

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on April 7, 2022

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:00 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Members present: William E. Reichert , President; Walter M. O. Steere, III; Stephen Arnold;  
and David Laplante

Member absent: William A Worthy, Jr.

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Iglizzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu,  
Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Chief Joseph Delprete;  
Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Karen  
Scott, Town Planner; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director; John Luszcz,  
Director Human Services; and Robert Shields, Recreation Director.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Councilor Reichert stated that we now need a motion to convene to executive session.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to: RIGL 42-46-5(a)(5) acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes,

1. Discussion by Council, Vote or Other Action for acquisition of real estate including but not limited to Proposed Purchase and Sale Agreement and Authorization of any and all other action required to complete the purchase of real estate and appropriating APRA Funds

seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere - Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Reichert stated that anyone present may wait out in hall and we will re-open doors when we reconvene in open session.

**After Executive Session:**

Councilor Reichert asked for doors to be opened and the public allowed back in the room for open session.

V. MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Reconvene Open Session; Disclosure one (1) vote was taken in Executive Session; and to Seal of Minutes of Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere - Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Reichert stated that at this time he would like to read the following into the record:

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC  
Glocester Town Clerk

Given in recognition of and with deep gratitude and appreciation on your anniversary on your anniversary of 30 years of service to our Town.

Under your care and dedication you have served all the residents of Glocester with honesty, integrity, patience, kindness and humor.

We thank you for your commitment and acknowledge your service to our community. May your guidance and care continue for many years to come.

The Town Council wholeheartedly represents all of Glocester residents when we say “Thank You”

William E. Reichert, President,  
Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice-President  
William A. Worthy, Jr., Councilor  
Stephen W. Arnold, Councilor  
David R. Laplante, Councilor  
Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk

Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022

J. Fecteau, Clerk thanked all for the recognition.

VI. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone wished to speak in open forum regarding an agenda item.

None

VII. Boy Scout - "Take a book, Leave a book" Project presentation

Councilor Reichert stated that Kyan Leahy is here this evening to present his Eagle Scout project to the Town.

Discussion: K. Leahy, Eagle Scout, presented his completed book lending library box to the Town Council and thanked the Council for allowing him to do the project. K. Leahy stated that he looks forward to the library being used. Councilors thanked K. Leahy and agreed it was a job well done.

VIII. Resolution - #2022-02 - Discussion and/or Action

**2022 State Champions - Lady Chieftains Basketball Team**

Councilor Reichert stated that tonight we have a resolution for the 2022 State Champions which he read as follows:

State of Rhode Island  
Town of Gloucester

**RESOLUTION #2022-02**

**2022 State Champions - Lady Chieftains Basketball Team**

WHEREAS, the Town Council and the Town Clerk of the Town of Gloucester would like to congratulate the 2021-2022 Ponaganset High School "Lady Chieftains" basketball team for achieving the distinct honor of being the 2022 State Champions; and

WHEREAS, the Chieftains defeated the number one seed in the semi-final round of the Open Tournament for state champion with a victory over Division I North Kingstown with a score of 62-57 ; and

WHEREAS, the Chieftains rebounded in the final quarter and came from behind to achieve victory over the Division II Champion, Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex, with a score of 59-51 in the final round of the Open Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Chieftains belief in one another, confidence and perseverance led the team to a record 4-0 in the Open Tournament for state champion and a record of 16-4 in the regular season; and

WHEREAS, the team was led by Head Coach , Gary Martinelli and Assistant Coaches; David Sevegny; Jim Field; Jacob Jones; Francesca Corsinetti; and Dylan McCormick, Scorer; Sal Lombardi, Athletic Trainer; and Jacob Keeling, Athletic Director; and

WHEREAS, it took each and every member on the team to make the Ponaganset High School Girls Basketball Team the success it became; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;** that the Town Council, the Town Clerk, and the residents of the Town of Gloucester appreciate the dedication and efforts of the Ponaganset High School "Lady Chieftains" Basketball Team for achieving the distinct honor of becoming the:

## 2022 State Basketball Champions

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

William E. Reichert, President  
Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice-President  
Stephen W. Arnold  
William J. Worthy, Jr.  
David R. Laplante

Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> Day of April, 2022

seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE:       AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
              NAYS-0

### MOTION PASSED

Councilor Reichert stated that we have a resolution for the school and individual citations for the team members and coaches.

Councilor Reichert invited Coach Martinelli to please come up and hand out the citations by calling up each player:

Campbell Boyden  
Brooke Peterson  
Grace Dandeneau  
Jessica Hassell  
Samantha McFee  
Angelica Smith  
Julia Castelli  
Aleshia Taillon  
Emily Pierce  
Jaina Yekelchik  
Paige Doolittle  
Kylee Field  
Riley McCormick  
Ella Pierre Louis  
Anna Nerney

Gary Martinelli, Head Coach  
Dave Sevegny Asst. Coach  
Jim Field, Asst. Coach  
Jacob Jones, Asst. Coach  
Francesca Corsinetti, Asst. Coach  
Dylan McCormick, Scorer

Coach Martinelli thanked the Town Council for inviting the team to be recognized. Coach Martinelli explained why the team was seen more as a family than a team in the eyes of other students.

Councilor Steere offered his congratulations and stated that this team was magical in the sense that their ability to work hard in every game as a team is what led them to win the championship. Councilor Steere stated that this team outworked the other teams . Councilor Steere stated that the team’s determination and hard work will follow them through in life in a positive way.

IX. Public Hearings

- A. Code of Ordinance, Chapter 113. Recreation Commission- Discussion and /or Action
  - 1. Proposed amendment: The proposed amendment clarifies the duties as established by Home Rule Charter, C13-8 Recreation Commission.

Councilor Reichert stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on March 28, 2022 and the first reading was held on February 3, 2022.

Councilor Reichert DECLARED the Public Hearing Open.

Councilor Reichert asked if there was anyone who wished to speak.

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert asked again if there was anyone who wished to speak.

Hearing none, Councilor Reichert DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to ADOPT the Amendment to the Code of Ordinance, Chapter 113. Recreation Commission, effective upon passage; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- B. Code of Ordinance, Part 4, Land Use, Chapter 300- Discussion and/or Action
  - 1. Proposed amendment : Subdivision of Land shall be removed from the Gloucester Code of Ordinance as the authority to set subdivision rules and regulations is granted to the Planning Board in state law and in Chapter 106 of the Code of Ordinance.

Councilor Reichert stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on March 28, 2022 and the first reading was held on January 6, 2022.

Councilor Reichert DECLARED the Public Hearing Open.

Councilor Reichert asked if there was anyone who wished to speak.

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert asked again if there was anyone who wished to speak.

Hearing none, Councilor Reichert DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADOPT the Amendment to the Code of Ordinance, Part 4, Land Use, Chapter 300, effective upon passage; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

X. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes : Regular meeting of March 16, 2022

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of March 16, 2022; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated he would be recusing as he was absent from the meeting of March 16<sup>th</sup>.

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Reichert  
RECUSAL- Steere  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

XI. Unfinished Business

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action

a. Recreation Commission

1. Position # 1- One unexpired term to expire 12/31/22

Councilor Reichert stated there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation, Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission, Position #1; seconded by Councilor Laplante.

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Position # 5- One unexpired term to expire 12/31/22

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission, Position #5; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Economic Development Commission

1. Position #2 - Two year term to expire 12/31/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Position #2; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Position # 4- Two year term to expire 12/31/2022

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Position #4; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

c. Budget Board

1. Position # 3- One unexpired term to end 12/31/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board, Position #3; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- d. Parade Committee
  - 1. Alternate #1
  - 2. Alternate #2
  - 3. Position # 8
  - 4. Position # 9

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation from the Chair and Council can refer to talent bank listing before next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the open positions: Alternate 1 & 2; and Positions 8 & 9 on the Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- e. Land Trust
  - 1. Position # 2- term to expire 2/28/2026

Councilor Reichert asked if Council has a recommendation and if not, then Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to APPOINT David Decost to the Land Trust, Position #2, for a term to expire 2/28/2026 ; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- B. American Rescue Plan Act Funds
  - 1. **INTERNAL PROGRAMS** - Discussion and/or Action
    - a. Police Department & EMA - Gator 4x4 ATV and trailer

Councilor Reichert stated that this request was discussed and tabled for more information and pricing.

G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that he researched the ATV as to cost and spoke to several dealers. G. Mosca stated that both estimates came in between \$18,000 to \$20,000 for the ATV; and, the trailer estimate was about \$10,000 so he is looking for \$30,000 and not the previous estimate of \$50,000. G. Mosca stated there is a John Deere dealership on the RI MPA list so he won't need to go out to bid. G. Mosca stated that he has been told that there is a 6-8 month waiting period but he can put the order in. G. Mosca stated that he will receive the exact proposal next week

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere TO TABLE consideration of a set aside for the Police Station & EMA - Gator 4X4 ATV and trailer project; seconded by Councilor Laplante



Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Finance - Retention Incentive

Councilor Reichert stated that this item was tabled last meeting. Councilor Reichert asked A. Muccino, Finance Director, if he had any further information.

Discussion: A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that there was no new information and suggested Council consider removing it from the table if there is no interest in this set aside.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to DENY a set aside for Retention Incentive; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

c. Additional INTERNAL PROPOSAL  
Land Acquisition

No Action Taken at this time.

**2. EXTERNAL PROGRAMS - Discussion and/or Action**

a. Commercial Septic Program - Community Septic and/or wells -  
Chepachet Village

Councilor Reichert stated that the Town Planner has explained the details of this request at several Council meetings and asked K. Scott, Town Planner if she had any additional information.

Discussion: K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that there was no new information and verified the amount of \$200,000.00. Councilor Arnold asked if the amount was okay as he stated he remembered a larger number being proposed. K. Scott stated the lower number is good as she is looking at a grant program that will be associated with this project that she will explain when that matter comes up on this agenda.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to SET ASIDE \$200,000.00 through the American Rescue Act Fund for a Commercial Septic Program - Community Septic and/or Wells for Chepachet Village; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Small Grant Program for Non-Profit Organizations

Councilor Reichert stated that this request has been explained in detail at the last few Council meetings.

Discussion : The specifics of a grant program were discussed, including a cap amount for applicants; requirements to qualify. K. Scott stated that she can bring back to Council the specifics of how to apply and recommendations for how Council can review. K. Scott stated that discussion on a cap was needed tonight for her to be able to go forward with the designing of the application and other initial information. Councilor Steere asked if the motion should be town specific. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor stated he was satisfied with the motion to set aside as the Council could wait to see what organizations apply. K. Scott will prepare the application with all discussion in mind.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to SET ASIDE \$50,000.00 through the American Rescue Act Fund for the Small Grant Program for Non-Profit Organizations ; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion:

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

c. Economic Development Commission – Marketing Materials.

Councilor Reichert stated that the Planner and the EDC Chair have explained this request at the last few Council meetings. Councilor Reichert stated that Karen has lowered the amount of the request due to another grant opportunity.

Discussion: K. Scott stated that she would like to request this item be tabled in order for the chair of the EDC to be able to address the set aside request.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante TO TABLE consideration of the Economic Development Commission – Marketing Materials project; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

d. Dam Safety Program

Councilor Reichert stated that this item was previously discussed at several Council meetings.

Discussion: G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that he spoke with DEM and they have not deemed Hawkins Dam as unsafe even though it is a high hazard dam. G. Mosca stated that a dam needs to be rated high hazard and unsafe to warrant fixing. G. Mosca stated there are two other dams in Gloucester of concern. G. Mosca stated that there are Bowdish Lake lower and Lake Washington. G. Mosca explained how the grant program would work as an internal program. G. Mosca stated that Hawkins Dam does need repairs despite the state's rating. G. Mosca suggested that the money be restricted to town owned or Land Trust owned dams and that those categories be kept separate as Land Trust already receives town money through realty stamps. Councilor Steere clarified the meaning of classifications of dams as high hazard and unsafe versus high hazard.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to SET ASIDE \$100,000.00 through the American Rescue Act Fund for a Dam Safety Program; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

e. Mobile Repeaters – Fire Department

Councilor Reichert stated that this request was previously discussed and tabled for more information.

Discussion: Chief Waterman, Harmony Fire Department, stated that the chiefs from Harmony, West Gloucester and Chepachet met to discuss this proposal. Chief Watermen stated that the three fire departments are all in the same boat with a request for repeaters and to replace old portable radios. Chief Waterman listed the amount being requested from each department of \$65,284.17 from Harmony; \$61,739.00 from West Gloucester; and, \$ 63,960.20 from Chepachet for a total request of \$190,983.37. Councilor Steere asked if the repeaters would need to be replaced with in five years or so. Chief Waterman stated that the repeaters will be an upgrade to the current system but like all technology it will have to be replaced in the future. Chief Waterman described that there are locations in town that are geographic dead zones so the repeaters will help with communication in those areas . Councilor Steere asked if the fire departments had plans for this proposal before the ARPA money. Chief stated that there was a plan but it would be to ask the taxpayers for a large sum of money and it would not be fiscally responsible to do that. Councilor Laplante disclosed that he is the moderator for the Harmony Fire Department and that he had been researching this topic. Councilor Laplante agrees that radios are needed and, possibly, repeaters but he is concerned about the current radio system. Councilor Laplante explained that his concern is the current system is not as good as it could be and he would like to have an assessment of the current system done. Councilor Laplante stated he would like to know if the repeaters and radios would actually benefit the town on the current system. Councilor Laplante suggested setting aside the money and maybe using a portion of it to upgrade the system if it is found to be necessary. Chief Labutti described that part of the problem is the height limit on the Willie Woodhead tower ; that the tower at Durfee Hill can't be used because it needs repairs; and, that they could possibly lease a spot on the tower at Jerimoth Hill. Chief Labutti stated that the repeaters would

improve coverage in the dense spots in town. Councilor Arnold asked if the departments would still need repeaters even if there was a taller tower. Chief Labutti stated that repeaters would still be needed because there are just geographic dead spots in town.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to SET ASIDE \$190,983.37 for mobile repeaters for the fire departments of Chepachet, West Glocester and Harmony through the American Rescue Act Fund for Mobile Repeaters with the stipulation that first a coverage study be conducted; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: Councilor Laplante stated he would be recusing.

VOTE: AYES- Steere, Arnold, Reichert  
RECUSAL- Laplante  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. Seeking further Public Input or proposals for use of funds- Discussion and/or Action

No action

## XII. New Business

### A. American Rescue Plan Act Funds

1. Land Acquisition -Discussion by Council, Vote or other Action

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE American Rescue Plan Act funds, Land Acquisition; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

### B. Glocester Senior Center- Discussion and/or Action

1. Consideration and/or Authorization of amendments to Use of Building Policy

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from the Senior Center Director which he read as follows:

3-10-2022

To: The Honorable Town Council,

I am requesting that you adopt the changes made to The Senior Centers Building Use and Regulations document.

I have removed any wording that refers to the Senior Center Board of Directors and replaced with Senior Center Director and/or The Town Council as applicable.

I changed that approval of the building use can be granted by the Senior Center Director instead of having to go through the Town Clerk.

I added 2 new stipulations:

1. If extra money is expended due to additional cleaning being needed, the organization will be billed and agrees to pay by the signing request.
2. If organization plans to bring in food for event, it should be discussed and approved in advance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Melissa Bouvier

(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPROVE the amendments and ADOPT the amended Use of Building Policy for the Gloucester Senior Center, to be dated April 7, 2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated he has concerns, even though there are good aspects in the policy, that the Senior Center will become a community center and stated that it must remain a senior center. Councilor Steere stated that his opinion is that the Council must be kept informed. M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director, clarified that any requests for use will come to her but that she will forward them to the Council for consideration. W. Steere thanked the Director for clarifying.

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Consideration and/or Authorization of amendments to Policy Manual

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from the Senior Center Director which he read as follows:

4-7-2022

To The Honorable Town Council,

I am requesting that you adopt the changes made to The Senior Centers Policy and Procedure Manual as follows:

I have removed any wording that refers to the Senior Center Board of Directors and

replaced with Senior Center Director and/or The Town Council as applicable.

I have updated wording to include the use of the My Senior Center scan in system and removed any reference to the old system of signing in.

No policies have changed, only some wording needed to be updated to reflect current procedures and systems.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Melissa Bouvier

(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPROVE the amendments and ADOPT the amended Senior Center Policy Manual to be dated April 7, 2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. Personnel - Discussion and/or Action

1. Resignation

a. Senior Center - Meal-site Kitchen aide

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received the resignation of the Senior Center Meal-site Kitchen Aide.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ACCEPT the resignation of Jackie Aellig from the position of Senior Center Meal Site Kitchen Aide, effective July 1, 2022; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Authorization to Seek Replacement Employee

a. Senior Center - Meal-site Kitchen aide

Councilor Reichert stated that Council needs to now authorize the process to fill the position.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to AUTHORIZE the Senior Center Director and the acting HR Director to begin the process to fill the position of Meal-site Kitchen aide; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. Appointments
  - a. Police Department
    1. Animal Control Officer

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a recommendation from the Chief and confirmation from Don Zimmerman, acting HR Director which he read as follows:

I am requesting that Jennifer Grundy be appointed to the new Animal Control Officer position for the Town of Gloucester. Ms. Grundy was appointed as Assistant Animal Control Officer for the Town of Gloucester on March 25, 2021. As Assistant ACO she was able to manage the day to day operations of the Animal Shelter when called upon. In the absence of the Full Time Animal Control Officer in November 2021 Ms. Grundy assumed all of the Animal Control operations while working the shelter part-time. She further assisted in cleaning, renovating, and updating the shelter and management system over the past four months. On February 26, 2021 at the consent of the Town Council a full time advertisement was placed for this position. At the conclusion of the application period (4) four candidates including Ms. Grundy were interviewed for the position by HR Director Zimmerman, Chief DelPrete, and Captain Fague. All believe that Ms. Grundy has the experience, dedication, and qualifications to be promoted to the full time Animal Control Officer.

I further request that this position be presented to the Town Council on Thursday April 7, 2022 and take effect on Sunday April 10, 2022. Her appointment is further contingent on an updated police department criminal history check.

Over the past four months the current Assistant Animal Control Officer Victoria Kramer has put in numerous hours in the cleaning and rehabbing of the Animal Control Shelter. Victoria Kramer is nationally certified, lives in Gloucester and has been a dedicated employee at the Gloucester Animal Control Shelter for 22 years.

I am requesting that Vicky Kramer's title be officially elevated to Assistant Animal Control Officer and her pay rate change to \$19.50 per hour from \$16.50.

Thank you for your assistance in this selection process.

Respectfully,

Chief DelPrete  
(end of memo)

Discussion:

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPOINT Jennifer Grundy to the position of Animal Control Officer effective April 10, 2022. Said appointment is contingent on an updated police department criminal history check; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: A. Muccino, Finance Director, asked council to consider adding the salary and benefits to the last motion.

Councilor Steere withdrew his second and Councilor Arnold withdrew his motion.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to appoint Jennifer Grundy to the position of Animal Control Officer effective April 10,2022 at a salary of \$48,000.00 with benefits as contained in the “We are Gloucester employee handbook”. Said appointment is contingent on an updated police department criminal history check; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Tax Assessor’s Office
  - 1. Clerk I or Clerk II

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received the following recommendation which he read as follows :

Honorable Councilors,

As a result of the recent vacancy caused by the resignation of the incumbent clerk in the Tax Assessor’s Office, a recruiting effort was undertaken to seek a replacement. Council authorized the search for the position at either a Clerk I or Clerk II classification, depending on qualifications, in the Local 1322 LIUNA bargaining unit. The job was posted internally as required by the collective bargaining agreement and advertised on the Town’s website and externally.

Three candidates were interviewed by Adam Muccino, Jessica Parker and me. We are recommending the appointment of Kimberly Chabot of Burrillville for the position at a Clerk I classification and a rate of \$22.59 per hour, pending successful completion of a criminal background check. If appointed by Council, Ms. Chabot will start April 28.

Don Zimmerman



Acting Director of Human Resources (End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPOINT Kimberly Chabot to the position of Clerk I, Tax Assessor's Office, at a rate of \$22.59 per hour effective April 28, 2022, pending successful completion of a criminal background check; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Bella Vista- Drainage

1. Consideration/Authorization to fund Town Engineer review- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that a discussion occurred at the last Council meeting as to whether the Town can have engineering on the original build checked. Councilor Reichert stated that A. Muccino , Finance Director Adam was checking on available funds for special services for the Planning department.

Discussion: A. Muccino stated that there are funds available in the account titled: "Comp Plan for Professional Services" as contained on page 121 of the current audit.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to to AUTHORIZE an engineering review of the original project build for the Bella Vista subdivision; said review to be funded from the "Comp Plan for Professional Services" account not to exceed \$1,500.00 ; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

E. Resident Request re: Building Permit/Zoning Variance- Cook Estate Way (Driftway) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received correspondence from a resident asking for relief from an agreement previously reached between the Town of Glocester and the resident regarding the use of frontage on Cook Estate Way.

Discussion: F. Silva, resident, explained that he would like to give his daughter a piece of his 19 acre lot but needs relief from an agreement that was signed between the Town of Glocester and him, years ago. Councilor Reichert explained how the agreement came about. Attorney Iglizzi stated that he reviewed the agreement as did the RI Interlocal Trust. Attorney Iglizzi stated that the agreement is

between the town and a resident so the Council has the authority to amend without judicial intervention. D. Igliazzi stated that the resident would need to receive a review and recommendations from Planning, Building and Zoning before any amendments would be considered. D. Igliazzi also recommends amending the agreement as minimally as possible to achieve what may be needed depending upon the recommendations, if any, from Building and Zoning. K. Scott, Town Planner, explained that the Council may agree to possibly amend the existing agreement which is the minimal necessary permission for Building and Zoning to then consider the application. K. Scott stated that depending upon what Building and Zoning recommend Council may amend accordingly. K. Scott stated she would help the resident in the process. D. Igliazzi stated that a motion that the Council was open to amending the agreement would be recommended.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert that the Town Council is in favor of considering an amendment to allow the Silva's to proceed with a buildable lot in compliance with Planning and Zoning ; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: D. Igliazzi explained that Mr. Silva will have to come back eventually for an amendment to the agreement.

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- F. Bids/Contracts for services and/or products
  - 1. Bid Award recommendations from Board of Contracts & Purchases- Discussion and/or Action
    - a. IFB #2022-02 Gloucester Memorial Park Improvements

Councilor Reichert stated that the Council has received a memo from the Finance Director which he read as follows:

To: Gloucester Town Council, Bill Reichert President  
From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director  
Re: IFB 2022 02 Gloucester Memorial Park Improvements  
Date: 04/07/2022

You may recall that the Council previously authorized the Town Planner in cooperation with Finance to seek bids associated with the sitework necessary to prepare the site at Gloucester Memorial Park. The Town Planner in cooperation with Beta Consulting Group, the design/engineering consultant for the project, prepared a detailed bid package with detailed specifications for the work to be performed at the GMP site. The Town advertised this opportunity in print and on the Town website.

The Board of Contracts met on 03/24/2022 to open the bids associated with IFB 2022 02 Gloucester Memorial Park Improvements. The Town received (5) bids in response to the opportunity, please refer to the attached table for the tabulation of the bid responses by vendor.

At that same meeting, the Board of Contracts voted to recommend the Town Planner review the bids

and return with a recommendation to the Board based on that review.

The Board of Contracts and purchases met again on Wednesday March 30, 2022 to consider the review and recommendation from the Town Planner. The Town Planner recommended, based on her review and reference checks with other Towns in RI, to award the bid to Beausoleil Bros. Inc., the low bidder, in the amount of \$219,000 and forego the Alternate 1 Wayfinding Signage option for a total bid award of \$219,000. The Board of Contracts then passed a motion affirming the Town Planner's recommendation, voting to recommend to the Town Council to award the bid in the aforementioned amount to Beausoleil Bros.

Given the review of the Town Planner, myself, and the Board of Contracts and Purchases it is the Board of Contracts and Purchases recommendation that the Town Council award the IFB 2022-02 Gloucester Memorial Park Improvements to the low bidder, Beausoleil Bros in the amount of \$219,000.

Respectfully,  
Adam R. Muccino  
(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AWARD IFB #2022-02 Gloucester Memorial Park to Beausoleil Brothers in the amount of \$219,000; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. RFP #2022-02 Statistical Revaluation as of 12/31/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that the Council has received a memo from the Finance Director which he read as follows:

To: Gloucester Town Council, Bill Reichert President  
From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director  
Re: RFP 2022-02 Statistical Revaluation as of 12/31/2022  
Date: 04/07/2022

You may recall that the Council authorized the Tax Assessor in Cooperation with Finance to go out to bid in preparation for the statistical revaluation for the Town of Gloucester as of 12/31/2022.

The Board of Contracts and Purchases met on March 28<sup>th</sup> to open the bids associated with IFB 2022-02 and the Town received one bid, from Vision Government Solutions. The Board of Contracts and Purchases passed a motion that recommended that the Tax Assessor in cooperation with Finance review the bid for compliance and return at a later date with a recommendation to the Board.

The Board of Contracts and Purchases met again on April 6<sup>th</sup> 2022, and voted to recommend to the Council that the Council award the bid for RFP 2022 Statistical Revaluation as of 12/31/2022 to Vision

Government Solutions in the amount of \$87,700 for statistical reappraisal and revaluation, and \$8,254 in Year 1, \$8,672 in Year 2 and \$9,106 in Year 3 for CAMA (Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal) Maintenance fees for the Vision CAMA software. For Vision CAMA the Town already accounts for this maintenance expense in the Town's operational budget.

Considering the review of the response by the Tax Assessor and Finance Office, the Board of Contracts and Purchases recommends to the Council that the bid for RFP 2022-02 be awarded to Vision Government Solutions in the aforementioned amounts.

Respectfully,  
Adam R. Muccino  
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AWARD RFP #2022-02 Statistical Revaluation to Vision Appraisal Vision Government Solutions in the amount of \$87,700 for statistical reappraisal and revaluation, and \$8,254 in Year 1, \$8,672 in Year 2 and \$9,106 in Year 3 for CAMA (Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal) Maintenance fees for the Vision CAMA software; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Authorization by Town Council to Seek Bids - Discussion and/or Action
  - a. DPW - Paving services

Discussion: A. Muccino, Finance Director, explained that the current paving contract which ended in March did not have an escalation clause which would have applied in these times of escalating and uncertain prices. As such, A. Muccino stated that the town would have to go out to bid.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to AUTHORIZE the DPW Director and Finance Director to seek bids for paving services, funds for said services are budgeted; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: Councilor Reichert asked about timing of paving and recommended waiting to go out to bid as prices seem to be settling down. G. Treml, Director DPW, stated that he would prefer to wait till the new fiscal year that starts in July.

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- b. EMA - Trailer

Discussion: A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that the town needs to go out to bid because there is no one on the state bid list that meets the specifications of the trailer.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to AUTHORIZE the EMA Director and the Finance Director to seek bids for a trailer for the EMA Department, funds for trailer previously approved; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: none

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

### 3. Gloucester Memorial Park

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a memo from the Town Planner regarding the grant award for GMP which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members  
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner  
Date: April 4, 2022  
Re: Gloucester Memorial Park

In 2019, the Town of Gloucester received a RIDEM recreation development grant for \$400,000. The Town committed to a \$224,000 cash/in-kind match to this grant for a total project budget of \$624,000. The Town Council also committed \$70,000 in ARPA funds to cover the cost escalations of this project to bring the total budget to \$694,000.

The full scope of the project includes a new playground with two (2) separate play structures, fitness obstacle course, swing set, covered picnic area and benches, reconfiguration and replacement of the basketball court, improvements to the pedestrian connection to Putnam Pike via Sherman Lane and new signage.

To date the following has been allocated to this project:

1. Survey of Sherman Lane - \$5,700
2. Master Plan for Project - \$11,350
3. Bid Specifications and Cost Estimates - \$49,540

The total spent to date is \$66,590.

I am requesting the following:

1. Award the bid for site work to Beausoleil Brothers, Inc. for site work and basketball court construction. Beausoleil Brothers, Inc. was the low bidder and their references for similar work in other municipalities was very positive. The Board of Contracts voted to award the bid to Beausoleil Brothers in the amount of \$219,000. We are not awarding Alternative 1 – Wayfinding Signage at this time.

2. Signature on a proposal, attached, for playground equipment and installation from O'Brien & Sons, Inc subject to an addendum meeting the contract requirements of APRA. O'Brien and Sons, Inc. is a Minority Owned Business and is on the Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium Master Price Agreement for Athletics, Gym and Field - Equipment, Uniforms and Supplies.

After confirming with RIDEM, under RIGL 45-40.1 Interlocal Contracting and Joint Enterprises, using this Master Price Agreement satisfies the State's requirements for competitive bidding. The total contract price for equipment, delivery and installation is \$363,183.51.

3. Signature on a contract, attached, with Beta Engineering for construction services. The total contract price is \$15,320.

4. Signature on an indemnification agreement with the property owner of Plat 10A, Lot 60 located at 1182 Putnam Pike, Anthony Janello. Mr. Janello owns the property under the access easement to Gloucester Memorial Park known as Sherman Lane. The property owner has requested an Indemnification Agreement for any issues arising from the public using the access easement. This agreement was drafted as a collaborative effort with the Rhode Island Interlocal Trust, the Town's insurance provider, David Igliazzi, the Town's Solicitor and Tim Kane, Mr. Janello's attorney.

With these approvals, the total amount of funding approved for the GMP project is \$664,093.51, of the total budget of \$694,000. The wayfinding signage and security cameras are the last elements of the project anticipated to utilize the \$29,906.49 in unallocated budgeted funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

(End of memo)

- a. Authorization to award to vendor for playground equipment - (through pricing agreement) - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the award of \$363,183.51 to O'Brien & Sons, Inc. for the cost of equipment, delivery and installation of playground equipment for Gloucester Memorial Park. Said award is subject to the signing of an addendum meeting all contract requirements of APRA. Said vendor was sought through the Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium Master Price Agreement for Athletics, Gym and Field - Equipment, Uniforms and Supplies which satisfies the State's requirements for competitive bidding; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Authorization to sign contract between Beta Group Inc. & Town of Gloucester for additional construction services (Original contract signed 5/20/21) - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Agreement for Professional Services between Beta Group Inc. & Town of Gloucester in the amount of \$15,320 for additional construction work at Gloucester Memorial Park; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- G. Authorization to sign Indemnification Agreement RE: AP 10A, Lot 60, Sherman Lane Easement - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: K. Scott, Town Planner, explained that by this agreement the town will be maintaining Sherman Lane and it removes liability from the property owner.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign an indemnification agreement between the property owner of Plat 10A, Lot 60 located at 1182 Putnam Pike and the Town of Gloucester, regarding the Town's use of Sherman Lane; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- H. Authorization for signature: grant application to Southern N.E. Partnership (sewer/water grant) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that the Planner has asked for a signature on a grant application to the Southern N.E. Partnership.

Discussion: K. Scott explained that she is asking for a signature on a grant application to Southern New England Partnership for a decentralized study. K. Scott explained that there have been many studies of the wastewater issue in Chepachet but that this is different. K. Scott explained that this would be a decentralized study which means each individual property would be analyzed and recommendations made to fix. K. Scott stated that a decentralized study gives the property owners the responsibility and way to fix their own issues rather than a collective solution as in a centralized study. K. Scott stated that part of the study would look at incentives for the property owners to apply and fix their systems.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign a grant application from the Town of Gloucester to the Southern N.E. Partnership; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- I. Approval - Congressional Community Directed Spending Grant Application - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that the Planner has worked on a grant application for a congressional spending grant.

Discussion: K. Scott explained that Senator Whitehouse's office reached out to the Town to let us know that congressional directed funding grants are available. K. Scott stated that previously with the help of J. Fecteau, Chief Delprete and M. Floor we had put together a proposal for fixing the current police station. K. Scott stated that this project fits within the parameters of the guidelines. K. Scott stated that Senator Whitehouse, Senator Reed and Representative Langevin are excited about this proposal and support the idea especially because of all the preliminary work the town has already completed separate from this proposal. K. Scott stated that the proposal is for \$1,000,000.00. K. Scott stated time is of the essence as the grant is due tomorrow so if Council wanted to authorize going forward with the grant she would submit it .

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Congressional Community Directed Spending Grant Application 2022 for the Town of Gloucester upon completion; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE:           AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert  
                  NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

### XIII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from the Blackstone Valley Tourism council asking for a resolution in support of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Zap, an event that was held to clean up the river.

Councilor Steere requested this item be placed on the next agenda.

2. Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received congratulations from the Secretary of State on the Town receiving a grant award of \$13,000 for cybersecurity measures and that Matt Floor is responsible for the grant award.

Councilor Reichert thanked M. Floor.

3. Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a letter from the office of the R.I. Auditor General with tips for communities to get back on track with timely financial reporting.

### XIV. Department Head Reports/Discussion

1. Chief Delprete stated he received an email from Foster asking if Gloucester would be willing to take over Foster's animal control office. Chief stated that he would like this to be on the next agenda for Council to formulate a response to Foster. Chief Delprete stated that he has concerns about taking over this office and the possible need to hire another animal control officer.

Chief stated that rabies clinic this past Saturday was very successful.



J. Fecteau asked, per the Chief's memo read into the record this evening regarding the appointment of the new ACO, if the Chief needed the request to appoint, Vicki Kramer, to Assistant ACO, on the next agenda and Chief agreed.

Councilor Arnold thanked Chief Delprete as to his handling of the recent animal control issue.

2. A. Muccino commented on the letter received from the Auditor General in that Gloucester was not a community that was recommended for an improvement plan. A. Muccino stated that next year the audit will be submitted on time.  
A. Muccino stated that the first payment under the new payroll system is in effect. A. Muccino thanked the finance office employees for their work and effort.
3. K. Scott stated that one of the grant programs through the RI Infrastructure Bank was accepted which will make the town eligible for more money.
4. J. Luszczyk, Human Services Director, stated that a food drive is going to be held Saturday at Dino's. J. Luszczyk also reported that he received two donations of oil in a resident's memory, Harry Sayles. J. Luszczyk read the letter of thanks to the family mentioning both companies, Reichert Oil & Global Oil Company that made donations in Mr. Sayles name.
5. Councilor Arnold asked R. Shields, Recreation Director, about a person who is trying to get in touch with R. Shields. R. Shields has e mailed the individual and is waiting for a response as to some questions. R. Shields is working on it.  
Councilor Arnold asked about permission for field use and if there is a master calendar regarding the fields. Discussion followed on the need for entities to fill out field use requests and then they will be addressed individually. Councilor Arnold asked R. Shields to forward the form to him. R. Shields this is part of an overall discussion to maintain a master list of use requests. Councilor Steere asked if users will have any responsibility as to maintenance. R. Shields stated that in his opinion that if the school region is going to use the fields then there should be a conversation about maintenance. Councilor Arnold offered to initiate a conversation between himself, R. Shields, and the school teams to determine usage and maintenance.

XV. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion  
None

XVI. Open Forum

Councillor Reichert asked if anyone wished to speak.

E. Newman, SPCA Law Enforcement Officer, stated he was present to answer residents questions after comments made on Facebook regarding the Animal Control Shelter. Officer Newman gave a detailed history of previous situations at the Gloucester Animal Control shelter that led to the Animal Control's officer's termination of employment. E. Newman stated that the shelter is now running well and is clean. Councilor Arnold thanked E. Newman

for coming and wished all of the people who commented on Facebook about our shelter had been in attendance to hear this conversation. Capt. Fague , Gloucester Police Dept., thanked E. Newman for helping to turn things around at the Gloucester facility.

Councilor Reichert asked for a motion to adjourn to closed session.

XVII. MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Potential Litigation - Opioid Class Action Suit Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council pertaining to opioid litigation including:
  - 1. Review Rhode Island Memorandum of Understanding Between the State and Cities and Towns Receiving Settlement Funds
  - 2. Approval and execution of Rhode Island Memorandum of Understanding Between the State and Cities and Towns Receiving Settlement Funds and Settlement Participation Form
- B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

After Executive Session.

XVIII. MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Reconvene Open Session - Disclosure one (1) vote was taken in Executive Session & Seal the Minutes of Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion : None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

XIX. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ADJOURN at 11:01 p.m. ; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Steere, Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED