



## Board of Selectmen

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street  
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

~~6:00 p.m. Executive Session: M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) #1 – Complaint Against Public Employee (CANCELLED)~~

**Instructions for call in option:** at or before 7:00 p.m., call the phone number below and when prompted enter the Meeting ID number. The platform is Zoom Meetings.

Join online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7846041861> (the online option will require a download).

Meeting ID: 784 604 1861

Passcode: 01082

Phone: 929-205-6099

**Present:** Selectman Thomas H. Barnes, Vice-Chairman John J. Morrin, Selectman Caitlin M. McCarthy, Town Manager Stuart B. Beckley, Executive Assistant Christopher J. Nolan, Dan Flynn, Travis Flourney, Susanne Karanikis, Nikitas Karanikis, Yasser Fares

**Absent:** Chairman Keith J. Kruckas, Selectman Nancy J. Talbot

**Present via Zoom:** Stanley Ciukaj from Ware Community Television

**Meeting Opened by Vice-Chairman Morrin at 7:00 PM.**

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

- Travis Flourney led the Board in the pledge of allegiance, which was followed by a moment of silence to honor the people of Ukraine, as Russia's invasion of that country continues.
- The Board congratulated Travis Flourney, in addition to Grant Pelletier-Biggs, who was not able to attend, for recently earning the rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 281.
- Selectman Barnes thanked the Fire Department for their response to the recent structure fire on Vigeant Street, as well as the Town Manager and Building Commissioner for their decision to place blue and yellow lights in the Town Hall clock tower to show solidarity with Ukraine.

### Consent Agenda

- **Approval of One-Day Liquor License: Workshop 13- Friday, April 1, 2022, 7:00-10:00PM**
- **Approval of One-Day Liquor License: Workshop 13- Sunday, April 10, 2022, 3:00-6:00PM**
- **Approval of One-Day Liquor License: Workshop 13- Sunday, April 24, 2022, 3:00-6:00PM**
- **Approval of One-Day Liquor License: Workshop 13- Friday, May 13, 2022, 7:00-10:00PM**
- **Approval of One-Day Liquor License: Workshop 13- Friday, May 20, 2022, 7:00-10:00PM**
- **Approval of One-Day Liquor License: Workshop 13- Friday, June 3, 2022, 7:00-10:00PM**

**Selectman Barnes made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectman McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).**

### **Scheduled Appearances**

- **7:05 PM- Public Hearing for Transfer of Alcohol License #00012-RS-1326 (presently held by GNK, Inc. d/b/a Astronaut Pizza House) to Yostina Farag d/b/a Adam's Pizza**
  - Mr. Fares introduced himself as the buyer of the building at 197 West Street, and stated that his wife, Yostina Farag, would be the manager of the new restaurant, selling wine and malt beverages for on-premises consumption.
  - Mr. and Mrs. Karanikis, owners of the now-closed Astronaut Pizza House, thanked the community for their many years of support, and encouraged them to visit Adam's after it opens.
  - Vice-Chairman Morrin stated that he would miss Astronaut Pizza House, but wished Ms. Farag and Mr. Fares luck with the new restaurant.

**Selectman McCarthy made the motion to approve the transfer of Alcohol License #00012-RS-1326 to Yostina Farag d/b/a Adam's Pizza. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).**

**Old Business- none**

### **New Business**

- **Approval of Reappointment of Irene Orszulak to Board of Registrars**

**Selectman Barnes made the motion to reappoint Irene Orszulak to the Board of Registrars. Selectman McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).**

- **Approval of Warrant- Annual Town Election of April 11, 2022**
  - Mr. Beckley read the Board a recommendation from Town Clerk Nancy Talbot to shorten the voting hours on Election Day.
  - Mr. Nolan reiterated that this recommendation was made in response to the lack of contested races on this year's ballot.
  - Vice-Chairman Morrin expressed hesitation with changing the hours, stating that opening the polls at 7AM enables more people to vote than otherwise would.

**Selectman McCarthy made the motion to approve the Warrant for the Annual Town Election on April 11, 2022, with polling hours from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).**

- **Set Public Hearing for Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 7:05 PM for Application for New General On Premise Wine and Malt License, Workshop 13, 13 Church Street, Ware, MA**

**Selectman McCarthy made the motion to set the public hearing for Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 7:05 PM regarding Workshop 13's application for a new General On Premise Wine and Malt License. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).**

- **Vote to Forward Proposed Zoning Amendments to Planning Board for Public Hearing**

**Selectman Barnes made the motion to forward the proposed zoning amendments to the Planning Board for a public hearing. Selectman McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).**

### Comments and Concerns of Citizens

- Selectman Barnes asked Mr. Beckley if the chosen contractor would begin work on the East Street underpass soon.
  - Mr. Beckley responded that he would contact the contractor about scheduling and provide an update on the answer he receives.

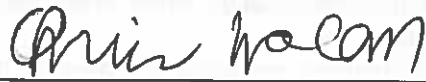
### Town Manager Report

- The Finance Committee is in the process of meeting with department heads to examine budget proposals on an individual basis.
- The Town is coordinating with the engineer who installed the new traffic signals to tweak the light at the intersection of Main Street, West Street, and West Main Street to eliminate unnecessary stops and subsequent delays.
- The lighting improvement project at the mill yard is nearly complete.
- The Town recently submitted four applications for various grants.
  - Selectman Barnes stated that he recently forwarded Mr. Beckley and the Building Commissioner information on conservation grants for culvert replacement.
    - Mr. Beckley responded that the state had earmarked funding for culvert replacement at Quarry Street, and the Town was working with the state Department of Transportation regarding a second culvert.
  - Selectman Barnes asked about the status of the North Street bridge replacement.
    - Mr. Beckley responded that this would also be funded through an earmark from Senator Gobi's office, and the construction would follow the same process as the recent Old Belchertown Road bridge replacement.
- The Town had not yet received an answer from Baystate Health regarding a recent grant application submitted to them.
- The tennis courts at Grenville Park are being lined for pickleball, a sport growing in popularity.
- A recent meeting with Molly Gray from Baystate Health revealed that a company called Atlas is conducting their contamination study.
- After conducting extensive research, the Assessors' consultants have recommended that the Town not pursue taxation from the vacant hospital grounds.
- Selectman Barnes asked if there was a risk the Town would end up with a brownfield site after Baystate finishes its withdrawal.
  - Mr. Beckley stated that Baystate has consistently expressed their commitment to fully cleaning up the hospital grounds.
- The Board of Health has expressed support for the programs offered by Tapestry as detailed in the previous meeting. In several months, Tapestry plans to conduct a mobile needle exchange in Town.
  - Vice-Chairman Morrin asked Mr. Beckley to investigate the specifics of what Tapestry's programs are to consist of.
- Mr. Beckley recently had a successful Zoom session with second-grade students at SMK Elementary, during which he read them a well-loved Dr. Seuss story.
- The DPW would be holding a meeting with Caracas Construction to discuss the upcoming reconstruction of Bank Street.
- A Police Academy would be held in Western Mass starting in early June.
- Personnel Updates: the Town recently hired two new CDL drivers for the Quaboag Connector and B79 bus route, and Jay Mooney had officially started in his position as Grants Coordinator.
- Selectman Barnes asked if the Town was actively promoting from within its existing pool of personnel.
  - Mr. Beckley responded that the Town looks favorably upon hiring internal candidates in all cases where the individual is qualified and timing is optimal.
- Selectman McCarthy welcomed Jay Mooney to his position.

- Vice-Chairman Morrin reminded residents they could still receive free COVID tests from the federal government by logging onto [www.covidtests.gov](http://www.covidtests.gov).

## Adjournment

Selectman Barnes made the motion at 7:30 p.m. to Adjourn the Regular Meeting. Selectman McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).

Attest:   
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Christopher J. Nolan  
Executive Assistant to Town Manager