

Selectboard

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 04, 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), P. Ouimette, Ware Rivers News

Public in Attendance: Daniel Flynn, Quinn & Penny Ouimette, Kelsey Sidur, Christopher Nolan, Rob Watchilla

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

OPENING REMARKS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND AGENDA REVIEW BY CHAIR

- Boy Scout, New Scouting Program in Ware for Girls, sponsored by American Legion Post 123
 - Quinn Ouimette gave an update of the kiosk project the scouts are conducting at Gibbs Crossing.
- Downtown Improvement Committee – Banners on Main Street
 - Dan Flynn presented a flyer for the first banner opportunity on Main Street "Hometown Hero", \$65/banner and will fly from Oct 15 – Nov 15, limited space is available. The next banner will be focused on the holidays.
- Clerk Thomas Barnes congratulated the Ware Football team for their victory against Palmer.
- Chairman John Morrin announced November 11th will be the Veterans parade starting at 12:30pm at the American Legion Post to the Veterans Park.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of September 06, 2022, minutes
- Approval of Toll Road Permit Application: The Knights of Columbus' Annual "Tootsie Roll Drive"
- Approval of Toll Road Permit Application: The Knights of Columbus' Halloween Event Fundraiser
 - Town Manager Stuart Beckley requested to withdraw the Toll Road Permit for the Halloween Event, was posted in error.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy to approve the September 6th minutes and the Toll Road Permit for the "Tootsie Roll Drive". Seconded by Clerk Thomas Barnes. No further discussion. All in Favor 4/0/0.

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- Update on Town Managers Evaluation

MOTION by Chairman John Morrin to table this topic until next meeting. Seconded by Clerk Thomas Barnes. No further discussion. All in Favor 4/0/0.

- **Update on Whistleblower Line: Quote from Continental Message Solutions, Inc (CMS).**
Chris Nolan presented a quote from CMS. Approx. \$50 for every 4-week billing period, with an upfront cost of approx. \$300 to \$400, first year estimates to be \$1,100.00, thereafter \$600-650 annually. It provides a live agent with absolutely no connection to town. Chairman J. Morrin thought a year of service would be good. Vice-Chair C. McCarthy stated it was pricey. Board Member J. Kusnierz stated this is why the town hired an HR Director to handle situations and saves taxpayers money. Vice-Chair C. McCarthy agreed. Chairman J. Morrin felt differently, not the way it was intended for, meant for transparency, took the responsibility out of the building.

MOTION by Clerk Thomas Barnes to table the discussion until a full board is present. Seconded by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy. Town Manager Stuart Beckley stated C. Nolan can continue to look for other companies for quotes. No further discussion. All in Favor 4/0/0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Approval of Appointment to Finance Committee (1)**
 - **Candidates**
 - **Kelsey Sidur**
 - **Brittney Holmes**

The Board reviewed Kelsey Sidur's application. Ms. Sidur stated she has been doing finances for 4-year, new to town and ready to commit.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy to appoint Kelsey Sidur to the Finance Committee. Seconded by Board Member Joshua Kusnierz. No further discussion. All in Favor 4/0/0.

Chairman J. Morrin stated he spoke to the Chair of Finances about having an alternate member but more information to follow in the future.

- **Approval of Appointment to Council on Aging**
 - **Candidates**
 - **Ginger Ziglar Thomas**

The Board reviewed Ginger Ziglar Thomas' application. Town Manager S. Beckley stated Ms. Thomas is involved in social services and has a great history.

MOTION by Board Member Joshua Kusnierz to appoint Ginger Ziglar Thomas to the Council on Aging. Seconded by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy. No further discussion. All in Favor 4/0/0.

- **Discussion on 'Right to Farm' Policy**

Town Planner Rob Watchilla present, reviewed the packet and explained the policy to the Board. Vice-Chair C. McCarthy asked if there was a hearing, would it be joint with Planning Board. R. Watchilla replied yes but would like to table it until the Spring Town Meeting.

Clerk T. Barnes asked if the state is pushing to establish this then why does the Town need to create a Bylaw, why not just adopt the States? R. Watchilla stated it would be more about awareness, we need to adopt the Bylaw before the community can say we are 'Right to Farm'.

Chairman J. Morrin asked do we need to notify potential buyers? R. Watchilla stated it is more like a "buyers beware". It is more for like if you next to a farm, the town says it is ok for noise, smell, pollution, etc.

Board Member J. Kusnierz stated a case law from 1960-1961 where a farm lost his farm due to an OHA. R. Watchilla explained the case law further in depth.

MOTION by Chairman John Morrin to table the topic until a draft of the policy is presented to the Board in January. Seconded by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy. End of discussion. All in Favor 4/0/0.

- **Report from Town Clerk: Timeline for Sending Town Meeting Votes to Attorney General**
Town Manager S. Beckley presented a letter/memo from the Town Clerk explaining why there was a delay of submitting information to the AG office. Chairman J. Morrin asked for this not to happen again. Town Manager S. Beckley said it would not happen again. End of discussion. No action taken.
- **Update on Solar Panel Installation Proposal for Town-owned Properties**
Chris Nolan presented a memo regarding installation of solar panels on town facilities. With discouragement from one company, another company suggested to install rooftop panels to provide a more practical option. Chairman J. Morin stated it appears some companies have issues working with municipalities.

Board Member J. Kusnierz asked why Forefront withdrew from the Robbins Road location. Town Manager S. Beckley explained it was a timing issue. It was 3-5 years for the interconnection and Forefront ask the Town to leave it on hold, but the Town did not find that favorable.

Clerk T. Barnes want to bring attention to when it rains on the Robbins Road landfill, it appears to have runoff water. Town Manager S. Beckley stated the swales may need to be cleaned. Chairman J. Morin to follow up directly with C. Nolan. End of discussion. No action taken.

- **Discussion on Community Garden Proposal**
Chris Nolan spoke about establishing a community garden. By creating a committee, forewarning community members involved comes with a high demand and making sure other town resources are available such as the Parks and Public Works Department. Spoke about water costs which can be higher than anticipated but offsets could be available, such as a small "up-front fee". Surrounding communities are willing to offer a tour if interested.

Vice-Chair C. McCarthy suggested the proposed location could be near a water source to create a pump filtration system to offset water cost. Board Member J. Kusnierz suggested the field near the water tower.

Board Member J. Kusnierz asked how the 'shares' would work. C. Nolan stated it would be a rental based program, you rent the land and plant your own.

General discussion continued about location, committee duties, having farmers markets, and if this could be part of the Agricultural Committee. Continuing the discussion, also included if this would be a free for all or rent your own space. Possibly having the senior center be a location to start plants in early spring for citizens. General consent was it is pay a rental fee type of community garden.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy to establish a Community Garden Committee. Seconded by Board Member Joshua Kusnierz. No further discussion. All in Favor 4/0/0.

Chairman J. Morrin asked for all seat openings be posted on the electronic board.

- **Certification of Town Manager Authority to File Lead Service Line Inventory & Replacement Plan**
The Town of Ware is applying for a federal grant, which the state will require by 2024, to survey the water service lines to citizens homes for lead content. The grant will allow the town to hire researching services and allow for lab testing. Thus, building a program for the future to help address any lead-base lines. This is an Article for Town Meeting. Seeking approval tonight from Selectboard to allow Town Manager S. Beckley to apply for the grant.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Caitlin McCarthy to allow Town Manager Stuart Beckley to apply for the grant. Seconded by Board Member Joshua Kusnierz. No further discussion. All in favor. 4/0/0.

WRITTEN CONCERNS OF CITIZENS

- None

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Chairman J. Morin asked Town Manager to provide a list of proposed Articles for Town Meeting by the next meeting. Town Manager S. Beckley stated a draft is ready and will be on the next meeting agenda for approval.
- DPW and Palmer Paving have completed paving for the year but will continue to finish blending roadways and driveway entrances.
- Water flushing has started and has found the night flushing to be efficient.
- Small Yard Waste Disposal will start October 8th and be alternating weekend at Robbins Road from 9:00am to 2:00pm, such items allowed are small tree trimmings, grass clippings, and leaves.
- Town received a grant for Memorial Field. Part of the grant is to have the Town match the funding therefore will be an Article for Town Meeting.
- Greens Community Program awarded the Town to work at the Wastewater Plant to upgrade the HVAC.
- The state grant filings have been condensed and the Grants Coordinator has done a great job. Grants to include "Safe Roads to School" which could lead to sidewalk improvements.
- As requested by Board Member J. Kusnierz, the Police Chief recommended to post Trick or Treating on the electronic boards and created a second sidewalk out of cones.
- Parks Committee and School Committee has chosen a final playground for SMK.
- Lighting and cameras at Grenville Park will be a fall project.
- Received three final applicants for the Architectural study for 75 Main Street. MHT has prepared such information for Town Meeting.

- First Amendment Rights Activist visited Town Hall while I (Town Manager S. Beckley) was out of the building and the staff present handled the situation extremely well and professionally. Thank you to staff of Ware Town Hall. Board congratulated the staff.
- The prior public hearing with National Grid on Sherman Hill Road regarding some of the easements not being doable have been redesigned (fiberglass poles). NGrid would like to discuss the visual impact and how to move forward at the next meeting.
- The Assessor's Department is ahead of schedule for the Tax Classification hearing, which could be held after November 1st, but the Board will hold their meeting tomorrow to verify.
- Saturday, October 22nd starting at 1:00 pm at Veterans' Park is the 7th Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk and Vice-Chair C. McCarthy has graciously accepted to speak. Thank you.
- DPW has started on the wood pile and distribution list.
- Palmer Paving will receive any asphalt berms.
 - Clerk T. Barnes asked if Palmer Paving is doing the work, why can't they just take the asphalt back to their facilities? Town Manager S. Beckley was unsure.
- Updated security protocol: when an employee leaves:
 - IT Dept will disable the email and access to any files.
 - Town Manager is to disable the former employee's ability to access the town website.
- Chairman J. Morin asked that each board/committee to post meeting minutes on the website once approved. Some committees haven't updated minutes since 2010.
- Emails can be created but comes with a cost. Clerk T. Barnes stated employees' email settings should include filters for spam/junk. Employees who have a town email, are enrolled in the Town's cyber security program.
- Updating community memberships on the webpage has been taken care of and new members will be posted.
- Board Member J. Kusnierz asked the Garden Committee to be posted on the website.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Vice-Chair C. McCarthy to adjourn at 8:09pm. Seconded by Board Member Joshua Kusnierz. No Further discussion. All in Favor 4/0/0.

Attest: Nicole L. Croteau
Nicole L. Croteau