



Board of Selectmen

**Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting Opened by Chairman Carroll. There was a moment of silence for Genevieve Desmond.

Present: Selectman John E. Carroll, Selectman Keith J. Kruckas, Selectman Nancy J. Talbot, Town Manager Stuart Beckley, Clerk Mary L. Midura

Absent: Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski, Selectman Alan G. Whitney

Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair

Consent Agenda

- **Retroactive Approval One-Day Liquor License: Workshop 13, Vinyl Record Show & Sale, Sunday, June 30, 2019**
- **Special Event Application: Grenville Woodland Playground Committee Presents Nerf War, Sunday, July 14, 2019**
- **Special Event Application: Patricia Orszulak Memorial 5K Run/Walk to Cure ALS, Saturday, August 24, 2019**
- **Special Event Application: Ware Farmers & Artisans Market, July – October 2019**

Selectman Kruckas made the motion to approve the consent agenda; Selectman Talbot seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Opalinski, Selectman Whitney).

Scheduled Appearances

- **Public Hearing: Dangerous Dogs**

Chairman Carroll noted the letter of complaint from Bill Hill. Mr. and Mrs. Hill noted they have lived in town for over 20 years, and recent events as described in their letter. They now have a puppy and need to walk safely on the rail trail 2 – 4 times per day. Their dogs now have anxiety as a result of the attacks by the dogs at 20 Westbrook Avenue. They no longer walk by that residence. They are aware that the dogs' owners have put up a kennel, but the dogs have been loose even after the kennel was put up.

Chairman Carroll asked if there have been any vet or medical bills; the Hills answered no.

Jen Baker, owner of Gunner and Chloe, noted that she replaced her storm door and bought stronger leashes and collars, as well as the outdoor \$500 kennel. The dog is a rescue and high energy, but she was not home on either day of the attacks. The dog officer never contacted Ms. Baker. Selectman Kruckas questioned why the dog officer did not contact Ms. Baker. Selectman Talbot questioned the safety of the kennel; Ms. Baker noted the kennel is anchored and 10 feet from the door. Selectman Talbot suggested the dogs should be on leash from the door to the kennel and back.

Chairman Carroll asked Mr. and Mrs. Hill if they were satisfied with these improvements; the Hills stated they were not satisfied and the dog should be muzzled as the leashes do not work. Chairman Carroll asked Town Manager Stuart Beckley to contact the Animal Control Officer to give a full report. Chairman Carroll stated that both dogs should be on secure leashes and under control at all times. He reminded the owners

that they are responsible if there are any further incidents. Selectman Kruckas noted that police should be called. Mr. Hills stated he called the police many times. Mr. Beckley noted that in previous such cases, the Board would require muzzles and leashes. Selectman Kruckas asked to be notified if there is no response from the Animal Control Officer. Chairman Carroll stated that the neighbors should speak outside to resolve the situation.

Selectman Talbot made the motion to continue this hearing for further review on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 7:05 p.m. Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Opalinski, Selectman Whitney).

Old Business

- **Review of Expense Reimbursement Policy**

Selectman Kruckas noted that this was discussed in Executive Session two weeks ago. Mr. Beckley noted the policy and the grievance are not yet resolved.

Selectman Talbot made the motion to table until the grievance has been heard. Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Opalinski, Selectman Whitney).

New Business

- **Appointment to Finance Committee: Angela Lynn Nenni, Term to Expire June 30, 2022**

Lynn Nenni stated she moved to Ware in May 2019 and is looking forward to volunteering. Denis Ouimette, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated the Committee recommends Ms. Nenni very highly for her strong finance and leadership experience.

Selectman Talbot made the motion to approve the appointment of Angela Lynn Nenni to the Finance Committee, Term to Expire June 30, 2022. Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Opalinski, Selectman Whitney).

- **Departmental Transfer: Fire/Ambulance**

Lieutenant Martinez spoke of the self-contained breathing apparatus and air packs, with all issues being addressed. Selectman Kruckas questioned the routine maintenance. Mr. Beckley noted the maintenance and annual inspection of all equipment.

Selectman Kruckas made the motion to approve the departmental transfer. Selectman Talbot seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Opalinski, Selectman Whitney).

Comments and Concerns of Citizens:

Reporter Jim Russell questioned the issue of the dog hearing – does the Town have an ACO? Mr. Beckley stated yes, as shared with Palmer. Mr. Russell questioned if there was a citation; Mr. Beckley noted that the owner stated she did not receive a citation. Mr. Russell questioned the grievance from police and the reimbursement policy; this is tabled until resolved. Mr. Russell questioned the status of the fire chief investigation; Chairman Carroll noted there is no status report.

Cathy Buelow-Cascio questioned the TIF with G&G Medical; Mr. Beckley noted the next TIF meeting is July 18 to meet with G&G Medical.

Emma Monahan, Ware River News reported, asked about the trees planted as discussed at the June 18 meeting; Mr. Beckley noted that the trees are small and hard to see, and the Tree Warden has been asked to look at other locations.

Jim Russell further questioned what will be done regarding the dog issue, and what if there is no response from the ACO; Mr. Beckley noted the very difficult job that the ACO does.

Cathy Buelow-Cascio further question who will follow up on the ACO response; Mr. Beckley noted the

ACO handles Ware, Warren, Palmer and Monson.

Town Manager Report

Upcoming dates:

July 13 – Bulky Waste – Furniture and Mattresses

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

Grants

The Town received notification of award of the Town Hall Envelope Study grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Work by an architect will commence in early Fall. The Town received the grant for repair and construction of the southern portion of the Ware River Valley Rail Trail. This will include drainage improvements and surface improvements. The grant is \$20,000 matched.

In addition, the East Quabbin Land Trust received a grant for construction of the northern section of the trail toward Gilbertville. Finally, the Chicopee Watershed Group received a grant for access to the Ware River for a water trail from Ware to Bondsville.

Bidding

The Town received a very favorable bid for the Sludge Removal project, with a bid of \$203,500 to clean all tanks. The Town will move forward quickly to commence this project.

Bids for DPW materials and services such as paving, chip seal and snow plowing will be received on July 10. Proposals for 73 West Main Street are due later in July.

Personnel

Departments will hold interviews for the Assistant Tax Collector and Truck Driver/Laborer next week.

Main Street

Mr. St. George-Sorel has worked with the Town Attorney to complete all the paperwork required for easement takings for Main Street. He will bring this to the Board for signatures on July 16.

School Building

The Town has received the Project Funding Agreements from the Massachusetts school Building Authority. The Town Attorney (attached) has recommended that the Selectmen, School Committee and building committee each vote to authorize the Town Manager to be able to sign these agreements. Mobilization has commenced on the Elementary School boiler project.

Selectman Kruckas asked if there were any grants for summer programs for kids and youth activities. He also thanked the Police Department for all their hard work on recent arrests.

Mr. Beckley noted that the Town Pool has opened today.

Selectman Talbot made the motion to Adjourn Regular Session at 7:58 p.m. Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Opalinski, Selectman Whitney).

Attest: 
Mary L. Midura, Executive Assistant

