



Board of Selectmen

**Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting Opened

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

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

Consent Agenda - none

Scheduled Appearances – none

Old Business

- **Appointments of Special Police Officers, Honorary Police Officers, Police Matrons, and Constables**

Selectman Whitney made the motion to approve the appointments to June 30, 2020. Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Selectman Talbot).

New Business

- **Main Street Land Takings**

Mr. Beckley noted the 33 takings as directed by Mass DOT and town counsel with title research. Mr. Beckley acknowledged the tedious work done by Gilbert St. George-Sorel, with help from Mary Midura. The Board of Selectmen expressed their thanks.

I move that the Board adopt and sign the 5 orders of taking (attached hereto) of permanent easements and the 28 orders of taking (attached hereto) of temporary easements regarding the Main Street Reconstruction project and that the Board sign the attached 33 notices of takings and authorize the Town Manager to draft, sign and send appropriate cover letters and related documents to all property owners and take whatever other actions necessary to complete these eminent domain takings.

The motion was made by Selectman Nancy J. Talbot. The motion was seconded by Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

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

- **Request to Waive Late Charge Fees and Interest on Water Bill: Walsh, 31 Warebrook Drive**
Mr. Walsh was present. He stated he did not receive the first bill, but received the demand with late charges and paid immediately. Selectman Opalinski questioned if this happens often. Mr. St. George-Sorel noted that 800 late notices were mailed, and he does not waive late fees. Mr. Walsh stated he has been in town only ten months and received the previous bill without a problem.

Selectman Opalinski made the motion to waive the \$15.91 late charge; Selectman Talbot seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **Request for Handicapped Parking Sign: 33 Pulaski Street**
Mr. Grant was present. He noted there are no handicapped spaces on the street. He noted the driveway to the complex in which he rents an apartment has shared access and is very difficult to navigate. Chairman Carroll noted the public safety officer should evaluate and give recommendation to the Board. Mr. Grant noted ADA compliance law.

Selectman Whitney made the motion for the Public Safety Officer to review and report to the Board of Selectmen on August 13, 2019 on Request for Handicapped Parking Sign at 33 Pulaski Street; Selectman Talbot seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **Authorize Town Manager , Schools Project Funding Agreement**

Selectman Opalinski made the following motion:

The Board of Selectmen votes to authorize the Town Manager to execute and deliver the Project Funding Agreement (the "Agreement"), and any amendments thereto, for the Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School and the Ware Middle School Projects (the "Project") between the Town of Ware and the Massachusetts School Building Authority on behalf of the Town of Ware and to bind the Town of Ware as to terms and conditions; and that the Board of Selectmen votes to authorize the Town Manager to make final, binding decisions with respect to the Project described in the Project Funding Agreement, and any amendments thereto, on behalf of the Town of Ware.

Selectman Talbot seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Selectman Kruckas questioned the progress of the School Building Committee; Mr. Beckley noted that an afternoon meeting was held as that was convenient for the consultants. Chairman Carroll stated that the consultants should be told to come to a night meeting.

- **East-West Passenger Rail Resolution and Support**

Benjamin Hood, Chairman of the Rail Steering Committee, spoke to the Board. He noted that a meeting will be held in Springfield on July 23 to present 6 alternatives. This resolution and letter are very timely and Ware is friendly territory with the Quaboag Connector and QVDC. The East-West Rail Steering Committee is presenting a recommendation of a stop in Palmer. The State study has looked at

Massachusetts, Vermont and Connecticut with 8 trains each way daily. That previous \$1million study was shelved. This is now a follow-up. The Town of Monson did a similar resolution last week. In total, 18 towns are supporting this region. Chairman Carroll read aloud the resolution.

Selectman Kruckas made the motion to approve the resolution; Selectman Talbot seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **Application to Zoning Board of Appeals: Jodi Chartier, Term to Expire June 30, 2022**

(This application was in the published packet, inadvertently not placed on agenda)

Selectman Talbot made the motion to appoint Jodi Chartier to the ZBA; Selectman Whitney seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **Town Manager Goals Update**

Mr. Beckley requested to table to the next meeting.

Selectman Whitney made the motion to table Town Manager Goals Update to August 13, 2019; Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Comments and Concerns of Citizens - none

Town Manager Report

Upcoming dates:

August 6 – National Night Out, 6-8 p.m.

August 13 – Board Meeting

Weather

With anticipated high temperatures this weekend, the Town is prepared to offer cooling centers. The first will be the fire station. If more space is needed, the Senior Center will be opened. The hours will be 10am – 5pm on Saturday and Sunday. Additionally, the Town pool will have extended hours, being open from 1 pm – 7 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

The Town has not yet reached the threshold to impose the required watering ban, but if the river stays at its current level through Thursday morning, a restriction will be required. This would limit residential watering to before 9 am or after 5 pm.

Bidding

The Town received Bids for DPW materials and services such as paving, chip seal and snow plowing and will move forward on summer road projects. One item, milling, had to be rebid. Those quotes will be received by Friday. Proposals for 73 West Main Street are due July 26.

Personnel

The Town has hired Michael Bouvier of Ware as a Truck Driver/Laborer for the Highway Division of the DPW. He began work today.

Departmental staff completed two trainings on Customer Service in the past month. In addition to the trained staff, the programs provide for reductions in the Town's liability insurance

Main Street

The Town is meeting with the new owner of 114 Main Street tomorrow to discuss plans for the building.

Chairman Carroll stated he would like a discussion at the next meeting to hire a part-time position for HR and requested that the Town Manager list options.

Selectman Opalinski asked about help for the DPW and Parks; Mr. Beckley noted a private company helps. Selectman Opalinski questioned the progress of the Committee to Recommend Legislative Action Regarding Sex Offender Density. Selectman Whitney noted that the chair of the Committee has not called a meeting recently.

Selectman Kruckas questioned the ambulance costs per transport, noted at a meeting last night. Mr. Beckley noted that the Board of Selectmen voted to add this cost to Hardwick.

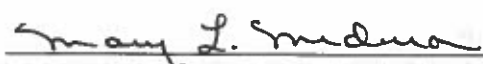
Selectman Opalinski questioned the positions advertised for DPW and Treasurer, and suggested advertising in MMA and networking; Mr. Beckley noted advertisements in Turley publications and MMA. Mr. Beckley noted the option of sharing a treasurer with West Brookfield.

Selectman Kruckas questioned ongoing projects. Selectman Opalinski also questioned the process of the water treatment plant. Mr. Beckley noted the timeline is 18-24 months. Mr. St. George-Sorel stated that he wants to compare actual revenues to the \$6million cost. He noted that, in addition to the plant, there will be ongoing costs such as replenishment of filters. He believes an additional \$1.5million will be needed. Selectman Kruckas noted the Board should receive concrete numbers. Mr. St. George-Sorel noted direct and indirect costs. Selectman Talbot asked if Mass. Water Resources has been contacted for grants or other funding. Mr. Beckley noted these are loans. The USDA will have more information available in October 2019. Chairman Carroll asked about Snow's Pond or Muddy Brook. Mr. St. George-Sorel noted the iron and manganese in Muddy Brook, and the very expensive process to get those out of the water. Selectman Opalinski noted that code enforcement is needed. She also requested that information to be presented to the Capital Planning Committee be sent prior to the meetings.

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

Selectman Whitney made the motion to Adjourn Regular Session at 7:53 p.m. to go into Executive Session: MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) #2 Negotiations-Police, NOT TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION. Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

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

Attest: 
Mary L. Midura, Executive Assistant