

Selectboard

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, January 3, 2023, 7:00pm.

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

Absent: Selectboard Clerk Thomas H. Barnes

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

Public in Attendance: Interim Fire Chief James Martinez, Chantel Bleau, Randy Letourneau, Mr. Donahoe, Robert and Anne Krasnecky, Police Chief Shawn Crevier, Romone Gordon, Jonathan Holden, SK Robinson

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

OPENING REMARKS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND AGENDA REVIEW BY CHAIR

Chairman Morrin relayed the Fire Chief's retirement party at the fire station was a great turnout and congratulated Mr. Gagnon.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Special Events
 - American Ice Festival, January 14, 2023, from 2:00-9:00pm at Memorial Field
 - 5K For Play & Food Truck Fest, May 13, 2023, from 9:00am-1:00pm at Grenville Park
- Approval of One-Day Liquor License
 - It's Wine O' Clock, January 14, 2023, from 1:00-5:00pm at Memorial Field

Board reviewed the material provided. No discussion.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Board Member Keith Kruckas. No further discussion. Majority in Favor 3/0/1- Joshua Kusnierz. Stuart clarified the ice festival time of event is 12:00-10:00pm and food and wine vendors are 2:00-5:00pm.

NEW BUSINESS

- SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Morrin stated there has been a final agreement between the Town and Mr. J. Martinez and he has accepted the position as Interim Fire Chief. Congratulations!

- **RESOURCE WASTE**

Chairman Morrin questioned if the signed agreement between the Town and ReSource Waste was posted on the website, Town Manager S. Beckley replied it is not but can/will be post tomorrow. Chairman Morrin reiterated on September 22, 2022 the town signed an agreement with ReSource Waste that could possibly bring \$10 million dollars over a 20 years period, that could be beneficial to the Town. Town Manager S. Beckley included the update on the permit process will also be posted and ReSource Waste will be re-filling in February. Therefore, the Board of Health will hold a hearing probably in April.

- **LICENSE RENEWAL AND PROCESS**

Town Manager S. Beckley reminded the Board there are two licensee holders still waiting for approval from December 20, 2022, and once that is finalized would like to discuss a renewal process going forward for 2023.

Chairman Morrin stated there was a suggestion from the Building Commissioner on the renewal process. The Board really needs to know when any complaints are made against a license holder, or anyone in fact, prior to the renewal hearing date so it can be addressed. The complaints should be forwarded to the Selectboard office the day the complaints are filed, including the results or any action(s) taken. Board Member K. Kruckas strongly agreed all complaints and/or violations throughout the year should be included in the license renewal packets.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy to approve the Class II & Class III license for RT's Welding and Class III for The Big Boys Toys. Seconded by Board Member Joshua Kusinerz. No further discussion. All in Favor. 4/0/0.

- **WARE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Jonathan Holden stated only names have been provided and not applications to review. The Selectboard agreed the Ware Housing Authority should at least be able to review the applications prior to the appointments.

MOTION by Board Member Joshua Kusnierz to postpone an appointment for the Ware Housing Authority until January 17th meeting. Seconded by Board Member Keith Kruckas. No further discussion. All in Favor 4/0/0.

- **HIRING POLICE OFFICER**

Chief Crevier requested the appointment of Romane Gordon to one of the full-time positions on the Ware Police Department. Second position is still open. Mr. Gordon was a shining candidate and will be a great asset to the Department.

MOTION by Board Member Joshua Kusnierz to appoint Romane Gordon as a full-time police officer. Seconded by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy. No further discussion. All in Favor 4/0/0.

Chief Crevier stated there is a drastic candidate pool throughout the country not just Ware is facing, and we are coming in tough times. Announced Officer John Cacella will be available for Wednesday Night Darts from 4:00 to 8:00pm at the police station for anyone who wants to talk in confidence or just wanting to visit.

Chairman Morrin asked S. Beckley if the Chief and he have been talking about what was recently approved. S. Beckley replied yes, a lively session and is going well. The next session is scheduled for next week.

- **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

During the recent storm Clerk T. Barnes asked Town Manager if there was a protocol for heating and cooling during power outages. Town Manager S. Beckley stated the Fire Station opens the community room for heating and cooling as well as the Senior Center as a last resort. Chairman Morrin asked if there are supplies such as food, water, blankets available. Interim Fire Chief J. Martinez responded there is a limited resource for water and blankets and unsure about food. S. Beckley reminded the Board that Ware is a part of the Regional Emergency Management System which does have some of those supplies as needed. Chairman Morrin is requesting an overall plan for such emergencies. End of discussion.

- **2023 MEETING DATES**

Board reviewed the 2023 meeting dates. No discussion.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy to approve the meeting dates for 2023 as presented. Seconded by Board Member Joshua Kusinerz. No further discussion. All in Favor 4/0/0.

- **TOWN MANAGER CONTRACT**

Town Manager S. Beckley provided an update that the contract appears to be in a good position but just needs a quorum to finalize.

WRITTEN CONCERNS OF CITIZENS

None

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager S. Beckley presented the following to the Board:

- Saturday, January 7th at 8:00am, the committee will be removing the holiday decorations and looking for volunteers.
- Part of Nicole's training and growth, she will be placing the two police vehicles and fire engine on Municibid.
- The new fire truck arrived Friday, December 30 at the Fire Station – looks great!
- Town received a \$500,000 grant from the Complete Street Grant, to repair sidewalk on Church Street. This amount will cover the cost of design and construction. Thank you to Jay Mooney, Geoff McAlmond and Rob Watchilla.
- Board Member Keith Kruckas spoke highly of Jay Mooney, and very impressed with the grants the Town has been awarded over the last year.

- One Stop Grant for business that need improvements, town infrastructures or use for economic development is opening and due in March.
 - Board Member Keith Kruckas asked for grants available to be posted on the website.
- Cyber Security Grant ended last week and found the training was successful. Employees are more aware. J. Mooney is putting in for a fourth year and including the school department. Should hear about the results soon.
 - Keith asked how someone hacked the emails? Stuart stated it depends on the user.
- Finance Committee would like to meet with the Board on January 17 about the upcoming budget.
- Civil Services has not responded about the hiring the next permanent Fire Chief.
- Community Development Authority worked through applications and will proceed with awards in the next coming weeks. Will continue to work with contractors on the façade improvements, starting mid to late Spring and continue through Summer.
- New Wine and Malt license will be submitted in the next week so will be heard in late January if not February.
- Congratulations to B'Leaf on their opening. This Saturday will be their grand opening.
- Board Member Keith Kruckas asked about the status of the East Street bridge project. Stuart replied it should be done. The materials are place and just waiting for the go-ahead.
- IT Department Head, Dave Grace stated 65-70 emails would be needed to give everyone on a committee/board their own. The monthly cost and time would be significant. Board overall felt the Chair or an elected member should have an email address rather than everyone on each committee.

End of discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Board Member Joshua Kusinerz to adjourn at 7:34pm. Seconded by Board Member Keith Kruckas. No further discussion. All in Favor. 4/0/0.

Next scheduled meeting is January 17, 2023.

Minutes from January 3, 2023, respectfully submitted by,

Nicole L. Croteau

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Executive Assistant to the Town Manager and Selectboard.