



**Board of Selectmen
Ware Town Hall, Meeting Room, 126 Main Street
Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 24, 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/638463865> (the online option will require a download).

Meeting ID: 638-463-865

Phone (use any of these):
929-205-6099
253-215-8782
301-715-8592

Present: Selectman Alan G. Whitney, Selectman John E. Carroll, Selectman Keith J. Kruckas, Selectman Nancy J. Talbot, Town Manager Stuart B. Beckley, Acting Fire Chief Chris Gagnon

Remote Participation: Selectman Tracy R. Opalinski

Meeting Opened by Chairman Whitney. Chairman Whitney explained that items on the agenda not discussed tonight will be tabled to April 7, 2020.

Consent Agenda

- **Approval of February 4 and February 18, 2020 Minutes**
- **Applications for Approval, contingent upon Governor's Order:**
 - One-Day Liquor License: Workshop 13, Open Mic, Friday, April 17
 - One-Day Liquor License: Workshop 13, Trailer Park Concert, Saturday, May 9
 - One-Day Liquor License: Workshop 13, Open Mic, Friday, May 15
 - Toll Road: Ware Lions Club, Saturday, June 13; Alternate Date Saturday, June 20
 - Special Event Permit: Workshop 13, 4th Annual Music Festival, Saturday, June 20
 - One-Day Liquor License: Workshop 13, Art & Music Festival, Saturday, June 20
 - One-Day Liquor License: The Beer Guy, Workshop 13, Art & Music Festival, Saturday June 20
 - Special Event Permit: Ware Lions Club Presents Fireworks Display, Saturday, June 27, 2020
 - Special Event Permit: Tyson Delrosario Presents Hope for Home, Sunday, June 28, 2020, alternate date Sunday, July 12, 2020

Selectman Kruckas made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Selectman Talbot seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Old Business

- **Approval of Cash Handling/Turnover Policy**

Mr. Beckley explained that minor changes have been made, and the policy has the support of the town auditor.

Selectman Kruckas made the motion to approve the Cash Handling/Turnover Policy. Selectman Talbot seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

New Business

- **Declaration of Emergency**

Selectman Talbot made the motion to approve the Declaration of Emergency. Selectman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **Approval of Town Election Warrant – April 13, 2020**

Selectman Kruckas made the motion to approve the Warrant. Selectman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **Application for Sewer Abatement**

Mr. Beckley explained that this was due to an error in billing.

Selectman Talbot made the motion to approve the Sewer Abatement refund of \$988.99. Selectman Opalinski seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

- **Complete Streets Prioritization Plan**

Selectman Kruckas stated this should have had input from the DPW Director and Safety Officer. Chairman Whitney objected to #2 bike lanes. Director of Planning Rebekah DeCourcey spoke (via Zoom) to state that the bike lanes and racks were part of the general list and this list is not in priority order. Selectman Opalinski stated that an electronic sign for town hall should be added to this list. Chairman Whitney stated this list must be in priority order, other departments must give input, and the Board of Selectmen must approve such a list. Mr. Beckley noted the plan is to increase all modes of transportation. Ms. DeCourcey stated this was the conceptual plan, created from research and feedback from the community. Selectman Opalinski asked why a raised crosswalk at West Street was considered instead of a cantilevered sidewalk off the side of the existing bridge; Ms. DeCourcey noted the cost of such a crosswalk was too high. Ms. DeCourcey noted the final list was to be presented to the engineers on Thursday. Chairman Whitney noted that a full list should be presented to the Board of Selectmen for review before any further action.

Selectman Kruckas made the motion to table the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, pending input from departments. Selectman Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Comments and Concerns of Citizens - none

Town Manager Report

Projects:

Main Street reconstruction – Has been Dig Safed. Have not heard of start dates. Many DOT projects have been put on hold.

Barnes Street pipe extension – contract signed. Materials being ordered.

Longview/Westbrook road pavement – Waiting for asphalt plant to open. This should be an early project.

Spring and Elm Street – also waiting for asphalt plant.

Bids for 73 West Main Street – due April 7.

Dog Park – work to continue next week

Old Belchertown Road Bridge – Have requested an updated cost estimate. State approvals are complete. Could be bid for a summer project.

13 Parker Street has been vacated and boarded. Town will move toward ownership and funding for removal

Town applied for grant from Mass Historical Commission for re-pointing of the Town hall and roof/drainage repairs.

Will require a Town Meeting match.

The Town's State Legislators are in regular contact regarding needs and changing legislation. The State budget will be delayed this year and funding levels will be affected by the response to the coronavirus.

Moving the DPW collections to the tax collector's office is anticipated to commence with the May water/sewer billing.

The DPW director's presentation regarding the costs of the water treatment plant will be posted on line tomorrow.

Coronavirus: The Health Department and State agencies provide materials and updated information. The Town has provided for non-essential personnel to work at home, although most come in for certain tasks. The DPW divisions are dividing into alternating crews, allowing personnel time for distancing. Tonight's Emergency declaration moves the Emergency Management team toward opening an Emergency Operations Center. The use and intensity of the center will be determined by how the virus spreads and needs grow. Chief Gagnon is in charge of the set-up. Town buildings, the library, schools and playgrounds remain closed at least through April 6.

Chairman Whitney asked Mr. Beckley to give an update status at each meeting. Selectman Kruckas thanked first responders, health workers, grocery workers. The Board requested information to be posted on the town website regarding available services. Selectman Opalinski noted a letter from the Friends of Ware Town Hall requesting funds from Curaleaf.

Selectman Carroll made the motion to Adjourn Regular Session at 7:41 p.m.

Selectman Kruckas seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 5 Yes, 0 No.

Attest: _____

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