



## Select Board

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street  
Regular Meeting Minutes – Friday, July 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.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, Police Chief Shawn Crevier, Town Accountant Tracy Meehan, Daniel Ladue, Lucas Merrill

**Absent:** None

**Present via Zoom:** Stanley Ciukaj from Ware Community Television

**Meeting Opened by Chair Morrin at 10:00 AM.**

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

A moment of silence was held in memory of Mr. Gilbert ("Gibby") St. George-Sorel, who passed away on June 28<sup>th</sup>, and whose wake would be held later that afternoon, with the funeral the next day, both at St. Mary's Church.

### Old Business

- **Approval of FY22 Departmental Transfers**
  - Mr. Beckley explained to the Board that a number of monetary transfers were needed to close out the 2022 Fiscal Year.
  - Board Member Kruckas expressed frustration that he felt the Board had not received information relevant to these transfers, and that getting answers to questions he had asked the previous day on this matter was "like pulling teeth." He argued that Mr. Beckley was leaving the Board in a position where they were forced to approve the transfers without fully understanding them, and asked why the Town Hall Purchase of Services account required an additional \$12,000 over what was budgeted due to increasing energy costs, while no other Town buildings needed the same increase.
    - Mr. Beckley responded that the reason for this account being over-budget was a combination of rising energy costs, and needed boiler repairs that were recently completed.
    - Ms. Meehan added that the Town Hall Purchase of Services account tends to be kept fairly lean, which leaves little flexibility during periods with unanticipated expenses.
  - Board Member Kruckas asked again why Town Hall needed more than \$10,000 over what was budgeted, while other Town facilities did not require this.
    - Ms. Meehan explained that when the FY22 budget was approved, it was not able to predict

the widespread inflation and raises in costs of goods and services that are currently occurring nationwide.

- Mr. Beckley added that the recently-approved FY23 budget factored in these elevated costs.
- Board Member Kruckas asked for an explanation on why a transfer was needed from the Principal Assessor salary account to the Assessors Purchase of Services account.
  - Mr. Beckley responded that this was due to the Town hiring the consulting services of Regional Resource Group to assist in the Assessors office, where the Principal Assessor position has been a long-term vacancy.
- Chair Morrin argued that he felt it was reasonable for the Board to request a full explanation of each transfer needed before being expected to vote on them.

**Board Member McCarthy made the motion to approve all listed year-end transfers for Fiscal Year 2022. Board Member Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Board Member Morrin).**

- Mr. Beckley added that the Finance Committee would be voting on this same item the following Monday.

#### **Scheduled Appearances**

- **Police Chief Shawn Crevier: Appointment of Two New Police Officers**
  - Chief Crevier introduced Mr. Lucas Merrill and Mr. Daniel Ladue as the two chosen candidates to fill the two vacant officer positions in the Department. He noted that if the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association holds its proposed police academy in Springfield this September, these two gentlemen would be in attendance. If this is not held, they would attend the October academy in Boylston.

**Board Member Barnes made the motion to appoint Daniel Ladue and Lucas Merrill as Officers in the Ware Police Department. Board Member McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

- Mr. Beckley noted that there would be no Board meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, as this was National Night Out.
  - Chair Morrin added that the public was encouraged to attend informational activities that would be held on National Night Out at Grenville Park's soccer field.
  - Mr Beckley added that these would be taking place from 6-8PM.
- Mr. Beckley reminded the Board that the next meeting would be their regularly scheduled one on July 19<sup>th</sup>, and there were already numerous items on the agenda for this upcoming meeting.
  - Board Member Kruckas asked for confirmation that the Building Inspector would be in attendance at the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> to answer questions regarding vacant buildings with fire damage.
    - Mr. Beckley affirmed that the Building Commissioner would attend.

#### **Adjournment**

**Board Member Kruckas made the motion at 10:10 a.m. to Adjourn the Regular Meeting. Board Member Kusnierz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

*Chris Walean*

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)

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