



Board of Selectmen

Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street

Regular Meeting Notice Agenda – Tuesday, July 6, 2021 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 John J. Morrin, Selectman Thomas H. Barnes, Selectman, Selectman Caitlin M. McCarthy, Town Manager Stuart Beckley, Executive Assistant Mary L. Midura, Ware River News Reporter Paula Ouimette

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

Present via Zoom: Rob Watchilla, Planning Department

Meeting Opened by Vice-Chairman Morrin at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair

Selectman McCarthy noted that youth football signups can be done by calling Josh Kusnierz at 687-4714 or in person on Wednesday. Selectman Morrin noted the concerts in the Park begin this week, and National Night Out will be on August 3 (no Board of Selectmen meeting that night). Selectman McCarthy noted the Food Pantry date of July 20.

Consent Agenda

- **Approval of June 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Selectman Barnes made the motion to approve the minutes. Selectman McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).

Tabled to July 20, 2021:

- **Special Event Permit Application: Ware Lions Club Presents Fireworks, Saturday, August 14, 2021 @ Grenville Park**
- **Special Event Permit Application: Workshop 13 Presents Workshop 13's Rock the Park, Saturday, August 28, 2021 @ Grenville Park**
- **Audit Process**

Mr. Beckley noted the letter from Mr. Scanlon and his suggestion for the Board to ask for specific items. Selectman Barnes noted a previous suggestion to have a fresh set of eyes look at the books. The Board can discuss again soon.

Scheduled Appearances

- **7:05 p.m. Public Hearing: Application for New License §15 Package Store, Wine and Malt Beverages, Stevens Strong LLC d/b/a It's Wine O'Clock, 164 B West Street, Ware, MA**

Vice-Chairman Morrin read the notice of the public hearing. Melissa and David Stevens were present for the application. Ms. Stevens read a statement noting her education and experience in the industry. The owners hope to hold wine tastings and events to benefit the community.

Selectman McCarthy made the motion to approve the application for a New License §15 Package Store, Wine and Malt Beverages, Stevens Strong LLC d/b/a It's Wine O'Clock, 164 B West Street, Ware, MA. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).

Clerk's note: The application is now sent to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission for final approval.

Old Business

- **Review of Ambulance Agreement, Hardwick**

Selectman Barnes made the motion to Table to July 20, 2021. Selectman McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).

New Business

- **Approval of Use of Ludlow Retention Facility**

Selectman McCarthy made the motion to Table to July 20, 2021. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Selectman Kruckas, Selectman Talbot).

- **Approval of Year End Budget Transfers**

Selectman Barnes made the motion to approve the year end budget transfers. Selectman McCarthy 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

Resident Gary Aiken asked what options are for the pool, suggesting a splash pad. He said over 150 people have contacted him to ask.

Selectman McCarthy noted the Parks Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, July 12. She noted the

pool is closed for safety reasons. Mr. Aiken questioned a possible town beach, noting he does not know the legalities involved. Selectman Morrin noted he was previously on the Parks Commission. Mr. Beckley stated there is a process, including possible temporary measures, and an assessment must be done.

Resident Sandra Piechota stated the pool was a donation 85 years ago, and every year there is something wrong. She noted the need for the children to have swim lessons and a place to enjoy. She asked if grants have been considered for the pool, as the dog park received a grant. Ms. Piechota noted her son in California and his classmates would like to donate to this, and it needs to be known what the costs are.

Resident Matthew Piechota stated the Governor has money and our representatives need to work on this situation. Selectman Barnes noted that he is on Conservation Commission, and ground water has come up under the pool.

Selectman McCarthy noted her work on a year-round youth center. She noted a shortage in lifeguards for the pool, and a need for swim lessons for the children. She stated she will not let this go, and she will attend the meeting of the Parks Commission. She invited concerned residents to attend on July 12.

Mr. Piechota questioned why call boxes were removed but the wires still are not taken down. Mr. Beckley noted he would talk to the Chief about use of a bucket truck.

Selectman Barnes asked about the underpass; Mr. Beckley noted the design may be another four weeks. Vice-Chairman Morrin suggested a committee for the Comcast contract. Mr. Beckley noted the Board might consider a Smart tv with sound and zoom. Mr. Beckley also noted the opioid lawsuit is moving forward.

Resident Alex Bergeron asked the progress of the Hardwick Ambulance Agreement; this topic will be discussed on July 20, 2021.

Town Manager Report

Dates

National Night Out, August 3. No Board meeting. 6-8 p.m. at Grenville Park
Fireworks, August 14

Reed Pool. Due to safety conditions and major structural deteriorations, it is not feasible or safe to open the Reed Pool at this time. The Parks Commission and Town are looking into different options moving forward, both for this summer and for the long-term. These include temporary spray pads and off-site swim lessons. We will let all know as opportunities become available. Long-term, the pool will need replacement. Based on a public survey last year, there is strong support for having a pool and a spray park. Additionally playground improvements are needed. In discussing with the Parks Commission, the proposed process would be to have an assessment done of the Reed Pool, fund designs for the pool and area, possibly considering other sites, and to move forward with construction and improvements. There are grant funds available (recreation, climate change, American Recovery Act) that could be used for these purposes. The pool is over 80 years old and has required extensive fiberglass and mechanical repairs in recent years.

Personnel – The Town has open postings for Truck Driver, Planner, Executive Assistant, and Principal Assessor. We are finalizing the posting for DPW director. Interviews for all positions will start in the near future.

Work on hazardous tree removal and the disposal of tree waste at Robbins Road will commence in early July with funds appropriated by Town Meeting.

Senior Center – Still waiting on dampers to arrive in order to make repair. Center will open Tuesday for activities.

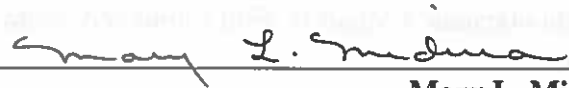
Construction on Main Street was very productive as the panels and poles for the traffic lights were installed. Ludlow Construction will be off this coming week, but next week will begin roadwork.

Departments will review needs/requests for use of ARPA funds on Wednesday. Suggestions and needs will be brought before the Board of Selectmen.

Adjournment

Selectman Barnes made the motion at 7:42 p.m. to Adjourn. Selectman McCarthy 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

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is July 20, 2021