



Board of Selectmen

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m. Executive Session: M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (4) Strategy Related to Security

Selectman Barnes made the motion at 6:30 p.m. to Adjourn the Regular Meeting to enter into Executive Session: M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (4) Strategy Related to Security, TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AT 7:00 P.M. Selectman Morrin seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Selectman Keith J. Kruckas	Yes
Selectman Nancy J. Talbot	Yes
Selectman Thomas H. Barnes	Yes
Selectman John J. Morrin	Yes
Selectman Caitlin M. McCarthy	Yes

Selectman Morrin made the motion at 7:07 p.m. to Adjourn the Executive Session, TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION at 7:12 P.M. Selectman McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Selectman Keith J. Kruckas	Yes
Selectman Nancy J. Talbot	Yes
Selectman Thomas H. Barnes	Yes
Selectman John J. Morrin	Yes
Selectman Caitlin M. McCarthy	Yes

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: Selectman Keith J. Kruckas, Selectman Nancy J. Talbot, Selectman Thomas H. Barnes, Selectman John J. Morrin, Selectman Caitlin M. McCarthy, Town Manager Stuart B. Beckley, Executive Assistant Mary L. Midura

Present via Zoom: Health Director Judy Metcalf, Ware River News Editor Eileen Kennedy, Town Planner Rebekah Cornell

Meeting Opened by Selectman Kruckas at 7:12 p.m.

Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen:

Selectman Morrin nominated Selectman Kruckas as Chairman. Selectman Barnes seconded the nomination. The vote for Selectman Kruckas to be Chairman passed unanimously (5-0).

Selectman Barnes nominated Selectman Morrin as Vice-Chairman. Selectman McCarthy seconded the nomination. The vote for Selectman Morrin to be Vice-Chairman passed unanimously (5-0).

Selectman Morrin nominated Selectman Barnes as Clerk. Selectman Kruckas seconded the nomination. The vote for Selectman Barnes to be Clerk passed unanimously (5-0).

Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair

Selectman Morrin congratulated Selectman Kruckas and Selectman McCarthy, and welcomed Father Norman. Selectman Barnes congratulated Selectman Kruckas and Selectman McCarthy. He thanked Mr. St. George-Sorel and Dave Comeau and Kayleigh Goodrow for an informational tour of the water departments. Chairman Kruckas congratulated Selectman McCarthy and thanked former Chairman Whitney for his service. Selectman McCarthy thanked voters for being given this chance to serve.

Consent Agenda

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2021**

Selectman Barnes made the motion to approve the April 6, 2021 minutes. Selectman Talbot seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Scheduled Appearances

Old Business

- **Vacant/Blighted Property By-Law**

Selectman Barnes asked if this was provided to town counsel; Mr. Beckley noted it would be provided to town counsel before the annual town meeting. Chairman Kruckas noted this should go before the Board of Health, Town Counsel and other departments, as was done with the solar bylaw.

Health Director Judy Metcalf questioned if there would be revenue for demolition, liens, legal costs, by the time of town meeting. Mr. Beckley asked Ms. Metcalf what her recommended amount would be. Ms. Metcalf noted that Southbridge funded 12 properties. Mr. Beckley noted the Finance Committee is supportive and proactive.

Rebekah Cornel noted that the work on 13 and 15 Parker Street cost \$50,000 while 114 Main Street may cost \$500,000. She stated that most towns use CDBG funds, but these funds are competitive and not guaranteed. Mr. Beckley noted that this may be an opportunity to use America Recovers funds. Selectman Kruckas noted this should be prioritized in the annual application and he does not see the benefit to the designation.

Selectman Talbot made the motion to move the Bylaw to Manage and Control Blighted Properties within the Town of Ware forward by sending to Town Counsel and other departments, research how to fund this bylaw, and use all resources available, including contacting Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC). Selectman Morrin seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously (5-0).

Selectman Talbot made the motion to add this topic to the May 4, 2021 agenda of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Morrin seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously (5-0).

Chairman Kruckas thanked Judy Metcalf for 33 years of service and congratulated her on her retirement; Ms. Metcalf noted her last day is June 19, 2021 and she has loved serving the Town of Ware.

The Board of Selectmen noted that an appeal on the April 6, 2021 dog hearing decision is scheduled for May 5, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

New Business

- **Application to Water Resources Committee – Matthew Palladino, 21 Highland Street**

Selectman Talbot made the motion to appoint Matthew Palladino to the Water Resources Committee. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Review/Recommendation of April 24, 2021 Special Town Meeting Articles**

Mr. Beckley noted further explanations will be included in the meeting packet.

Article #1 – Selectman Talbot made the motion to recommend. Selectman Morrin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Article #2 – Selectman Morrin made the motion to recommend. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Article #3 - Selectman Talbot made the motion to recommend. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes (Selectmen Kruckas, Talbot, Barnes), 2 No (Selectmen Morrin, McCarthy).

Article #4 - Selectman Talbot made the motion to recommend. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes (Selectmen Kruckas, Talbot, Barnes), 2 No (Selectmen Morrin, McCarthy).

Article #5 - Selectman Talbot made the motion to recommend. Selectman Morrin seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes (Selectmen Kruckas, Talbot, Barnes), 2 No (Selectmen Morrin, McCarthy).

Article #6 - Selectman Barnes made the motion to recommend. Selectman Talbot seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Article #7 - Selectman Talbot made the motion to recommend to DISMISS. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Beckley introduced Ashley Walker, and requested the Board of Selectmen approve her as Treasurer/Tax Collector. HR Director Trish Barnes also recommends Ms. Walker.

Selectman Barnes made the motion to approve Ashley Walker as Treasurer/Tax Collector. Selectman Morrin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Comments and Concerns of Citizens

Selectman Barnes thanked HR Director Trish Barnes for the Town Policies; Mr. Beckley noted a vote will be requested on May 4, 2021.

Resident George Staiti noted to new Selectman McCarthy that Town Charter, Article 3-2b discusses how Selectmen will treat town employees. Selectman McCarthy noted she has read the Town Charter.

Mr. Staiti asked the status and cost of the Tom Coulombe lawsuit; Mr. Beckley noted civil service review is ongoing and costs to date are \$125,000.

Selectman Talbot reminded all that the Special Town Meeting is Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the WHS football field. Seating is provided and the meeting will be videotaped.

Town Manager Report

Dates

May 4 (during meeting) Budget discussion with Finance and School invited

Open topics:

Underpass – Have determined that a simple design will allow contractors to quote. The Town will procure a design and a cost estimate in order to proceed with accessibility on the sidewalk through the underpass.

School bills

114 Main Street/DOT schedule

The sidewalk on the bridge over the canal on East Main Street has been closed by MassDOT. There are holes in the sidewalk and some separation from the bridge. These issues were identified by the latest structural inspection. The District Bridge Engineer commented that they are reviewing options for sidewalk and bridge repair.

After 38 years of public service, Judy Metcalf will be retiring from the Quabbin Health District. Her tireless work during the pandemic reflects her commitment throughout her career. The Town has greatly benefitted from her work.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives Ways and Means committee has released their budget. While the revised Cherry Sheets have not been posted by the Department of Revenue, the budget includes more funding than the Governor's budget. We will forward the budget breakdown when available.

The Water department will begin its Spring Flushing program on Sunday night, April 18. For specific zones, including Zone 1, flushing will be done at night. The first week in Zone 1 will be strictly at night starting at 7pm. The following zones will be starting at 4 in the morning, with the exception of zone 5 and certain other sequences of particular zones. The DPW will update the web page daily with zones and streets. With this schedule, flushing will end in the last week of May/first week of June.

The State is working on guidelines and timing for re-opening of Senior Centers and activities.

The Army Corps of Engineers will return April 21 for their annual inspection of the Town dike and flood control system. The DPW has trimmed some of the brush that has been a consistent finding along Vernon and West Main Street. Additionally, they have run a camera through the pipe that goes through the Barnes Street dike. This led to pipe flushing.

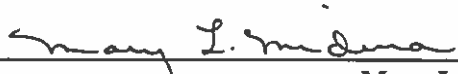
Sections 1 through 3 of the policies developed by HR Director Trish Barnes have been placed in your boxes for final review and acceptance at the May 4 meeting.

Mr. Beckley noted that the HCA for B'Leaf Wellness Centre will be on the May 4, 2021 agenda for a change of location approval.

Mr. Beckley noted the town counsel will attend the May 4, 2021 meeting regarding 114 Main Street. The Board of Selectmen set a meeting for Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 5:00 pm regarding a plan of action for 114 Main Street. Chairman Kruckas thanked Peter and Paul Ducharme for all the brush they have cut at the Barnes Street location. Selectman Morrin asked what the quorum is; Mr. Beckley confirmed the quorum is 100. Selectman Morrin questioned the name change to Select Board; Mr. Beckley noted that the bill in in the House and Representative Smola is coordinating. Selectman Morrin questioned the audit of town hall; Mr. Beckley noted this was approved on March 27. Chairman Kruckas questioned the fence around the sidewalks on Parker Street; Mr. Beckley noted the balcony of the building must be removed.

Adjournment

Selectman Barnes made the motion at 8:32 p.m. to Adjourn the Regular Meeting. Selectman Talbot seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Attest: 
Mary L. Midura
Executive Assistant to Town Manager

