



Board of Selectmen

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

6:00 PM- Executive Session- MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) #6- Consideration of Purchase, Exchange, Lease, or Value of Real Property

7:00 PM- Regular Meeting

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 Joshua A. Kusnierz, Selectman Thomas H. Barnes, Chairman Keith J. Kruckas, Selectman Caitlin M. McCarthy, Vice-Chairman John J. Morrin, Town Manager Stuart B. Beckley, Executive Assistant Christopher J. Nolan, Police Chief Shawn Crevier, Fire Chief Christopher Gagnon, Human Resource Director Justine Caggiano, Antonio Porter, Carol Zins, Shelly Lane, Alex Bergeron

Absent: None

Present via Zoom: Stanley Ciukaj from Ware Community Television, Paula Ouimette from Ware River News, Planning & Community Development Director Rob Watchilla

Meeting Opened by Chairman Kruckas at 7:00 PM.

Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair

Chairman Kruckas welcomed Selectman Kusnierz to the Board.

Consent Agenda

- **Approval of April 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes**
- **Approval of One-Day Liquor License: Workshop 13- Friday, May 6, 2022, 7:00-10:00PM**
- **Special Event Permit Application: Ware Business and Civic Association and Ware Lions Club present the Spring Shop Hop and Pancake Breakfast, 9:00AM-2:00PM, Saturday, May 7, 2022 @ Veterans Park and Downtown Shopping District**
- **Special Event Permit Application: Proprietors of the Ware Center Meeting House, Inc. present the Town-Wide Tag, 8:30AM-3:30PM, Saturday, June 11, 2022 throughout the Town**
- **Selectman Barnes requested that the Board table the approval of the April 5th Minutes, stating that there were errors.**

Selectman Morrin made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of the April 5th

Minutes. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Ms. Zins briefly spoke on behalf of the Spring Shop Hop and Pancake Breakfast. The Quaboag Connector would be partnering with the event to provide transportation between shops, and the pancake breakfast would be held outdoors at Veterans Park. In the event of rain, the breakfast will be inside at Hanna Devine's.

Selectman McCarthy thanked Ms. Zins and all others involved for their work with planning the event.

Scheduled Appearances

- **Recognition of Service and Celebration of Retirement for Officer Lu-Ann Czapla**
 - Chairman Kruckas thanked Officer Czapla for her years of service and dedication to the Ware Police Department. She had a conflict with the planned ceremony scheduled for this meeting, but would be awarded with her plaque and recognized at a future time when she is available.

Old Business-none

New Business

- **Re-organization of Board of Selectmen following Town Election**
 - Chairman Kruckas stated that before the reorganization took place, he wanted to remind other members that the Chair position is very demanding of both time and effort.

Selectman Morrin made the motion to nominate Thomas Barnes as Vice-Chairman. The motion was not seconded, and thus failed.

Selectman Kruckas made the motion to nominate Caitlin McCarthy as Vice-Chairman. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- Chairman Kruckas emphasized that the Board's vote on the matter of re-organization was not a reflection of any individual's character or capability, but strictly the Board's projection of what was best for the Town.

Selectman Barnes made the motion to nominate John Morrin as Chairman. Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion, noting that health and family-related issues compelled him to step down from this role. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes (Selectman Barnes, Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Morrin), 2 No (Selectman McCarthy, Selectman Kusnierz).

Selectman Kusnierz asked Selectman Barnes if he wished to continue serving as Clerk. Selectman McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Approval of WestComm Memorandum of Agreement and District Agreement**
 - Mr. Beckley apologized for anyone who was confused after reading a recent MassLive article which falsely stated that Ware had not yet joined the WestComm agreement. He added that while Ware had already joined the memorandum, their approval tonight would allow the operation to move forward with a new District Agreement.

Selectman Barnes made the motion to approve the WestComm Memorandum of Agreement and District Agreement. Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion for discussion. Selectman Morrin stated that since the Town would be paying WestComm by call volume, it should make a point to advertise the non-emergency phone number for the Police Department instead of 911. Mr. Beckley noted that the Town would actually be

paying WestComm for Police Department call volume on both 911 and the non-emergency line, despite the fact that only the Town's 911 calls were currently being dispatched by the regional facility. Chief Crevier noted that the option was available for the Town to transfer the non-emergency Police phone line to WestComm as well, but there are currently no plans for this. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Request for Retiree Town Insurance**

- Mr. Beckley stated that he had not yet received legal clarification from the Town Attorney on this matter, and suggested the Board table the discussion to the next meeting.

Selectman McCarthy made the motion to table the discussion on Retiree Town Insurance to the May 3rd Board meeting. Selectman Morrin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **HR Director- Goal Setting and Performance Evaluation for Town Manager**

- Ms. Caggiano thanked the Board for inviting her to present. She explained that the job description she had created for Town Manager mirrored the Town Charter's description of the position as closely as possible, and that the Town formerly lacked a formal job description for Town Manager.
 - Selectman Kruckas stated that the Town previously had a description, but the location of the file was unknown.
- Ms. Caggiano then spoke regarding the Town Manager evaluation process, emphasizing the importance of the Board's familiarity with her designated template, which provided space for goals and matters the Board wished to see the Manager accomplish.
 - Chairman Morrin stated that these goals should match those already listed by Mr. Beckley in a separate document.
 - Selectman Kruckas noted that he would like newer Board members to have the opportunity to have a say in the evaluation process, as the current evaluation process began before they were in their positions.
 - Selectman Barnes noted that the Town Manager's official goals are listed on the Town website.
 - Selectman Kruckas commended Ms. Caggiano for her work on developing the new template.

Comments and Concerns of Citizens

- Selectman Barnes handed Mr. Beckley a letter from the State Ethics Commission with their ruling concerning his dual service on both the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission.
- Chairman Morrin stated that he is currently waiting on the verdict from the Ethics Commission regarding his service on the Board of Selectmen, in addition to his contracted electrical work repairing the Town's streetlights.
- Selectman Barnes noted a virtual drone training workshop sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration being held that week and recommended that Mr. Beckley instruct various personnel to attend. He also recommended researching purchase and training opportunities for partner saws and jackhammers.
- Selectman Barnes expressed frustration with Mr. Beckley for the lack of work completed on bringing the East Street underpass sidewalk up to ADA compliance.
- Selectman Barnes also expressed frustration with the amount of time spent by Mr. Beckley working on the day-to-day operations of the Quaboag Connector service and expressed interest in speaking with the Transportation Operations Supervisor at a future meeting.
- Selectman Kusnierz stated that he would be willing to donate his lightly used Phantom DGI drone to the Town.
 - Mr. Nolan noted that he would be virtually attending the FAA's drone-training seminar on Thursday, and he would then relay notes to any personnel who may be operating a drone for Town

- business.
- Selectman Barnes asked again about the status of the underpass.
 - Mr. Beckley responded that the Town was awaiting a letter approving the allocation of \$30,000 in Chapter 90 Funds to begin work on this location, and estimated that when received, construction could begin within 3-4 weeks.
 - Selectman Barnes stated that Mr. Beckley needed to follow up on receipt of the letter needed with payment.
 - Mr. Beckley responded that he would follow up on this matter.
 - Selectman Barnes stated that this was an issue of urgency, as the sidewalk was currently not ADA-compliant, and the Town could be fined by the State at any time for this, noting that this was a major objective of his work on the Disability Awareness Committee with Mr. Steven Hawk.
 - Selectman Kusnierz handed Mr. Beckley his letter from the Ethics Commission with their ruling concerning his dual service as both a Selectman and the Town's Tree Warden.
 - Mr. Beckley responded that he would send the rulings from Selectmen Barnes and Kusnierz to the Town Attorney to ensure that they are consistent with each other, and that the Town complies with both.

Town Manager Report

The Town-wide Cleanup will be held Saturday, April 23rd, sponsored by the United Church of Ware (who had scheduled the event to start at noon).

Saturday the 23rd will also be the first of four days on which the Town will be accepting yard waste in the lot on Robbins Road.

The Planning Board will be speaking on Thursday with a gentleman looking to develop a large retail store on West Street, as well as with Mr. Michael Harris over his proposed cannabis retail facility.

The Finance Committee will also be meeting on Thursday.

A sewage leak at Memorial Field originating from an adjacent property is set to be resolved soon, pending the Town Attorney's approval of the proposed funding solution.

A contract has been awarded for the drainage improvement project at Grenville Park, and work would begin shortly.

Another project set to begin shortly is the Rail Trail improvement project, funded by the Urban Trust, which will include new signage for the trail.

The construction of two access paths to the Ware River is underway, one of which will connect to the end of Robbins Road (on which the DPW just completed its first mow).

Grants Coordinator Jay Mooney is extremely busy with a variety of grant applications that have deadlines in the near future.

Selectman Barnes asked if the State Revolving Fund could help cover the cost of the East Street bridge construction project (which currently has the bridge reduced to one lane).

Mr. Beckley responded that this was thoroughly a State project that the Town had no financial dealings with, and that no sign of any progress had been made on this project yet.

Community Development Authority grant applications for façade and sign improvements were being accepted.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission was working with Ware, Monson, and Belchertown on a regional watershed protection program.

Water flushing would begin that evening in Zone 1 as part of the Water Department's regular program. Zone 1 consists of the areas of Church and North Streets. Typically, pipes on main streets are flushed overnight, while those on side streets occur during the daytime.

Despite rumors, there are no known plans for a logging operation at the site of Palmer Motorsports Park.

Selectman Kruckas asked if the motorsports park was considered one large parcel, or several separate parcels, and if the answer was the latter, if all had the same conservation protections.

Mr. Beckley stated that the park consists of multiple parcels, and he would double-check that all were subject to the same conservation-related protections. He also noted that the Town once again received numerous noise complaints regarding the racetrack during the past weekend.

The Town will soon be scheduling Bulky Waste and Hazardous Waste disposal days for May and June, most likely.


Mr. Porter expressed interest in volunteering for these events.

Selectman Kruckas expressed appreciation for Resource Waste, stating that the Town was pleased to partner with them for these disposal days, and that their presence in Town was beneficial.

Vice-Chairman McCarthy provided an update on the Youth Center Committee, stating that they had so far had two successful meetings, and were planning to give assemblies at the Schools in the near future to gather student feedback.

Adjournment

Selectman Kruckas made the motion at 7:45 p.m. to Adjourn the Regular Meeting. Selectman McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Attest: 
Christopher J. Nolan
Executive Assistant to Town Manager

