



## Board of Selectmen

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street  
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, December 22, 2020 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:** Selectman Alan G. Whitney, Selectman Thomas H. Barnes, Selectman John J. Morrin, Town Manager Stuart B. Beckley, Clerk Mary L. Midura, Resident Peter J. Topor, IV  
**Present via Zoom:** Health Director Judy Metcalf, Town Planner Rebekah Cornell, Ware River News Editor Eileen Kennedy

**Absent:** Selectman Keith J. Kruckas, Selectman Nancy J. Talbot

Meeting Opened by Chairman Whitney

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

Selectman Barnes questioned when those in arrears on taxes are published; Mr. Beckley noted that a payment plan with the Treasurer is available to anyone. Mr. Beckley noted that properties in process of taking, in land court, or if liened and in tax title.

Selectman Morrin thanked William Imbier, Kim Swarts, John Carroll, and Josh Kusnierz for placement of 200 wreaths on veterans' graves. He also thanked the Police and Fire Chiefs. He thanked Paul and Tracy Opalinski, Urban Foundation for their generous donation to the Rail Trail project.

### Consent Agenda

- Approval of November 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Selectman Barnes made the motion to approve November 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Selectman Morrin seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).

- Appointment: Peter J. Topor, IV, Conservation Commission, Term to Expire June 30, 2023

Mr. Topor introduced himself and gave his background and community interest.

Selectman Barnes made the motion to appoint Peter J. Topor, IV to the Conservation Commission, Term to Expire June 30, 2023. Selectman Morrin seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).

## Scheduled Appearances

- **Judy Metcalf, Health Director**

Ms. Metcalf noted 19 cases of Covid-19 as of 12/19/20 and stated that Massachusetts may peak in the first or second week of January 2021. She noted the Governor's Order today which is effective 12/26/20 through 1/10/2021 with occupancy rollback for work and business. The vaccination plan for Massachusetts is now in Phase I with group 1 of healthcare workers. Group 2 will be long-term care facilities, nursing homes, rest and assisted living. Group 3 will be police, fire, ems, paramedics in the second week of January 2021. Phase I may also list workers in care settings, shelters, correctional facilities – State hopes to do this by mid-February. In March, Phase II will be used for those at risk, teachers, grocery workers, public workers. Next will be any adult over 65. March-April will be individuals, with May-June for the general public.

Selectman Morrin questioned Ms. Metcalf on full in-school, in-person attendance. Ms. Metcalf stated there are benchmarks in place, with her and Dr. DiLeo in full communication. There was a huge spike in positive Covid-19 cases after Thanksgiving, and it is expected to spike after Christmas and New Year. Ms. Metcalf noted the positivity rate is at 4% now, placing the town in yellow, close to red status. It would need 7-10 days to let the rate drop, with the trigger to fully remote learning if this does not occur. Ms. Metcalf noted DESE would prefer in-person learning. Ms. Metcalf noted her recommendation to expand vacation to January 10, notice to parents, and follow the Governor's Order. She noted the goal is to get through the winter, with vaccines coming in March-April.

Selectman Morrin questioned if Ms. Metcalf's budget and staff are adequate. Ms. Metcalf noted a new public nurse who begins January 4, 2021, with plans to schedule clinics in April using CARES, run similar to the H1N1 clinics of 2010.

- **Dr. DiLeo – Update Memo (attached)**

Chairman Whitney requested Dr. DiLeo attend the January 5, 2021 meeting.

## Old Business

- **Review of Town Policies Packet – Sections 1 and 2**

This will be reviewed on January 5, 2021.

- **Town Meeting – New Date**

Mr. Beckley noted January 19, 2021, which would be a Board of Selectmen meeting. He noted that this date would be best, pending another Covid-19 surge.

Selectman Morrin made the motion to set the Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the WJSHS gymnasium. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectmen Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).

- **CDA – Code Enforcement funds (attached)**

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the memo from Town Planner Rebekah Cornell regarding the Community Development Authority meeting of December 14, 2020.

- **Chief Crevier – busses exiting daily on West Street**

Mr. Beckley noted that Chief Crevier discussed the issue with the bus company owner. The busses will exit one at a time.

## New Business

- **Amend 2020-2021 Ware Parking Lot Rules**

Police request language to change to indicate vehicles must be moved after a snow event.

Selectman Morrin made the motion to amend the language as indicated, and to allow Veterans to obtain parking permits at no cost. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).

## Comments and Concerns of Citizens – none

Selectman Barnes noted his previous requests for a DOT transportation representative to attend to discuss the East Street bridge and a feasibility study regarding the Quabbin. Chairman Whitney requested that Senator Gobi and Representative Smola be contacted regarding these requests.

Selectman Morrin noted new parking to bring people downtown. He noted a proposed Carnival event at Memorial Field to be held in September 2022. He will discuss with the Parks Committee.

Selectman Barnes noted the need for the Cable Advisory Committee.

## Town Manager Report

### *Upcoming meetings:*

January 5 Board meeting – Discussion of Water Filtration Plant, funding and rates

January 5 Board meeting – Regional Dispatch presentation

Great work by the DPW and Parks departments with the winter storm cleanup

The Town's tax rate was approved. Tax bills will be mailed by year end.

Food –Through CARES act funding and extraordinary effort by the Treasurer/Collector, the Town provided additional food items for the Food Bank distribution. Also with the assistance of local restaurants, meals are being provided to nearly 90 families in town. Thank you to Erica, the restaurants and many volunteers who are helping.

As discussed at the last meeting, the Town has requested legislative assistance for tax and interest relief for businesses and residents including renewing the order that allowed for delayed payments without interest last year.

I have contacted Beth Greenblatt to ask for assistance with a new solar procurement at the Robbins Road Landfill and Banas Farm site. She will attend a future board meeting to discuss.

Sand is available for Ware residents outside the gate at the DPW garage on 18 Mechanic Street.

A huge thanks to the Ware Flair decorating committee and the Parks commission and all their volunteers for their fantastic work on the drive through display at Grenville Park last Saturday. Many households went through the park, often more than once.

The State budget has been settled. The final summary sheet is attached.

I have reached out to Hardwick to request an Ambulance Committee meeting in January.

Selectman Barnes questioned the use of a drone for Conservation Commission inspections. Mr. Beckley noted there are regulations regarding what is legal to fly over public property.

Selectman Morrin asked for replacement of several two-hour signs.

### **Adjournment**

Selectman Barnes made the motion at 8:05 p.m. to Adjourn the Regular Meeting. Selectman Morrin seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).

Attest:   
Mary L. Midura, Executive Assistant to  
Town Manager



## WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marlene A. DiLeo, Ed.D., Superintendent  
mdileo@ware.k12.ma.us

Jessica Bolduc, Director of Special Education  
jbolduc@ware.k12.ma.us

239 West Street  
P.O. Box 240  
Ware, MA 01082

Phone: 413-967-4271  
Fax: 413-967-9580

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Update for December 22, 2020 Selectmen's Meeting

Dear Ware Selectmen and Town Manager Beckley,

Hope this update finds everyone doing well! Sorry that my schedule does not allow me to be in attendance; however, I would like to provide you with an update to what is occurring in Ware Public Schools during these demanding times of receiving students during a pandemic. Since September 14, 2020, Ware Public School students have been able to attend in-person hybrid learning. Presently, the district has 32% of our enrollment learning fully remote.

On November 16, 2020, the District had 51 students return back from fully remote learning into the in-person hybrid learning model, which is two days in-person and three days remote in order to get everyone in at the six feet social distancing guidance. Presently, a survey has been sent out to all fully remote families to identify any students who want to return to the in-person hybrid model for third quarter, which starts on January 28, 2021.

At this point in time, we have been fortunate that we are not seeing the same positivity rates in schools as we see in the town. Our hybrid model has assisted us in identifying a handful of students who tested positive as they were home either due to the learning model or quarantining due to a family member testing positive. The District continues to work closely with the Board of Health Director, Judy Metcalf, in managing our COVID-19 responses as she has been a wealth of information in guiding us through these turbulent times.

It was great to hear that Governor Baker's roll out plan of the vaccine has educators in the second phase of distribution. My hope is that with the roll out of a vaccine our lives will shortly return to the "old normal" for some part of the 2020/21 school year. As conditions change and improve, the District will adjust accordingly as we work to bring more students back to in-person learning, who request it. This year the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has afforded families to remote learn for the 2020/21 school year.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday!

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. DiLeo



Director of  
Planning & Community Development  
126 Main Street  
Ware, Massachusetts 01082

t. 413.967.9648 ext. 118

To: Selectboard  
From: Rebekah L. Cornell, Director of Planning & Community Development *RLC*  
Date: December 18, 2020  
RE: FY19 Community Development Block Grant Funds

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Summary: Ware was awarded \$903,434 in program funds for the Fiscal Year 2019 Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG FY19). This funding is used to fund local social services, the Upper North Street reconstruction project, Housing Rehabilitation loan program, as well as roughly \$90,000 for code enforcement of multifamily homes inspections and enforcement. These funds typically need to be expended by the end of the calendar year, but this year the deadline has been extended until March 31, 2021. The multi-family code enforcement program had been moving forward until the pandemic began. With the delay of inspections, the code enforcement funds need to be reallocated to a project that will expend the funds within the required time limit.

At the meeting of the Community Development Authority on Monday, December 14, 2020 a vote was taken to reallocate FY19 CBDG code enforcement funds into the following projects within the Slum & Blight Designated Area:

1. Demolition of #13 & #15 Parker Street. This will remove a condemned single family home, a town owned garage, and will allow for expansion of the Parker Street parking lot. The plan will create a better connection to Veteran's Park and Downtown. This will only demo the buildings and grade the dirt lot. Paving will need to be funded through another source. Roughly \$35,000-\$45,000.
2. Lighting improvements along North Street, Pleasant Street, and Bank Street. This includes both flood and street lights as appropriate to improve safety and visibility to connect pedestrians to the downtown area. This will help make the Pleasant Street Municipal Lot a more desirable location to park and walk downtown. Roughly \$15,000.

3. Engineered Demolition Plan for 114 Main Street. To assist and mitigate the blighted buildings downtown, the CDA would like to use money to fund the demolition plan of 114 Main Street in an effort to progress forward with seeing the building taken down by any means necessary. Quote of \$23,000 from Tighe & Bond.
4. This leaves a \$12,000 contingency factor.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns the next Community Development Authority meeting is scheduled for January 11 at 6:30pm.



MA Department of Revenue

Division of Local Services  
 Final Municipal Cherry Sheet Estimates  
 Data current as of 12/18/2020

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Select a Fiscal Year:

Select a Municipality:

Receipt Estimates Assessments & Charges

C.S. 1-ER Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Revenue FY2021

NOTICE TO ASSESSORS OF ESTIMATED RECEIPTS

General Laws, Chapter 58, Section 25A

Ware

**A. EDUCATION**

**Distributions and Reimbursements**

Chapter 70	10,591,234
School Transportation	0
Charter Tuition Reimbursement	44,363
Smart Growth School Reimbursement	0
<b>Offset Items - Reserve for Direct Expenditure:</b>	
School Choice Receiving Tuition	257,157
<b>Sub-Total, All Education Items:</b>	<b>10,892,754</b>

**B. GENERAL GOVERNMENT:**

**Distributions and Reimbursements**

Unrestricted General Government Aid	1,833,298
Local Share of Racing Taxes	0
Regional Public Libraries	0
Veterans Benefits	230,068
Exemp: VBS and Elderly	51,241
State Owned Land	24,546
<b>Offset Items - Reserve for Direct Expenditure:</b>	
Public Libraries	19,230
<b>Sub-Total, All General Government:</b>	<b>2,158,383</b>

**C. TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS:**

**13,051,137**

Questions About Local Aid Please Email The Municipal Databank at : [databank@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:databank@dor.state.ma.us)





**DLS**  
 DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES  
 MA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

MA Department of Revenue  
 Division of Local Services  
 Final Municipal Cherry Sheet Estimates  
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Select a Fiscal Year:  Select a Municipality:

Receipt Estimates Assessments & Charges

C.S. 1-ER Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Revenue FY2021

**NOTICE TO ASSESSORS OF ESTIMATED CHARGES**

General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 21

Ware

**A. COUNTY ASSESSMENTS:**

County Tax	0
Suffolk County Retirement	0
<b>Sub-Total, County Assessments:</b>	<b>0</b>

**B. STATE ASSESSMENTS AND CHARGES:**

Retired Employees Health Insurance	0
Retired Teachers Health Insurance	0
Mosquito Control Projects	0
Air Pollution Districts	2,448
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	0
Old Colony Planning Council	0
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	18,720
<b>Sub-Total, State Assessments:</b>	<b>21,168</b>

**C. TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES:**

MBTA	0
Boston Metro. Transit District	0
Regional Transit	37,284
<b>Sub-Total, Transportation Assessments:</b>	<b>37,284</b>

**D. ANNUAL CHARGES AGAINST RECEIPTS:**

Multi-Year Repayment Program	0
Special Education	1,521
STRAP Repayments	0
<b>Sub-Total, Annual Charges Against Receipts:</b>	<b>1,521</b>

**E. TUITION ASSESSMENTS:**

**E. TUITION ASSESSMENTS:**

School Choice Sending Tuition	1,057,932
Charter School Sending Tuition	75,150
<b>Sub-Total, Tuition Assessments:</b>	<b>1,133,082</b>

**F. TOTAL ESTIMATED CHARGES:****1,193,055**

Questions About Local Aid Please Email The Municipal Databank at : [databank@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:databank@dor.state.ma.us)



## TOWN OF WARE

Office of the Town Manager

126 Main Street

Ware, MA 01082

413-967-9648 x100

December 18, 2020

To : Fred Venne and David Comeau

From : Stuart Beckley, Town Manager 

Subject: Contract Negotiations

The term of the current Agreement between the Town and the United Public Services Employees Union, expires on June 30, 2021. I am writing to notify the Collective Bargaining Unit of the Town's intent to negotiate a successor agreement. We are available for a meeting to set ground rules and establish a schedule. Please contact me with possible meeting dates

We look forward to meeting with you and beginning the negotiations process.

Cc: Board of Selectmen  
G. St. George-Sorel  
T. Barnes, HR



## TOWN OF WARE

Office of the Town Manager

126 Main Street

Ware, MA 01082

413-967-9648 x100

December 18, 2020

To : Amy Przypek and Kathy Galford

From : Stuart Beckley, Town Manager 

Subject: Contract Negotiations

The term of the current Agreement between the Town and the Administrative Personnel Bargaining Unit, expires on June 30, 2021. I am writing to notify the Bargaining Unit of the Town's intent to negotiate a successor agreement. We are available for a meeting to set ground rules and establish a schedule. Please contact me with possible meeting dates.

We look forward to meeting with you and beginning the negotiations process.

Cc: Board of Selectmen  
T. Barnes, HR



## TOWN OF WARE

Office of the Town Manager

126 Main Street

Ware, MA 01082

413-967-9648 x100

December 18, 2020

To : Ryan Downing, Diana Gliniecki, Chris DeSantis

From : Stuart Beckley, Town Manager 

Subject: Contract Negotiations

The term of the current Agreement between the Town and the New England Police Benevolent Association, Local #178, expires on June 30, 2021. I am writing to notify the Bargaining Unit of the Town's intent to negotiate a successor agreement. We are available for a meeting to set ground rules and establish a schedule. Please contact me with possible meeting dates.

We look forward to meeting with you and beginning the negotiations process.

Cc: Board of Selectmen  
T. Barnes, HR  
Chief Crevier



## TOWN OF WARE

Office of the Town Manager

126 Main Street

Ware, MA 01082

413-967-9648 x100

December 18, 2020

To : Laura Fandrey, David Gambino and Mark Lagimoniere

From : Stuart Beckley, Town Manager 

Subject: Contract Negotiations

The term of the current Agreement between the Town and the Ware Fire Fighters, Local #1851, AFL-CIO-CLC, expires on June 30, 2021. I am writing to notify the Bargaining Unit of the Town's intent to negotiate a successor agreement. We are available for a meeting to set ground rules and establish a schedule. Please contact me with possible meeting dates.

We look forward to meeting with you and beginning the negotiations process.

Cc: Board of Selectmen  
T. Barnes, HR  
Chief Gagnon