

Selectboard Meeting Notice Agenda
Ware Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082
Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 6:30 pm

Instructions for Remote Participation

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7846041861?pwd=bldFR0tscStPMWhScHFwRlFWbHRRdz09>
Meeting ID: 784 604 1861 **Passcode:** 01082 **Phone:** 929-205-6099

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING REMARKS FROM CHAIR

COMMENTS & CONCERNS OF CITIZENS

CONSENT AGENDA

- Special Event Permits:
 - 2025-01 St. Aloysius Catholic School, 5K for Play, May 10, 2025, 10:00am to 12:00pm, Grenville Park
 - 2025-02 AFSP Ware Chapter, 2nd Annual Suicide Awareness Walk, May 03, 2025, 9:00am to 2:00pm, Grenville Park

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

- Resignations:
 - Kathy Galford from the 250th US Celebration Committee, effective immediately
 - Shane Millier from the Planning Board, effective immediately

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

OLD BUSINESS

- Request for the use of funds:
 - Resource Waste Donation Funds for electrical repairs to the Ware Center Meeting House
- Mary Lane Property and Buildings Update

NEW BUSINESS

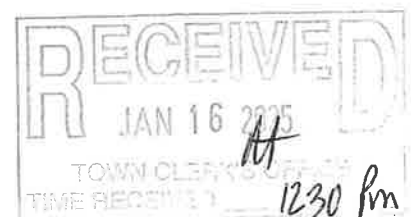
- Request to schedule a Public Hearing for a new Common Victualler and Entertainment License for Janine's Frostee, 149 East Street, on February 18, 2025, at 6:35pm.
- Authorize the Town Clerk to place the Planning Board seat availability on the Annual Town Election Ballot for a 4-year unexpired term that would end June 30, 2029
- Authorize Town Manager to cast votes on behalf of the Selectboard on Resolutions at the MMA Annual Business Meeting scheduled for January 23rd to 25th, 2025.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

EXECUTIVE SESSION PER MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAW:

Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation where an Open Meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares with respect to potential litigation. The Board will discuss and deliberate as to litigation strategy.

ADJOURNMENT





TOWN OF WARE
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082

SPECIAL EVENT CHECKLIST & APPLICATION PACKET

Thank you for considering Ware as the venue for your organization's special event. While every Town has different procedures, they are typically driven by State regulation. Ware has developed the following Special Event Checklist and Permit Application Packet to help you plan out the logistics of your event. Event sponsors are responsible for obtaining all proper licenses and permits and abiding by the rules listed on said licenses. It is our hope that this checklist will enlighten you about the permitting process and the various Town Departments involved in event planning.

A *Special Event* is any activity that occurs upon public or private property that affects the ordinary use of parks, playgrounds, beaches, fields, buildings, public streets, right-of-way, or sidewalks and it may feature entertainment, amusements, food and non-alcoholic or alcoholic beverages. Examples of a *Special Event* include (but are not limited to) festivals, road races, Farmer's Markets, block parties, carnivals, and parades.

Once you have received the application packet, the best practice is to begin by reading through the Special Event Checklist to determine what is needed for your event. Permits, licenses and inspections may be required for your event. Please check all of the applicable boxes in each section of the checklist. Complete the application packet (the checklist and the permit application) and return it to the Board of Selectmen's office at Town Hall.

Your application packet will be time stamped and forwarded to all departments for DEPARTMENT SIGN OFF AND APPROVAL/COMMENTS. Once all departments have reviewed your application, it will be placed on an upcoming agenda for final approval by the Board of Selectmen.

The authorized special event permit must be posted in a visible location at your event.

THE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT IS SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL LAWS, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS, GUIDELINES AND POLICIES OF THE TOWN OF WARE AND DEPARTMENT OR BODY OTHERWISE HAVING JURISDICTION AND FURTHER SUBJECT TO THE SPECIFIC TERMS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS PRINTED OR WRITTEN HEREINBELOW OR ATTACHED AND MAY BE VOIDED OR REVOKED AT ANY TIME IF ANY REGULATION, STANDARD, GUIDELINE OR POLICY OF THE TOWN OF WARE ARE VIOLATED.

THIS PERMIT IS GRANTED UPON THE CONDITION THAT THE PERSON OR PERSONS TO WHOM IT IS ISSUED SHALL FULFILL ALL REQUIREMENTS OF THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING OF THE TOWN OF WARE AND SHALL NOT BE TRANSFERRED, ASSIGNED OR CONVEYED.

PLEASE NOTE: Contents of this checklist are presumed accurate. All information is subject to change.

Listed below are general items that could apply to any department's requirements for an event:

ADA AWARENESS

- Special events should be accessible to people with disabilities. Building Inspections will assist you in ensuring that your event is accessible.

INSURANCE

- When alcohol is served or sold, an insurance rider in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence with a \$1,000,000 aggregate is required. Be aware that such coverage usually requires a thirty-day lead time.
- When renting Town property, an insurance rider in the amount of \$500,000 per occurrence with a \$1,000,000 aggregate is required.
- The vendor must submit an insurance certificate for all coverage, listing the Town of Ware as an additional insured, to the Town Manager's office prior to the event.

NEIGHBOR NOTIFICATION

- If the special event will require street closings, traffic or bus route changes or other features that will affect the public, the event planner must notify all abutting neighbors and prepare and distribute a press release and a site map to local media outlets ten days before the event.

OVERTIME COSTS

- Overtime charges *may* be passed along to event organizers requiring inspection services outside of normal business hours.

RAIN DATE / PLAN CHANGES

- Event organizers must anticipate – and include in their application – changes in plans due to foul weather or other calamities.

TRASH COLLECTION AND REMOVAL

Event sponsor may be responsible for trash collection and removal. Review details with property owner / manager.

- Dumpster permits are issued by Fire Department.

UTILITIES – ELECTRIC, PLUMBING, GAS

Review requirements with property owner / manager.

- Temporary electrical accommodations require services of Wire Inspector (Building Inspection Department-see below) to prevent overloading or other unsafe conditions.

Each vendor will be restricted to one electrical appliance.

- Temporary use of gas or propane will require permits from the Plumbing & Gas Inspector and Fire Department (Building Inspection Department & Fire Department-see below).

TOWN DEPARTMENTS/CONTACTS AND REQUIREMENTS

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT (413-531-3879) Located at: Grenville Park, Church Street
Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 3:00pm

TOWN PARKS

- Use of Town Parks requires permission from the Park Commission. The Park Commission meets the first Monday of every month. Requests for park use should be filed 30 days prior to event date.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT (967-9648 x110) Located at: Town Hall, 126 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

- All vendors that handle, prepare, transport, and/or serve food, non-alcoholic beverages, and pre-packaged retail food must file an application with the Ware Board of Health.
- All food must be prepared in a Board of Health certified kitchen and transported to event in accordance with all applicable regulations and laws.

SANITARY FACILITIES

- Please specify the restroom facilities that will be used for food service vendors.
- Provisions for safe food handling practices with ready to eat foods include hand-washing stations, disposable gloves, etc.

DPW DEPARTMENT (967-9620) Located at: 4 ½ Church Street
Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm

- See “*Venues*” for buildings, parks, school buildings & school grounds
- Buildings, parks, school buildings & school grounds have separate paperwork and may have fees.

You will need to make arrangements for special requests (bathrooms needing to be opened, etc.)

GROUND PENETRATION

- Make arrangements with property owner / manager if penetrating the ground (tent stakes, etc.), and call Dig Safe at 1-888-Dig-Safe (344-7233), which covers gas, electric and telephone utilities. A report from Dig Safe is required prior to permit approval. Contact Public Works & Utilities for water, sewer and storm water information.
- Approval is required from the department of Public Works & Utilities.

SIDEWALK CLOSURE / OBSTRUCTION

- A permit is required from Public Works for sidewalk sales or other obstructions.

BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT (967-9648 x180) Located at: Town Hall, 126 Main Street
Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Some events requiring entertainment licenses (i.e. carnivals) will require Board of Selectmen approval and may also require Building Inspector services.

- o All amusement rides, including climbing walls, require permits and inspection by State Building Inspectors

OCCUPANCY ISSUES

- Events utilizing space for purposes other than what the space was designed for (i.e. using a vacant storefront for an entertainment venue) constitute change of use. Any building in excess of 35,000 cubic feet requires an architect evaluation for change of use. Review proposal (including sketches) with Building Inspector.
- In a building that has a current certificate of inspection for a place of assembly, the maximum number of people that can occupy the room or space is posted on the certificate.

TENTS

Events that gather people outside in a tent or other structures that cover an area in excess of 120 square feet, including all connecting areas or spaces with a common means of egress or entrance which are used or intended to be used for the gathering together of ten or more persons will be required to obtain a permit from the Building Inspection Department.

- Organizers are encouraged to have the tent rental company secure necessary tent permits.
- All tents, regardless of size, must be properly secured or weighted.

SIGNAGE

- Review with property owner / manager and Building Inspector.

FIRE DEPARTMENT (967-5901) Located at: 200 West Street
Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

CONCESSION TRAILERS

- A concession trailer fire safety inspection is required during or prior to the event. A cooking suppression system check is required (certification must be current within 6 months prior). If deep frying is used, you must have a K-Type fire extinguisher. For all other cooking, you must have a 10ABC or larger fire extinguisher.

FIREWORKS / BONFIRES

- Permit required from Ware Fire Department.
Review with property owner.

GRILLS / PROPANE TANKS

- Permits required from Plumbing & Gas Inspector and Fire Department for the use of propane tanks or grilling at any public event including concession trailers. The Fire Department needs to know the number and size of propane tanks.

STREET CLOSURES OR DETOURS

- Notify Fire Department of street closures or detours 24 hours in advance. Also requires approval of the Board of Selectmen

DUMPSTERS

- Dumpster permits are issued by Fire Department.

POLICE DEPARTMENT (967-3571) Located at: 22 North Street
Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

STREETS/PUBLIC WAYS – BLOCK PARTIES

NOISE – Hours of operation 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. – Strictly enforced.

- Notify Ware Police Department if event may exceed acceptable noise levels.

PARKING

- Review with property owner / manager
- May require permission from Ware Police Department.

STREET CLOSURE

- Permission is required from Ware Police Department for any street closures or detours.

SECURITY DETAILS

- Ware Police Department. _____ # of Officers Needed

SELECTBOARD (967-9648) Located at: Town Hall, 126 Main Street
Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm

ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE

- Outdoor concerts, carnivals, circus, fairs, etc., require permit from Board.
- Alcoholic beverages served or sold require license from Board.

RAFFLE – Town Clerk – Non-profit organizations only may receive a raffle permit – proof required

- A Permit good for one year is required from Town Clerk for any raffle.

SALES / CONCESSIONS (Hawker & Peddler License)

- State and Licensing Board permits are required for the planned sales or concessions.

WEB LINKS

Links to this document and all of the relevant Town departments are available at: www.townofware.com

LOCATION OF EVENT (Must be Checked for Event Location)

TOWN PARKS

- Grenville Park Including Bandshell and Pavilion
- Veterans Memorial Park and Lot
- Memorial Field

TOWN HALL

- Auditorium (Capacity 400)
- Selectboard Meeting Room

WARE SENIOR CENTER

- Auditorium
- Cafeteria

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- Auditorium
- Cafeteria
- Gym
- Classroom – Room # _____
- General Grounds – Explain location: _____

OTHER LOCATION

- Name of Location: _____

SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION- TOWN OF WARE
(To be posted or made available at event)

2025-01

Return to: Selectboard Office, Town of Ware, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082

Application packet must be received no later than 30 days prior to the event.

Event Name: 5k For Play Event Producer: St. Aloysius Catholic School

Primary Contact Information

Primary Contact Name: Hayla Casiello

Mailing Address: PO Box 522 Gilbertville, MA 01031

Day Phone: _____ Cell Phone: 508-335-7521

E-mail: h.casiello@st.aloysiuscs.com Website: staloyuscs.com

Non-Profit Organization / Event: Yes No

Event Information

Event Address / Location: Grenville Park

EVENT DATE
Starting Date: 5/10/25 Time: 10:00 AM Attendance Expected: 100
Ending Date: 5/10/25 Time: 12:00 PM
- 8:30am set up

RAIN DATE
Starting Date: ___/___/___ Time: ___:___:___ M Attendance Expected: _____
Ending Date: ___/___/___ Time: ___:___:___ M No Rain Date Scheduled
- 1:30pm clean up

List any streets to be closed for special event: _____

Summary of Event - Please describe the special features of the event within the box below.

St. Aloysius Catholic School would like to host our annual 5k for play for the 4th year at Grenville park. The race will kick off at 10am. We will have a DJ and hopefully a few food trucks again. There will be a raffle (we have a permit) and games + activities for the kids. (lawn games such as corn hole, ring toss, etc.) Early approval would be greatly appreciated so we can begin the planning process.

RELEASE/HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT (REQUIRED FOR USE OF TOWN PROPERTY ONLY):

I, Kayla Casiello, a representative from St. Aloysius Catholic School + PTO does hereby acknowledge that in the course of its use of property owned by the Town of Ware, namely Grenville Park located at 73 Church St, Ware, Massachusetts, for the purpose described above, and more particularly by virtue of the presence of its agents, servants, employees and invitees, (hereinafter collectively referred to as St. Aloysius CS + PTO), in any manner whatsoever shall operate at its own risk on said property of the Town of Ware.

For and in consideration of the use of Grenville Park, St. Aloysius CS + PTO does for itself and on behalf of its agents, servants, employees and invitees, hereby, jointly and severally, remise, release and forever discharge the Town, it's agents, servants and employees (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Town"), of and from all debts, demands, actions, and any and all claims or demands whatsoever of any kind for damages or injuries to property or person, which may arise by virtue of St. Aloysius CS + PTO use of Grenville Park. St. Aloysius CS + PTO further agrees to defend and indemnify and hold harmless the Town from and against any claims of any nature whatsoever and the cost and expense, including, but not limited to, attorney fees and legal costs arising out of any claim in connection with its use of Grenville Park. Said indemnification shall not include claims arising from intentional malfeasance by the agents or employees of the Town of Ware.

Signed this 30th day of August, 2024, on behalf of St. Aloysius CS + PTO by Kayla Casiello, its Office Manager + Treasurer + event organizer

Signature Kayla Casiello Date: 8 / 30 / 24
Signature of the agent duly authorized by the Special Event Permit applicant to bind it.

This application packet (the checklist and the permit application) will be reviewed by each department for sign-off. Once all sign-offs have been received, this application packet will be placed on an upcoming agenda for final approval by the Selectboard.

Review & Submission for Sign-Offs Provided By Departments
Please note – Departments may provide additional comments below their sign-off

Name of Event 5K For Play

Date: May 10, 2025

Department Comments/Concerns/Conditions for Certificate Approval:

Parks and Recreation

J m [Signature]

Date: 4/15/25

Health Department

See Email

Date: _____

Department of Public Works

Date: _____

Building Inspections

See Email

Date: _____

Fire Department

See Email

Date: _____

Police Department

See Email

Date: _____

of Officers (if applicable) _____

BOH
2025-01

From: [Crete, Andrea](#)
To: [Croteau, Nicole](#); [Beckley, Stuart](#); [Crevier, Shawn](#); [Marques, Anna S.](#); [Martinez, Jim](#); [Morton, Dennis](#); [Piechota, John](#)
Subject: RE: Special Event App 2025-01
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 1:06:51 PM

Food trucks just need to be permitted by the Board of Health. Otherwise I don't see any issues with the temp event.

From: Croteau, Nicole <ncroteau@townofware.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 11:40 AM
To: Beckley, Stuart <sbeckley@townofware.com>; Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com>; Crevier, Shawn <CrsH@townofware.com>; Marques, Anna S. <amarques@townofware.com>; Martinez, Jim <jmartinez@townofware.com>; Morton, Dennis <dmorton@townofware.com>; Piechota, John <jpiechota@townofware.com>
Subject: Special Event App 2025-01

Hello Everyone,
I hope you are well.

Attached is a Special Event application for St. Aloysius Church.
Can you please review the application prior to Friday and let me know if you have any comment or concerns.

Thank you,
Nicole

-Nicole L. Croteau
*Executive Assistant to Town Manager
& Selectboard
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
413-967-9648 x101
townofware.com*



Building
2025-01

From: [Marques, Anna S.](#)
To: [Croteau, Nicole](#); [Beckley, Stuart](#); [Crete, Andrea](#); [Crevier, Shawn](#); [Martinez, Jim](#); [Morton, Dennis](#); [Piechota, John](#)
Subject: RE: Special Event App 2025-01
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 11:51:59 AM

Bldg Dept is all set.

Thank you.

Anna Szmyd Marques
Building Commissioner, Zoning Enforcement Officer

Town of Ware | 126 Main Street | Ware, MA 01082

t. 413.967.9648 x114

Town Hall hours are M-F 8-4.

www.townofware.com

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To: Beckley, Stuart <sbeckley@townofware.com>; Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com>; Crevier, Shawn <CrsH@townofware.com>; Marques, Anna S. <amarques@townofware.com>; Martinez, Jim <jmartinez@townofware.com>; Morton, Dennis <dmorton@townofware.com>; Piechota, John <jpiechota@townofware.com>
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Police
2025-01

From: [Crevier, Shawn](#)
To: [Croteau, Nicole](#)
Subject: RE: Special Event App 2025-01
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025 7:21:40 AM

No issues here!

From: Croteau, Nicole <ncroteau@townofware.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 11:40 AM
To: Beckley, Stuart <sbeckley@townofware.com>; Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com>; Crevier, Shawn <CrsH@townofware.com>; Marques, Anna S. <amarques@townofware.com>; Martinez, Jim <jmartinez@townofware.com>; Morton, Dennis <dmorton@townofware.com>; Piechota, John <jpiechota@townofware.com>
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Croteau, Nicole

From: Boulrice, Jeremy
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2025 10:30 AM
To: Croteau, Nicole
Subject: RE: Special Event App 2025-01

All food trucks operating will need a permit (FP-006 Form) and an inspection. Any propane over 42 lbs set on the ground will need to be permitted as well.

From: Croteau, Nicole <ncroteau@townofware.com>
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2025 9:36 AM
To: Boulrice, Jeremy <jboulrice@townofware.com>
Subject: FW: Special Event App 2025-01

Good Morning Jeremy
Can you please review the special event application in the absence of the Chief?
Note in an email if the FD will require any inspections, etc.

Thank you.
Nicole

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*Executive Assistant to Town Manager
& Selectboard*
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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 13.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased from 4.5 million to 6.5 million (ONS 2002).

There are a number of reasons why the number of people aged 65 and over has increased. One of the main reasons is that people are living longer.

There are a number of reasons why people are living longer. One of the main reasons is that people are healthier.

There are a number of reasons why people are healthier. One of the main reasons is that people are eating better.

There are a number of reasons why people are eating better. One of the main reasons is that people are exercising more.

There are a number of reasons why people are exercising more. One of the main reasons is that people are using the internet more.

There are a number of reasons why people are using the internet more. One of the main reasons is that people are using mobile phones more.

There are a number of reasons why people are using mobile phones more. One of the main reasons is that people are using email more.

There are a number of reasons why people are using email more. One of the main reasons is that people are using social networking sites more.

There are a number of reasons why people are using social networking sites more. One of the main reasons is that people are using video more.

There are a number of reasons why people are using video more. One of the main reasons is that people are using music more.

There are a number of reasons why people are using music more. One of the main reasons is that people are using books more.

There are a number of reasons why people are using books more. One of the main reasons is that people are using newspapers more.

There are a number of reasons why people are using newspapers more. One of the main reasons is that people are using magazines more.

There are a number of reasons why people are using magazines more. One of the main reasons is that people are using radio more.

There are a number of reasons why people are using radio more. One of the main reasons is that people are using television more.

There are a number of reasons why people are using television more. One of the main reasons is that people are using computers more.

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TOWN PARKS

- Use of Town Parks requires permission from the Park Commission. The Park Commission meets the first Monday of every month. Requests for park use should be filed 30 days prior to event date.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT (967-9648 x110) Located at: Town Hall, 126 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm

FOOD AND BEVERAGES

- All vendors that handle, prepare, transport, and/or serve food, non-alcoholic beverages, and pre-packaged retail food must file an application with the Ware Board of Health.
- All food must be prepared in a Board of Health certified kitchen and transported to event in accordance with all applicable regulations and laws.

SANITARY FACILITIES

- Please specify the restroom facilities that will be used for food service vendors.
- Provisions for safe food handling practices with ready to eat foods include hand-washing stations, disposable gloves, etc.

DPW DEPARTMENT (967-9620) Located at: 4 ½ Church Street
Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm

- See “*Venues*” for buildings, parks, school buildings & school grounds
- Buildings, parks, school buildings & school grounds have separate paperwork and may have fees.

You will need to make arrangements for special requests (bathrooms needing to be opened, etc.)

GROUND PENETRATION

- Make arrangements with property owner / manager if penetrating the ground (tent stakes, etc.), and call Dig Safe at 1-888-Dig-Safe (344-7233), which covers gas, electric and telephone utilities. A report from Dig Safe is required prior to permit approval. Contact Public Works & Utilities for water, sewer and storm water information.
- Approval is required from the department of Public Works & Utilities.

SIDEWALK CLOSURE / OBSTRUCTION

- A permit is required from Public Works for sidewalk sales or other obstructions.

BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT (967-9648 x180) Located at: Town Hall, 126 Main Street
Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Some events requiring entertainment licenses (i.e. carnivals) will require Board of Selectmen approval and may also require Building Inspector services.

- o All amusement rides, including climbing walls, require permits and inspection by State Building Inspectors

OCCUPANCY ISSUES

- Events utilizing space for purposes other than what the space was designed for (i.e. using a vacant storefront for an entertainment venue) constitute change of use. Any building in excess of 35,000 cubic feet requires an architect evaluation for change of use. Review proposal (including sketches) with Building Inspector.
- In a building that has a current certificate of inspection for a place of assembly, the maximum number of people that can occupy the room or space is posted on the certificate.

TENTS

Events that gather people outside in a tent or other structures that cover an area **in excess of 120 square feet**, including all connecting areas or spaces with a common means of egress or entrance which are used or intended to be used for the gathering together of ten or more persons will be required to obtain a permit from the Building Inspection Department.

- Organizers are encouraged to have the tent rental company secure necessary tent permits.
- All tents, regardless of size, must be properly secured or weighted.

SIGNAGE

- Review with property owner / manager and Building Inspector.

FIRE DEPARTMENT (967-5901) Located at: 200 West Street
Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

CONCESSION TRAILERS

- A concession trailer fire safety inspection is required during or prior to the event. A cooking suppression system check is required (certification must be current within 6 months prior). If deep frying is used, you must have a K-Type fire extinguisher. For all other cooking, you must have a 10ABC or larger fire extinguisher.

FIREWORKS / BONFIRES

- Permit required from Warc Fire Department.
Review with property owner.

GRILLS / PROPANE TANKS

- Permits required from Plumbing & Gas Inspector and Fire Department for the use of propane tanks or grilling at any public event including concession trailers. The Fire Department needs to know the number and size of propane tanks.

STREET CLOSURES OR DETOURS

- Notify Fire Department of street closures or detours 24 hours in advance. Also requires approval of the Board of Selectmen

DUMPSTERS

- Dumpster permits are issued by Fire Department.

POLICE DEPARTMENT (967-3571) Located at: 22 North Street
Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

STREETS/PUBLIC WAYS – BLOCK PARTIES

NOISE – Hours of operation 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. – Strictly enforced.

- Notify Ware Police Department if event may exceed acceptable noise levels.

PARKING

- Review with property owner / manager
- May require permission from Ware Police Department.

STREET CLOSURE

- Permission is required from Ware Police Department for any street closures or detours.

SECURITY DETAILS

- Ware Police Department. _____ # of Officers Needed

SELECTBOARD (967-9648) Located at: Town Hall, 126 Main Street
Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm

ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE

- Outdoor concerts, carnivals, circus, fairs, etc., require permit from Board.
- Alcoholic beverages served or sold require license from Board.

RAFFLE – Town Clerk – Non-profit organizations only may receive a raffle permit – proof required

- A Permit good for one year is required from Town Clerk for any raffle.

SALES / CONCESSIONS (Hawker & Peddler License)

- State and Licensing Board permits are required for the planned sales or concessions.

WEB LINKS

Links to this document and all of the relevant Town departments are available at: www.townofware.com

LOCATION OF EVENT (Must be Checked for Event Location)

TOWN PARKS

- Grenville Park Including Bandshell and Pavilion
- Veterans Memorial Park and Lot
- Memorial Field

TOWN HALL

- Auditorium (Capacity 400) Selectboard Meeting Room

WARE SENIOR CENTER

- Auditorium Cafeteria

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- Auditorium Cafeteria
- Gym Classroom – Room # _____
- General Grounds – Explain location: _____

OTHER LOCATION

- Name of Location: _____

2025-02

SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION- TOWN OF WARE
(To be posted or made available at event)

Return to: Selectboard Office, Town of Ware, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082

Application packet must be received no later than 30 days prior to the event.

Event Name: 2nd Annual Suicide Awareness Walk Event Producer: AFSP Ware Chapter

Primary Contact Information

Primary Contact Name: Kristen Murphy/Jeannine Bonnayer

Mailing Address: Town of Ware

Day Phone: _____ Cell Phone: 413-544-4667/413-250-0544

E-mail: sassyarmywife@comcast.net/jbonnayer@townofware.com Website: _____

Non-Profit Organization / Event: Yes No

Event Information

Event Address / Location: 73 Church St/Grenville Park

EVENT DATE
Starting Date: 05 / 03 / 2025 Time: 09 : 00 AM M Attendance Expected: 200
Ending Date: 05 / 03 / 2025 Time: 2 : 00 PM M

RAIN DATE
Starting Date: ___ / ___ / ___ Time: ___ : ___ M Attendance Expected: _____
Ending Date: ___ / ___ / ___ Time: ___ : ___ M No Rain Date Scheduled

List any streets to be closed for special event: _____

Summary of Event - Please describe the special features of the event within the box below.

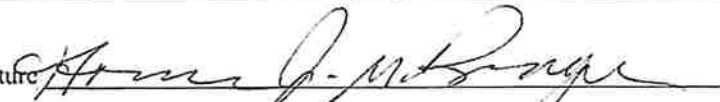
A 1-3 mile walk within the park.
Participants will have vendor tables from AFSP available
Face painting and hot dogs will be available at no cost

RELEASE/HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT (REQUIRED FOR USE OF TOWN PROPERTY ONLY):

I, Kristen Murphy/Jeannine Bonnayer, a representative from AFSP Ware Chapter,
does hereby acknowledge that in the course of its use of property owned by the Town of Ware, namely
Grenville Park located at 73 Church St, Ware,
Massachusetts, for the purpose described above, and more particularly by virtue of the presence of its agents, servants,
employees and invitees, (hereinafter collectively referred to as _____), in any manner
whatsoever shall operate at its own risk on said property of the Town of Ware.

For and in consideration of the use of Grenville Park, _____ does for itself
and on behalf of its agents, servants, employees and invitees, hereby, jointly and severally, remise, release and forever
discharge the Town, it's agents, servants and employees (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Town"), of and from
all debts, demands, actions, and any and all claims or demands whatsoever of any kind for damages or injuries to property
or person, which may arise by virtue of _____ use of Grenville park.
_____ further agrees to defend and indemnify and hold harmless the Town from and
against any claims of any nature whatsoever and the cost and expense, including, but not limited to, attorney fees and
legal costs arising out of any claim in connection with its use of Grenville Park.
Said indemnification shall not include claims arising from intentional malfeasance by the agents or employees of the
Town of Ware.

Signed this 19 day of September, 2025, on behalf of AFSP Ware Chapter by
Kristen Murphy/Jeannine Bonnayer, its organizers.

Signature  Date: 09, 19, 24
Signature of the agent duly authorized by the Special Event Permit applicant to bind it.

***This application packet (the checklist and the permit application) will be reviewed by each department for sign-off.
Once all sign-offs have been received, this application packet will be placed on an upcoming agenda for final approval
by the Selectboard.***

Review & Submission for Sign-Offs Provided By Departments
Please note – Departments may provide additional comments below their sign-off

Name of Event 2nd Annual Suicide Awareness Walk

Date: May 3, 2025

Department Comments/Concerns/Conditions for Certificate Approval:

Parks and Recreation

[Signature]

Date: 1/15/25

Health Department

See Email

Date: _____

Department of Public Works

Date: _____

Building Inspections

See Email

Date: _____

Fire Department

See Email

Date: _____

Police Department

See Email

Date: _____

of Officers (if applicable) _____

BOH
2025-02

From: [Crete, Andrea](#)
To: [Croteau, Nicole](#)
Subject: RE: Special Event 2025-02
Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 1:09:22 PM

I don't see any concerns. John will need to get in touch with Jeannine regarding the hot dogs to go over safe food handling and see if any other foods on the side might be served. If it is JUST hot dogs, the buns and condiments that do not need refrigeration then no food permit is needed. If they want to do chili dogs, and cut up onions, peppers ect then one will be needed. Thanks

From: Croteau, Nicole <ncroteau@townofware.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 11:41 AM
To: Beckley, Stuart <sbeckley@townofware.com>; Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com>; Crevier, Shawn <CrsH@townofware.com>; Marques, Anna S. <amarques@townofware.com>; Martinez, Jim <jmartinez@townofware.com>; Morton, Dennis <dmorton@townofware.com>; Piechota, John <jpiechota@townofware.com>
Subject: Special Event 2025-02

Hello Everyone,
I hope you are well.

Attached is a Special Event application for Jeannine Bonnayer.
Can you please review the application prior to Friday and let me know if you have any comment or concerns.

Thank you,
Nicole

-Nicole L. Croteau
*Executive Assistant to Town Manager
& Selectboard
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
413-967-9648 x101
townofware.com*



BOH
2025-02

From: [Prenosil, John](#)
To: [Croteau, Nicole](#)
Subject: Special Event 2025-02
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025 10:24:20 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Good morning, Nicole. I verified with Jeannine that they will just be serving hot dogs and condiments that do not require refrigeration. Therefore, no permit is required from our office.

John

From: Croteau, Nicole <ncroteau@townofware.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 11:41 AM

To: Beckley, Stuart <sbeckley@townofware.com>; Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com>; Crevier, Shawn <CrsH@townofware.com>; Marques, Anna S. <amarques@townofware.com>; Martinez, Jim <jmartinez@townofware.com>; Morton, Dennis <dmorton@townofware.com>; Piechota, John <jpiechota@townofware.com>

Subject: Special Event 2025-02

Hello Everyone,
I hope you are well.

Attached is a Special Event application for Jeannine Bonnayer.
Can you please review the application prior to Friday and let me know if you have any comment or concerns.

Thank you,
Nicole

-Nicole L. Croteau
*Executive Assistant to Town Manager
& Selectboard
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
413-967-9648 x101
townofware.com*

From: Marques, Anna S.
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 11:47 AM
To: Croteau, Nicole; Beckley, Stuart; Crete, Andrea; Crevier, Shawn; Martinez, Jim; Morton, Dennis; Piechota, John
Subject: RE: Special Event 2025-02

Building Dept is all set.
Thank you.

Anna Szmyd Marques
Building Commissioner, Zoning Enforcement Officer

Town of Ware | 126 Main Street | Ware, MA 01082

t. 413.967.9648 x114
Town Hall hours are M-F 8-4.
www.townofware.com

From: Croteau, Nicole <ncroteau@townofware.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 11:41 AM
To: Beckley, Stuart <sbeckley@townofware.com>; Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com>; Crevier, Shawn <CrsH@townofware.com>; Marques, Anna S. <amarques@townofware.com>; Martinez, Jim <jmartinez@townofware.com>; Morton, Dennis <dmorton@townofware.com>; Piechota, John <jpiechota@townofware.com>
Subject: Special Event 2025-02

Hello Everyone,
I hope you are well.

Attached is a Special Event application for Jeannine Bonnayer.
Can you please review the application prior to Friday and let me know if you have any comment or concerns.

Thank you,
Nicole

-Nicole L. Croteau
*Executive Assistant to Town Manager
& Selectboard
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
413-967-9648 x101
townofware.com*

Police
2025-02

From: [Crevier, Shawn](#)
To: [Croteau, Nicole](#)
Subject: RE: Special Event 2025-02
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025 7:21:11 AM

No issues here.

From: Croteau, Nicole <ncroteau@townofware.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 11:41 AM
To: Beckley, Stuart <sbeckley@townofware.com>; Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com>; Crevier, Shawn <CrSH@townofware.com>; Marques, Anna S. <amarques@townofware.com>; Martinez, Jim <jmartinez@townofware.com>; Morton, Dennis <dmorton@townofware.com>; Piechota, John <jpiechota@townofware.com>
Subject: Special Event 2025-02

Hello Everyone,
I hope you are well.

Attached is a Special Event application for Jeannine Bonnayer.
Can you please review the application prior to Friday and let me know if you have any comment or concerns.

Thank you,
Nicole

-Nicole L. Croteau
*Executive Assistant to Town Manager
& Selectboard
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
413-967-9648 x101
townofware.com*



Croteau, Nicole

From: Boulrice, Jeremy
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2025 10:31 AM
To: Croteau, Nicole
Subject: RE: Special Event 2025-02

FD OK

From: Croteau, Nicole <ncroteau@townofware.com>
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2025 9:36 AM
To: Boulrice, Jeremy <jboulrice@townofware.com>
Subject: FW: Special Event 2025-02

Good Morning Jeremy
Can you please review the special event application in the absence of the Chief?
Note in an email if the FD will require any inspections, etc.

Thank you.
Nicole

-Nicole L. Croteau
*Executive Assistant to Town Manager
& Selectboard
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
413-967-9648 x101
townofware.com*

From: Croteau, Nicole
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 11:41 AM
To: Beckley, Stuart <sbeckley@townofware.com>; Crete, Andrea <acrete@townofware.com>; Crevier, Shawn <CrsH@townofware.com>; Marques, Anna S. <amarques@townofware.com>; Martinez, Jim <jmartinez@townofware.com>; Morton, Dennis <dmorton@townofware.com>; Piechota, John <jpiechota@townofware.com>
Subject: Special Event 2025-02

Hello Everyone,
I hope you are well.

Attached is a Special Event application for Jeannine Bonnayer.
Can you please review the application prior to Friday and let me know if you have any comment or concerns.



TOWN OF WARE, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

126 MAIN STREET, STE. F, WARE, MASSACHUSETTS 01082

NANCY J. TALBOT
TOWN CLERK

January 14, 2025

Selectboard of Ware
126 Main St.
Ware, MA 01082

Dear Board Members:

I am in receipt of the resignation of Kathy Galford from the 250th Anniversary Committee. Her resignation is effective immediately although she has offered to volunteer as needed if asked.

A copy of the resignation letter is attached for your records.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Talbot
Town Clerk

Enclosure

cc: Resignation File 2025
Nicole Croteau – Chairman, 250th Anniversary Committee

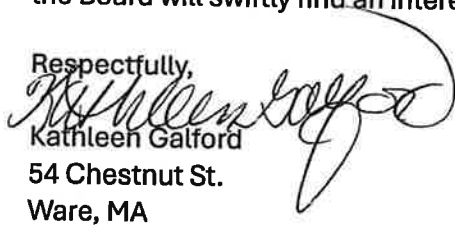
t/

January 13, 2025

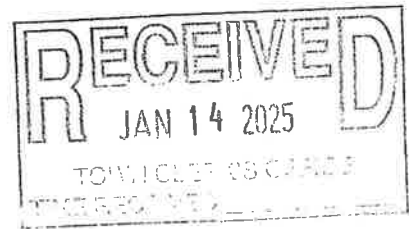
Ware Selectboard Members,

It is with regret that I am resigning my appointment to the Ware 250th Anniversary Committee. Due to unforeseen circumstances, I will be unable to participate on the Committee, however, I hope to volunteer when called upon to help the Committee members in planning and execution of the anniversary events. I greatly appreciate the Boards confidence in my abilities to serve and hope the Board will swiftly find an interested citizen to fill this appointment.

Respectfully,



Kathleen Galford
54 Chestnut St.
Ware, MA





TOWN OF WARE, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

126 MAIN STREET, STE. F, WARE, MASSACHUSETTS 01082

NANCY J. TALBOT
TOWN CLERK

January 14, 2025

Selectboard of Ware
126 Main St.
Ware, MA 01082

Dear Board Members:

I am in receipt of the resignation of Planning Board member Shane Millier effective immediately. A copy of his letter is attached for your records.

I have also notified the Planning Board Chairman – Kenneth Crosby of this resignation.

Per MGL, the two boards will need to meet to appoint an interested individual who will serve until the next Annual Town Election of April 14, 2025. This appointment must be done by roll call vote of the remaining members of the Planning Board and the Selectboard.

The position should be advertised immediately for interested applicants to apply, thereafter a joint meeting will need to be scheduled as soon as possible (suggesting Tuesday – February 4th at 7:10 PM).

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Talbot
Town Clerk

Attached – Resignation Letter

cc: Planning Board Files
2025 Resignation File

t/

January 5, 2025

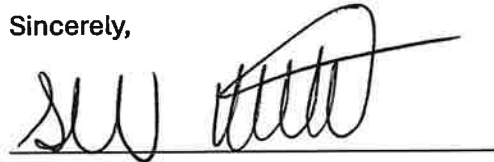
Dear Mrs. Talbot:

Please accept this letter as my notice to resign from the seat I hold on the Ware Planning Board.

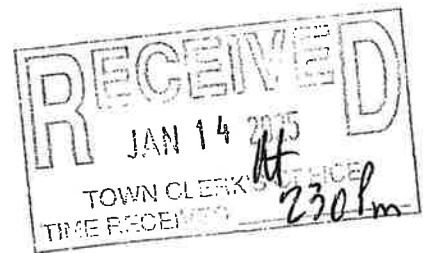
Unfortunately, due to work commitments I am not able to attend meetings at the present time. My resignation is effective immediately.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Shane Millier
15 High St.
Ware, MA 01082





TOWN OF WARE

Town Manager

126 Main Street

Ware, MA 01082

413-967-9648 x100

January 21, 2025

To : Selectboard

From : Stuart Beckley, Town Manager

Subject: Ware Center Meeting House electrical requests

We met with Electrical Inspector Don Manseau. He had two suggestions regarding the requests for improvements at the Ware Center Meeting House. First he recommended that a study be conducted first (Priority #3). Second, he suggested a 200 Amp service rather than a 100 Amp, so we will ask the Historical Society for an updated quote that reflects that.

Thank you.



Ware Center Meeting House and Museum

P. O. Box 1401, Ware, MA 01082

Tax exempt number: 04-3366928

December 17, 2024

Dear Town of Ware Selectboard,

The Proprietors of the Ware Center Meeting House and Museum are committed to preserving this amazing historical treasure, and understand that you may be in a position to help us do that through your nonprofit funding initiative from ReSource Waste.

We were formed to educate, entertain, and maintain this unique 1799 building. We have made many improvements since we formed in 2003: replaced the roof, rebuilt the carriage shed with lumber from the Ware-Gilbertville Covered Bridge, painted inside and out, repaired plaster walls and ceilings, maintained and improved the interior, restored and stabilized windows, replaced steps at the kitchen door, resettled the steps in front, restored all the windows, repaired the dais and north wall, restored the belfry and bell, painted the exterior, and overall kept the place in good condition.

Our next improvement project is to update and expand our electrical service in the building. As you know, we have a museum here, with many of Ware's treasures, donated to us by the citizens of Ware and elsewhere. If we could extend the electricity through the building, we could have programs in the fall and winter (not just in summer and spring), and could work on cataloging and organizing exhibits. This will allow for expanded hours, and increased safety, so that the generous folks of Ware can visit on an extended basis.

This building is an integral part of our town's history: the first church, first town hall, first library, first cemetery. We partner with the Ware Historical Society to give the town free concerts on the green in the summer, an educational day for third graders, the Ware Remembers Event for Memorial Day, and our open museum hours all summer long.

We hold multiple fund raisers throughout the year, but this additional funding request will help us start the electrical upgrade project that could make all the difference to this community and for generations to come. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynn Caulfield Lak, Clerk Proprietors of the Ware Center Meeting House

#1

Advanced Energy Concepts
151 Southbridge Street
Auburn MA 01501
Phone: 508-791-1115
Fax: 508-795-7680



QUOTE

DATE	INVOICE #	CUST #
12/16/2024	0000039943	0016837

BILL TO:

Ware Center Meeting House
Claudia Kadra
285 Belchertown Road
Ware MA 01082

SHIP TO:

Ware Center Meeting House
Claudia Kadra
285 Belchertown Road
Ware MA 01082

P.O. NUMBER		TERMS	TECHNICIAN	
		COD	Dan	
QUAN	DESCRIPTION	PRICE EACH	AMOUNT	
1.00	Upgrade up to 30 Slot 100amp Load Center AEC to supply and install and or rework the following: New up to 30 Slot Load Center 100amp Install new breakers. Install new ARC fault Breakers in lieu of standard breakers for more protection with identifying arc faults in old wiring and old lamps, light fixture and etc. Excludes correcting existing code violations. Panel to be mounted in the same location as existing. Additional fees to relocate. Must have access to panel and meter. Please have all items removed a minimum of 6' away from panel prior to installation date. All work is done per Mass Electrical Code and manufacturer specifications. * All time, labor, cost of material permit and inspection fees is included into the quote * AEC offers a 1-year labor warranty from the date of installation* *** Once project is cleared by Utility company, this project can be scheduled. _____ Electrical permit is required for this project _____ All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work to be completed in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written orders, and will become an extra charge. The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified.	2,045.88	2,045.88	

Advanced Energy Concepts
 151 Southbridge Street
 Auburn MA 01501
 Phone: 508-791-1115
 Fax: 508-795-7680



QUOTE

DATE	INVOICE #	CUST #
12/16/2024	0000039943	0016837

BILL TO:

Ware Center Meeting House
 Claudia Kadra
 285 Belchertown Road
 Ware MA 01082

SHIP TO:

Ware Center Meeting House
 Claudia Kadra
 285 Belchertown Road
 Ware MA 01082

P.O. NUMBER		TERMS	TECHNICIAN	
		COD	Dan	
QUAN	DESCRIPTION	PRICE EACH	AMOUNT	
<p>AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____</p>				
TOTAL				\$2,045.88

#2

Advanced Energy Concepts
151 Southbridge Street
Auburn MA 01501
Phone: 508-791-1115
Fax: 508-795-7680



QUOTE

DATE	INVOICE #	CUST #
12/16/2024	0000039965	0016837

BILL TO:

Ware Center Meeting House
Claudia Kadra
285 Belchertown Road
Ware MA 01082

SHIP TO:

Ware Center Meeting House
Claudia Kadra
285 Belchertown Road
Ware MA 01082

P.O. NUMBER		TERMS	TECHNICIAN	
		COD		
QUAN	DESCRIPTION	PRICE EACH	AMOUNT	
1.00	<p>Replace two flood lights with Rab brand Led black bullet type with no controls, replace two post light sensors, rework wiring in poles so light sensor controls flood and post light on each post pole.</p> <hr/> <p>All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work to be completed in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written orders, and will become an extra charge.</p> <p>The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified.</p> <p>AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____</p>	965.55	965.55	
TOTAL			\$965.55	

Advanced Energy Concepts
 151 Southbridge Street
 Auburn MA 01501
 Phone: 508-791-1115
 Fax: 508-795-7680



QUOTE

DATE	INVOICE #	CUST #
12/16/2024	0000039967	0016837

BILL TO:

Ware Center Meeting House
 Claudia Kadra
 285 Belchertown Road
 Ware MA 01082

SHIP TO:

Ware Center Meeting House
 Claudia Kadra
 285 Belchertown Road
 Ware MA 01082

P.O. NUMBER		TERMS	TECHNICIAN	
		COD		
QUAN	DESCRIPTION	PRICE EACH	AMOUNT	
1.00	<p>Electrical Wiring Inspection and Study</p> <p>Feasibility Study to determine if new wiring can be installed in walls and ceiling with minimal disturbance to existing plaster. Needed to properly quote and design the adding of minimal plugs, lighting including 2nd floor and future chandelier. Any areas found to not have access would need to be surface mounted.</p> <p>Verify if crawl space area is needed for future installs</p> <p>Verify attic area.</p> <p>Verify what existing wiring is safe to continue to be in service and extended for future use.</p> <p>No existing wireways or devices to be removed without owner permission.</p> <p>Disconnect any circuits found to be not safe.</p> <hr/> <p>All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work to be completed in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written orders, and will become an extra charge.</p> <p>The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified.</p> <p>AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____</p>	1,750.00	1,750.00	
TOTAL			\$1,750.00	

#4

Advanced Energy Concepts
151 Southbridge Street
Auburn MA 01501
Phone: 508-791-1115
Fax: 508-795-7680



QUOTE

DATE	INVOICE #	CUST #
12/16/2024	0000039968	0016837

BILL TO:

Ware Center Meeting House
Claudia Kadra
285 Belchertown Road
Ware MA 01082

SHIP TO:

Ware Center Meeting House
Claudia Kadra
285 Belchertown Road
Ware MA 01082

P.O. NUMBER		TERMS	TECHNICIAN	
		COD		
QUAN	DESCRIPTION	PRICE EACH	AMOUNT	
1.00	Basic Lighting and Plugs Estimated Cost Quote will be adjusted once Electrical Study is completed. Install the following on first floor location to be determined by owner: Qty 15 Lighting Device boxes Qty 15 receptacles Qty 1 Light switch box with 3 switches (3 zones of lighting all switches near electrical panel) Qty 3 new circuits ARC and Ground Fault Protected AEC will supply ceramic fixture with led bulb any other type of fixture customer supplied or on a change order. All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work to be completed in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written orders, and will become an extra charge. The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified. AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____	10,500.00	10,500.00	
TOTAL			\$10,500.00	

the same time, the fact that the two countries have similar political systems and similar political culture may have contributed to the similar results.

It is interesting to note that the results of the present study are similar to those of the study by Wong and Chan (2001) on the political participation of Hong Kong citizens.

There are a number of limitations of the present study. First, the sample size is small.

Second, the data are self-reported and may be subject to common method bias.

Third, the study is cross-sectional and does not allow for the examination of causal relationships.

Fourth, the study is limited to the political participation of Hong Kong citizens.

Finally, the study does not take into account the role of the media in political participation.

Despite these limitations, the present study provides valuable insights into the political participation of Hong Kong citizens.

It is hoped that the findings of the present study will be useful to researchers and practitioners alike.

Finally, it is worth noting that the present study is a preliminary investigation and needs to be replicated in the future.

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Town of Ware

Town Hall, 126 Main Street
Ware, Massachusetts 01082
413-967-9648

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE


The Selectboard will conduct a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:35 p.m.**, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA, to hear an application for a new **Common Victualler and Entertainment Licenses requested by Dugas Frostee LLC, d/b/a/ Janine's Frostee, located at 149 East Street, Ware, MA.** Copies of the petition are available at the office of the Town Manager, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA.

All interested parties are invited to attend.

Nancy Talbot
Chair of Selectboard

TOWN CLERK

Memo

To: Selectboard
From: Nancy J. Talbot 
cc: Name
Date: 1/15/2025
Re: Annual Town Election – April 14, 2025/ Planning Board

In a previous action, the Selectboard accepted the resignation of Mr. Millier who was elected to the Planning Board last year for a five (5) year term.

The Selectboard will need to vote and authorize me, as Town Clerk, to place this office on the Annual Town Election Ballot for the 4-year Unexpired Term which will end in 2029.

Thank You.

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 13.5 million, and the number of people aged 75 and over has increased from 4.5 million to 6.5 million (ONS 2002).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people in the workplace (Gray 2002).

There are a number of reasons why older people may be at risk of being excluded from the workplace:

1. Ageism: Older people may be perceived as less productive and less capable than younger people.

2. Health: Older people may have health problems that make it difficult for them to work.

3. Skills: Older people may have skills that are not in demand in the workplace.

4. Discrimination: Older people may be discriminated against in the workplace.

5. Retirement: Older people may be forced to retire before they are ready.

6. Lack of opportunities: Older people may not have the same opportunities as younger people to advance in their careers.

7. Social isolation: Older people may feel isolated in the workplace.

8. Lack of support: Older people may not have the support they need to work.

9. Age-related stereotypes: Older people may be stereotyped as being less capable than younger people.

10. Lack of training: Older people may not have the training they need to work.

11. Lack of information: Older people may not have the information they need to work.

12. Lack of motivation: Older people may not be motivated to work.

13. Lack of confidence: Older people may lack confidence in their abilities.

14. Lack of social skills: Older people may lack the social skills they need to work.

15. Lack of experience: Older people may not have the experience they need to work.

16. Lack of energy: Older people may not have the energy they need to work.

17. Lack of flexibility: Older people may not be flexible enough to work.

18. Lack of adaptability: Older people may not be adaptable enough to work.

19. Lack of resilience: Older people may not be resilient enough to work.

20. Lack of perseverance: Older people may not have the perseverance they need to work.


21. Lack of determination: Older people may not have the determination they need to work.

22. Lack of initiative: Older people may not have the initiative they need to work.

23. Lack of creativity: Older people may not have the creativity they need to work.

24. Lack of innovation: Older people may not have the innovation they need to work.

Memo

To: Selectboard
From: Nancy J. Talbot  Chairman
cc: Name
Date: 1/15/2025
Re: MMA – Resolutions for Annual Business Meeting

Please see the attached Resolutions which will be voted on by participants at the MMA Annual Business Meeting to be held in the latter part of January.

As you are aware, Town Manager Stuart Beckley is an attendee and in past years members of the Selectboard have also attended. To my knowledge none of you will be in attendance, therefore the Selectboard will need to vote on these resolutions and delegate Stuart to cast our vote on these Resolutions.

Please read these Resolutions carefully as we will vote on them on Tuesday – January 21st.

Thank you.

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MMA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The MMA's Annual Business Meeting is a key component of our annual conference, held each January in Boston.

Local leaders from across Massachusetts will consider four resolutions during the 2025 Business Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.



The meeting will also feature remarks from [U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey](#) as well as Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll.

The proposed resolutions were drafted by MMA policy committees this fall and approved by the MMA Board of Directors on Nov. 12. They were also printed in the December and January issues of The Beacon, and the MMA welcomed member feedback on the resolutions using an online form through Dec. 27.

Complete MMA Annual Business Meeting information will also be available in the Connect 351 app.

- Proposed Resolution Supporting a Local-State-Federal Partnership to Address PFAS Contamination, Fund Remediation, and Protect Public Health
- Proposed Resolution Supporting the Modernization and Efficiency of Local Government
- Proposed Resolution Supporting a Local-State-Federal Partnership Toward a Robust Multimodal Transportation System Across the Commonwealth that Supports Thriving Communities in the Age of Climate Change
- Proposed Resolution Supporting an Enduring Fiscal Partnership Between Cities and Towns and the Commonwealth in Fiscal 2026 and Beyond

Voting at the business meeting

Voting at the Annual Business Meeting is open to all municipal members of the MMA through voting delegates as defined by the MMA's bylaws.



Individuals eligible to vote at the meeting are:

- In the case of a city, its chief executive or a councillor designated in writing by the chief executive
- In the case of a town, the chair of the select board or town council, or another select board member or councillor designated in writing by the chair, or the manager designated in writing by such chair

In early January, the MMA will be sending a letter about voting procedures to chief municipal officials in each community.

Those who will be voting on behalf of their community should visit the credentials table outside of the business meeting between 8:30 and 10 a.m. Only one voting card will be issued per member community.

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#1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A LOCAL-STATE-FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP TO ADDRESS PFAS CONTAMINATION, FUND REMEDICATION, AND PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH

Whereas, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a family of chemicals (used widely due to their water-resistant, stain-resistant, heat-resistant, and non-stick properties) that persist in the environment and have been found in water, air, soil, fish and a variety of food products, and in the blood of people and animals in Massachusetts and across the world; and

Whereas, scientific studies indicate that some negative health effects ranging from reproductive and hormonal effects to increased risk of certain cancers may occur after exposure to PFAS chemicals, and that certain people have higher exposures to PFAS due to their occupations or where they live; and

Whereas, there is nearly no known safe level of exposure to several heavily researched PFAS in drinking water, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS); perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS); perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA); hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA, or GenX Chemicals); perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS); perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA); and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA); and

Whereas, local governments and water systems in the Commonwealth have been held responsible for cleaning up PFAS contamination which they passively received from environmental polluters and the manufacturing and use of these chemicals in various industries; and

Whereas, more than 500,000 private well owners and users in Massachusetts depend on wells for drinking water daily and face uncertainty regarding potential personal liability for contamination, costs of clean up and acquiring alternative water supplies, or a reduction in property value due to PFAS pollution; and

Whereas, existing state regulatory requirements to remove PFAS from public drinking water supplies from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) – and more stringent, upcoming federal regulatory requirements from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – will require significant upfront and future financial investments from municipalities and water districts to comply; and

Whereas, a 2024 analysis by Black & Veatch and Corona Environmental revealed the U.S. EPA's National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for just six PFAS chemicals will likely require up to \$48.3 billion of capital investment in the next five years nationwide and has an estimated national cost of up to \$3.5 billion annually, the latter estimate twice as high as that put forward by the Agency; and

Whereas, ongoing and upcoming lawsuits and settlements with the manufacturers and producers of PFAS chemicals will not be sufficient to cover the costs of long-term remediation of widespread, continuing contamination; and

Whereas, existing state and federal grants and loans to assist municipal governments and public water systems are insufficient given the ubiquity of pollution across the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, existing and further regulations on PFAS chemicals, while absolutely necessary to protect public health and the environment (a mission shared by local governments, water systems, and their dedicated staff), will become unfunded mandates without further state and federal support; and

Whereas, municipalities have many other costly, unaddressed water infrastructure needs beyond managing PFAS contamination, which will also be essential to address in conjunction with required work on emerging contaminants such as PFAS;

Therefore, it is hereby resolved that the members of the Massachusetts Municipal Association support the following essential policy positions to support a local-state-federal partnership to address PFAS contamination, fund remediation, and protect public health:

In the Area of Polluter Responsibility:

- Local, state, and federal governments and their agencies should call for the discontinuation of the manufacturing and use of PFAS chemicals in all feasible applications and help to support and spur development of well-tested, safer alternatives to address PFAS pollution at the source;
- Local, state, and federal governments and their agencies should utilize all available policy mechanisms and enforcement opportunities to hold polluters accountable, rather than municipal governments and their water systems, for the degradation of natural resources;
- The state and federal governments and their agencies should provide statutory liability protection for municipalities amid developing regulatory efforts, including, but not limited to, the potential for the U.S. EPA to designate certain PFAS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), given any enforcement discretion policy exempting municipalities could be revoked in the future; and

In The Area of Municipal Aid:

- The state's fiscal 2026 capital plan should include additional funding, not limited to loans, for water infrastructure projects including basic drinking water capital and water contamination mitigation;
- The state and federal governments and their agencies should further support the development of new financial opportunities for municipal governments and public water districts as water infrastructure project design, construction, and operating costs rise – and demand for such projects increases – ahead of the enforcement deadline of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for six PFAS chemicals;
- The state should partner with and provide retroactive support, financial and otherwise, for communities who undertook significant remediation and treatment costs prior to the finalization of stricter national standards who must now readjust their designs, treatments, and strategies to the more stringent requirements;

- The Governor and the Legislature should pursue federal funds and future state bonding authorizations for water and related environmental infrastructure so that communities can leverage these funds to address critical local needs;

- The Governor and the Legislature should approve a multi-year environmental bond bill to fund municipal drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure improvements to not only address PFAS, but also the approximate \$15.2 billion needed for Massachusetts to maintain compliance with existing Safe Drinking Water Act Regulations over the next 20 years; and

In The Area of State and Municipal Policy:

- The Legislature should grant explicit authority to cities and towns to establish drinking water, stormwater and sewer infrastructure banks to build, repair, and maintain water-related infrastructure systems to support these necessary investments related to PFAS and other timely projects;

- The Legislature should pass legislation requiring the Executive Branch and the Legislature to provide a fiscal note as part of any proposal in order to clearly explain the benefits and costs imposed on municipal government and local taxpayers as a result of further regulations beyond the federal standards for PFAS;

- The Legislature should support and the Governor should enact legislation to carry forward the recommendations of the PFAS Interagency Task Force, including but not limited to creating a PFAS Remediation Trust Fund to support municipal governments in efforts to test and clean up PFAS contamination; prohibiting the sale of consumer products with intentionally added PFAS; further regulating industrial entities who continue to be responsible for PFAS pollution in Massachusetts waterways; providing safer firefighting foams to local fire departments; and funding the collection of Aqueous Film-Forming Foam;

- The state should provide for education and training of local boards of health responsible for the regulation of private wells, as well as support the development of a framework and accompanying funding structure to test and decontaminate private water sources that is not burdensome to local governments;

- The state should assist local governments and their residents and customers as they consider options for remediation, ongoing treatment, the provision of safer drinking water alternatives, and overall resiliency, including potential establishment, expansion, and connection of municipal service areas and regional water authorities;

- The state should provide routine oversight of MassDEP-certified laboratories that perform PFAS testing to ensure they have sufficient capacity to support municipal water utilities with true, accurate data and maintain that such data and test results are comparable to other laboratories; and

- The state should conduct a robust public education and outreach campaign to raise awareness of PFAS contamination and assist municipalities in these shared efforts to build a common understanding of the threats PFAS poses to public health and the environment, the actions being taken to address PFAS pollution, and maintain public trust and confidence in public drinking water supplies as public awareness grows.

It is further resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Governor, the Members of the Massachusetts General Court, and the Members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation.



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#2

PROPOSED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MODERNIZATION AND EFFICIENCY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Whereas, the social and economic well-being of residents depends on the ability of their local government to provide efficient and high-quality public services; and

Whereas, local governments must be dynamic and have flexibility to access products and workers they need to best serve residents of the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, adequate staffing resources for essential municipal services is critical to the function of emergency resource deployment and the protection and well-being of citizens; and

Whereas, an efficient and standardized procurement process is essential for municipalities to competitively purchase services and products they need to provide vital services; and

Whereas, flexibilities in borrowing and spending enable municipalities to more effectively budget larger purchases and emergency-related spending in order to provide predictability for residents while ensuring the safety and well-being of the community; and

Whereas, liquor licenses are essential to the development and revitalization of downtown areas, and local officials best understand the needs and limits of their municipality when it comes to liquor license numbers; and

Whereas, cities and towns are highly reliant on the tightly capped property tax to fund local budgets, which severely limits the ability of local officials to respond to new challenges and opportunities, or meet the needs of the public through necessary investments; and

Whereas, technology capabilities and use have enabled more effective and economical means of communication between local government and residents, as well as other interested parties and service providers; and

Whereas, cities and towns must be empowered with responsibility, authority and decision-making power to ensure the functions and delivery of essential local government services are done in economically and practically sustainable ways; and

Whereas, the Legislature regularly considers comprehensive bills making needed reforms and creating efficiencies across local government, including the Municipal Relief Act, the Municipal Modernization Act, and 2024's Municipal Empowerment Act;

Therefore, it is hereby resolved that the members of the Massachusetts Municipal Association support the following essential policy positions to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of local government services:

In the Area of Local Authority and Decision-Making:

- Cities and towns should be granted new local-option flexibility to adopt local taxes and other revenues to help pay for municipal and school services and the construction and maintenance of local capital projects, including affordable housing;
- The Legislature should amend Chapter 138 of the General Laws to allow municipalities to determine the number of liquor licenses it issues;
- Cities and towns should be given authority to adequately enforce their ordinances and bylaws as well as the public right of way, including increasing fines for noncriminal violations and increased

penalties to expedite the removal of double poles; and

In the Area of the Modernization of Public Meetings:

- The Legislature should allow for a permanent option for remote meetings and participation, allowing municipalities the necessary flexibilities, not mandates, to make determinations for their public meetings while considering capacity, public interest, available technology, staff and space;
- The Legislature should support legislation to allow for remote participation for representative town meetings and caucuses, allowing municipalities that are already successfully utilizing the temporary authorization to continue with remote participation while allowing others to do so as well; and

In the Area of Municipal Procurement and Spending Efficiencies:

- The Legislature should increase the cap on municipal purchases that fall under Chapter 30B up to \$100,000, bringing all municipal purchases in line with changes made last session through the School Operational Efficiency Act;
- The Legislature should support the reduction of unnecessary and costly publishing requirements;
- The Legislature should support streamlining purchasing processes, including:
 - Allowing both the procurement of goods and services in cooperative purchasing agreements;
 - Allowing the procurement of electric school buses and charging infrastructure as a single procurement process;
 - Exempting snow hauling from the procurement process, bringing it in line with snow plowing requirements;
- The Legislature should support borrowing and spending flexibilities when needed, including providing municipalities the ability to amortize emergency-related deficit spending for catastrophic and natural disasters; and

In the Area of Municipal Infrastructure:

- The Governor and the Legislature should work with cities and towns to ensure that municipal buildings critical to the delivery of essential public services are safe and modernized, and enact a state funding mechanism and program to provide the resources needed to implement these improvements across the state; and

In the Area of Addressing Needs Across the Municipal Workforce:

- The Legislature should grant explicit authority to cities and towns to establish a process by which municipalities and executive departments may apply to the Executive Office for Administration and Finance for a “critical shortage” exemption from certain post-retirement limitations on employment for specific and critical job titles or classes;
- The state should work with cities and towns to encourage greater recruitment in critical municipal workforce areas through workforce development and training programs to help build a robust talent pipeline;
- The Legislature should establish an OPEB Commission to identify opportunities to address unfunded liabilities from non-pension employee benefits to protect local taxpayers, support retirees, and ensure that cities and towns can provide the municipal services that citizens deserve; and
- The Legislature should make necessary reforms to the Civil Service in the Commonwealth, which is cumbersome, slow, and does not meet the needs of a 21st century personnel management system.

It is further resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Governor and the Members of the Massachusetts General Court.



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#3

PROPOSED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A LOCAL-STATE-FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP TOWARD A ROBUST MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH THAT SUPPORTS THRIVING COMMUNITIES IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Whereas, a safe, reliable, and connected transportation network is essential for the well-being of every municipality and its residents; and

Whereas, a multimodal transportation infrastructure in a state of good repair is key to safely moving people and goods throughout the state and region, and supporting a thriving economy with opportunity for success in every corner of the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, essential infrastructure facilitating multimodal transportation is under the care of municipalities including sidewalks, paths, and approximately 90% of Massachusetts' roadways; and

Whereas, cities and towns have limited ability to generate revenues and limited borrowing capacity to support the maintenance of essential transportation infrastructure under their care while facing significant inflation of transportation costs that diminishes purchasing power; and

Whereas, the Chapter 90 road and bridge program is an essential support to municipalities to help ensure that local bridges and 30,000 of the Commonwealth's 33,000 miles of roads are maintained in a state of good repair; and

Whereas, the Rural Roadway Funding Program is a much-appreciated program to support communities most limited in their local purchasing power; and

Whereas, the increasing frequency of extreme weather events due to climate change threatens existing transportation infrastructure and requires additional regular maintenance and costly efforts to boost resilience; and

Whereas, the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2050 (2050 CECP) outlines bold actions intended to reduce the effects of climate change, including the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, which relies on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector; and

Whereas, cities and towns are critical partners to achieve the Commonwealth's climate goals through adoption of low- and zero-emission vehicles, installment of public charging stations, and supporting mode-shift; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth's public transit infrastructure, service area, and reliability are in urgent need of improvement and investment, and

Whereas, traffic congestion has increased and expanded across the Commonwealth beyond the Boston area and beyond rush hour; and

Whereas, fatalities and serious injuries on Massachusetts' roadways have risen and traffic safety is a priority;

Therefore, it is hereby resolved that the members of the Massachusetts Municipal Association support the following essential policy positions to ensure a strong local, state and federal partnership to nurture a safe, reliable, resilient, and connected multimodal transportation network across the Commonwealth:

The MMA will continue to take a leadership role in advocating for multi-faceted solutions, and educating the public about the critical needs of the Commonwealth's local and state transportation systems, including the promotion of a stable, broad-based revenue structure that is adequate to support and maintain our roads, bridges, highways, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, and transit systems in a manner that shares resources fairly with the cities and towns of Massachusetts; and

In the area of funding critical multimodal transportation infrastructure:

- To help municipalities keep pace with transportation infrastructure deterioration, the Governor and the Legislature should enact a multi-year transportation bond bill that provides a minimum of \$350 million annually for the Chapter 90 program, indexed to grow to match construction inflation, on or before March 1, 2025, to maximize project completion during the construction season;
- The Governor and the Legislature should provide regular supplemental road funding via the Rural Roadway Funding Program, including a \$25 million authorization in fiscal 2026, while increasing the investment in this program to \$50 million annually, indexed to grow with inflation, in future years;
- The Governor and the Legislature should provide reliable supplemental funding for the Chapter 90 program and support other transportation initiatives through the voter-approved surtax via the state budget, including a minimum of \$150 million in additional annual aid supporting the construction and preventative maintenance of municipal roadways to help keep pace with roadway deterioration;
- The state should continue to fund targeted grant programs that support municipalities in financing specific road and bridge project needs, including but not limited to the Complete Streets Program, the Municipal Small Bridge Program, the MassWorks Program, and programs to fund culvert replacement and repairs, municipal congestion relief, and funding for locally owned state-numbered roads;

- The MMA supports deliberation on needed transportation revenue generation, including but not limited to congestion pricing, increased TNC fees, local and regional revenue options, gas-tax replacement, and other regionally equitable potential practices to support transportation system improvements; and

In the area of the environment and public works operations:

- State and federal agencies and lawmakers should continue to support efforts to make the Commonwealth's transportation assets resilient to impactful weather events, with a focus to ensure connectivity in the event of a weather emergency;
- The state should implement and fund the recommendations of the culvert and small bridge working group to streamline environmental permitting, revise engineering standards, and expand grant programs and other financial resources and technical assistance for cities and towns;
- The MMA supports the promotion of innovative and important congestion solutions, including but not limited to equitable congestion pricing, priority bus lanes, managed bus lanes, public private partnerships, and encouraging the use of public transportation;
- The MMA supports creative funding and policy to promote the development and expansion of multimodal transportation networks within and between communities across the Commonwealth, including but not limited to safe bicycle infrastructure, multi-use paths, and public transit options;
- The MMA supports the reduction of transportation-related carbon emissions and encourages the Commonwealth to expand financial resources and technical assistance for cities and towns to help implement associated policies and practices across all departments in municipal government and fostering similar changes for the public;
- To adequately staff and resource municipal departments of public works and associated private sector partners now and into the clean energy future, the state should provide adequate support and financial resources to DPWs to maintain essential equipment inventories; and support for workforce development in key sectors: public works, engineering, planning and design, commercial driver's licensing (CDLs), and zero-emission vehicle and charging infrastructure maintenance;
- The MMA supports a local option for municipalities to utilize automated enforcement technology to reduce traffic violations that are known to contribute to crashes, increased deaths and injuries, and specifically impact our most vulnerable users, including children using school transportation; and

- The MMA supports the promotion of reasonable safety initiatives that will help save lives and reduce injuries of municipal employees and vulnerable road users.

It is further resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Governor, the Members of the Massachusetts General Court, and the Members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation.



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#4

PROPOSED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN ENDURING FISCAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CITIES AND TOWNS AND THE COMMONWEALTH IN FISCAL 2026 AND BEYOND

Whereas, the well-being and success of the residents and businesses of the Commonwealth depends on the fiscal health of cities and towns and the ability of local government to provide efficient and progressive public services and adequately invest in reliable and resilient public infrastructure; and

Whereas, cities and towns are highly reliant on the tightly capped property tax to fund local budgets and capital programs, and this heavy reliance on the property tax severely limits the ability of cities and towns to respond to new challenges and opportunities, as well as adequately support necessary essential services for the public; and

Whereas, adequate and sustained state support for local public schools is essential for student success and the health of the Massachusetts economy; and

Whereas, the state's charter school finance statute imposes significant financial and program challenges for public school districts, particularly in regions where there is a large concentration of charter schools; and

Whereas, state law limits the allowable growth in municipal revenues to a level that is far below the region's rate of inflation, exacerbated by significant non-discretionary cost drivers, which continue to grow at an unprecedented magnitude during the Proposition 2½ era; and

Whereas, to ensure that municipalities have the fiscal capacity to deliver the high-quality municipal and school services that are essential to support local economies and families in every corner of the Commonwealth, cities and towns desperately need an adequate share of state revenues, an effective and fair municipal tax system, necessary tools to plan for and fund long-term liabilities, state support for investments in the municipal workforce and capital investments, and full funding for any new or existing state mandates;

Therefore, it is hereby resolved that the members of the Massachusetts Municipal Association support the following essential policy positions to ensure a strong partnership between cities and towns and the Commonwealth in fiscal 2026 and beyond:

In the Area of Municipal and School Aid:

- In fiscal 2026, unrestricted municipal aid should grow by at least the same rate as the growth in state tax collections, and be distributed without earmarks, conditions, or restrictions to all cities and towns, so that local officials and residents can adequately fund public safety, public works, and all basic municipal and school services while avoiding an overreliance on the property tax;
- State Lottery proceeds, and the revenue from expanded gaming that is statutorily dedicated to pay for municipal services, should be used to support the Commonwealth's commitment to unrestricted municipal aid;
- Chapter 70 school aid should be increased in fiscal 2026 consistent with the Commonwealth's constitutional obligation to ensure adequate funding in all schools, at a minimum following the updated spending standard and original phase-in schedule adopted in the 2019 Student Opportunity Act, with each city, town, and school district receiving a minimum increase of \$104 per student;
- The Governor and the Legislature should review the calculation of the required local contribution under Chapter 70, including the "target local share," and adopt changes to mitigate reliance on the property tax to fund local schools, in particular ensuring that a municipality's increase in

Unrestricted General Government Aid is greater than the increase in required local contribution, and should review and address fiscal challenges facing rural schools;

- The Governor and the Legislature should amend charter school finance law, to bring transparency and accountability to the law by limiting charter school tuition assessments placed on local government and providing a means for direct state appropriation of additional tuition payments to charter schools, funded in the state budget;
- Pending passage of charter school finance reform legislation, the full amount of the schedule in the Student Opportunity Act to fund charter school mitigation payments should be appropriated for fiscal 2026 and so that each district is reimbursed in full according to the schedule in the Student Opportunity Act;
- Full funding of the Commonwealth's commitments to the Special Education Circuit Breaker Program, as provided by state law, should be appropriated, adhering to the Student Opportunity Act;
- Pending a comprehensive review of the way payments in lieu of taxes for state-owned land impact municipalities differently, the full amount of the Commonwealth's obligations to the program for payments in lieu of taxes for state-owned land, including a hold-harmless provision, should be included in the fiscal 2026 budget;
- Full funding of the Commonwealth's obligations to reimburse the costs of regional school transportation, regular school transportation, out-of-district vocational transportation, and the transportation of homeless students under the McKinney-Vento unfunded mandate, should be included in the fiscal 2026 budget;
- The Governor and the Legislature should fund supplemental education and transportation initiatives through the voter-approved surtax, including at least \$125 million in aid supporting the construction and maintenance of municipal roadways;
- Full funding of the Commonwealth's obligations and commitments to Chapter 40S "smart growth" reimbursements, regional and municipal libraries, anti-gang grants, innovation and regionalization grants, and other effective municipal and school aid programs should be included in the fiscal 2026 budget;
- The Governor and the Legislature should hold municipalities harmless related to the emergency shelter crisis, through full funding for, but not limited to, education, supplies, transportation, case

management, and impacts to local room excise occupancy taxes; and

In the Area of Capital Budgeting:

- The Governor and the Legislature should work together early in 2025 to ensure enactment of a multi-year transportation bond bill that provides at least \$350 million annually for Chapter 90 local road projects, indexed to grow to match construction inflation, with a notice of allocations for fiscal 2026 by March 1, 2025, with separate authorizations for the Municipal Pavement Program, Municipal Small Bridge Program, Complete Streets Program, as well as municipal grants for infrastructure focused on the enhancement of mass transit, funding that increases access to mass transit and commuter rail stations, grants to municipalities and regional transit authorities to support fleet electrification, and a supplemental municipal road formula program for rural communities;
- The Governor and the Legislature should strengthen the Massachusetts School Building Authority and Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grants by adjusting reimbursements to reflect the actual costs of construction;
- The state's fiscal 2026 capital plan should include funding for MassWorks, HousingWorks, and all grant programs through the Community One Stop for Growth to help pay for important local infrastructure projects, including housing, economic development, and road safety programs;
- The state's fiscal 2026 capital plan should include additional funding, not limited to loans, for water infrastructure projects, including basic drinking water capital and water contamination mitigation (PFAS), wastewater capital and Combined Sewer Overflow mitigation, and stormwater management;
- The Governor and the Legislature should support programs in the fiscal 2026 state budget and capital plan to help cities and towns assess and respond to challenges related to climate change, including the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, Coastal Resilience Grant Program, Green Communities Program, Green School Works, Disaster Relief and Resiliency Fund and others;
- The Governor and the Legislature should continue to make the installation of high-speed internet access in unserved and under-served cities and towns a high priority;
- The Governor and the Legislature should pursue federal funds and future state bonding authorizations for water, sewer, environmental, broadband, housing, and transportation infrastructure so that communities can leverage these funds to address critical local needs;

- The Governor and the Legislature should work with cities and towns to ensure that municipal information technology systems are modernized and resilient from cyberattacks, and enact a state funding mechanism and program to provide the resources needed to implement these investments across the state;

- The Governor and the Legislature should work with cities and towns to ensure that municipal buildings critical to the delivery of essential public services are safe and modern, and enact a state funding mechanism and program to provide the resources needed to implement these improvements across the state; and

In the Area of Local Taxing Authority and Other Revenues:

- Cities and towns should be granted new local-option flexibility to adopt local taxes and other revenues to help pay for municipal and school services and the construction and maintenance of local capital projects;

- Cities and towns should be granted new local-option flexibility to adopt local PILOT agreements with nonprofit organizations;

- Cities and towns should be granted increased local-option flexibility to implement targeted property tax relief programs, including for seniors and low-income homeowners, and to adjust the relative property tax burden for residential and commercial and industrial properties; and

In the Area of Long-Term Liabilities and Sustainability:

- In order to allow cities and towns to manage current costs and ensure fiscal sustainability over the long term, the Legislature, the Governor, and state agencies should determine, report and review the actuarial liability of post-employment benefits for public employees and undertake a comprehensive reform of the laws and practices related to post-employment benefits for public employees, with an immediate focus on Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) liabilities related to health insurance for retired public employees. Reform should include ways to manage liabilities and finance benefits, and should not impose any new unfunded mandates or preempt any existing decision-making authority that cities and towns currently use to manage their OPEB liability;

- The Governor and the Legislature should determine and report the long-term cost to cities and towns as part of the evaluation of all legislative proposals to amend public employee benefit programs, and no legislation to expand benefits should be acted upon until this cost analysis is complete and made public; and

In the Area of Timely Notice of Local Aid for Good Planning and Implementation:

- To ensure orderly and efficient financial planning at the local level and implementation of

balanced and adequate local operating and capital budgets, the Governor and the Legislature should reach early agreement on unrestricted municipal aid and Chapter 70 school aid and local contribution amounts so that a consensus local aid resolution can be approved and reliable Cherry Sheets can be released by March 1;

It is further resolved that a copy of these resolutions shall be provided to the Governor and Members of the Massachusetts General Court.



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TOWN OF WARE

Town Manager

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Town Manager Report January 21, 2025

January 21 – 5:30, Infrastructure Committee
January 22 – Hospital Review Committee
February 10, 5:30 – CDBG public forum
February 13 – Charter Review Committee

Water Department: The department is moving forward with SCADA improvements for well 4 and the repair (motor) of Well 5. The pump that serves four homes on Old Gilbertville Road failed (last replaced 7-8 years ago).

The FY2026 budget process began with departments last week with the distribution of departmental spreadsheets and the attached message. Thank you to Nicole and Town Accountant Kim D'Amato for getting information to the departments. With expected high increases in insurance, new payment to Westcomm dispatch and the personnel contractual costs, I expect a tight budget year. The Finance Committee would like to meet with the Board on February 4 to review goals to guide the budget.

GPS capabilities: Please see the attached description.

Town Hall will commence its Wednesday internal work plan on February 5. The Town is advertising this online and in the Ware River News.

The Planning and Community Development department and the Community Development Authority are holding a public forum on Monday, February 10 at 5:30 to hear input on the ongoing community development programs and proposals for the upcoming CDBG grant application. Planned activities include improvements to Cottage Street and social services.

At the recent meeting with Baystate Health leadership, discussion focused on the provision of health services. Baystate is considering a small principal care and convenient care space in Ware (not on the Mary Lane campus). Baystate stopped abatement of the windows, however this leaves the buildings open, so the town will ask that they are secured.

The Planning Board is finalizing the Health Services District zoning amendment with a special meeting next week. They will then schedule the public hearing, likely at the second meeting in February. This week they held hearings on the proposed zoning amendments to allow

warehousing in the highway commercial district. The amendments including the health services district may lead to a request for a special town meeting this spring.

Representative Smola reached out regarding re-naming the Palmer Road Three Mile Bridge in honor of Gilbert St. George-Sorel. We will work with him on the process and including the family.

Please continue to keep the Bertini family and the Ware Police Department in your thoughts and prayers.

