



**Board of Selectmen
Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street
Regular Meeting Notice Agenda – Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

**6:30 p.m. Executive Session: MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) #2
Negotiations**

Meeting Opened at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Carroll.

Selectman Whitney made the Motion to Adjourn Regular Session at 6:30 p.m. to go into Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) #2 Negotiations, TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION by 7:00 p.m.; Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Selectman John E. Carroll	Yes✓
Selectman Michael P. Fountain	Yes✓
Selectman Keith J. Kruckas	Yes✓
Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski	Yes✓
Selectman Alan G. Whitney	Yes✓

Selectman Whitney made the Motion to Adjourn Executive Session at 7:13 p.m., TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION; Selectman Fountain seconded the motion. The motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Selectman John E. Carroll	Yes✓
Selectman Michael P. Fountain	Yes✓
Selectman Keith J. Kruckas	Yes✓
Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski	Yes✓
Selectman Alan G. Whitney	Yes✓

Chairman Carroll Re-Opened the Meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Present: Selectman John E. Carroll, Selectman Michael P. Fountain, Selectman Keith J. Kruckas, Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski, Selectman Alan G. Whitney, Town Manager Stuart Beckley, Clerk Mary L. Midura, Ware Community TV General Manager Stanley Ciukaj, Conservation Commissioner Thomas Barnes, Building Department Administrative Assistant Andrew Choquette.

Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair

Selectman Opalinski noted that, on March 9, 2018, she sent an email to Mr. Kilhart regarding 4 lights that were out on Main Street. Mr. Beckley noted that the poles 4 and 5 are not National Grid, but the town is out of stock. These can be ordered, and once received, National Grid can do the installation. This is a priority.

Selectman Kruckas asked that the Building Inspector attend a future meeting to explain the

process of how the Town deals with rundown buildings noted in recent social media. Chairman Carroll thanked all those who contributed to the Lions Club for the fireworks. The fireworks will be held Saturday, June 30, at Grenville Park. Chairman Carroll noted that a citizen questioned him about the old fire alarm box wiring; Mr. Beckley noted he would ask the fire department to look at these.

Selectman Kruckas questioned why the flashing light near the schools is still in operation now that school is out for summer; Mr. Beckley noted there is daily breakfast and other activity at the school campus during summer.

Selectman Opalinski questioned use of Code Red during weather events; Mr. Beckley noted that the State gave 20 minute warnings, but he can discuss this with the emergency management director.

Selectman Fountain noted the house on Vigeant Street and stated that items have been dumped there. Mr. Beckley noted that the Building Department can ticket and take further action if the Board deems the area dangerous. Tickets were sent to the owner today.

Selectman Kruckas questioned the mowing of the dikes, as the grass on the dike on Anderson Road is high. Mr. Beckley explained that the Parks equipment cannot be used on the dikes, but the Army Corps will submit the next report in a month or two. Most mowing is done by the Parks department.

Selectman Opalinski questioned the water shortage, and would water bills be lowered as a result. Mr. Beckley noted this is a "water restriction", not a water shortage. He noted that many towns opt to have a water restriction from May 31 – September 30. Selectman Kruckas questioned the limit of hydropower, and Selectman Opalinski asked if this was State malfeasance. Mr. Beckley noted that he can contact the State for more information.

Consent Agenda

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2018, May 29, 2018 and June 5, 2018**

Selectman Opalinski noted that she provided several amendments to Ms. Midura.

Selectman Whitney made the Motion to Approve the above minutes, with May 29 as amended; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Scheduled Appearances

- **Baystate Health Eastern Region President Michael Moran – Announcement and Updates**

Mr. Moran had a conflict and cannot attend tonight. He may be available for the July 10, 2018 meeting.

Old Business

- **Social Media Policy**

Mr. Beckley noted this final version of the social media policy. This will be distributed to all town employees.

Selectman Kruckas made the Motion to Approve the Social Media Policy; Selectman Whitney seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **Town Manager Goals and Contract**

Selectman Whitney made the Motion to Approve the Town Manager Contract for July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021; Selectman Fountain seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 1 No (Selectman Kruckas).

Mr. Beckley thanked the Board and the Town.

Mr. Beckley asked to clarify, under Long Range Planning, “5 year budget” and “capital expenditure model to 10 years”.

Selectman Opalinski amended the Goals to include, under Community and Intergovernmental Relations, “Create a process of cleanup/implement removal of problem properties.”

Mr. Beckley noted he can create a chart with ongoing progress of items.

Selectman Opalinski made the Motion to Approve the Goals, as amended; Selectman Whitney seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **Fire Department Audit Scope Review**

Mr. Beckley questioned whether the Board wanted to include Police and Fire Departments in this audit, or keep these separate and do the audit department by department. Chairman Carroll stated his preference to keep the audits separate and use the limited funds to do a thorough audit.

Selectman Whitney also stated he would like the audit of the Fire Department done first.

Selectman Opalinski amended the request for qualifications and quotes to add Hardwick Ambulance, ISO rating as it affects the Fire Department rating, and mutual aid.

Selectman Kruckas noted that several former western Massachusetts fire chiefs and firefighters are on Municipal Resources board, and anyone on these companies should not have relationships with the Ware Fire Department personnel.

Resident Andrew Choquette stated that utilizing people in similar environment can be more effective as those persons understand the profession. Selectman Whitney stated the Board must be cognizant of the perception to the public that the audit is completely fair. Selectman Whitney noted that “including, but not limited to” is important to add to each category.

Mr. Beckley stated he would make adjustments to the scope, send out to top consultants and bring back on July 10, 2018.

New Business

- **End of Year Transfers**

Mr. Beckley noted several department budgets need adjustments. Town Hall purchases are due to oil costs. Police Department adjustments are for bullet proof vests to be funded by a grant at end of year. Dog officer costs are for mileage. Parks will replace lights with LED at Veterans Park and town garage. Highway adjustments are for patching, asphalt and line painting. Sewer costs are electrical in the WWTP and sludge removal. Selectman Kruckas questioned use of solar power; Mr. Beckley noted a tie in to WWTP can be discussed if the town sells credits to another community and savings increase. Selectman Kruckas suggested benefits to the water department if the buildings are consolidated. Selectman Opalinski questioned the oil rates; Mr. Beckley noted that the town must use the State bid for oil.

Selectman Whitney made the Motion to Approve the End of Year Transfers; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **Complaint Regarding East Street Rail Overpass**

Chairman Carroll noted this information should be sent to Massachusetts Central Railroad. Mr. Beckley noted that the information can also be sent to MA DOT. Chairman Carroll suggested a request for an answer in 30 days. Selectman Opalinski noted the public safety hazard of this area.

- **Conservation Commission Letter RE: Coy Hill**

Conservation Commissioner Thomas Barnes presented information regarding a beaver impactment located on Coy Hill at Prendville Road. The flooded area is approximately 5 acres and 1 foot deep. The road is impassable. Mr. Barnes recommended that the area be slowly releases to do no harm to property. Mr. Barnes noted the Conservation Commission met on June 13, 2018 and voted to make the Board of Selectmen aware of the situation, as this is not the first occurrence at this location. Resident Cathy Cascio thanked the Board as her family lived through the last breach and is concerned. Letters will be sent to the Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Warren Board of Health and National Grid.

- **Reappointments, all Terms to Expire June 30, 2021:**

- **Community Development Authority – Danielle Souza**
- **Conservation Commission – Mark Swett**
- **Finance Committee – Janice Hills**
- **Historical Commission – Cynthia LaBombard**
- **Zoning Board of Appeals**
 - **Louis Iadarola**
 - **David Skoczylas, Alternate Member**

- **Vacancies:**

- **Community Development Authority – 1**
- **Council on Aging – 4**
- **Historical Commission – 1**

Selectman Whitney made the Motion to Approve the Reappointments; Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. (Selectman Opalinski disclosed that she is a member of the Community Development Authority. Selectman Carroll disclosed that he is a member of the Community Development Authority.) The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Comments and Concerns of Citizens

Resident Bill Jackson stated he has seen many bike trails without ramps such as those on the Church Street bike trail. Mr. Jackson criticized the letter by the Chairman of the Finance Committee in the recent Ware River News which was written about John Desmond. Mr. Jackson stated Mr. Desmond was a leader in the town to stop the rubbish trucks from constantly coming through the town.

Chairman Carroll noted the structures of the trail, and Selectman Kruckas noted the “No Parking” sign near the farm is difficult to see when coming around the hill. Selectman Opalinski noted the trail must be ADA compliant.

Resident Jack Cascio asked how many GPS units are installed; Mr. Beckley noted that, out of a total of 27 GPS units, 6 units are installed, the town must negotiate with the unions, and then the

Police, DPW and Ambulance GPS units can be installed.

Town Manager Report

Mr. Beckley announced there will be an auction at the former South Street School on Saturday, June 30, 2018 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Interest persons may arrive at 8:00 a.m. for a guided walk-through. There are many items, including a 30' long bench. This information will be on the Town website.

The Police will participate in National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Officer Cacela is coordinating this fun event for the community.


Mr. Beckley announced that Charles Niedzwiecki has been hired as the Highway Supervisor, which creates an opening for a truck driver. The assistant water department customer service position is also open at 26 hours per week. Mr. Beckley noted he will soon present a new organizational chart for the DPW with 3 equal supervisors for WasteWater, Water and Highway Departments. These 3 supervisors will report to the DPW Director to control costs and reorganize the budget.

Mr. Beckley recognized Melina Bourdeau for her work at the Ware River News. Ms. Bourdeau is leaving to work for the Greenfield Recorder. The Board and Mr. Beckley wish Ms. Bourdeau good luck in her new position.

Selectman Kruckas thanked the Police Department for their service and dedication.

MassLive Reporter Jim Russell asked if the Board or any Town employees were planning to attend the Belchertown Substance Abuse Awareness Luminary Vigil. Mr. Beckley noted information would be posted on the Town website.

Selectman Whitney made the motion to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:29 p.m.;
Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Attest: 
Mary L. Midura, Executive Assistant

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.