



## **Board of Selectmen**

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Selectman Keith J. Kruckas, Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski, Selectman Nancy J. Talbot, Selectman Alan G. Whitney, Town Manager Stuart Beckley, Clerk Mary L. Midura, Ware Community TV General Manager Stanley Ciukaj.

**Absent:** Selectman John E. Carroll

**Meeting Opened by Vice-Chairman Whitney**

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

Selectman Opalinski stated her concerns regarding Town Meeting items: She did not like that \$15,000 was part of line item in the budget; it should have been an article, and the Board has an obligation to educate residents about such items. She stated there should be a financial policy. She also stated that the amount in the article for the Quaboag Connector was changed from \$15,000 to \$20,000 for Town Meeting without Board approval. Selectman Whitney stated that the regionalization study funds of \$15,000 were in the operating budget of the Selectmen as the Board voted to do the study as the School Committee would not pay for this. Selectman Opalinski also stated that a new employee salary was in the budget without Board discussion and at the School Committee meeting it was discussed to have an article about the regionalization study, not to place the funding in a budget line item. Mr. Beckley noted that the Quaboag Connector funds were increased at Selectman Carroll's request during the review meeting with the Finance Committee. The employee salary listed is not for a new position, but the position previously was Mr. Niedzwicki's position. Selectman Opalinski also stated that if the Animal Shelter is again placed on a Town Meeting warrant, she requests a presentation with information on exactly what is being done. Selectmen Whitney and Kruckas asked Mr. Beckley the progress of this situation; Mr. Beckley noted that he spoke with the owners of a new kennel in Town not yet in operation. Selectman Opalinski questioned how the Planning Board got a raise in Article 10; Mr. Beckley noted that amendments to articles must be considered. Selectman Opalinski questioned the progress of the deal at 73 West Main Street; Mr. Beckley noted the closing is scheduled for Thursday. Selectman Opalinski questioned the progress of the solar project at the former dump; Mr. Beckley noted that there is a SMART program and National Grid must sign off for the project to advance. Selectman Kruckas questioned why this has taken so long. Selectman Opalinski asked the status of the marijuana licenses; Mr. Beckley has no new information, but Curaleaf is moving forward. Selectman Talbot congratulated the Urban Foundation for the beautiful signs and stated these are a significant addition to the Town. Selectman Opalinski recognized Mr. Beckley's work with Mr. Opalinski on this project. Selectman Opalinski also noted a fundraiser for Workshop 13 on June 21<sup>st</sup> with the band Trailer Trash.

### **Consent Agenda**

- **Approval of Minutes of May 2, 2019 and May 7, 2019**
- **Approval and Release of Executive Session Minutes of August 21, 2018**
- **Special Event Permit Application: Ware BCA, Hot Summer Nights, Friday, June 7, July 5, and August 2, 2019**
- **One-Day Liquor License: Workshop 13, Ware Community Jazz Band, Sunday, June 9, 2019**
- **Toll Road Application: Ware Lions Club, Fireworks Fundraiser, Saturday, June 15, 2019, Alternate Date Saturday, June 22, 2019**
- **Special Event Permit Application: Melha Shriners Rental to Workshop 13 featuring Trailer Trash Band, Friday, June 21, 2019**
- **Special Event Permit Application: Buy Ware Now, Sparkle 5K Run/Walk & Breakfast, Saturday, June 29, 2019**
- **Special Event Permit Application: Ware Lions Club, Annual Fireworks & Band Concert, Saturday, June 29, 2019, Rain Date Saturday, June 30, 2019**
- **One-Day Liquor License: Workshop 13, Band Jam Concert, Friday, July 12, 2019**
- **Special Event Permit Application: Trinity Episcopal Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pumpkins and Ponies, Saturday, October 5, 2019**

**Selectman Talbot made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman Carroll).**

**Scheduled Appearances - none**

### **Old Business**

- **Approval of Contract – Fire**

Selectman Opalinski questioned if Town policies are aligned with contract language; Mr. Beckley answered yes. Mr. Beckley noted that Selectmen would be notified to come in to sign.

**Selectman Opalinski made the motion to Approve the Fire contract; Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman Carroll).**

**Selectman Kruckas made the motion to Pass the Increased Ambulance Charge of \$17,000 to the Town of Hardwick; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman Carroll).**

- **Approval of Contract – DPW**

**Selectman Kruckas made the motion to Approve the DPW contract; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman Carroll).**

### **New Business**

- **Application for Change of Officers/Directors, Westborough Beverage Corp. d/b/a/ Walmart #2386, 352 Palmer Road, Liquor License #00018-PK-1326**

Clerk Mary Midura noted that all required A.B.C.C. documents were in order.

**Selectman Talbot made the motion to Approve the Application for Change of Officers/Directors, Westborough Beverage Corp. d/b/a/ Walmart #2386, 352 Palmer Road, Liquor License #00018-PK-1326; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman Carroll).**

Selectman Opalinski thanked Walmart for their continued support of the Town; Walmart representative Ed Edgcombe stated Walmart's commitment to the community.

- **Committee Resignations Effective June 30, 2019:**
  - **Dan O'Connor, Finance Committee**
  - **Scott Mosso, Finance Committee**
  - **Mary Midura, Historical Commission**
  - **Aileen O'Regan, Cultural Council**

The Board of Selectmen accepted the resignations, with regrets. Selectman Kruckas added thank you to the resignees for their many years of service to the town.

- **Committee Reappointments:**
  - **Dan O'Connor, Capital Planning Committee, Term to Expire June 30, 2022**
  - **Carol Brundige, Council on Aging, Term to Expire June 30, 2022**
  - **Julie Cappe, Council on Aging, Term to Expire June 30, 2022**
  - **Nancy Dunn, Cultural Council, Term to Expire June 30, 2022**
  - **Lorrie Willette, Historical Commission, Term to Expire June 30, 2022**
  - **George Staiti, Zoning Board of Appeals, Alternate, Term to Expire June 30, 2022**

Mrs. Talbot noted that the reappointment term for Cultural Council must be confirmed by the state. This reappointment will be tabled to the next meeting.

Nancy Talbot made the motion to approve the reappointments, excepting the tabled reappointment to Cultural Council; Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman Carroll).

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

Cathy Cascio stated she did not realize the dog kennel did not pass at Town Meeting until she read it in the Ware River News. She asked what the Town will now do. Mr. Beckley noted that the other 3 towns passed funding for the kennel and they hope that Ware will reconsider. He noted a new kennel due to open in Ware, but a town cannot give money to a private entity. A two-thirds' vote was needed for the borrowing for this article. Ms. Cascio asked about those individuals who continue to ride bikes at Veterans' Park; Mr. Beckley noted several individuals came in to the office today to ask where they could bike. Selectman Kruckas noted that the bylaw cannot be enforced until it is legal. Ms. Cascio asked if police could fine those who continue to bike at the park; Mr. Beckley noted that there is a first warning, then \$25 fine subsequently. Selectman Opalinski asked if the Board can request more patrol. Emma Monahan questioned the bylaw; Mr. Beckley noted certain streets, parks, and an added item to the bylaw included any use of rolling wheels. Andrew Choquette noted that the previous skate park was destroyed by non-skaters.

#### **Town Manager Report**

Upcoming dates:

Monday, May 27, 12:45 – Memorial Day Parade, Bridge Dedication and Ceremony

Town Meeting follow-up. The Town has moved forward with ordering the vehicles approved by Town meeting. The three pickups and police cruiser will be purchased using a State contract with Marcotte Ford. The pickups will arrive in early Autumn. The excavator will also be ordered using a group procurement.

Mr. Beckley congratulated the DPW for finding a used excavator and saving \$40,000 in the cost to the Town.

The contract for the Dog Park construction will be approved by the Stanton Foundation and the project will move forward. The DPW has requested the design for the pipe improvements at Barnes Wellfield.

The Finance Committee approved funds (\$450) to repair the roof drainage at the Senior Center. This will help to stop erosion around the base wall. The exploration of the subsoils will move forward with Tighe and Bond engineering. Selectman Opalinski questioned how this erosion will be addressed and asked if this is related to substandard concrete as in recent news; Mr. Beckley noted that the study will give recommendations. Resident Andrew Choquette stated that the concrete type is from one company in Connecticut and is unlikely to impact Ware.

Water Flushing has moved to Zone 5 on the side streets off South Street.

The Town has met with two private contractors who provide Treasurer/Collector services. As the Town searches for a permanent employee, the use of the services will be helpful to maintain service and to suggest any changes in department practice.

Gibby Sorel's employment has been extended to May 31. The Town has been extremely fortunate to have had his knowledge and expertise available. He has been a very stabilizing force for the department. His work is greatly appreciated. The Town is re-starting its search and may consider interim work. Selectman Whitney noted a letter of commendation should be sent to Mr. St. George-Sorel. Selectman Kruckas asked if Mr. St. George-Sorel could be hired on a part-time or consultant basis.

Bulky Waste – The Town is working with Gold Circuit recycling in Palmer to set two dates: one for furniture/mattresses and the other for electronics/Styrofoam. These dates will be late June and early July and will be held at Robbins Road. A reminder that the brush drop off dates throughout the summer and fall are posted on the website.

The Tree Warden will be planting 200-300 trees at the Old Pennybrook field off Babcock Tavern Road on Saturday. All help is welcome.

Upcoming Time out of the office – June 20-24, July 5 (Mr. Beckley)  
The Tax Collector's office will be closed Friday, May 24 due to vacation scheduling.

Edie Kirk spoke about the Pumpkins and Ponies event listed on the Consent Agenda above. She hoped that by advertising early, other events would not be scheduled to conflict with this fun event.

**Selectman Kruckas made the motion to Adjourn Regular Session at 7:34 p.m. to go into Executive Session: MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) #3 Collective Bargaining – Police , NOT TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION. Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman Carroll).**

Selectman John E. Carroll	Absent
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