

## Board of Selectmen

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

**Instructions for call in option:** at or before 7:00 p.m., call one of the phone numbers below and when prompted enter the Meeting ID number. The platform is Zoom Meetings. This information and the web link will also be provided on the Board of Selectmen website. Join online: <https://zoom.us/j/7846041861> (the online option will require a download).

Meeting ID: 784 604 1861

Phone (use any of these):

929-205-6099

253-215-8782

301-715-8592

**Present:** Selectman Alan G. Whitney, Selectman Keith J. Kruckas, Selectman John E. Carroll, Town Manager Stuart B. Beckley

**Remote Participation:** Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski, Patrik Jonsson

**Absent:** Selectman Nancy J. Talbot

Meeting Opened by Chairman Whitney.

Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair - none

### Consent Agenda

- Approval of April 7, 2020 Minutes

Selectman Carroll made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman Talbot).

### Scheduled Appearances

- COVID-19 UPDATE - postponed

### Old Business

### New Business

- Curaleaf – HCA Update to add Medical Dispensary

Patrik Jonsson, Curaleaf president, stated the request to co-locate the medical dispensary license with the already approved Adult-Use Ware location. He will present the plan to the Planning Board in May. There will be no outside changes, and there will be clear signage and separate vestibules for medical sales. Curaleaf has been closed since March 24, as the business is not deemed essential by the Governor's order.

Selectman Opalinski asked if the Provincetown location had charitable donation; Mr. Jonsson stated there was no real percentage for Provincetown, but for other towns \$5,000 was donated for medical and \$15,000 for adult use. Selectman Opalinski asked Mr. Jonsson if he would be open to the Ware HCA increase to \$20,000. Mr. Jonsson said yes he would be open to an increase. Mr. Jonsson noted the current Ware HCA does not state a fixed amount, so this language could be clarified, and he would go with what the Town prefers. Selectman Kruckas questioned Mr. Beckley as to a way to designate to road work or other need; Mr. Beckley noted this could be done at a town meeting. The current HCA speaks of 3% and another paragraph speaks to the \$15,000

for non-profit.

**Selectman Kruckas made the motion to support the addition of the Medical Dispensary license. Selectman Whitney seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 1 No (Selectman Carroll), 1 Absent (Selectman Talbot).**

- **FY21 Budget**

Mr. Beckley noted there will be an impact on revenue, taxes, licensing, and lottery. The State budget is not yet known, and may not know by June 30. The budget will be on a reduced level, with many articles set aside to the Fall. Chairman Whitney requested further detail with columns indicating adjustments by the next meeting.

- **Food Bank and Other Services**

Mr. Beckley provided a list of food services that includes the schools for Kidstop, Hillside Village, and children 18 and under, Jubilee Cupboard, Food Bank of Western MA, Amherst Survival Center, and QVCDC. Selectman Opalinski asked about the Quaboag Connector; Mr. Beckley noted one van is operating. Selectman Kruckas asked about the Boy Scouts' bottle and can drive; Mr. Beckley noted this may take place after the pandemic.

- **Quabbin Reservoir Access- resolved**

- **Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants**

Mr. Beckley will present the warrants with dollar amounts at the May 5, 2020 meeting.

**Selectman Carroll made the motion to postpone the May 11, 2020 Special and Annual Town Meeting to a future date, tentative to June 1, 2020. Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman Talbot).**

Selectman Carroll suggested that Capital spending items be postponed to the Fall town meeting.

**Comments and Concerns of Citizens - none**

### **Town Manager Report**

Projects:

73 West Main Street. Re-bidding for May 7. Will be able to award, though waiting to hear from Attorney General's office on grant.

Elm Street completion is underway with sidewalk work in preparation of paving.

Main Street construction – three week plan is attached.

IT Director David Grace worked with Revize, the Town's website software to add Google Analytics, a program that provides statistics on the use of the website. A sample is attached.

The State Legislature has been very active in approving legislation to help towns and residents fiscally and administratively. Timelines related to permits have been put on hold until after the state of emergency is lifted. This reduces the pressure for regulatory boards to meet. Per the attached request from the Treasurer-Collector to extend the dates for payment of property taxes and filing of exemptions to June 1<sup>st</sup>, and to waive interest and fees on sewer, water, and motor vehicle bills if paid by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Host Community Agreement expenditure. A proposed distribution method is attached. In summary, the Town would establish a review committee and make recommendations to the retail sales company for distribution.

Coronavirus: Schools are closed for the remainder of this school year.

### **Cannabis Donation Evaluation Procedure**

**Purpose:** When a Host Community Agreement includes a donation by the Cannabis Facility to the benefit of organizations and non-profits in the Town of Ware, this procedure shall be followed to determine the local distribution of funds by the Cannabis facility.

**Review Committee:** The Board of Selectmen shall establish a Cannabis Donation Review Committee consisting of five members. The Committee shall accept and review applications annually and recommend levels of distribution to non-profits. The Committee shall consist of representatives from the Board of Selectmen, the Community Development Authority, the Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance, the Cannabis Advisory Committee, and an interested resident.

The Committee shall establish the form and criteria required for approval. Non-profit programs shall address the impacts of marijuana or substances on Ware's residents, or community health, or other issues of prevention (particularly youth), treatment or recovery from substance use. The Committee shall consider need as well as impact of a proposed program.

Applicants shall describe the need to be addressed, the amount of funding sought and a timeline with expected outcomes for the proposed program.

Applications shall be sought annually in July with awards to be made in September. Programs shall be complete by June 15 of the following year.

The Selectmen requested the nonprofit program criteria shall not be solely to address impacts of marijuana but that funds be available to any type of nonprofit and for any use such as building improvements, economic impact, etc. Town Manager agreed to adjust criteria.

Selectman Kruckas made the motion to Adjourn Regular Session at 7:40 p.m. Selectman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman Talbot).

**Executive Session: M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)**

~~#1—Discussion of Complaint Regarding Public Employee: Town Manager—~~

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

  
Mary L. Midura, Executive Assistant to Town Manager  
Minutes VIA TV15 Video

