

Selectboard

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, November 01, 2022, 7:00pm.

Present: Selectboard Chairman John J. Morrin, Selectboard Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy, Selectboard Clerk Thomas H. Barnes, Selectboard Member Keith J. Kruckas, Selectboard Member Joshua A. Kusnierz, Town Manager Stuart B. Beckley,

Absent: None

Remote Participation: Stanley Ciukaj (Ware Community Television), Ware Rivers News

Public in Attendance: Justine Caggiano, Tracy Meehan, Ashley Walker, Ken Willette, Amber Letendre, Geoffrey McAlmond, Chuck Niedzwiecki

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING REMARKS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND AGENDA REVIEW BY CHAIR

- Board Member T. Barnes wanted to say thank you to Mr. Shaun Pichota for mowing along Old Belchertown Road and other side roads.
- Board Member C. McCarthy wanted to say thank you and a great job to the Domestic Violence Task Force Awareness Walk and BHN.
- Board Member K. Kruckas wanted to say thank you to the Ware Knights of Columbus, Parks Department, and local volunteers for the Halloween Drive-Thru.
- Chair J. Morin announced the Veterans Day Parade, Friday, November 11th starting at 1:00pm., starting at the Legion.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of October 04, 2022, minutes
MOTION by Board Member Caitlin McCarthy to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Clerk Thomas Barnes. No further discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.
- Special Permit – Wreath and Tree Festival, Dec. 9 to Dec 12, Ware Center Meeting House
MOTION by Board Member Caitlin McCarthy to approve the Special Permit as presented. Seconded by Clerk Thomas Barnes. No further discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- Update on Town Manager Evaluation
General discussion among the Board Members and HR Director, Justine Caggiano about what evaluation form was sufficient to use. HR Director needs 3 out of 5 members to submit evaluations to complete the review process. Town Manager S. Beckley suggested to combine the second form (rating of goals) with the first page of the first form. Board agreed. Chair J. Morin asked for the form to be resent. No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Approval of Disability Awareness Committee Member**
MOTION by Clerk Thomas Barnes to appoint Amber Letendre. Seconded by Board Member Keith Kruckas. No further discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.
- **Acceptance of Resignation – Disability Awareness Committee**
Town Manager S. Beckley would like to thank Mr. Steven Hawk for the great work within the community and appreciates what he has done for the Committee. No further discussion.
- **Review of Town Meeting Articles, Board Recommendations with Moderator, Finance**
Article 1 – Town Manager S. Beckley stated approx. \$17k was from general funds and approx. \$4k of water enterprise.
MOTION by Board Member Caitlin McCarthy to recommend Article 1. Seconded by Clerk Thomas Barnes. No further discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

Article 2 – Town Manager S. Beckley stated two items are listed and do not expect them to change prior to the meeting. \$4,800 for Sealers of Weights and Measures per prior discussion, and \$13,000 for expenses and salaries of Elections, although some of the election monies will be returned to the Town by the State.

MOTION by Board Member Caitlin McCarthy to recommend Article 2. Seconded by Clerk Thomas Barnes. No further discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

Article 3 – Town Clerk’s Weekend Hours – No discussion.

MOTION by Board Member Caitlin McCarthy to recommend Article 3. Seconded by Board Member Keith Kruckas. No further discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

Article 4 – Town Manager S. Beckley explained the change is primarily for Route 9 area through Ware Center Meeting House and then Babcock Tavern Road towards Quabbin. This would allow for more commercial use. The Historical Commission may ask to remove the two parcels already in the Historical District from this change. Board Member K. Kruckas stated the change of the two parcels could affect these people’s livelihood. Asked if the Owners are aware of this change. Town Manager S. Beckley stated there is a PB Mtg to discuss. Chair J. Morin stated he hopes the Historical Committee will present a map at the meeting.

MOTION by Clerk Thomas Barnes to recommend Article 4. Seconded by Board Member Caitlin McCarthy. No further discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

Article 5 – Expand RB District – No discussion.

MOTION by Board Member Caitlin McCarthy to recommend Article 5. Seconded by Board Member Keith Kruckas. No further discussion. Majority in Favor 4/1/0 (Clerk Thomas Barnes).

Article 6 – Urban Fill – No discussion

MOTION by Clerk Thomas Barnes to recommend Article 6. Seconded by Board Member Keith Kruckas. No further discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

Article 7 – Requested to Dismiss – No action needed by Board.

Article 8 – Tree Warden – No discussion

MOTION by Board Member Caitlin McCarthy to recommend Article 8. Seconded by Board Member Keith Kruckas. No further discussion. Majority in Favor 4/0/1 (Board Member Joshua Kusnierz).

Article 9 – Town Manager S. Beckley explained the Article 9 – PARC Grant. No discussion.

MOTION by Board Member Keith Kruckas to recommend Article 9. Seconded by Board Member Caitlin McCarthy. No further discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

Article 10 – Water Grant – No discussion

MOTION by Clerk Thomas Barnes to recommend Article 10. Seconded by Board Member Caitlin McCarthy. Town Manager S. Beckley stated funds will be from Water Reserve Funds. All in Favor 5/0/0.

Article 11 – Wastewater Study Grant – No discussion

MOTION by Clerk Thomas Barnes to recommend Article 11. Seconded by Board Member Joshua Kusnierz. Town Manager S. Beckley stated funds will be from Free Cash Funds. All in Favor 5/0/0.

Article 12 – Chair J. Morin stated this Article will be dismissed at Town Meeting. Board Member K. Kruckas stated after reviewing the plans and fundings, it is not feasible at this time. Would like to thank the Bank and Architects. Continued to state the Town really needs to think about a comprehensive plan for Town Hall, Police, etc. soon. No action taken.

Article 13 – Town Manager S. Beckley stated a sentence will be added to Article 13 to state the Settlement Funds will be placed into this new account.

MOTION by Board Member Caitlin McCarthy to recommend Article 13. Seconded by Board Member Joshua Kusnierz. No further discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

Article 14 – Chair J. Morin stated this request was going to be on the Spring Town Meeting but has been moved to this meeting.

MOTION by Clerk Thomas Barnes to recommend Article 14. Seconded by Board Member Caitlin McCarthy. No further discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

- **Delinquent Tax Payment Policy**

- Ashley Walker, Treasure of Collector, presented the policy, which is already in action. But the policy describes the payment agreements in further details – down payments, payment terms, etc.
- Board Member K. Kruckas asked how many properties are currently in tax-taking. A. Walker stated there are a few (approx. 60) but only about 6 with payment agreements.
- Board Member C. McCarthy asked how do we get more to be on a payment plan? A. Walker suggested to mail letters to inform owners of payments options.
- Board Member K. Kruckas asked if there is a running list of properties not under agreement? A. Walker stated she can provide a list.

No vote taken – Policy is in effect.

- Tax Classification Hearing, November 15th, 2022.
MOTION by Board Member Keith Kruckas to set the Tax Classification Hearing for November 15, 2022. Seconded by Board Member Caitlin McCarthy. No further discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

WRITTEN CONCERNS OF CITIZENS

- None

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Sunday, November 6, 2022, from 10:00am to 1:00pm will be the next bulky waste collection at the Ware High School. Flyers were mailed. Hopes the citizens take advantage of this event.
- Tuesday, November 8, 2022, is Election Day from 7:00am to 8:00pm. Come Out and Vote!
- Thank-you to the Downtown Committee and the Ware Business Civic Association and Veterans for the banners. They look sharp, people are enjoying them.
- Saturday, November 12, 2022, downtown decorations will be installed and if anyone would like to help, please join us.
- Monday, November 14, 2022, is Special Town Meeting starting at 6:30pm located at the Ware High School Auditorium.
 - Board Member K. Kruckas stated citizens have reached out to him addressing concerns on the ballot questions.
 - Information is now posted on the Town website.
- Four (4) Grants have been awarded to the Town in approx. \$500,000.00 – Sprinklers improvements for commercial businesses and town to analysis Mary Lane property.
 - Board Member K. Kruckas recognized other businesses in town which also received grants.
- State has certified the Town's free cash. General Funds of Water and Sewer is now in positive.
 - \$3.2million this year compared to last year \$2.8million
- Chair J. Morin asked for clarification of changing the House Authority from elected to appointed.
 - Town Manager S. Beckley explained that the Attorney General rejected the Article based on conflict with State Law.
- Working with Chuck Niedzwiecki for the wood list.
- Quaboag Connector vehicle title and plates have arrived and will be on the road as soon as it is inspected.
 - Breakdown of how the Towns will be billed is broken down and based upon how many rides are in each town. Ware is billed approx. \$24k.
- Senior Center Van
 - Changes to the procedures for sign-ups ahead of time. Town Manager to meet with Quaboag Connector to establish procedures.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Board Member Keith Kruckas to adjourn at 7:47pm. Seconded by Board Member Caitlin McCarthy. No Further discussion. All in Favor 5/0/0.

Attest: Nicole L. Croteau
Nicole L. Croteau