

Select Board: *John J. Morrin, Caitlin M. McCarthy, Thomas H. Barnes, Keith J. Kruckas, Joshua A. Kusnierz*  
Town Manager: *Stuart B. Beckley*  
[sbeckley@townofware.com](mailto:sbeckley@townofware.com)



## Select Board

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street  
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

**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:** Chair John J. Morrin, Vice-Chair Caitlin M. McCarthy, Board Clerk Thomas H. Barnes, Board Member Keith J. Kruckas, Board Member Joshua A. Kusnierz, Town Manager Stuart B. Beckley, Executive Assistant Christopher J. Nolan, Human Resources Director Justine Caggiano, Director of Planning & Community Development Rob Watchilla, Robert Swift of CHA/National Grid, Rodney Galton of Ecos Energy, Sandy Zebrowski (Kowynia), Kathy McCabe, David Loring, Rich Starodoj, Alex Bergeron

**Absent:** None

**Present via Zoom:** Stanley Ciukaj from Ware Community Television, Paula Ouimette from Ware River News, Ruth McGrath, Michael Tatrom

Meeting Opened by Chair Morrin at 7:00 PM.

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

Clerk Barnes thanked Troop 281 and Scoutmaster Dan Flynn for their outstanding flag retirement ceremony on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Morrin announced that the Veterans Carnival would be starting this Thursday and running for three days at Memorial Field.

Board Member Kruckas thanked Chair Morrin for all his work organizing the Carnival.

Board Member Kusnierz thanked the Parks Department for improving Diamond 2 by adding a Sani-Can.

### Consent Agenda

- Approval of June 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Board Member McCarthy made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Board Member Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

### Old Business

- **Update on Whistleblower Line Status**
  - Chair Morrin stated that he was pleased to see the number for the whistleblower phone line printed on recent employee paychecks.
  - Mr. Nolan noted that he monitored the line regularly, but it had thus far had almost no activity. He added that he would work with the Chair, Vice-Chair, and HR Director to help them with downloading the Verizon OneTalk to access the line on their own devices.
- **Update on East Street Underpass Construction**
  - Mr. Beckley thanked Nunes Construction for their efforts with the underpass improvement project, and noted that the Board could expect completion of this within a few weeks.

#### **Scheduled Appearances**

- **7:05 PM- Continue Public Hearing for National Grid/Verizon Pole Petition #30365815 (Coffey Hill Road, Sherman Hill Road, Szczygiel Road, Webster Road)**
  - Mr. Robert Swift of CHA Consulting would be speaking on behalf of National Grid.
  - Mr. Swift noted that the original petition had been redesigned to remove the pole that had been objected to by resident Paul Krasnecky for being located in his front yard. However, he revealed that he was made aware of issues involving requested easement on Ms. Kowynia's property.
  - Ms. Kowynia stated that due to easement issues, she was prevented by court order from signing a consent form for the property to be used in this purpose, and she had confirmed this with her lawyer.
  - Mr. Swift responded that because of this, the line could not be constructed in the manner it was proposed, and the next alternative was quite costly. He stated that it would be possible to remove the anchors, but it would be a long process.
  - Mr. Tatrom introduced himself as also speaking on behalf of National Grid, and asked if any meeting attendees had questions for him. None were had.
  - Mr. Swift noted that due to the easement issue, National Grid's best option was to conduct another redesign using fiberglass poles instead of wooden ones, adding that two specific locations prevented any potential redesign relying on wooden poles.
  - Mr. Tatrom added that fiberglass poles were not particularly common, but had been used before in necessary cases.
  - Mr. Swift recommended that the Board dismiss the public hearing and allow National Grid to re-submit after the new design is complete.

**Board Member Barnes made the motion to dismiss the public hearing. Board Member Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- Mr. Galton of Ecos Energy stated that his company would be paying the bills for the moving of any streetlights necessary for their solar project.
- **West Street Corridor Study Presentation**
  - Mr. Loring introduced himself and Ms. McCabe as two consultants who had roles in the study.
  - Mr. Loring stated that Pare had conducted a grant-funded buildout study/analysis of West Street, resulting in two memos to the Town.
  - The study consisted of a land-use assessment, a buildout analysis, and a traffic study.
  - The studied corridor was West Street from the Ware Public Schools campus to its terminus at Main Street.
  - Some noted concerns from the traffic study were deficiencies in crosswalks, signage, traffic markings, and signals.
  - On-street parking is only available at the far North end of the corridor.

- Several sidewalks dead-end without adherence to ADA regulations.
- North of the Robbins Road intersection, West Street is Town-owned, while South of the intersection it is a state-owned highway with a difference in character.
- Mr. Loring noted that even though transportation volume is decreasing along the corridor, accidents are increasing. Most of these are rear-end and angle crashes caused by roadway access issues.
- Mr. Loring added that speed limits were not well posted along the corridor.
- The crash rate for this corridor is 7.24, versus the statewide average for similar roadways of 3.58.
- He stated that the corridor's issues resulted from a lack of a holistic approach to improvements.
- Board Member Kruckas stated that the exit to the parking lot of Teresa's Restaurant is a notorious trouble spot for crashes that is not even included in the specific corridor showing a high crash rate.
- Board Member Kusnierz added that the intersection with Anderson and Malboeuf Roads is another trouble spot not included.
- Ms. McCabe informed the Board of a federally-funded Safe Streets Initiative that was seeking applications, arguing that Ware could make a good candidate.
- Mr. Loring added that West Street is in need of improvements for pedestrian and bicyclist safety, public transportation, ADA compliance, and sidewalk continuity. He added that it could also be better connected with Ware's segment of the Mass Central Rail Trail.
- Mr. Loring noted that Pare Corporation had worked with former DPW Director Mr. Gilbert St. George-Sorel, who informed them of the need for water and sanitary sewer improvements along the corridor.
- He added that while aerial clutter was more of an aesthetic rather than functionality issue, the overabundance of signs, poles, and wires made West Street's aerial clutter particularly severe.
- The Town must consider what it wants future development along the corridor to look like.
- Encouraging slower traffic would improve safety.
- Mr. Loring noted Pare's recommendation to eliminate the center-turn lane and take a holistic approach to the entire corridor.
- Ms. McCabe noted that the corridor was heavily travelled by school buses.
- She added that the corridor was located mainly in three zoning districts, and was built-out on almost every parcel. For this reason, redevelopment is a more important focus moving forward than new developments are.
- She noted that the Town should utilize the corridor as a mixed-use district.
- The Town should be mindful that West Street serves as the gateway to Ware from the Mass Pike, and is thus the first impression of the Town for many visitors.
- The corridor consists of 148 parcels, two-thirds of which do not meet current zoning requirements. While prior developments are grandfathered into zoning amendments over time, new developments and re-developments must follow the Town's current zoning.
- Over the past few years, housing prices in Ware had risen 38-39%, which is the second highest percent increase in the area.
- Ms. McCabe noted that Ware holds a reputation for being an affordable small town.
- Mixed retail-residential zoning developments were becoming more popular nationwide.
- She added that demand for retail and office space in Ware is weak, but activity in this sector is increasing.
- A sector currently undergoing rapid expansion was warehousing, but Ms. McCabe pointed to Ware's location several miles from the Mass Pike as making it a poor candidate for this type of development.
- Additionally, West Street's mixed uses and moderate pedestrian activity also contributed to it being non-ideal for warehousing.
- Ms. McCabe identified six defined areas along the corridor.
  1. The school-home neighborhood at the southern end.
  2. The area just north of Cumberland Farms, consisting of several awkwardly shaped multi-acre parcels.

3. The area near the Senior Center, which is ideal for focusing on walkability, and with a few lots being good candidates for new development or re-development.
  4. The area near the Vernon Street intersection and Muddy Brook bridge, which included 59 parcels located in the Ware River floodplain. Ms. McCabe applauded CVS for being ahead of its time by elevating its building because of its floodplain location. While the floodplain presented a risk, the Ware River also has recreational potential, with three West Street properties extending all the way back to the river.
    - Board Member Kruckas argued that this section of the river was too shallow and rocky to have recreational potential, and that those seeking navigable water would need to go closer to downtown.
    - Ms. McCabe added that Pare's study did not include a river analysis, which could help answer this question.
  5. The area between Vernon and Main Streets, which marked a transition between the downtown and highway business areas.
  6. The vacant lot next to Veterans Park, which Ms. McCabe argued could be easily established as an outdoor dining and recreation area.
- Ms. McCabe emphasized that the need for planning and development along this corridor came from the lack of consensus regarding its future.
  - Clerk Barnes noted that any contractor digging into the street to work on water or sewer lines should be using conduit.
  - Board Member Kruckas argued that the Town's above-ground telephone poles are an eyesore.
    - Chair Morrin agreed that the utility poles and signposts for defunct businesses cluttered the visual landscape, and expressed interest in pursuing a project to move the lines underground.

#### Old Business

- **Review and Approval of Underride Process**
  - Mr. Beckley introduced the motion that the Board could use to place the underride on the ballot for voters. State law prohibited this from being placed on the ballot for Primary Elections in September.
  - Chair Morrin argued that this question should be placed on the ballot for the General Election in November.
  - Mr. Beckley added that an amount between \$341,000 and \$400,000 could be designated, but recommended discussing with the Finance Committee beforehand.
    - Board Member Kruckas argued that on principle, the taxpayers should be able to vote on this matter regardless of the opinions of the Finance Committee.
    - Vice-Chair McCarthy disagreed, noting that the Finance Committee should be consulted before making this type of decision.
  - Mr. Beckley added that performing an underride would only return approximately 40 cents to each of the Town's taxpayers.
  - Board Member Kruckas argued that more importantly, it would slow the rate of rising taxes, which is vital for the Town's struggling residents when an economic recession seems imminent.
  - Chair Morrin summarized his support for allowing the voters to decide whether to accept the underride.

**Board Member Barnes made the motion to place the question "Shall the Town of Ware be required to reduce the amount of real estate and personal property taxes to be assessed for the fiscal year beginning July first, two thousand and twenty-three by an amount equal to \$400,000?" on the ballot for the November 8, 2022 General Election. Board Member Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes (Board Members Morrin, Barnes, Kruckas), 2 No (Board Members McCarthy, Kusnierz).**

- **Discussion on Town Policy Involving Private Sales of Buildings with Extensive Fire Damage**
  - Board Member Kruckas argued that contrary to the appearance from the highlighted sections of the Minutes from the past several years retrieved on this topic, more people than just him had been asking questions on this topic.
  - He argued that the Board had repeatedly been reassured those issues of concern would be addressed, but still had not been.
  - He added that after the long processes of addressing unkempt buildings at two other locations on Main Street, he had just learned of a third one that had recently been sold after a major fire.
  - Board Member Kruckas expressed that it would ultimately fall on the taxpayers to address properties such as this one, and he demanded the Building Commissioner be present in a Board meeting to answer these questions.
  - Vice-Chair McCarthy asked what happened to the Building Commissioner's plan to notify the Board any time a property owner refused to pay required fees.
    - Mr. Beckley responded that an issue from the lien program arises based on whether the property owner owes money.
  - Board Member Kruckas argued that the Building Department has not competently handled this issue, and that it is unacceptable that a member of the Finance Committee persuaded Town Meeting to award this Department with a new part-time inspector position.
  - Mr. Beckley noted that no proposals had been made to cover the cost of additional building enforcement through a formal system such as the one recently developed by the City of Springfield.
  - Chair Morrin recommended that the Board table this discussion until the next meeting in which the Building Commissioner is available to attend.

**Board Member Kusnierz made the motion to table the discussion. Board Member Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- **Discussion on Status of Vacant/Unkempt Property Bylaw**
  - Mr. Beckley stated that the Building and Fire Departments were collaborating to create a registry of vacant properties in the Town, and that the system for this should be finalized by mid-Fall.
  - Chair Morrin asked when the Board could expect an update on this.
    - Mr. Beckley responded that an update would be available by either the second September or first October meeting.
    - Chair Morrin stated that the Board would like to revisit this topic in September.

**Board Member McCarthy made the motion to table this discussion to the September 20, 2022 Meeting. Board Member Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- **Request for ARPA Expenditures**

**Board Member McCarthy made the motion to table the discussion on ARPA expenditures. Board Member Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- Board Member Kruckas expressed frustration with this item being on the agenda, arguing that the Board had agreed not to approve further ARPA expenditures until funding details surrounding the Wastewater Treatment Plant screen had been finalized.
  - Chair Morrin responded that he felt it was fair to have this item placed on the agenda, as premium pay requests were made by two of the Town's collective bargaining units, but he did not feel the Board was currently ready to vote on the matter.

#### **New Business**

- **Approval of Reappointments: Terms to Expire June 30, 2025**

- Daniel O'Connor, Capital Planning Committee
- John Carroll, Community Development Authority
- Lorrie Willette, Historical Commission
- Wanda Mysona, Historical Commission
- Jodi Chartier, Zoning Board of Appeals

**Board Member Barnes made the motion to approve all of the listed reappointments. Board Member Kusnierz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- **Approval of Departmental Transfers**

- Mr. Beckley requested the Board approve a series of end-of-fiscal-year transfers between Town accounts.
- Board Member Kruckas asked for justification on the transfers involving the Assessors and Streetlights accounts.
  - Mr. Beckley responded that money was being requested for transfer from the Principal Assessor salary account to the Assessors- Purchase of Services account due to the hiring of a consulting group to assist in filling the long-term vacancy of the Principal Assessor position. Meanwhile, the Streetlights account required extra funds due to the cost of recent pole removals, increasing electricity rates, and the purchase of new poles.
  - Board Member Kusnierz asked for the total of how many poles were removed.
    - Mr. Beckley responded that five poles were removed, while 30 new decorative lights were added. The total cost for removing the five poles was \$4,500, and this should only be a one-time charge.
- Board Member Kruckas asked for explanation of the transfer into the Town Hall- Purchase of Services account.
  - Mr. Beckley responded that additional funds were needed for this account, but he could not provide specific details on what they were needed for at this time.
  - Board Member Kruckas stated that the Board would not be voting to approve the transfers without knowing further details of what was included.

**Board Member Kruckas made the motion to table the Approval of Departmental Transfers. Board Member Kusnierz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- **Explanation of Town's Delinquent Tax Payment Policy**

- Chair Morrin asked for a description of the Town's procedures for creating payment plans with delinquent taxpayers.
  - Mr. Beckley answered that the past two Town Treasurers have customarily utilized three-year payment plans.
- Board Member Kruckas asked if this model was consistent with all standard procedures and state guidelines.
- Chair Morrin argued that if the Town currently lacked a written policy for payment plans, it needed one.
  - Board Member Kruckas expressed agreement, emphasizing that these agreements should focus on uniformity.

**Board Member Barnes made the motion to table the discussion on delinquent tax payment policy. Board Member McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- Mr. Beckley asked if the Board had any additional questions on this matter.
  - Chair Morrin responded that they simply wanted more precise numerical answers to the question of how delinquent payment plans are calculated.

- **Recommendation for Quaboag Connector to Provide Free Transportation to Veterans**
  - Clerk Barnes argued in favor of providing free Quaboag Connector rides to local veterans.
  - Board Member Kruckas noted that he felt this was a nice idea, but had more pressing concerns regarding the finances of the Connector that he wanted to see addressed first. He requested that a discussion on funding for the Quaboag Connector be added to the agenda for the next Board meeting.
  - Chair Morrin asked what the Town's plan would be if the Connector ran into a deficit.
    - Board Member Kruckas expressed agreement that a deficit is certain for this organization in the near future.
  - Clerk Barnes noted that some of the Connector's passengers are given rides for free if they claim inability to pay.
  - Board Member Kruckas noted the potential difficulties of allowing some riders free transportation, while others must pay. He also argued that it is unfair Ware foots the bills for the Quaboag Connector when the system also serves several other Towns, and stated that the current \$2 fare per ride is unsustainable.
  - Board Member Kusnierz asked how many Towns are served by the Connector.
    - Mr. Beckley responded that it travels to nine other Towns.
  - Board Member Kruckas argued in favor of holding a regional meeting with the Finance Departments for each Town in the system to determine a way of sharing the costs more equally.
  - Board Member Kusnierz asked if other Towns in the system held awareness of their own residents' use of it.
    - Mr. Beckley responded that every trip is monitored by Quaboag Connector staff, and that Palmer and Monson actively contribute to the Connector.
  - Board Member Kruckas requested a Town-by-Town breakdown of residency for the Connector's passengers.
  - Mr. Beckley noted that at the present time, an average ride on the Connector costs \$17 to operate, but only generates \$2 back in revenue.
  - Board Member Kusnierz asked who could make decisions on raising ride fares.
    - Mr. Beckley responded that this would need to be a decision made jointly by the Town of Ware and the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation.
    - Chair Morrin argued that the Town should ensure it is getting as much funding as possible from other Towns in the system before shifting the cost onto riders.
  - Chair Morrin stated that the Board could vote to provide free ride service to veterans on the Connector.
    - Board Member Kusnierz questioned whether this topic was ready for a vote.
    - Board Member Kruckas agreed that the Board should have a more detailed proposal before voting.
  - Mr. Beckley added that providing free rides for veterans would cost the Connector approximately \$5,000 per year.

**Board Member Kusnierz made the motion to table the discussion on veteran transportation until two meetings into the future. Board Member McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- **Discussion on Procedure for Implementing Water Restrictions**
  - Chair Morrin asked how the decision is made for the Town's mandatory water restrictions to take effect.
    - Mr. Beckley responded that a trigger on the Ware River located near Gibbs Crossing alerts the Town when the water drops below a certain level. Sometimes this was caused by lack of rainfall, and other times by the river being diverted to the Quabbin Reservoir.
      - Board Member Kruckas noted that there was no current diversion to the Quabbin, making this explanation infeasible.

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- Mr. Beckley noted that municipalities have the option of either activating restrictions based on water level reading, as Ware currently does, or implementing an automatic seasonal water restriction that would last the duration of the Summer.
  - Board Member Kruckas noted that he discussed this issue during the previous Summer, when the water level was higher than usual, but the restrictions still took effect. He noted that the Ware River is impeded upstream in Barre to power the turbines of a hydroelectric plant, and this causes the downstream water level to suffer. He asked why neighboring Towns never appear to implement water restrictions despite drawing from the same river. He speculated that the hydroelectric plants in both Ware and Barre cause consistently-timed fluctuations in the water level at the trigger location, and that the Town should coordinate with the station owners to determine their schedule for operations.
  - Vice-Chair McCarthy asked if Mr. Beckley had previously been in communication with Ware River Power, Inc.
    - Board Member Kruckas added that the owners were good local business owners, and the Town should not impede their operations, but rather work with them to determine a schedule that is mutually beneficial.
    - Vice-Chair McCarthy requested that Mr. Beckley contact the owners of Ware River Power, Inc. for this purpose.
      - Mr. Beckley agreed to reach out.
    - Chair Morrin also asked Mr. Beckley to research the procedures of other local Towns for implementing water restrictions.
- **Set Public Hearing for National Grid/Verizon Pole Petition #30567321 (Old Gilbertville Road) for Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 7:05 PM.**

**Board Member Kusnierz made the motion to set the public hearing for National Grid/Verizon Pole Petition #30567321 (Old Gilbertville Road) for Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 7:05 PM. Board Member McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- **Set Public Hearing for Status of Class II Auto Dealer License #2 (Gillespie Car Care 1) for Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 7:15 PM.**

**Board Member McCarthy made the motion to set the public hearing regarding the status of Class II Auto Dealer License #2 (Gillespie Car Care 1) for Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 7:15 PM. Board Member Kruckas seconded the motion for discussion.**

- Mr. Beckley noted that the licensee had been evicted by the landowner of the parcel on which they are licensed to conduct business, and requests to hold a public hearing on the status of the license had come from a member of the Select Board.
  - Board Member Kusnierz clarified that he was the one who requested this issue come before the Board in response to a complaint he received from a resident.
- Board Member Kruckas accused the property owner of soliciting other Board members to serve his own interests, and also of hypocrisy for turning against his tenant after arguing on his behalf in front of the Board to obtain this license just a few years ago.
- Chair Morrin asked if it was even legal for the Board to revoke this type of license mid-year, if the Board had a precedent for revoking licenses in the past, and what would happen if they did not vote to revoke the license at this time.
  - Mr. Nolan responded that according to the Town Attorney, the Board could opt to hold a public hearing with the holders of the license in question, after which they could vote to revoke the license on the ground of having no legal access to the licensed premises.
  - Mr. Beckley added that the Board had not previously set a precedent for revoking licenses mid-year, and that if the Board chose not to conduct a public hearing on this matter, the



- license would simply expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Chair Morrin expressed that he felt it would be a safer option to simply not renew the license during the renewals meeting in December, and allow it to run out on its own.

**Board Member Morrin made the motion to not set the public hearing recommended by the Licensing Clerk on this matter. Board Member Kusnierz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- **Update on Town Manager Evaluation & Performance Review**
  - HR Director Justine Caggiano stated that she had received the Town Manager evaluation form back from two Board members, but needed at least three to move forward. These needed to be received by July 1<sup>st</sup> at the latest.
  - Chair Morrin asked where the evaluation process is provided in the Town Manager's contract.
    - Ms. Caggiano stated that the Manager Evaluation is required by the Town Charter.
  - Chair Morrin noted that the Board had worked with Mr. Beckley to design a list of goals for him the previous year.
  - Ms. Caggiano clarified that according to the Charter, the Board is to appoint a designee on their behalf to work with the Town Manager on these goals, and that she herself had assumed this role.
  - Chair Morrin asked if the goals being discussed were the same as the list of Town Manager goals provided on the Town website.
    - Ms. Caggiano responded that the goals being worked on now were the ones made two years ago.
    - Clerk Barnes noted that he had worked with the late former HR Director Trish Barnes on developing SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound) goals for the Town Manager during the previous year, and argued that these should have been included in the evaluation process.

**Board Member Morrin made the motion to appoint HR Director Justine Caggiano as the Board's designee to handle the Town Manager evaluation. Board member McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- Vice-Chair McCarthy asked Ms. Caggiano for a reminder of whether she had already submitted her evaluation.
  - Ms. Caggiano responded that yes, hers was one of the two submitted.
- Board Member Kruckas noted that he had completed his form, but not yet turned it in.
- Ms. Caggiano added that as soon as she had received one more additional evaluation, this item could go back on the agenda for further discussion.
  - Chair Morrin requested that the evaluation form be edited to reflect the specific Town Manager goals listed on the Town website, rather than the ones made two years ago.

#### **Comments and Concerns of Citizens**

- None were had.

#### **Town Manager Report**

The Bank Street construction was moving along quite nicely, and Caracas Construction was currently working on grating driveways in the affected area.

An additional 900 feet of Ware's segment of the Mass Central Rail Trail had been completed. While there were some erosion and security concerns, the trail was now complete from Gibbs Crossing to Mountainview Drive, and the kiosks on either end of the trail would be up by the end of July.

Grenville Park had suffered from an erosion-related incident during the previous week.

Grants Coordinator Jay Mooney continued to do excellent work for the Town, including applying for grants to cover drainage and irrigation improvements at Memorial Field and Grenville Park.

Chair Morrin recognized Diamond #1 as currently being in outstanding shape.

Clerk Barnes congratulated Mr. Steven Hawk of the ADA Commission for recently receiving the Golden Spike Award. He also thanked all who were involved in the success of the recent Bulky Waste Disposal Day. Chair Morrin specifically thanked Resource Waste for partnering with the Town to host this successful event.

Mr. Beckley noted that youth swim lessons were being delayed by an inability to find lifeguards. Help is badly needed for this position that will pay approximately \$15/hour, and the Parks Commission will provide the training necessary for any applicants who currently lack lifeguard certification.

Vice-Chair McCarthy noted that the Youth/Community Center Committee would be holding an information booth at the Carnival this upcoming weekend.

Chair Morrin noted that in addition to the Carnival, the Knights of Columbus would be holding their annual Fireworks celebration at Grenville Park on Saturday night.

Mr. Beckley noted that the Quabbin Health District had hired a new nurse who would be starting next week.

The Board of Health had just received another shipment of COVID tests.

Several interviews had been held for the Administrative Assistant position in the Assessors Office, with a possible candidate chosen. The Town was also expecting a new proposal soon from Regional Resource Group regarding their continued assistance in this office.

State Representative Todd Smola had recently toured the building at 75 Main Street which Country Bank would be donating to the Town (contingent upon approval at Town Meeting), along with Police Chief Shawn Crevier.

Board Member Kruckas asked for an update on the grant-funded digital sign the Town was to acquire. Mr. Beckley responded that the Downtown Improvement Committee was working with Planning & Community Development Director Rob Watchilla to choose the best position and angle for the sign. Board Member Kruckas commended Mr. Watchilla for his work.

Clerk Barnes noted his concern that utility pole placement on the sidewalk along West Street does not comply with ADA requirements.

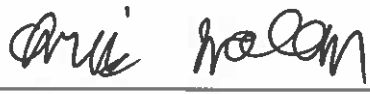
Chair Morrin thanked the two presenters from Pare Corporation, stating that driving along the West Street corridor so frequently makes it more difficult to notice what improvements are badly needed.

Mr. Beckley asked the Board to keep Mr. Gilbert St. George-Sorel in their thoughts, as he was currently ill. He added that when Mr. St. George-Sorel was feeling better, he would inquire with him about the history of West Street's center-turn lane.

## **Adjournment**

**Board Member McCarthy made the motion at 8:46 p.m. to Adjourn the Regular Meeting. Board Member Kusnierz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

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Attest:   
**Christopher J. Nolan**  
**Executive Assistant to Town Manager**