

TOWN HALL from page 10

Reports and meeting minutes. During her time as Town Administrator, the town combined the position of Treasurer and Town Collector into one...

Parker said the finance team needs to be succinct in order to manage the budget, which includes monthly meetings. "Every year I have been here, we've had good free cash," she said.

Parker said the town is starting to build up its stabilization and capital funds, to meet a growing list of capital projects including police and fire department needs and roadways.

Parker said the Select Board is also looking for recommendations about what to do with three vacant buildings in town: the Paige Building and the schools on Ruggles Hill Road and Main Street/Highland Terrace.

"We're looking to get them back on the tax roll," she said.

The town has also debuted new sections of the Mass Central Rail Trail, along with new launch points along the Blue Trail of the Ware River. This summer also saw the grand opening of Ware River Park, a 10-acre riverside park along Lower Road in Gilbertville.

Parker said what she enjoys the most about working for the town, is the dedication and passion of its residents to volunteer and get stuff done.

"The only way things get done, is with volunteers that care," Parker said.

Parker can be reached by calling 413-477-6197 extension 101, emailing admin@townofhardwick.com or stopping by the Municipal Building at 307 Main St., Gilbertville.



Ware Stuart Beckley

Town Manager Stuart Beckley has served the town of Ware in this role since 2012. Prior to coming to Ware, Beckley worked as a town planner in another municipality.

"I very much enjoy public service and helping people," Beckley said.

Through careful budgeting, the town is in a stable financial position with a stronger reserve than it had 10 years ago, Beckley said. The town also has a strong bond rating.

"The town has changed, but Ware residents have always cared about people and the happenings in town," Beckley said. "Residents have been advocating for increased improvements on many levels, which is great."

The public's participation in seeing that residents' needs are met has increased in recent years, with more people volunteering than ever before.

"More people have become involved," Beckley said. "They understand the importance of the quality of life as well as economic development."

Improvements are needed to the town's infrastructure, including roadways, water and sewers, and the cost of materials and services continues to rise. Working with town meetings to prioritize and fund these projects is important, Beckley said.

The town has a master plan and a capital plan to identify needs and help plan for the future.

"It's important to move forward on them," Beckley said of the areas highlighted in these plans.

In recent years, the town has focused on updating equipment and vehicles for various departments, but now the focus will be on buildings and infrastructure.

"The Town Hall needs continued work to preserve brickwork," Beckley said, in addition to a new electrical system.

The Senior Center has structural issues that need to be addressed, as well as needing a new roof.

Beckley said other departments, including the police, need more room.

Other focuses include the town's recreation, which has recently benefited from the addition of a new playground at Grenville Park. This is just one of the improvements to the park, as the bandshell was also updated.

The town also has added and improved sections of the Mass Central Rail Trail; at Gibbs Crossing to Robbins Road and on Upper Church Street. These trails create safe and fun places for people of all abilities to explore the beauty of the town.

One of the biggest needs in town that residents have been advocating for, is the repair or replacement of Reed Municipal Pool, which has been closed for some time.

"The new playground and discussion of renovation of the swimming pool demonstrates the need for residents to have a livable town," Beckley said.

Balancing these needs with the cost of infrastructure and education is very important, he said.

The town has also welcomed the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts through working with a social services network, helping to get food to people in need. There's also a resource center in town that helps connect residents to essential services.

"Each day there are a wide variety of issues to be tackled, and being able to contribute to finding solutions is important to me," Beckley said.

Beckley can be reached by calling 413-967-9648 extension 100, emailing sbeckley@townofware.com or stopping by the Town Hall at 126 Main St.



Warren James Ferrera

Before he began his career in municipal government, Town Administrator James Ferrera had his start in state government and has served as a City Councilor in the city he lives in.

Being a City Councilor and working to address local needs is what inspired Ferrera to shift his career and take on the role of Warren's Town Administrator.

"It really gave me an opportunity to learn and really fall in love with municipal government," Ferrera said of the City Council.

When he saw the Town Administrator position open up for a second time in Warren, Ferrera decided to pursue his passion.

"I'm grateful...I really wanted to get back into municipal government," Ferrera said. "You can do a lot to help at the local level."

Ferrera has worked to make sure town business runs smoothly in the Shepard Municipal Building, including the implementation of a sign in/sign out policy using technology secured by resident (and Board of Selectmen and Planning Board member) Derick Veliz.

Town staff use a tablet to enter a four-digit code when they come and go from their respective departments.

"It's been a valuable and vital tool for us to ensure there's structure, accountability, moving forward," Ferrera said.

Ferrera has also focused his energy on streamlining the budget process by creating a budget calendar to set the tone for each department.

"We set up a timeline, so things

are not just rushed in at the last minute," he said.

Ferrera said he just met with the Finance Committee to set the budget calendar for fiscal year 2025. Having this calendar helps the departments organize before town meetings.

Ferrera said he's also been aggressive in seeking grant funding for the town and recently secured two Community Compact Grants. One will be used to pay for a financial feasibility study for a public safety complex.

The town was also awarded a \$65,000 Community Compact IT Grant which was used to implement new financial management software, VADAR Systems. With VADAR Systems, each department's software will now be compatible.

"Before, software didn't communicate with other departments," Ferrera said. "The Financial Department will be able to see and communicate with each other and identify problems should they arise."

The Department of Revenue had recommended the software for best practices when it conducted an assessment of the town's finances.

Ferrera reported that the town has a historic amount of certified free cash, around \$1.6 million.

This amount is the "highest amount the town has seen," he said.

This was achieved by holding the line in spending, Ferrera said, which also helps to build the town's reserves.

After special town meeting, the town's stabilization account could reach over \$2 million, and the capital stabilization could get to over \$600,000.

The town has also established a fund for other post-employment benefits, which contains \$25,000

toward the town's \$5 million unfunded liability to cover retiree benefits.

"The most important thing is to have a plan, and we have a plan," Ferrera said, to cover the liability. "We have to at least start making strides and we are."

Ferrera said the town received \$1.4 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds, which has been used to pay for capital needs and projects, including a new police/fire radio tower and a grit screw for the Sewer Department.

"These things would have had to be done regardless of ARPA," Ferrera said. "Instead of having to budget for them, they [Board of Selectmen] used one-time money to address them...there's a savings there."

Ferrera and the Board of Selectmen have also focused on retaining employees in town, something that small towns are struggling to do in a competitive field.

"It's tough but we had to deal with some turnover," Ferrera said. "We have to find, train and get people in the office."

Ferrera said the town is also making improvements to its buildings, including the Senior Center and the Shepard Municipal Building. This is something that has been lacking in the past.

Ferrera said he likes to get things done and every effort is a team effort.

"I love the job," Ferrera said. "It's an experience I'll never forget."

Ferrera can be reached by calling 413-436-5701 extension 107, emailing townadministrator@warren-ma.gov, or stopping by the Shepard Municipal Building at 48 High St.

CHECK OUT ALL THE Turley Publications www.newspapers.turley.com public notices

TOWN OF WARE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WARE, MASSACHUSETTS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the "Town of Ware, Massachusetts, Water Pollution Control Plant Influent Screening Improvement Project" will be received by the Department of Public Works at the Town Manager's Office in the Town Hall located at 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 until 1:00 p.m. local time on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. Sealed Bids must have outer envelope marked as "Town of Ware, Water Pollution Control Plant Influent Screening Improvement Project".

Sealed Bids from Subcontractors addressed as referenced above will be received by the Department of Public Works at the Town Manager's Office in the Town Hall located at 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 until 1:00 p.m. local time on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. Sub-Bids with the required Bid deposit will be received for the following items of work:

- Subtrades: Electrical Work; Miscellaneous and Ornamental Iron HVAC; Metal Windows

The work consists of replacing an existing influent comminutor with a new Headworks Screenings Removal System consisting of a mechanical screen, screenings sluice, washer compactor, and all necessary controls systems and appurtenances for a complete system to be installed within the

existing influent channel. The project includes a new structural operating platform to support the Screenings Removal System, enclosure of the space with architectural panels, and associated HVAC and electrical upgrades to support the project. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis as indicated in the Bid Form.

All Bids for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149, Section 44A - 44J inclusive as amended.

In accordance with Section 44D of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of Massachusetts as amended, the prospective General Bidders and Filed Sub-Bidders must submit with their Bid, a certificate of eligibility issued by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), showing that the Bidder has been approved to bid on projects of the size and nature as advertised herein. Prospective General Bidders must also submit an updated statement summarizing their record for the period between the latest DCAMM certificate and the date of the Bid submittal. The DCAMM certificate of eligibility to be submitted by the General Bidder shall be for the category of work defined as "Sewage and Water Treatment Plants". The DCAMM certificate of eligibility to be submitted by the Filed Sub-Bidders shall be for the category of work for which they are submitting a Bid.

Bidding Documents will be available by 5 PM on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, and may be obtained electronically from the Tighe & Bond website at: http://www.tighebond.com/Projects_Out_to_Bid.php

Prospective bidders must complete a one-time registration process on the web site in order to receive log-in credentials. Bidders must log in to the web site to download bidding documents for the project. Bidders will be added to the "planners" or prospective bidders list upon downloading the bidding documents for the project. Bidding documents may also be examined only after an appointment has been coordinated at the office of Tighe & Bond, Inc., 120 Front Street, Suite 700, Worcester, Massachusetts between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, legal holidays excluded.

A bid deposit of 5% shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of Department of Workforce Development under the provision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Contractor, before Bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for

those trades people who may be employed for the proposed Work under this Contract.

This project is funded from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as part of the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA).

A non-mandatory pre-Bid conference will be held at the Ware, MA Water Pollution Control Plant located at 30 Robbins Road, Ware, MA, on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 1 PM in the afternoon.

TOWN OF WARE, MASSACHUSETTS Consulting Engineer: Tighe & Bond, Inc. 120 Front Street, Suite 700 Worcester, MA 01608 508-754-2201 11/02/2023

Town of Hardwick Conservation Commission

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act that a Public Meeting will be held for a Request for Determination of Applicability on Wednesday, NOVEMBER 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville. All inter-

ested parties are urged to attend.

Applicant: MassDOT Highway Division Description of Proposed Work: Resurfacing of Rt32 portion

Location: Gilbertville, MA, from Gilbertville library south to New Braintree boundary

Town: Hardwick Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at http://masspublicnotices.org. 11/02/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS23P0613EA Estate of: Deborah A. Stephens Date of Death: 07/18/2023 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Timothy M. Stephens of Ware, MA. Timothy M. Stephens of Ware, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without

surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 11/02/2023

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE SPR-2023-01

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on

THURSDAY, November 16, 2023 at 7:05 PM

on the application of Walmart for a Major Site Plan Permit for the construction of a 8,041 square foot addition under section 4.1.1. of the Zoning Bylaw, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to https://zoom.us/join or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: 352 Palmer Road, Ware, MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 4600, Page 13.

Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel # 9-0164. Zoned: Commercial Industrial (CI).

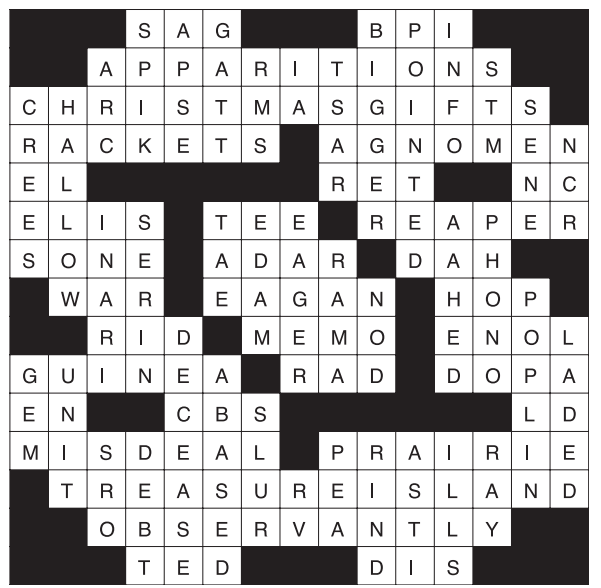
A complete copy of the application can be found at the Town Clerk's office and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

WARE PLANNING BOARD Ed Murphy, Chairman 10/26, 11/02/2023

Hardwick Selectboard Notice of Public Hearing

The Hardwick Selectboard will hold a public hearing on November 13, 2023, at 6:45 PM at the Myron E Richardson Municipal Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville on the application from Whistlestop, under MGL C 138 §12 for a NEW All-Alcohol Restaurant License located at 248 Main Street, Gilbertville, 01031.

Any persons interested in being heard should appear at the time and place above stated. 11/02/2023



Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief Death Notice listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a Paid Obituary, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com. Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title. 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers. Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays. visit www.publicnotices.turley.com