



**Board of Selectmen  
Ware Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Meeting Room  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Opened by Chairman Talbot at 7:00 p.m.**

**Present: Selectman Nancy J. Talbot, Selectman Alan G. Whitney, Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski, Selectman John E. Carroll, Selectman Michael P. Fountain, Town Manager Stuart Beckley, Hardwick Selectman Kenan P. Young, Hardwick Selectman Kelly G. Allen, Hardwick Selectman Julie M. Quink, Hardwick Town Administrator Theresa Cofske, Stanley Ciukaj, Ware Community TV**

**Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair**  
Chairman Talbot noted the agenda items.

**Consent Agenda**

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2017 and June 29, 2017**

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

**New Business**

- **Tax Analysis Handout**

**Selectman Whitney moved to postpone to September 19, 2017; Selectman Fountain seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

**Comments and Concerns of Citizens**

Bill Jackson inquired about the shrubs at Rite Aid; Mr. Beckley stated he would call on July 12, 2017. Keith Krukus inquired why the tax information was tabled; Selectmen noted this would be discussed at a September meeting.

Cathy Cascio inquired why a Public Hearing was not held regarding the ambulance services, and the public had no chance to ask questions or voice concerns. Mr. Beckley noted the request for residents' questions was on the Town website and in the newspaper. Chairman Talbot noted that Ms. Cascio could ask her questions now. Ms. Cascio questioned the cost of expanding the ambulance services to another town, would there be a need for a substation, was is the compensation to the town and will that cover benefits, salaries, workers' compensation, training. Ms. Cascio questioned if there is a quick-out clause, and noted the town should take care of Ware first. Chairman Talbot noted all these concerns are covered in the agreement.

**Scheduled Appearances**

- **7:05p.m. Weir River Social Club, Inc. – Review of Application of Change of Manager, Change of Beneficial Interests**

**Selectman Opalinski moved approval of the application; Selectman Whitney seconded. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Selectman Fountain).**

- **Approval of One-Day Liquor License Application – Workshop 13, Friday, July 14, 2017**  
**Selectman Opalinski moved approval of the license; Selectman Fountain seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- **LATE FILE: Approval of One-Day Liquor License Application – Ware Council Home Association (Knights of Columbus), Saturday, July 15, 2017**  
**Selectman Opalinski moved approval of the license; Selectman Whitney seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- **7:15 p.m. Board of Selectmen Joint Meeting with Hardwick Selectmen RE: Ambulance Contract**

The Hardwick Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator joined the Ware Board of Selectmen to discuss the ambulance agreement. Mr. Beckley note the agreement reflects the work of both Boards, Chief Coulombe, Mr. Beckley, and the ambulance subcommittee. The Ware Fire Department has been providing the service since April 1, 2017. The amount of \$60,000 will be paid by Hardwick to Ware for FY2018, plus \$15,000 retroactive will be paid by Hardwick to Ware for FY2017. The agreement will be for three years, with annual review. Approximately \$100-150,000 will go to ambulance reserve fund from receipts.

Selectman Carroll stated that #4 should be changed to deposit annual payment of funds to the General Fund. Selectman Carroll noted that an annual review is important, while a contract of three years will give a complete picture of how the agreement is working. Selectman Carroll noted he is a proponent of regionalization, and this agreement is a start in that direction with a savings and benefit to both towns. Ms. Cascio questioned #1 which gives the Fire Chief discretion, and further suggested use of private ambulance services for Hardwick without increase and stress to resources of the Town of Ware. Chairman Talbot noted that the data analysis showed greater costs with private ambulance services.

Ms. Cascio stated that taxes are too high, and questioned whether ambulance bills are being paid; Mr. Beckley noted that perception is incorrect and approximately 3% in current data show as not paid. Resident John Desmond objected to the agreement, noting the Fire Chief's statement in the 2016 Town Report regarding the strain on resources, closing of the hospital, and time involved in this service. Mr. Desmond argued that this agreement should have been presented at Town Meeting or as a ballot vote. Chairman Talbot noted that the Board of Selectmen are elected to make such decisions for the community, and Hardwick included the appropriation for this in their town meeting budget.

Resident Kim Ring questioned what happens when people do not pay for the ambulance service; Mr. Beckley noted that the town bills several times for the insurance payment and resident payment portions. Resident Jennifer McMartin questioned the numbers on paper versus these are people's lives, and it is dangerous to say there is only a 2.5 call increase, as this changes day to day because of life events. Ms. McMartin stated it took her over 25 minutes to drive from Hardwick to Ware.

Selectman Opalinski noted that the system is dual based with the ambulance and fire plus mutual aid. Chairman Talbot noted all these considerations were examined in the subcommittee.

Resident Bill Jackson compared this agreement to the deal with Kanzaki Papers several years ago, and stated that the agreement looked good in writing, but did not work in reality. Mr. Jackson cautioned the Board to think this over carefully.

Resident Brandy Bruso questioned the use of the annual payments; it has been proposed that the annual funds be deposited to the General Fund.

**Selectman Opalinski moved to accept the ambulance agreement, with changes to #4 (Add “The annual payment of funds shall be deposited to the General Fund”), #7 (Remove “At the end of this initial term, this Agreement shall automatically renew for successive one (1) year terms.”), and #10 (Revise to read “A member of the Board of Selectmen from each town, the Town Manager/Administrator for each town, the Ware Fire Chief, and one resident from each town shall comprise the Committee.”); Selectman Carroll seconded. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 1 No (Selectman Fountain).**

**Hardwick Selectman Allen moved to accept the ambulance agreement, with changes to #4 (Add “The annual payment of funds shall be deposited to the General Fund”), #7 (Remove “At the end of this initial term, this Agreement shall automatically renew for successive one (1) year terms.”), and #10 (Revise to read “A member of the Board of Selectmen from each town, the Town Manager/Administrator for each town, the Ware Fire Chief, and one resident from each town shall comprise the Committee.”); Hardwick Selectman Quink seconded. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.**

- **Reappointments to Community Development Authority:**
  - **Brenda Cooper, Term to Expire June 30, 2018**
  - **Tracy Opalinski, Term to Expire June 30, 2019**
  - **Paul Opalinski, Term to Expire June 30, 2020**

**Selectman Whitney moved approval of the reappointments; Selectman Carroll seconded. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Selectman Opalinski).**

- **New Appointment to Council on Aging: Cindy Wloch, Term to Expire June 30, 2020**  
**Selectman Fountain moved approval of the new appointment; Selectman Whitney seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- **Reappointment to Council on Aging: Janet Ciejka, Term to Expire June 30, 2020**  
**Selectman Whitney moved approval of the reappointment; Selectman Opalinski seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- **Reappointment to Zoning Board of Appeals: Charles Dowd, Term to Expire June 30, 2020**  
**Selectman Opalinski moved approval of the reappointment; Selectman Fountain seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- **Reappointment to Zoning Board of Appeals: Gregory W. Eaton, Term to Expire June 30, 2020**  
**Selectman Opalinski moved approval of the reappointment; Selectman Fountain seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

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

- **Reappointments to Historical Commission:**
  - Kathleen A. Galford, Term to Expire June 30, 2020
  - Lynn Caulfield Lak, Term to Expire June 30, 2020

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

- **Acceptance of Resignation from Historical Commission: Judith P. B. Mosso, Term to Expire June 30, 2019**

Selectman Opalinski moved acceptance of the resignation of Ms. Mosso, with regrets, and with thanks for Ms. Mosso's service; Selectman Whitney seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

#### **Town Manager Report**

Mr. Beckley noted that openings on boards/committees are an item on the town website. The town has received notice that it has been approved for a grant from Stanton Foundation for a dog park. The legislature has completed the State budget, with only an increase of \$800 for the Town of Ware. The new Senior Citizen van will arrive next week. The exterior walls of the Senior Center need repair. The ZBA will hold a public hearing regarding 73 South Street at 7pm on July 12, 2017.

#### **Executive Session: MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) #2, Negotiations**

Selectman Opalinski moved to Adjourn Regular Session at 8:00 p.m. to move into Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) #2 Negotiations, and #6 Real Property, NOT TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION; Selectman Fountain seconded. The motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of 5 Yes, 0 No:

Nancy J. Talbot	Yes√
Alan G. Whitney	Yes√
Tracy R. Opalinski	Yes√
John E. Carroll	Yes√
Michael P. Fountain	Yes√

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