



## **Board of Selectmen**

**Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street**

**Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

### **Meeting Opened by Chairman Carroll**

**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.**

There was a moment of silence for Patricia Orszulak, a former teacher.

### **Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair**

Selectman Opalinski noted the Special Town Meeting on March 11, and stated she felt that Selectmen were duped and led to believe the MSBA grant was a one-time opportunity, but it is a yearly grant. She called MSBA and was told that Mr. Beckley, Dr. DiLeo and the school business manager came up with the dollar amounts. Mr. Beckley stated that the MSBA templates were used for the grant application. Selectman Opalinski stated that Selectman Whitney asked the life expectancy of the schools, and the information was incomplete and a bad process and presentation by the School Committee. Selectman Opalinski also noted the windows and doors were not on the Capital Plan. Selectman Whitney noted the numbers jumped and the estimates were not correct.

Selectman Opalinski also noted that the Cannabis Committee needs citizen members.

Selectman Opalinski noted that since April 2, 2019 is Selectman Fountain's last meeting, she would like the Board to evaluate and review the Town Manager's goals.

### **Consent Agenda - none**

### **Scheduled Appearances**

- **Hilltown Community Health Center**

Eliza Lake, CEO and Frank Mertes, CFO presented their plan to the Board of Selectmen. They explained that Hilltown Community Health Center is seeking a Federal grant with the opportunity to open a site in Ware. This region is a hot spot for a need for a site that would offer assistance with anxiety, depression, SNAP, fuel assistance, and HCHC would also have a health insurance navigator at this site. Once established, HCHC hopes to add a dental clinic. The application for the grant is due April 11. The site would have a support staff of 8 – 10 and projected first year of 950 patients.

Selectman Opalinski asked if HCHC would have an agreement with Community Action; Ms. Lake noted that an MOU was possible. HCHC can also refer patients to other programs and providers. HCHC has been serving the area of Springfield for 70 years.

**Selectman Whitney made the motion to send a Letter of Support for Hilltown Community Health Center, amended to include a Letter of Support for Caring Health Center, both competing for a grant; Selectman Fountain seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.**

#### **Old Business**

- **Applications for Cannabis Committee:**
  - **Greg Eaton**
  - **Richard Fly**
  - **Kate Steinberg**
  - **Jon Hogan**

Richard Fly introduced himself as a new resident who would like to be active in the community, with extensive experience as stated in his letter of interest. Kate Steinberg stated her interest and noted that she travel throughout the state and compiles a list of organizations and veteran causes. Selectman Kruckas noted his preference to appoint town citizens.

**Selectman Kruckas made the motion to appoint Richard Fly and Jon Hogan to the Cannabis Committee; Selectman Whitney seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 1 No (Selectman Carroll).**

#### **New Business**

- **Review Town Snow Policy**

Mr. Beckley noted the policy was established in 2009 for safety of all employees. Selectman Kruckas questioned the delay of Town Hall opening and stated that Town Hall employees should not be paid, but use their own time if they want to come in on a delay. Chairman Carroll noted the policy affects all departments. Selectman Opalinski stated that Town Hall employees should not be penalized, but safety is most important.

**Selectman Kruckas made the motion that Town Hall employees use their own time and to not be paid until reporting to work; Selectman Whitney seconded the motion.**

Mr. Beckley requested to return with a draft policy, minus two top bullets, for final review.

**The Board of Selectmen voted to review the draft policy at the next meeting on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.**

Resident Cathy Cascio commented that the policy was created years ago to allow for the clearing and sanding of the parking lots.

- **Warrant for Annual Town Election, Monday, April 8, 2019 – Set Hours for Polls**  
**Selectman Whitney made the motion to Set Hours for Polls for Monday, April 8, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.**

- **Open Special & Annual Town Meeting Warrant, May 13, 2019**

Selectman Whitney made the motion to Open the Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrant on March 19, 2019 to Close on April 11, 2019; Selectman Fountain seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **Open Meeting Law Complaint Review and Response**

Chairman Carroll noted the Board of Selectmen had received a complaint from Thomas Coulombe.

Resident Kim Mongeau asked why the Board did not meet the deadline. Mr. Beckley noted the Town did submit the response after contacting the Attorney General for an extension due to costs for preparing the request.

- **Set Public Hearing for Pole Petition from National Grid: Bumpy Hill Road**
- **Set Public Hearings for 3 Pole Petitions from National Grid and Verizon: River Road, Bumpy Hill Road, and Belchertown Road**

Selectman Whitney made the motion to set the public hearings for 7:10 p.m., 7:12 p.m., 7:14 p.m. and 7:16 p.m.; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

### **Comments and Concerns of Citizens**

Cathy Cascio questioned if store owners must clear and shovel the sidewalks; Mr. Beckley confirmed that the police can issue violations for those that do not clear the sidewalks.

Chairman Carroll noted the request from Chief Crevier to allow parking on all election days from Bank Street west. **Selectman Whitney made the motion to allow parking on April 8, 2019 and all election days from Bank Street west; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.**

Kim Mongeau noted 24 police officer deaths and 3 canine deaths to date this year. She stated to Selectman Whitney that his military service was greatly appreciated, but his and other Selectmen's remarks about police not being shot at in small towns was very disappointing. She stated that the Police Department deserves an apology from the Selectmen and this Board should show more respect for all first responders.

### **Town Manager Report**

Upcoming dates:

- April 8 – Town Election
- April 27- Town Cleanup Day
- May 13 – Town Meeting

LED lights have been installed at the Fire Station Bay and at the Parks Department building at Grenville Park.

The Town will submit a grant to the Massachusetts Historic Commission on Friday for an architectural study of the Town Hall. Awards will be announced in June.

The Elm Street reconstruction is out to bid with bids due on April 11. This project includes Water and sewer line repairs as well as repaving.

The engineering study of alternatives to repair the Beaver Brook bridge has been completed with copies in the Selectmen's boxes. The two alternatives reviewed include temporarily cribbing the bridge with wood, or repairing the steel beams, which is a permanent fix.

Rebekah DeCoursey will begin work as Director of Planning and Community Development on Monday, March 25. Thank you to Mary Midura and the Building Department for assistance with paperwork in the past month.

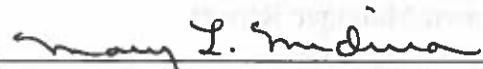
Brandon Haney is hired as a wastewater operator. He will work with both the sewer and water departments over the next 6 months to learn both departments and to prepare for his license tests.

The Town is posting temporary part-time positions for labor assistance in the Parks Department. Also, the Town is posting the position for Treasurer/Collector while exploring options for filling that vacancy.

The Palmer Planning and Community Development departments held a "charrette" on March 16 to gather community comments on having a rail stop in Palmer on a proposed East-West rail line. Much of the discussion focused on the need for long-term planning and the involvement of all the region's towns.

**Selectman Whitney made the motion to Adjourn Regular Session at 8:06 p.m. to go into Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) #3 Litigation, NOT TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION; Selectman Fountain seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.**

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

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

***The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is April 2, 2019.***