



**Board of Selectmen
Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

6:30 p.m. Executive Session: M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) #3Litigation Update

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, Town Manager Stuart B. Beckley, Executive Assistant Mary L. Midura, Treasurer Ashley Walker

Absent: Selectman Caitlin M. McCarthy

Present via Zoom: Ware River News Editor Eileen Kennedy, Danielle Souza

Meeting Opened by Chairman Kruckas at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Remarks, Announcements, and Agenda review by Chair

Selectman Barnes thanked the DPW for new STOP sign at Belchertown Road and at Moriarty Road. He also thanked Police and Fire and those who coordinated the Memorial Day ceremony.

Selectman Morrin also praised the parade and noted that the Ware River News incorrectly stated that the Town paid for the demolition of 114 Main Street.

Consent Agenda

- **Reappointments of Special Police Officers, Honorary Police Officers, Matrons, and Constables**

Selectman Morrin made the motion to approve the reappointments. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Selectman Talbot), 1 Absent (Selectman McCarthy).

Scheduled Appearances

- **Discussion with Town Hall Auditor, Set Parameters**

Selectman Talbot made the motion to Table to June 15, 2021. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman McCarthy).

Old Business

- **Update on Dangerous Dog, 16 Howard Road**

Mr. Beckley noted that he and Selectman Barnes visited the property and did not see changes in the fence. The owner has proceeded with an appeal, court date is set for June 10, 2021 at 2:00 pm. The Board discussed sending another letter stating conditions have not been met. Confirmation of insurance is needed.

- **Update on Slum & Blight Designation Benefits**

Mr. Beckley noted that the demolition of 73 West Main Street (\$25,000), demolition of Parker Street building (\$35-40,000), and Main Street lighting (\$20,000) have all been funded by this designation. Chairman Kruckas asked about Chapter 90 funds used for design study; Mr. Beckley noted total at \$300,000. The Board discussed the target area and different uses for block grant funds. The Board requested a map and tax revenue information for the next meeting.

- **Discussion of Water Resources Committee Future**

Selectman Morrin stated that the committee opinions are "off the rails and the purpose of this committee is to report to the Board of Selectmen with facts.

Selectman Morrin made the motion to dissolve the Water Resources Committee. Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion, for the purpose of discussion.

Terry Smith, Chairman of the Water Resources Committee, spoke about the town meeting and argued with Selectman Morrin. Chairman Kruckas gavelled the discussion and ordered Mr. Smith to leave the meeting. Sergeant Lawrence escorted Mr. Smith out of the meeting.

Cathy Buelow-Cascio stated there has been one organizational meeting and one site visit. She stated the town voted and this committee needs time to consider the needs of the town. She noted that Mr. Smith has the education and knowledge needed for this committee.

Chairman Kruckas noted the cost, based on current supply and demand for materials, is most likely closer to \$20-22million. Selectman Morrin noted that there was no consistent message presented to the voters, and there is need for facts and clear information.

Selectman Talbot stated that the USDA worked with the town, and designs and studies have shown the water issues are costly to fix, with the Water Filtration as the first step. She noted that every town has these issues, and this committee is needed. She stated this committee should be given parameters and guidelines to redefine expectations as to what the Board of Selectmen wants from this committee.

Chairman Kruckas agreed that if the Town must borrow to fix all these issues, the Board needs information for the long term. Selectman Morrin stated the committee needs to be more serious. Selectman Talbot stated that those appointed to this committee are knowledgeable and should be given direction and goals such as finding the history and sources for funding.

Selectman Barnes stated that a map of all the pipes would be part of an incremental plan. He noted that the MMA has indicated money targeted at small towns, and there are grants coming. Chairman Kruckas noted the town needs to know what to ask for to deliver clean water. Mr. Beckley noted the committee could research and provide information on infrastructure. Selectman Barnes stated this was not presented

correctly to the Board and to voters.

Selectman Morrin stated he withdraws his motion. Selectman Kruckas also withdrew the second.

Selectman Talbot suggested the Board of Selectmen meet with the Water Resources Committee to clarify parameters. Chairman Kruckas asked that those with needed knowledge to please come forward. Selectman Barnes stated he would coordinate an agenda for a meeting.

- **Update on Main Street Construction Project**

Mr. Beckley noted that Ludlow Construction should begin on June 7, 2021.

Chairman Kruckas asked the progress on 92-104 Main Street. Mr. Beckley noted that the architect and owner were here and agreed the building was not repairable. The Board asked about façade improvements; Mr. Beckley noted the next block grant would be Spring 2022. Chairman Kruckas noted that compliance with sprinkler systems is still needed by businesses, and the Main Street cannot be changed for five years.

New Business

- **Vote and Execution of Bond Documents**

Mr. Beckley noted that long term bonds are at 1.81% and short-term bonds are at .35%.

Selectman Talbot made the motion to approve the Vote and Execution of Bond Documents. Selectman Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman McCarthy).

- **Approval of Town Policies, Sections Three and Four**

Selectman Barnes made the motion to approve Sections Three and Four of the Town Policies. Selectman Morrin seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman McCarthy).

- **Update RE: Liquor licenses, outdoor service**

Ms. Midura updated the Board with information from the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission related to liquor licenses. Ralph Sacramone, Executive Director of the ABCC, recently spoke on a zoom seminar regarding the lifting of restrictions and June 15, 2021 ending of the State of Emergency.

Licensees that were approved for expanded outdoor service (Wicked Wings, Hanna's – but Hanna's never used theirs) may continue their outdoor operations for 60 days after the end of the state of emergency, which is Sunday, August 15, 2021. There is legislation pending to extend this further to November 29, 2021, but this is not yet approved. Mr. Sacramone stated that the outdoor service was very popular, especially in the Seaport area of Boston.

Mr. Sacramone said that if a town Board would like to make outdoor service a permanent option, the Town can start accepting applications immediately. This is up to each city or town, and it is advised that Town Counsel be consulted before the Town announces this. Each licensee that wishes to apply would have to complete a full Alteration of Premises application, and this includes a legal ad, public hearing, notice to abutters and all required documents as required by the ABCC. The Board of Selectmen would have to approve the outdoor service on a

contiguous property of the owner, OR the outdoor service can be on town-owned sidewalk or street if the Board (again, with town counsel and approval of departments such as the police, fire and DPW) by two additional documented approvals:

- 1) Grant a license to carry over a public way (sidewalk).
- 2) Grant a license to serve alcohol on that town-owned property.
- 3)

For example, if a town designated parking space on a street for a restaurant to serve outdoors, these two extra approvals would be needed in addition to the full application. These approvals would be sent to the ABCC for final approval with the application for Alteration of Premises.

Mr. Sacramone noted that there may be many such applications across the State between now and the end of the year. Many will, of course, rely on the seasons and weather. Mr. Sacramone suggested that, if the Board wants to offer this option to licensees to make outdoor service a permanent part of their liquor license, to announce it soon and send in approved applications from our level to the ABCC, the sooner the better.

The Board does not have to offer this. If the Board does not offer this, all outdoor extensions granted during the pandemic will have to cease on August 15, 2021, unless the Governor also extends this deadline (legislation submitted to the Governor to extend to November 29, no approval on this as yet).

Take Away/Delivery of Alcohol – all restaurants (Section 12) must end take away and delivery of alcohol on June 15, 2021. This also has legislation submitted to the Governor, but no approval as yet).

The ABCC will strictly enforce this, as well as compliance with certificate of occupancy, not serving to intoxicated individuals, and checking ID of all patrons both for on-premise (restaurants) and off-premise (package stores). Mr. Sacramone also noted that a licensee always has the right to refuse to serve or sell if the ID is questionable.

The Board of Selectmen also has the right to hold a show cause or informational hearing of any liquor licensee, after proper notification to the licensee. If it appears that a licensee is not re-opening, the Board of Selectmen has the right to question the licensee. Not using a liquor license is called a “pocket license” and is not allowed by the ABCC.

Comments and Concerns of Citizens

Selectman Barnes requested a permanent setup for zoom in the Selectmen’s meeting room.

Selectman Morrin asked about the hoops at Grenville Park; Mr. Beckley stated that the Parks Commission will review at their next meeting on June 7, 2021.

Town Manager Report

Dates

June 3 – Mary Lane ER closure

Underpass – Surveyor/engineer contacted the town last week to confirm scope. They will present an estimate.

Thank you to the Veterans Council and all involved in a successful Memorial Day ceremony. Mr. Beckley also thanked the Historical Society and Stanley Ciukaj for the Ware Remembers ceremony.

Parker Street demolition. Wednesday morning at 7:00AM, Baystate Contracting Services will begin their abatement on 13-15 Parker St. At this time, no special provisions are required. They will do their containment work on the property and it will be taken away in a box truck, they will bring the water they need on the truck as necessary to do the work. This will be the course of procedure through the end of this week.

The DPW is paving Convent Hill Road and sections of Old Gilbertville Road this week. They are also preparing for paving work on Cummings Road.

Thank you to Chief Crevier for reaching out to friends at the New England Patriots to visit the young man attacked in Grenville Park. It meant a great deal to him.

The Town through the Planning Department is working on grants through the Commonwealth's new One Stop program. This program brings together multiple agencies and funding sources under one application. Several businesses are working on grants under this program with Town assistance, some particularly focusing on sprinkler assistance. Additionally, the Town is seeking assistance for the Brownfield site on Monroe Street and the parcel in the Millyard which the Town acquired through tax taking.

Future agenda discussions: Marijuana retail – town meeting vote allows for two more retail establishments, and CARES funding priorities – restrictions are related to Covid. The ultraviolet system to clean ambulances and police vehicles was bought through this funding.

Selectman Morrin asked if a new Health Director is hired; Mr. Beckley stated that Stephen Bell is the new Health Director. Selectman Morrin asked for discussion at the next meeting for water rate increases. Selectman Morrin asked if the Senior Center is repaired; Mr. Beckley noted the parts are coming in about a month. Selectman Morrin asked when the Senior Center will open or if there will be a vaccine clinic; Mr. Beckley noted the Director is working with Health Department. The Board requested an update from the Senior Center Director at the next meeting.

Selectman Morrin asked the progress of the regional dispatch; Mr. Beckley noted that WESTCOMM is at the top of the list for the grant, and details are being worked out.

Selectman Morrin asked the status of the Hardwick Ambulance Services; Mr. Beckley noted that the Hardwick representatives met with our Fire Chief, and all are waiting to hear from Barre and West Brookfield. Chairman Kruckas asked Mr. Beckley to set up a meeting on this issue.

The Board discussed the closing of the BMLH emergency services on June 3, 2021. Chairman Kruckas requested KP Law be contacted to question the trusts and accounts.

Selectman Barnes asked about the Route 32 bridge; Mr. Beckley noted a light would be set up and the project would be done in 2022-2024.

Selectman Morrin asked about demolition of the building across from Brusco Liquor Mart; Mr. Beckley noted this is in process.

Selectman Morrin asked progress on placing Board of Selectmen meetings on YouTube; Mr. Beckley noted this has not been done.

Adjournment

Selectman Talbot made the motion at 8:45 p.m. to Adjourn the Regular Meeting. Selectman Morrin seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Selectman McCarthy).

Attest: _____



Mary L. Midura
Executive Assistant to Town Manager