



Board of Selectmen

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Selectman Alan G. Whitney, Selectman John E. Carroll, Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski, Town Manager Stuart Beckley, Clerk Mary L. Midura

Absent: Selectman Nancy J. Talbot, Selectman Keith J. Kruckas

Meeting Opened by Chairman Whitney

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

Consent Agenda

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 4, November 5, November 19, November 26, November 29, and December 23, 2019**
- **Special Event Permit Application, 2020 Rosary Rally: October 10, 2020**
- **One-Day Beer & Wine License Applications, Workshop 13: January 17, February 15, February 21, and February 23, 2020**

Selectman Opalinski made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectmen Talbot, Kruckas).

Scheduled Appearances - none

Old Business

- **Complete Streets Policy**

Rebekah DeCoursey, Director of Planning and Community Development, Becky Basch and Jeff McCullough of PVPC presented the policy. Ms. Basch noted that the definition of complete streets would include active transportation, physical and mental health, social cohesion and independence. The next step would be to create a prioritization plan to present to the State for eligibility of \$400,000 funding. Some areas for the prioritization plan would be West Street, Gould Road, using crosswalk bump outs, rapid flashing beacons, and other traffic calming measures.

Selectman Carroll made the motion to approve the Complete Streets Policy. Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectmen Talbot, Kruckas).

Resident John Desmond noted individual responsibility such as using reflective clothing, and the need to educate people on safety. Selectman Opalinski noted the Safe Roads to Schools program that provides bike helmets and bike safety courses.

- **License Clarification and Approval: Gillespie Car Care 1**

Clerk Mary Midura noted that the owners have written their compliance to not park any vehicles on the front lawn. The Building Inspector's review noted room in back of the building and along the side. Selectman Carroll questioned the operations and location of the business; Mr. Gillespie noted they had previously experienced identity theft and only have the business in Ware. Ms. Midura noted two complaints this year, but complainants would not put their issues in writing to present to the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Opalinski made the motion to approve the Class II Car Dealer License for Gillespie Car Care 1 with the following specifications: No cars parked on front lawn.

Selectman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectmen Talbot, Kruckas).

- **Safety Surveys: High Street, Pulaski Street**

Chief Crevier noted that Officer Talbot, Safety Officer, reviewed the streets and residents' concerns. He suggested allowing parking on one side of the street only. Selectman Opalinski noted there should be a public hearing before any changes are made, and to consider the impact on downtown parking. Resident Andrew Choquette noted another car was hit recently because of the parking issues. Resident Kim Mongeau noted there must be bylaws to make landlords provide parking. Resident Cathy Cascio requested public input and consideration of landlord issues. Resident/reporter Jim Russell noted that former selectman Desmond had questioned why streets were so narrow.

Chairman Whitney instructed the Town Manager to set a public hearing for February 4, 2020 at 7:15 p.m.

New Business

- **School Regionalization Study, Schedule Joint Meeting Date**

The Board instructed the Town Manager to set a joint meeting date for Wednesday, January 29, 2020.

- **Accept Resignation: Francis W. Cote, Bylaw Review Committee**

Selectman Carroll made the motion to accept the resignation, with thanks. Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectmen Talbot, Kruckas).

Comments and Concerns of Citizens

Resident Anne Krasnecky stated that she and her husband presented videos at the last meeting, on advice from the Town Manager in July to present their issues when the license was up for renewal. Ms. Krasnecky stated this was bad guidance and favoritism of town officials.

Resident John Desmond stated his outrage at a letter from the Building Inspector stating his address would be changed from 12 to 10 Dugan Road. He has lived at 12 Dugan Road for over 50 years, and to change all his documentation, bills, and address information creates a hardship. He stated there was no justification for this change. Resident Andrew Choquette stated that in his previous position in the Building Department, the department received a complaint from the homeowner at 12 ½ Dugan Road. This issue should have been corrected many years ago. Resident George Staiti noted the history of the parcel having been subdivided. Acting Fire Chief Gagnon noted that fire department personnel can find the proper home in an emergency. Town Manager Beckley offered that he and Ms. Marques, Building Inspector, could meet with the

homeowner and offer 12 ½ or 10 for the address number. The Board agreed with Mr. Desmond that the issue could also possibly be resolved when Mr. Desmond has sold the home in the future.

Acting Fire Chief Gagnon noted the need for safe use of space heaters and the clearing of snow from fire hydrants.

Police Chief Crevier's contract will expire in June; the Board noted that Chairman Whitney will be on a sub-committee with Mr. Beckley to review the Police Chief's contract.

Selectman Carroll noted he will not run for re-election as Selectman.

Resident Kim Mongeau questioned the water discoloration; Mr. Beckley noted that most of the town has greatly improved water due to water flushing. The water treatment plant construction should begin in 2021. Resident Kim Mongeau also questioned the release of Executive Session minutes. Mr. Beckley noted that those minutes must be reviewed by the Chairman, and approved before release.

Selectman Opalinski requested an update on the title and bond counsel.

Resident/reporter Jim Russell questioned information on the Finance Committee minutes regarding \$55,000; Mr. Beckley noted he will answer that question.

Town Manager Report

January 11 – Holiday decoration cleanup

January 16 – Planning Board public hearing, solar bylaw changes

Personnel: Nicole Croteau will move from the Planning Department to the building department as Administrative Assistant. Administration support for the Conservation Commission will remain with that department. The search will move forward to fill the position in the Planning department. The DPW assistant position will be filled in the near future. The Treasurer/Collector's office is assisting during the DPW transition.

The Town is accepting Christmas trees at Robbins Road until January 25.

The water department has begun reading meters for the February billing.

The Fiscal Year 2021 budget process has begun. The budget message is attached. The governor's budget will be issued in a few weeks. This will let the Town have a better understanding of State aid. In particular, the local effect of the new education funding formula will be known. Department budgets and capital requests are due at the end of the month. At the same time, annual reports will be submitted to Mary.

Please read the attached description of an exciting new grant program at Ware Public Schools that will bring Science and Technology Labs to the Middle School.

With the installation of the LED streetlights across the town, the Town is responsible for maintenance for most lights. The Town has posted on the website the process for notifying the Town when lights go out or are damaged. The process will be to call the Town Manager's office. Repairs will be done on a monthly basis.

The Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show is January 24-25. The MMA proposed resolutions (2) are attached.

Selectman Carroll made the motion to appoint Selectman Opalinski to represent the Board of Selectmen at the MMA Annual Meeting on January 24-25, 2020. Selectman Whitney seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectmen Talbot, Kruckas).

Selectman Carroll made the motion to Adjourn Regular Session at 8:22 p.m. to go into Executive Session: M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) #1 Discussion of Complaints Regarding a Public Employee: Town Manager; #2 Contract Negotiations with Acting Fire Chief; NOT TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION.

Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectmen Talbot, Kruckas).

Selectman Alan G. Whitney	Yes✓
Selectman John E. Carroll	Yes✓
Selectman Keith J. Kruckas	Absent
Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski	Yes✓
Selectman Nancy J. Talbot	Absent

Attest: 
Mary L. Midura, Executive Assistant to
Town Manager