who passed away on January 10, 2017.

Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair - none

Comments and Concerns of Citizens

Ms. Darlene Sojka stated her concerns regarding the "Slum and Blight Designation". Ms. Sojka read the list of streets named by the designation. Ms. Sojka questioned the public notice of the December 6, 2016 meeting and the timing of this designation vote. Selectman Desmond stated that he never saw the information until the night of December 6, 2016 and apologized for his vote. Ms. Sojka questioned the plan of this designation and whether the vote could be reversed. Ms. Sojka also questioned whether the funds will be used for commercial properties, how long the designation will really last, and how does the public apply for housing funds from this designation. The Board instructed Mr. Beckley to invite the Community Development Authority and Director to the February 21, 2017 meeting to clarify the information for the benefit of the public.

Consent Agenda

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2017 and March 22, 2016, April 5, 2016, April 26, 2016, June 7, 2016, June 21, 2016**

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

Scheduled Appearances

- **7:05 p.m. - Presentation by Gandara Center:**

Attorney Richard Maynard, Jeff McGeary, Heather Murphy and Lisa Brecher presented the information regarding the recovery program. Attorney Maynard noted that the Zoning and Building departments have indicated that the proposed use is essentially the same as previous use, and no special permits are needed. The structured program is supervised 24/7, similar to a program in Westfield. DPH is very supportive of the choice of Ware for this program, based on opioid statistics and community need. A February opening is anticipated. The Board of Selectmen instructed Mr. Beckley to forward Attorney Maynard's letter to town counsel for review.

Old Business

- **Update on Process of Fines/Liens for Hitchcock Building, Main Street, and 73 West Main Street**
Mr. Beckley noted that the town was previously supportive of the grant for the Main Street property, but there has been no response from the owner, and a letter has been sent from the town to the state stating the town does not wish to pursue the grant. Properties are going into tax title, a process that typically takes 2 years. The Board of Selectmen instructed Mr. Beckley to provide information at the February 7, 2017 meeting of the next legal steps to be taken.

- **Police Chief Exam Expansion, Request to Expand**

Selectmen Desmond moved that the Board of Selectmen authorize a parallel internal promotional center; Selectman Whitney seconded. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Selectman Talbot).

Selectman Desmond moved to authorize the Board of Selectmen Chairman to sign the delegation agreement; Selectman Fountain seconded. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 1 Abstention (Selectman Talbot).

New Business

- **Approval retroactively of One-Day Liquor License for Workshop 13, Friends of the Boy Scouts – Sip & Paint, Date of Event: Saturday, January 21, 2017 (Submitted paperwork in order)**

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

- **Approval for Change of Manager Application for License #1 Aspen Street Rod & Gun Club, Inc., Aspen Street, Ware (Submitted paperwork in order)**

- **Proposed New Manager: Michael R. Brown**

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

- **Set a Public Hearing for February 7, 2017 at 7:05pm for Gabryel Narutowicz, Inc. for Change in Beneficial Interest, Change in Officers/Directors**

Selectman Whitney moved to set a Public Hearing for February 7, 2017 at 7:05 pm; Selectman Talbot seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Selectmen's FY2018 Budget**

Selectman Talbot moved to approve FY2018 level-funded budget for the Board of Selectmen; Selectman Whitney seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Selectman Desmond expressed concerns regarding the entire budget, noting a hard look and critical review is needed in particular for health insurance costs, use of department vehicles, and roadways.


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

Town Manager Report

Mr. Beckley gave his report. The Quaboag Connector has started. The Board requested that a phone message and website message also be posted. Officer Perrault will transfer to the Town of Auburn, having worked 5 years for the Town of Ware. Mr. Beckley noted that the Town of Ware is now in line for a grant for 30% of cost for conversion of street lights; estimated cost of conversion of streetlights is \$300-400,000. Mr. Beckley provided monthly department updates, as requested by the Board of Selectmen.

At 8:25 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