

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on August 18, 2022

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Members present: William E. Reichert , President; Walter M. O. Steere, III, Vice President; William A. Worthy, Jr.; Stephen W. Arnold ; David Laplante
Stephen W. Arnold

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; G. Treml, Director of Public Works; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone present wished to speak on agenda items.

1. Regarding speed limit item: K. Lamontagne, resident asked the Council to consider eliminating two parking spaces at the intersection of Putnam Pike and Douglas Hook Road as she feels it is difficult to pull out from Douglas Hook and she raised her concern as to a speed limit in the Village.
2. D. Dulude, resident , Vice President of Bella Vista Executive Board read his prepared statement as follows:

Members of the Town Council

My name is David Dulude and I live at 22 Bella Vista Circle in the Bella Vista Estates Condominium development. I have been there since 2018. As Vice President of the Executive Board of Bella Vista I am here tonight to represent our Board and residents. I am speaking in reference to agenda item listed under New Business bullet F – Engineers report on flooding and drainage at Bella Vista. On behalf of the Association I would like to thank the Gloucester Town Council for their foresight in assigning the Town Engineer to review and report back on the issues and problems that have been plaguing our beautiful development. We especially want to thank Mr. Provonsil, the town engineer assigned to this review, for his dedication and professional approach taken to our issues. He was seen on site several times while compiling his data.

Council members, you are at this time well aware of the flooding issues that were brought to your attention this past winter and spring so I will not rehash all of those details except to say it has been a very traumatic experience for many in our community of over age 55 residents. In addition... I will also note violations of DEM approved plans for exfiltration of roof water. Rather than disbursement of this water into the ground as called for in the Drainage plans it was

allowed to flow over our sidewalks creating ice situations with resulting slip and fall claims and injuries. This is totally unacceptable, creating a financial hardship for our residents as the refusal to repair this will result in residents unnecessary expense as well as jeopardizing our Master Insurance coverage. Additionally, code violations have occurred with Dryer Venting installation being in violation of RI Mechanical Code in 58 of our 70 units.

We are not here tonight to point fingers, as that is obvious, the developer has initiated some repairs to our retention ponds and a couple of side yards with improper grade levels but the work to complete that has slowed to a halt. We appreciate what has been done but there is more work to do

We are asking you to listen carefully to Engineer Provonsil's report and heed his recommendations to ensure that the fine taxpayers of Bella Vista are given their due recourse in repair of these shortfalls. With the final approvals being given to the adjacent Overlook Ridge project you must make sure that these same issues do not repeat themselves. It is imperative that these citizens of Glocester both at Bella Vista and the new Overlook project receive the highest level of attention to these matters. You, as our representatives are our last hope of protection for the community you approved to be built. Please ensure us that the town will pursue the proper completion of Bella Vista Estates.

Thank you
(end of memo)

- V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action
 - A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular Meeting of July 21st, & August 4th, 2022
 - B. Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements - July, 2022
 - C. Finance Director's Report - July, 2022

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of July 21, 2022; to TABLE the Town Council minutes of August 4th, 2022; to TABLE the Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements for July 2022; and to TABLE the Finance Director's Report for July, 2022; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated he would recuse from the vote.

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

MOTION PASSED

- VI. Unfinished Business
 - A. Boards and Commissions
 - 1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Economic Development Commission
 - 1. Position #4 - 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 Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Position #4; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Personnel

1. Senior Center

a. Appointment - Meal Site Coordinator - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a recommendation from the acting HR Director which he read as follows:

I am recommending that Council appoint Holly A Marcione-Castro to the 27.5-hour-per-week position of Meal Site Coordinator at the Gloucester Senior Center, effective 8/22/2022, at a rate of \$ 18.00 per hour.

Ms. Marcione-Castro was among three finalists for the position who had second interviews with Senior Center Director Melissa Bouvier this week. Tax Collector Jane Steere also participated in the second round of interviews.

To provide some background, a longtime employee in the role, previously titled “Kitchen Aide”, retired this summer. An ad placed to replace her garnered very few responses, but we hired an individual with food service experience. Unfortunately, after three days, she decided the job was more demanding than she expected and resigned. We concluded that the rate of pay was too low in the current labor market. In fact, it was the lowest hourly rate for any non-seasonal job in the Town, and we got Council and budget approval to increase the rate. We readvertised, with Council approval, the opening as “Meal Site Coordinator”, a title that is common for this position.

We received a much better response to our second ad, and Ms. Bouvier and I interviewed ten candidates. Three were interviewed for second time earlier this week by Ms. Bouvier and Ms. Steere. All of these candidates meet the basic requirements of the job, and Ms. Bouvier believes the recommended candidate is the best fit for the Senior Center. Thank you.

Don Zimmerman
Acting Director of Human Resources
Town of Gloucester
(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked how the position would be funded. A. Muccino, Finance Director , stated that the position would be funded out of an existing line within last year’s budget.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Holly A. Marcione-Castro to the position of Senior Center, Meal Site Coordinator, a 27.5 hour per week position, effective 8/22/2022, at the rate of \$18 per hour; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. New Business

A. Ratification of Appointment

1. Public Works- Discussion and/or Action

a. Appointment- Driver/Laborer I

Councilor Reichert stated that there was a consensus of Council to authorize an employee to start work prior to a motion being made. Councilor Reichert stated that Council now needs to ratify that consensus with a vote. Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk has reached out to the HR Director who agreed with the DPW Director's decision.

Councilor Reichert read the recommendation Council received as follows:

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Gary Trembl
Public Works Director
RE: Driver/Laborer I Position Recommendation

The Driver Laborer I position was advertised in the Bargain. Buyer and on the Town website. We received 5 applications. After reviewing them I chose to interview all 5 applicants. When I contacted the applicants to schedule interviews I refused an interview and another one called and cancelled the day of the interview. Out of the 3 applicants interviewed I felt Todd Anderson was best suited for the position. I am requesting that Todd Anderson, be appointed to the position of Driver Laborer I effective July 31, 2022 at the rate of \$26.43/hour per the NAGE Union Contract.

Respectfully submitted
Gary Trembl
Public Works Director
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to RATIFY the appointment of Todd Anderson to the position of DPW, Driver Laborer 1, effective July 31, 2022, at the hourly rate of \$26.43 per the NAGE Union Contract; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: Councilor Arnold asked how this position would be funded. A. Muccino stated that this was included in the FY2022 budget . Councilor Steere stated that this position was filling an existing position. Councilor Laplante asked how this item will run in with the prior budget. A. Muccino stated that 1/12 of last years monthly will follow DPW union contract agreement.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Update/Amend Hiring Policy - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Steere stated that he requested this item as he feels it is important that when an employee is hired that the same process is followed. Councilor Steere stated that there is an existing policy for hiring department heads so there should be one for hiring employees. Councilor Steere asked HR Director and A. Muccino to draft a policy . Councilor Steere stated that each department handles the hiring of employees differently so he feels it would be better to have a consistent and clear policy. Councilor Steere also added that this request is not because anything bad has occurred. Councilor Arnold agrees with Councilor Steere that a consistent policy be formalized. D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor , stated that Council should make a motion.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to have the Finance Director and the Human Resources Director to work on a rough draft of a hiring policy for town employees by September 1, 2022; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Personnel

1. Police Department

a. Resignation - Full Time Dispatcher - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received the resignation of Full time Dispatcher , Sean Tikiryan.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ACCEPT the resignation of Police Full Time Dispatcher, Sean Tikiryan, effective on August 27, 2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Appointment - Full Time Dispatcher - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from the Chief of Police which he read as follows:

TO: Don Zimmerman, Human Resource
From: Chief Joseph DelPrete
Date: August 10, 2022
Subject: Police Department Full Time Dispatcher Appointment

I would respectfully request to make the following employment appointment to the Gloucester Police Department.

Appoint James Greenhalgh, of Harrisville, to a full-time dispatcher position within the Gloucester

Police Department. James Greenhalgh is currently a part-time dispatcher on the Gloucester Police Department and is an excellent employee.

This transition of James Greenhalgh to a full-time dispatcher is needed with the resignation and vacancy of full-time dispatcher Sean Tikiryane effective August 27, 2022.

I further request that this his appointment date start the week of Sunday August 28, 2022 and he be afforded all of the wages and benefits under the Rhode Island Labors International Union, AFL-CIO Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Human Resource Director Donald Zimmerman has agreed to this transfer and it conforms with past practice and the current dispatcher collective bargaining agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph DelPrete

Chief of Police

(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to PROMOTE Part time Dispatcher James Greenhalgh to the position of Police Department, Full Time Dispatcher, effective the week of August 28, 2022; said appointment to be afforded all of the wages and benefits under the R.I. Laborers International Union, AFL-CIO Collective Bargaining Agreement; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Steere , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: Councilor Laplante stated for the record that he voted yes because this is a public safety matter.

c. Authorization to begin employment process - Part Time Dispatcher-Discussion and/or Action
Councilor Reichert stated that the Chief has requested authorization to go forward with filling the part time Dispatcher position.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Chief of Police and Don Zimmerman, Acting HR Director to begin the process to seek a replacement part time Dispatcher to recommend to Town Council for appointment; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: Councilor Worthy asked how this position would be funded. A. Muccino stated that it stays the same in the prior budget.

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Steere , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Resident request for reconsideration of Claim for vehicle damage - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that a claim was filed on July 11, 2022 regarding tire damage to a residents vehicle due to potholes. Councilor Reichert stated that the claim was denied by the Public Works Director. Councilor Reichert stated that both the claim and the denial are in Council's packet.

Discussion: Councilor Reichert asked if the claimants were present and no one answered. D.Igliozi stated that Council could table to the next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the resident request for reconsideration of a claim for vehicle damage to the next meeting for a claim filed July 11, 2022; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Discussion and/or Action: Restructuring of the Director of Facilities position for the Gloucester School District

A.Muccino gave a brief summary as to the restructuring for the position of Director of Facilities for the Gloucester Schools which would replace the Regional Schools performing the job. A. Muccino stated the amount paid to the Region for these services was \$47,575. A. Muccino stated that by restructuring this position for a Gloucester DPW employee , the town would save \$12,443 and the employee would receive additional compensation which will be paid by the Gloucester School Department. Councilor Worthy asked the DPW Director if this position would put a strain on the DPW department. G. Trembl, Director DPW, stated that it is a good deal and he does not see a problem. J.Burlingame, Chair of the Gloucester School Committee, stated that the school committee approves. Councilor Arnold stated his opinion that this is a good idea. Councilor Steere also feels this is a good opportunity.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to support the restructuring of the Director of Facilities position for the Gloucester School Department by the DPW employee; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: D. Igliozi stated that the motion should include the name of the employee, to name the position being restructured and the position being eliminated. A. Muccino stated that G. Gras is the head of Buildings and Grounds and will be adding the two Gloucester Schools to this care and maintenance.

Councilor Worthy withdrew his motion.

Councilor Arnold withdrew his second.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to have the town assume responsibility for Fogarty Memorial School and West Gloucester Elementary School by the DPW under Grounds and Maintenance; seconded by Councilor Arnold.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to include compensation to the town of \$12,443 and

compensation of \$15,000 to the DPW employee with the amount for the employee being charged to the Gloucester School Department for a total of \$27,443; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

F. Report on flooding and drainage at Bella Vista requested by Town Council -
Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that the Town Planner has forwarded the report on flooding and drainage at Bella Vista completed by David Provonsil, the Town's consulting engineer, as requested by the Town Council.

Discussion: D. Provonsil gave a detailed description and explanation of his report and his opinion as to the reasons for the flooding. D. Provonsil described the parcel as being flat without wetlands so in his opinion there is no readily available place to displace storm water. D. Provonsil offered his remedies but stated that he feels they are not going to be 100 percent fail safe.

D. Dulude, resident and VP of Bella Vista Executive Board, stated that the problems occurred before last year and included the residents concern with the development being built next door. D. Dulude described his experience in his residence as to the down spouts. Councilor Worthy expressed his opinion in a question about the possible work being skipped to reduce costs. D. Provonsil stated the plans were approved by Department of Environmental Management and the town and then he proceeded to describe the plans as to the roofs and drain spouts. D. Provonsil stated that about 2/3 of the roofs were not connected as he described in the plans. D. Provonsil stated his opinion that the original sitework was done correctly but then he was told that other downspouts were left unconnected and water ran over the sidewalks. Councilor Worthy's opinion is that the builder should finish the job. D. Dulude stated that the builder has done some work. Councilor Steere asked what the town could do. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that this is a difficult situation because the development is a private one that has a homeowners association. D. Igliazzi stated that if the residents have a problem with the developer then the homeowners association is the proper party to take any action against the developer. D. Igliazzi stated that the town has no jurisdiction over the builder. D. Igliazzi stated that the town potentially could be involved in any lawsuit brought by the homeowners association against the developer. Councilor Reichert asked if a letter could be sent to the state Board of Licensing on behalf of the development. D. Igliazzi cautioned the Council against such action as the town has no legal right to do anything and recommended that an executive session may be the best place to discuss any potential action, if any. J. Powers, resident at Bella Vista described how and why she hired an outside inspector for her unit before her purchase and the outcome. J. Depietro, resident Bella Vista, stated her opinion as to the problems and her opinion as to hoping the town would help solve the problems.

No action taken by Council

G. Scarecrow Festival 2022 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council received this application on Monday of this week. Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk has spoken with the applicant and was informed by the applicant that the only difference over last year's event is that the music will not be exclusively at the Chepachet

Union Church but instead will be spread throughout the village. Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk asked the applicant to specify to Council the locations of the music. Councilor Reichert stated that the applicant in the last few days has submitted additional information including the music events and added food trucks but has removed food trucks as of yesterday.

Councilor Reichert stated that the Special Event Ordinance states that if an event is the same as the previous year the Council may elect to vote to bypass a public hearing. Councilor Reichert stated that Council must make the decision as to whether a public hearing should be held before Council's decision or Council could make a motion to waive the public hearing and hear the applicants without a hearing when Council is ready.

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated his opinion that this is a great event which he supports but he feels it has become too large. Councilor Steere stated his concerns as to parking and bathrooms. Councilor Steere also voiced his opinion that the Gloucester Libraries and the Chepachet Grange, co-sponsors, should have approached the Council first and then put an ad in the local paper. M. Recher, co organizer, stated there were about 3000 people in attendance last year and that the restrooms were an issue. M. Rechter stated that there will be three bathrooms in the Village and has asked the Recreation Department for two additional bathrooms at Kent Pavilion. Councilor Steere stated his opinion that the town Recreation Department should not have to pay for two restrooms at the Pavilion as this is not a town event. M. Rechter acknowledged that concern and stated that the organizers will pay for the restrooms at the Pavilion through the donations they have received. Councilor Steere requested qualified police direct people to cross the streets as that is safer. M. Rechter stated that Brown & Hopkins and Tavern on Main have given permission for music groups to be at their locations. M. Rechter stated that the music will be from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Councilor Worthy suggested the organizers ask Acotes Cemetery for permission to park cars there as well as suggesting the use of GMP for parking. M. Rechter stated that St. Eugene's and the Grange will be used for parking. Councilor Steere suggested the organizers advertise where to park and place signs at the available places on the day of the event. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated she goes to the event with her children and grandchildren and enjoys it very much. J. Fecteau asked if the scarecrows that line the street could be angled to be seen while walking on the sidewalk. J. Fecteau stated the safety concern that in the past the scarecrows have faced the street which forces the people walking on the sidewalk to have to go in the street to view them. M. Rechter stated that the scarecrows will be set to face traffic. D. Iglizzi stated that Council could waive the Public Hearing if the application is substantially similar to last year. Councilor Reichert offered to have three additional restrooms at his son's place of business in town for the event. Councilors asked C. Wilson, Town Trader, as to the cost of the portajohns he pays for in the village. C. Wilson stated that the cost is \$140 for the month and they are cleaned weekly. Councilor Worthy stated that his store, Big Bear, will sponsor two portajohns for the event.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to waive the public hearing; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: Councilor Arnold asked about the DPW and trash bins. M. Rechter stated the DPW has been great and they place bins at multiple locations.

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPROVE the Special Event, for Applicants, Chepachet Grange #38 and Glocester Libraries, for the Glocester Scarecrow Festival 2022, to be held on Saturday, October 15, 2022, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 p.m. with the following stipulations:

1. Any food, not prepackaged, cooked and/or served on any Town property shall be served by a certified food handler and all applicable food safety state guidelines will be observed.
2. Cleanup and trash removal will be the responsibility of the Applicant, Chepachet Grange #38 and Glocester Libraries.
3. All stipulations for use of the Town Pavilion, in the Code of Ordinance, Chapter. 221-18, shall be followed unless waived prior to event.
4. The applicant, Chepachet Grange #38 and Glocester Libraries, will work with the Chief of Police regarding a Police presence for safety. The hours and number of officers needed will be at the Chiefs discretion.
5. The applicant, Chepachet Grange #38 and Glocester Libraries, will work with the Chepachet Fire Chief to ensure all safety measures are observed and all areas are accessible by emergency vehicles.
6. A current Certificate of Insurance Liability, in an amount to be determined by the Town Solicitor shall be filed prior to license being issued.
7. A Glocester Field Permit shall be obtained from the Recreation Director for use of the Pavilion, prior to license being issued.
8. To include ten portajohns for the event
9. To have signs for parking be clearly posted

Seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

H. Speed Limit - Chepachet Village - Discussion and/or Action
C. Wilson, resident and owner of Town Trader, spoke of his concerns regarding the rate of speed of vehicles through the Village on Rte. 44. C. Wilson is requesting the Council post speed limits of 25mph in the Village and for the speed limit to be enforced.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere for the Town Solicitor to send a letter to the state traffic office to investigate the speed on Route 44; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: K. Lamontagne recommended placing one of the “your speed is signs”.

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Councilor Reichert stated that Council received two letters from DEM which he described

as follows:

Request from DEM for public input of “historic use” information regarding Waterman Lake Dam. Per the letter from DEM a law has recently passed that states “ Any person who owns or operates a dam that has the capacity to store greater than one thousand four hundred (1,400) normal storage acre feet of water shall apply to the director of the department of environmental management for a permit to raise or lower the water level behind the dam. The owner or operator shall apply for a permit, and until such time as a permit is issued by the director, the owner or operator shall operate the dam in a manner that is consistent with historic use as determined by the director.”

The second letter is the same request but is in regards to the Pascoag Reservoir Upper Dam.

J. Fecteau stated that they are looking for information of the historical information as to how dams have been run . Councilor Arnold stated that Pascoag Reservoir Association has historical data and the president of the association has been in contact with DEM.

2. Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received two letters from residents regarding paving on Pineledge Road.

B. Stones, resident, stated her concern that DEM has not received an application for a permit as she believes is required before any paving can be done and questioned if the town would continue to plow once the paving was completed. Councilor Steere stated that this is a private road and that in the past if it has been paved it has been done so after all residents have signed approval for the paving. Councilor Arnold stated he believed the Association did approve the paving project. Councilor Reichert read a letter from D. Graham whose daughter was in a bad accident on the area to be paved and stated that the town has the authority to pave for safety reasons. Councilor Reichert stated that a permit is not needed from DEM as this is not wetlands and that the road is being paved for safety reasons. B. Stones disagreed with Councilor Reichert as to the area not being wetlands and insisted that a permit was required in her opinion. Councilor Steere asked if the Association is the appropriate party to give approval. M. Robinson, resident and President of the Pineledge Association, stated that a majority in the Association supports the paving. M. Robinson described the vote that was taken which did not pass to approve the paving. Councilor Steere asked who was paying for the paving. M. Robinson stated that it was made known to him that there would be no cost to the residents. Councilor Laplante stated his opinion that all residents on the road should have a say and vote. Councilor Laplante stated that private roads are an expense to the town if they plow , pave etc . Councilor Laplante stated that people bought their properties knowing it was a private road. Councilor Reichert stated that the town became involved in private roads because of safety issues in order for there to be safe access for school busses , police and fire. Councilor Reichert stated the DPW director does a great job. G. Stones, resident, asked M. Robinson if there would be another vote and if any rails would be placed on the causeway if it is paved. M. Robinson stated that any vote would be in compliance with Robert’s Rules of Order. G. Treml, DPW Director, explained that the area is 625 feet across the causeway is soft dirt which is especially dangerous in winter for plowing. G. Treml explained that the entire road is not being paved. G. Treml stated that the paving is for safety for residents, plowing, fire and police and that if paved the scraping in winter can be

done safely. G. Trembl described how dangerous it is for the plows on dirt roads in winter . G. Trembl stated that if the road is paved all will be able to get across the causeway safely. D. Igliazzi advised the Council to go back to the road policy and if it states all need to sign off then that is what should be followed. D. Igliazzi reminded the Council that if they wanted to take any action then the item must be placed on a future agenda. G. “Buster” Steere stated that he was on the Council when the road policy was put into place. G. Steere stated his opinion that he thought the road policy stated the paving applied to the existing footprint and that all residents had to sign off on any request. G. Trembl stated that if the Association votes to not pave then the town will not be plowing.

No action taken

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to add an agenda item , for discussion purposes only, the results of the Financial Town Referendum 2022/2023; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Steere stated that the Financial Town Referendum (FTR) failed ; that many individuals worked hard to present a budget but the voters voted it down. Councilor Steere stated his opinion that there was a lot of misinformation and that the Council could have done a better job of explaining the budget and its issues to the public before the FTR. Councilor Steere explained that the town will use the prior year’s budget by taking a 1/12 amount each month; the Council will determine the amount available to work with; the amount of debt obligation to the Foster/Glocester Regional School District; and the impact to the Glocester Schools. Councilor Steere stated two of the main issues with the proposed budget were FM Global and that the motor vehicle tax went away. Councilor Steere stated the Council could have done a better job explaining the challenges and why in August. Councilor Steere stated the Council is united to figure out a plan . Councilor Reichert explained the situation with FM Global including that Council is going to have an expert determine a value of FM Global. J. Dipietro, resident, asked for an explanation as to the PILOT program with FM Global. J. Dipietro described how in the past FM Global and the town would update payments. A. Muccino , Finance Director, explained that the PILOT program terminated on December 31, 2021 and described what the Council did to present a budget to the voters with state approval.

W. Steere, resident, stated his opinion as to the amount paid to the appraiser hired by the town. W. Steere stated the Foster/Glocester Regional School district is coming in \$20,000 lower and that the Glocester School Department is thinking of using set aside money for the \$181,000. W. Steere added his opinion that no one understood question # 3 on the FTR ballot. W. Steere stated his opinion that Council needs to find a better way to make people aware of the budget. W. Steere stated that the town knew when FM Global PILOT was ending so the town should have done something sooner. Councilor Laplante stated his opinion that the in person financial town meeting worked better and that if a new FTR is held the voters could also vote that one down. Councilor Arnold

stated his opinion that FM has been on someone's daily to do list for 20 months. Councilor Laplante stated the state was not cooperative.

Councilor Worthy stated his opinion about what happened at the FTR; how hard the Council worked to present a good budget to the residents; that the town is growing and there are costs involved. Councilor Worthy stated his opinion that it is the Council's responsibility to balance keeping expenses in check with growing needs but those growing needs result in more help as to town departments. Councilor Worthy feels the budget failed because the message was not clear to the voters. Councilor Worthy stated he would like to make a motion for an emergency meeting next Tuesday to look at possibilities for an updated budget to get things done by the end of September. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that the Council can't take action on this item as it was added to the agenda. Councilor Worthy stated he was asking for an executive session. Attorney Igliazzi stated that this could not be by motion but could be done if one or more council members called a special meeting and complied with the 48 hour notice rule. Councilor Steere stated that there were two options; either work off of last year's budget or go back and rework the budget and present a new one to the voters.

J. Burlingame, resident, stated that the Council could have given an explanation to the voters because the appearance was a 14 % increase. J. Burlingame stated that there are items in the budget that could be cut in his opinion. Councilor Worthy stated that cutting items in the budget would slow down the growth of our interior infrastructure. Councilor Worthy asked how to call a special meeting. J. Fecteau stated that 48 hours notice is needed without counting weekends. J. Fecteau asked if the Council could live with the budget until after the elections as it has the possibility of becoming political in her opinion. J. Fecteau stated that her office is in the middle of two elections and running a polling place for 20 days of early voting. J. Fecteau stated she has just done two FTRs and doesn't have the time or staff right now for another FTR. Councilor Worthy stated his opinion that the budget was more important. Councilor Laplante stated the voters have spoken and that the voters are looking for a zero increase so he does not see the purpose of a new budget and we should live with last years. Councilor Worthy stated that the message was incorrect and that Council should give a clear budget. J. Fecteau stated that if Council would like to call a meeting she will do so. Councilors agreed by consensus to call a meeting on Tuesday at 7 pm to discuss the budget.

J. Pitocco, resident and long time FM Global employee, stated her defense of the company and that feels that FM was unfairly bashed. J. Pitocco stated that she agrees with Councilor Reichert that the company has changed over time but that the company does care about Gloucester. J. Pitocco stated that FM is still the largest taxpayer and employer in town. J. Pitocco stated her opinion that the PILOT ended and that the state would not allow a new PILOT. J. Pitocco stated her opinion that the company truly cares about Gloucester and wants to stay and grow and continue to contribute to the Town. M. Robinson stated that the Council should not beat itself up about what happened. Councilor Steere stated he would take the responsibility that the Council could have done a better job explaining the situation and that he felt there was a lot of misinformation. J. Dipietro, stated that she was part of the Charter Commission and that the 2% set aside was part of the capital budget. J. Dipietro asked how there was capital if the budget did not pass. J. Dipietro stated that the capital question passing seemed to conflict with the charter. J. Fecteau asked if it meant 2% of the last adopted budget.

IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

1. G. Trembl asked about how his department would pay for the items that were proposed in the failed budget that were specified as capital expenditures. Councilor Steere stated that the town will work on 1/12 of the operating budget from last year. C. Mathieu stated that the question 2 on the FTR did pass and that money was being moved from the unrestricted fund to be used for capital so there is capital available but the amount is based on last year's . A. Muccino concurred. Councilor Steere stated that was to be discussed Tuesday to figure out.

X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

1. J. Fecteau stated that Land Trust has submitted a report which is contained in Council's packet. Councilor Worthy stated that he spoke with J. Pitocco and feels confident of the plans. J. Pitocco stated that not much has changed since July and that the state is releasing grant money so the Land Trust is pursuing purchasing pavilions for Steere hill and Hawkins. J. Pitocco stated the Land Trust is in the first steps of the process and that when ready they will bring before the council. J. Pitocco stated that the platform is ready to receive the pavilion at Steere Hill and they are getting quotes for a platform at Hawkins.

XI. Open Forum

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone wishing to speak to please come to microphone and state your name for the record.

W. Steere , resident, stated that he received the reevaluation notice and wondered if it could be put off as the real estate valuations are currently very high. D. Iglizzi stated that there is a process by which the reevaluations could be put off either directly or by legislation. Councilor Reichert asked D. Iglizzi to check into the timeframe.

D. Iglizzi recommended a motion to add an item to the executive session item XII (a) before moving into executive session.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to amend item XII (a) to add number (2) , for discussion only , as to include the flooding and drainage at Bella Vista ; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

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

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:
 1. Discussion by Town Council, Vote, or Other Action: FM Global Assessment

- B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5) Any discussions , considerations, vote or other actions by Town Council related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public

- C. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation- Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council
 - 1. Bargaining Units - Negotiations updates

seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Steere , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS- 0
MOTION PASSED

After Executive Session:

XIII. Reconvene Open Session - Disclosure of votes taken in Executive Session & Consideration of the Sealing of Minutes - Discussion and/or Action
MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Reconvene Open Session; Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session & to Seal the Minutes of Closed Session seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Steere , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

XIV. Adjourn
MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADJOURN at 12:01 a.m.; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Reichert , Steere , Arnold, Worthy, and Laplante
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

