

## Selectboard

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082  
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, December 20, 2022, 7:00pm.

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

**Absent:** Selectboard Member Keith J. Kruckas

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

**Public in Attendance:** Kirk Brown, Deb Gagnan, Randy Letourneau, Leah Robertson, Chantel Bleau, Randy Grafton, David Harper, John Tichy, Melissa Sterns, Anne Krasnecky, Robert Krasnecky

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

### OPENING REMARKS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND AGENDA REVIEW BY CHAIR

Chairman Morrin recently visited the Soldiers Home and thanked the AM-Vets and the Soldiers. Clerk Thomas Barnes stated Board Member Keith Kruckas was feeling ill and hope he felt well soon. Also stated the Nov 19<sup>th</sup> Vet's Breakfast was delicious and thanked everyone for their time and efforts in coordinating this event.

Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy stated the first youth community event was a great turnout and thanked everyone that attended.

### CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes – October 4<sup>th</sup> and November 15, 2022
- Approval of One-Day Liquor Licenses – Workshop13

Board reviewed the material provided. No discussion.

**MOTION** by Clerk Thomas Barnes to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy. No further discussion. All in Favor 4/0/0.

### NEW BUSINESS

- APPOINTMENTS

**ADA Commission Appointment – Patricia Ranner**

Board reviewed Patricia Ranner appointment application. No discussion.

**MOTION** by Clerk Thomas Barnes to appoint Patricia Ranner to the ADA Commission. Seconded by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy. No further discussion. All in Favor. 4/0/0

Town Manager Stuart Beckley stated the group did have a first meeting and is confident in the group.

- HOUSING AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT – UPDATE

Town Manager S. Beckley stated the Board has received 3 applications to fill the final seat. While speaking with State Rep. Smola trying to determine whether Atty Robbinson is filling the seat, or the state would fill the seat. Would like to invite the Housing Authority to the January 3, 2023 Selectboard meeting for a local appointment to complete the process for the two local boards to decide who is appointed.

- **TOWN MANAGER CONTRACT**

Board reviewed materials provided. Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy stated we are in good standing.

**MOTION** by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy to move forward at the Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> since a board member is missing tonight. Seconded by Chairman John Morrin. All in Favor 4/0/0.

- **POLE HEARING SCHEDULING**

Board reviewed materials provided. No discussion.

**MOTION** by Chairman John Morrin to approve the scheduling of the public hearing for January 17, 2023, for Sherman Hill Road and Coffey Hill Road petition. Seconded by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy. No further discussion. All in Favor. 4/0/0.

- **ARPA EXPENDITURE CONSIDERATIONS**

Board reviewed the materials provided from Ware Community TV and Business Assistance Program. No discussion.

**MOTION** by Clerk Thomas Barnes to approve the ARPA expenditure considerations. Discussion: Chairman Morrin stated the business assistance will need further discussion at the next meeting and would like the Board to only approve Ware TV request at this time.

**MOTION AMENDED** by Chairman John Morrin to only approve the Ware TV request for \$9,697.72 and \$11,757.00 as presented. Seconded by Clerk Thomas Barnes. Board Member Joshua Kusnierz asked what additional information the Board would like to see. Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy stated she would like more specific details and the request could be more involved from the requestee. Chairman John Morrin and Clerk Thomas Barnes agreed more information is needed. All in Favor 4/0/0.

Chair John Morrin stated the Small Business Recovery Grant appears to be interesting but has a lot of questions and could possibly be hard to manage. Town Manager Stuart Beckley agreed the Board needs to describe what type of circumstance of assistant is needed and possibly create an application for request of funds. Such as showing proof or adding guidelines. Board discussed a date for further discussion.

**MOTION** by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy to hear the Small Business Recovery Grant on January 17, 2023. Seconded by Clerk Thomas Barnes. No further discussion. All in Favor. 4/0/0.

#### **SCHEDULE APPEARANCES**

- **7:10 NATIONAL GRID / VERIZON POLE HEARING – OLD BELCHERTOWN ROAD**

Representative from National Grid explained the location of the project on Old Belchertown Road. Installing (1) JO mid-span Pole 41-50 on Old Belchertown Road approx. 160ft east of Pole 42 to correct long spans and relocating (1) JO Pole 41 on Old Belchertown Road from the corner of Moriarty Road across the street approx. 35ft to correct insufficient guying. There are dead trees in this area, very unreliable service in this area. No further discussion.

**MOTION** by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy to approve the project as presented. Seconded by Clerk Thomas Barnes. No further discussion. Majority vote 3/0/1-Board Member Joshua Kusinerz.

- **FIRE CHIEF GAGNON**

Chair John Morrin announced that Fire Chief Christopher Gagnon will be retiring December 31, 2022. While congratulating and thanking him for his service, a plaque for the Chief's dedication of 33 years to the Fire Department was presented. Chief Gagnon stated his success is a group effort, and thanked the Fire Department staff, servicemen/women, and other town office staff.

**MOTION** by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy to appoint Mr. James Martinez as Interim Fire Chief effective January 1, 2023. Seconded by Clerk Thomas Barnes. All in Favor 4/0/0.

Mr. Martinez announced Dec 30<sup>th</sup> there will be an open house/farewell party at the Fire Station from 9:00am to 2:00pm and would like to invite the community.

## NEW BUSINESS

### • LICENSES

Chairman Morrin stated he would like the Board to approve all but three licenses with possible violations. Requesting RT's Welding (2 licenses) and Henrichon (1 license) to attend the next hearing to discuss in further details. General discussion between Randy Letourneau from RT's Welding and Chairman Morrin inquiring what violations was brought against RT's Welding, what is the difference between a violation and a complaint and thought the recent complaint/violation was closed prior to tonight's meeting. Continued to ask if it a complaint or violation brought against RT's Welding, and no direct response from the Board. Town Manager S. Beckley stated a protocol or policy for license renewal should be established, such as departments signing off stating there are no violations and complaints brought upon a licensee during that year. Chantel Bleau questioned if the Board does not renew the licenses tonight (RT's Welding's two licenses), then what would happen to the business? Chairman Morrin stated the Board will extend the three licenses until January 18, 2023 but will address the complaints or violations at the January 3, 2023 meeting. Randy Letourneau asked why was he/the business not informed prior to tonight's meeting? The Board apologized for not providing notification to them or being more involved in the renewal process.

**MOTION** by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy to extend RT's Welding, Class II, License #12 and Class III, License #13 and Henrichon, Class III, License #17 until January 18, 2023. Seconded by Board Member Joshua Kusnierz. All in Favor 4/0/0.

**MOTION** by Chairman John Morrin to approve all other licenses with the stipulation that those who have not paid in full or completed the paperwork not have the licenses released until so. Seconded by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy. All in Favor 4/0/0.

## WRITTEN CONCERNS OF CITIZENS

None

## TOWN MANAGER REPORT

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

- Congratulation and thanked Caitlin McCarthy for the Youth Committee event on Dec 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Thanked the Senior Center for the holiday lunch – great job.
- The Holiday Flair was a great turnout, thanked Holiday Flair Committee in making the event fun.
- Thanked the Downtown Committee, BT Copy and the Business and Civic Association for their efforts to have the holiday banners installed on Main Street. It looks great.
- The Parks Commission is trying to coordinate indoor Pickleball in the Great Hall.
- Town is still discussing with the National Guard on the use of the Amory for recreational and emergency activities.
- Town has been awarded two grants for Community Compact Best Practice Grant Funds will be used to:
  - Create an Economic Development Plan
  - Drone training and resources
- The Town has been awarded \$175,000 for the operations of the Quaboag Connector in the coming year.

- Town received a grant of over \$40,000 to complete its ADA Self Evaluation Study. Last one completed was in 1991. This is a requirement to complete for the Town's Open Space Plan which is schedule to be completed in June.
- Communications with Atty Bill August and Comcast have begun regarding the renewal of the 2024 license. Comments from the public are welcomed.
- Baystate has provided the Environmental Phase I report for Mary Lane site which has been shared with the Hospital Committee.
- A grant for \$70,000 was received and will be used for hiring an architect/engineer to assist with the review of the report and conduct a feasibility study for reusing Mary Lane site.
- With great work by the Coordinator Emily Coderre, the Town and region, there were 116 residents who attend the vaccine clinic at the Ware Senior Center, which was funded by a grant program, the gift card incentive for vaccine will be extended until March 2023.
- DPW is preparing the temporary cribbing for the North Street bridge.
- Introduced Nicole Croteau as the new Executive Assistant.
- Whistleblower Line will continue to seek improvements by the new assistant.
- Executive Session Minutes will be presented in the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting packets.
- Monson and Belchertown are willing to offer pool time for lessons at cost. Both indicated it would be helpful to supplement lifeguard staff. Will work with Parks Department on this request.
- Pool Study has finished the Environmental Phase portion and has been determined the building and pool are in environmentally better shape than anticipated.
- Minutes have been updated accordingly on the website. Will ask other departments to post agenda and minutes as well and keep current.
- Emails for board members comes with a \$4 fee per month per account. Chairman Morrin asked for the current list to be reviewed to see if any older emails can be archived.
- Mr. Richard Fly would like a letter of recommendation to Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School to fill the vacancy on the School Committee.  
MOTION by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy to provide a letter a support. Seconded by Clerk Thomas Barnes. No further discussion. All in Favor. 4/0/0.
- Request for 'Change of Manager' for Gabe's Bar from Kim Trzpit to Kirk Brown was requested.  
MOTION by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy to approve the Change in Manager to Kirk Brown. Seconded by Chair John Morrin. No further discussion. All in Favor 4/0/0.
- Chairman Morrin suggest Guzik may want to update his Jeep Eagle license application.
- Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy asked if Gabe's still had openings on the board. Mr. Brown stated the Board is all new members and officers were elected on Nov 14 and have a 2yr term.
- Clerk Thomas Barnes asked for the audit to be posted on the MMA website and the other bulletin board for postings and increase the fee.
- Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy asked to advertise for Youth Committee and a need for Lifeguards.

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn at 7:43pm by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy. Seconded by Joshua Kusinerz. All in Favor. 4/0/0.

Next scheduled meeting is January 3, 2023.

Minutes from December 20, 2022, Respectfully Submitted by:

Nicole Croteau *Nicole Croteau*

Executive Assistant to Town Manager and Selectboard.