

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on March 3, 2016:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William E. Reichert; and Edward C. Burlingame

Member Absent: Steven A. Sette

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; and Jennifer Mooney, Tax Assessor

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a member of Boy Scout Troop 44.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Resolutions

- A. Ratify: #2016-03 Regional Coalition - Funding of Transportation Categorical Aid - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council made a motion, on February 18<sup>th</sup>, to authorize the Council President to sign a resolution in support of the action taken by the coalition of regional superintendents to obtain funds owed each region. The following Resolution was read into the record by Councilor G. Steere:

**Resolution #2016-03  
RELATIVE TO TRANSPORTATION CATEGORICAL AID  
TO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

**WHEREAS;** the Town of Gloucester is a member of the Foster/Glocester Regional School District along with the Town of Foster; and

**WHEREAS;** Title 16 Education, CHAPTER 16-7.2 The Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act, SECTION 16-7.2-6 clearly says the law was originally implemented to offset the loss of the regional incentive that all regional school districts are eligible for Transportation Categorical Aid; and

**WHEREAS;** R.I.G.L. § 16-7.2-6e (2) states this fund requires that the state and regional school district share equally the student transportation costs; and

**WHEREAS;** the four regional school districts of Chariho Regional, Bristol-Warren Regional, Exeter, West Greenwich Regional, and Foster-Glocester Regional are being deprived of a total of \$727,320; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we the Gloucester Town Council respectfully request that the General Assembly demand the Rhode Island Department of Education reinstate what funds are due to Foster/Glocester for FY 2017 and future years; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk is hereby instructed to submit a copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House, the Town of Gloucester’s State Senator and State Representatives in the Rhode Island General Assembly, the Towns and School Districts of Charlestown, Richmond, Bristol, Warren, Exeter, West Greenwich, Foster, and the Director and Board of the Rhode Island Department of Education for consideration of their support.

Walter M.O. Steere, III, Council President  
Gloucester Town Council

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC,  
Town Clerk

seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, stated that there was a meeting at the State regarding this matter and there were no Representatives or Senator from Gloucester, adding that Representative Kettle from Foster was present. W. Steere, Jr. explained that any aid that we may receive will be used to offset transportation costs.

VOTE:           AYES:           W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
                  NAYS:           0

MOTION PASSED

B.     Ratify: #2016-04 Spread the Word Campaign - Discussion and/or action  
Councilor Burlingame read the following Resolution, prepared by the Clerk on behalf of the Council, which now needs to be ratified:

**Resolution #2016-04  
Spread the Word Campaign**

**WHEREAS:** “**Spread the Word to End the Word**” is a national campaign headed by Special Olympics to recognize that our choice of language frames how we treat each other; and

**WHEREAS:** this campaign encourages people to stop using the “**R-word**” as a starting point toward creating more accepting attitudes and spreads the word with a pledge and their motto: “Language affects attitudes and attitudes affect actions”; and

**WHEREAS:** the “R-word” hurts because it is exclusive, offensive and derogatory; and

**WHEREAS:** The Life Skills Class, at Ponaganset High School, has gone throughout our community working to spread the message of the Spread the Word to End the Word campaign; and

**WHEREAS:** Together with their administrative team, the Life Skills Class will be holding an assembly on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, in the hopes of encouraging their whole school to take the pledge to end the use of the R-Word; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** the Town Council & Town Clerk encourage our entire community to take the pledge, along with us, to end the use of the “R-word” on March 2, 2016, because we value that we are a diverse and inclusive community and we are opposed to any words or actions that are designed to exclude anyone on any basis; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Town Council and Town Clerk send our sincerest appreciation to the Ponaganset Life Skills Class for their work and we hereby state that we are extremely proud of this group of students for their dedication and determination in the effort to promote a positive and unified school campus and community by encouraging all to take this pledge.

Walter M.O. Steere, III, Council President  
Glocester Town Council

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC,  
Town Clerk

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: The Clerk stated Ponaganset students came to her office where she took the oath and further that the efforts and commitment by these students was outstanding.

VOTE:           AYES:           W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
                  NAYS:           0

MOTION PASSED

C.       #2016-05 Support of Senate Bill 2212 (Fogarty) - Discussion and/or action  
Councilor W. Steere stated that this is the third year that a Bill of this type has been introduced. Councilor W. Steere explained that, if passed, this Bill would allow communities to count mobile home parks in their calculation of affordable housing.

Councilor G. Steere read the following Resolution into the record:

**Resolution 2016-05  
In Support of Senate Bill 2016- #2212**

WHEREAS; Rhode Island General Law 45-53 entitled “Low and Moderate Income Housing” was created to address the need for affordable housing in our cities and towns; and

WHEREAS; as part of this Law, a formula has been established which results in a mandate to all Rhode Island communities to create and maintain 10 percent (10%) of its year-round housing units as affordable housing; and

WHEREAS; based on this formula, the Town of Glocester is mandated to have approximately 384 units of affordable housing and, currently, Glocester has only 85 units that qualify as affordable; and

WHEREAS; this mandate, under the current formula, does not recognize existing mobile and manufactured homes within a mobile home park as a form of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS; The Town of Glocester currently has three mobile home parks that contain approximately 126 housing units; and

WHEREAS; proposed Senate Bill #2212 would allow the Town of Glocester to include mobile and manufactured homes within a mobile home park in the calculation, bringing the Town closer to our goal of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS; this Bill would provide recognition to mobile and manufactured homes within a mobile home park as existing, affordable housing that has stood the test of time and will remain affordable for future residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Town Council of the Town of Glocester, respectfully support Senate Bill 2016 - #2212, introduced by Senators Fogarty, Kettle, Pagliarini, & DiPalma, and that we will have this resolution of support forwarded to our other 38 Cities & Towns requesting their support.

Walter M. O. Steere, III  
President Glocester Town Council

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:           AYES:           W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
                  NAYS:           0

MOTION PASSED

VI.    Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Reg. meeting minutes of February 4 & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Discussion and/or action
- B. Pole Grant: Pole # 6, Cole Street - Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of February 4<sup>th</sup> & February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and to APPROVE the Pole Grant for Pole #6, Cole Street; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
 NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards & Commissions
  - 1. Conservation Commission - Discussion and/or action
    - a. One alternate 1-year term to expire 2/2017

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the one year alternate term on the Conservation Commission; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
 NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Building/Zoning Official: Proposal to Full time position - Discussion and/or action  
 Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council had approved, by a consensus, at the last meeting the transition from part time to full time for the position of Building/Zoning Official. Councilor W. Steere stated the Council, however, needed the amount that position would increase before a motion could be made.

The Finance Director sent the following:

To: Town Council  
 From: Diane L. Brennan  
 Subject: Building Official  
 Date: March 3,2016

I have reviewed the cost to change the current building official, Ken Johnson~ to full time or 37.5 hours a week, from the current 30 hours a week. Assuming this change is to take place as of the week ending March 4, 2016, there would be 18 additional days to be included in Ken's salary. The change would also allow for life insurance to begin at the beginning of the next month, and an

additional change in the co-payment for benefits. The salary change would be \$3,970. There are additional items (FICA, Pension, and life insurance) that bring the impact to the budget to be close to \$4,700. Vacation and sick time would be adjusted going forward and have not been considered in this analysis. The change to full time on an annual basis would be in the range of \$14,000 at the current rate.

It is noteworthy that the building permits for the past year and the current year are on track to exceed the budgetary level.

(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Burlingame asked Diane Brennan, Finance Director, if the difference would be \$14,000. D. Brennan replied in the affirmative.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJUST the position of Gloucester Building/Zoning Official to a full time, 37.5 hour per week, position and accordingly to adjust the current Building/Zoning Official, Ken Johnson's, salary/benefit package to reflect this adjustment as outlined in the Finance Director's memo of March 3, 2016, effective 2/29/2016; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:           AYES:           W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
                  NAYS:           0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Appointment

1. Public Safety

a. Animal Control Officer - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere read the following into the record:

Memo:           Town Council  
From:           Diane L. Brennan, Finance/Personnel Director  
Date:           March 2, 2016  
Re:              Animal Control Officer

Chief Joseph DelPrete is recommending Penny Silvia to the full time Animal Control Officer position. The recommendation is to become effective March 14, 2016 with a starting salary of \$41,500. This position is eligible for full benefits.

At this time, I would further recommend to follow step adjustments for the position over a two year period. This process is similar to the clerk positions and the laborer positions in the department of public works. The recommendation would provide a mechanism for the position to be closer to the median salary range. At six month intervals for a period of two years, based upon a favorable

performance evaluation, Penny would receive a \$500 increase to her base salary. This is in addition to any annual salary adjustment received by town employees during the same two year period.  
(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere asked how this salary compares to that of the previous Animal Control Officer. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, replied that this proposed salary is lower. Councilor Burlingame asked if the position receives annual longevity. D. Brennan replied in the negative. Councilor Burlingame commented that the Town will realize savings with this proposal.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Penny Silvia to the position of full time Animal Control Officer, effective March 14, 2016, at a starting salary of \$41,500. Said position to follow step adjustments over a two year period (similar to process outlined in Town Hall Clerk's Contract); seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:           AYES:           W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
                  NAYS:           0

MOTION PASSED

B.       Legislation proposal re: Eliminate Capital project costs in maintenance of effort calculation - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that he requested this discussion because of problems at the Region. Councilor G. Steere stated that we only vote on one Budget because there is not a separate Budget for Capital expenditures. Councilor G. Steere explained that when 2% is added, it is in the maintenance of effort and we cannot eliminate it.

Councilor G. Steere stated when legislation was pushed and passed regarding non- reoccurring debt and capital leases falling off the maintenance of effort we should have included capital expenses.

Councilor W. Steere agreed that the Council should send something to our Legislators. Councilor Burlingame stated that he is glad that Councilor G. Steere is pursuing the matter. Councilor Burlingame stated that he sees in the Regions budget that some items have a longer life and some items didn't have a line item one year and the next year they just showed up. Councilor Burlingame also stated some of the expenses look like capital projects.

Councilor G. Steere spoke about a Capital Projects meeting in the Superintendent's office and stated that Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member was the only one who spoke up. Councilor G. Steere stated their budget shows a pickup truck, with plow, for the maintenance director in operations. Councilor G. Steere noted that this just builds the maintenance of effort and we cannot reduce it, even though we have fewer students. Discussion followed on the life of and definition of so called "Capital Projects."

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to prepare a Resolution proposing an amendment to Title 16-7-23, Community requirements - Adequate minimum budget provision, or to add a new chapter to eliminate Capital project costs in Maintenance of Effort calculation; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated this issue is important for obvious reasons and further stated that the Superintendent states they follow town practices and perhaps this is one they should follow. Councilor Burlingame discussed schedules of depreciation of “useful capital life”. Councilor G. Steere reiterated that once in operating budget we can never reduce. School committeeman Steere stated that capital projects are also divided into reimbursable & non-reimbursable categories. School committeeman Steere also stated that the truck was removed from the budget for this year. Councilor Burlingame stated that reimbursable and non-reimbursable may not be the guide as to what capital is. Solicitor Kane questioned if Council wanted the proposed amendment to legislation to address the definition of capital. Councilor G. Steere stated that with the local schools once the five year project it done it is done, but M. Barnes had stated he will increase the maintenance of effort after these projects are done at the region. Councilor G. Steere stated they (Reg.School) are creating a huge slush fund and once it is in the budget we can’t do anything about it.

VOTE:           AYES:           W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
                  NAYS:           0

MOTION PASSED

C.     Boards & Commissions

1.     Parade Committee

a.     Vacate (2) positions - Request from Chair - Discussion and/or action

Council has received a memo from the Parade Committee Chair requesting two seats be vacated:

Jean:

Could you please ask the Council to vacate two positions on the parade committee, Kelly Henry and Bill Cain have not shown up in over a year for a meeting. It is my understanding that Kelly is no longer a Gloucester resident and has no time to participate. I’ve spoken to Bill Cain numerous times and while he says he’s interested, he has not been to a meeting in about a year.

I also have spoken to Christine Bates and due to her work schedule and personal obligations she is unable to continue. I have her resignation letter.

I have also spoken with Kyle and Julie White who at this time given their new business venture that they will not have the time to put into the parade. If they do indeed send their resignations I will be sure to forward it along.

I’d like to create a Thank You Certificate from the Parade thanking them for their service and if the Council or Council President would like to sign I’d be happy to include a space.

Finally, given the vacant positions, I would like to ask that Cecile Drouin and Kris Contrino be added as voting members. I'd then like to table the remaining Alternate Positions.

Thanks,  
Mike  
(end of memo)

Discussion:

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to VACATE the Parade Committee positions of Kelly Henry (Alternate member) and William Cain (Regular member); seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:           AYES:           W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
                  NAYS:           0

MOTION PASSED

                  b.       Appointments (2 positions Reg. & Alt) - Discussion and/or action  
Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received the Chair's recommendation to fill the positions.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Cecile Drouin to the Parade Committee, Regular member; and Kris Contrino as an Alternate member; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:           AYES:           W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
                  NAYS:           0

MOTION PASSED

                  D.       Acceptance of Road: Cole Street (as a Town Road) - Discussion and/or action  
Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has received a request from the attorney of record:

February 18, 2016  
Town of Gloucester  
Town Council

RE: Applicant- Lakeview Estates at Spring Grove  
A.P. 13, Lot 20  
Application#: MI-15-01  
Request for acceptance of Cole Street

Dear Sir or Madam:

The above referenced Applicant respectfully requests the Town of Gloucester accept the conveyance of public improvements, future maintenance and all dedicated areas to Cole Street as described in that certain deed attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Please forward all correspondence concerning this matter to this office. Thank you.

Very truly yours,  
Lakeview Estates at Spring Grove  
Spring Grove Investments LLC  
By its Attorney,  
Joseph T. Nottie III  
(end of memo)

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has forwarded to Council a recommendation she requested from the Planner:

To: Town Council  
From: Tim Inacio  
Date: February 29, 2016  
Re: Lakeview Estates at Spring Grove  
Cole Street Extension  
AP 13, Lot 20  
Application #: MI -15-01

The plan involves a subdivision of one (1) Lot, further described as AP 13, Lot 20, into eight (8) residential lots in an R-2 zone requiring a minimum two (2) acres and 250' of frontage. All lots will be developed with frontage on Cole Street which is being extended approximately 1 060' (1.217 acres) south from the corner of Cole and Birch Streets, thus ending as a cul-de-sac to provide access to all lots.

As of September 9, 2009, the preliminary plan approval is tolled, and the final plan was deemed complete in content as of February 16, 2016, and is considered approved per § 300-30(b). Original signed copies of all legal documents were reviewed by the Town Solicitor further describing the property including the (3) proposed drainage easements, (1) fire cistern easement, (1) quitclaim deed indicating that an oxbow lot, otherwise known as "Parcel A" will be deeded and merged to AP 13, Lot 11, an abutting lot, and (1) metes and bounds description (Road Deed) was provided for Cole Street and shall be held in escrow in the Town Clerks Office until an official acceptance is motioned by the Gloucester Town Council.

The roadway was improved to completion, and in a letter dated January 20, 2016, the Public Works Director certified the roadway has been satisfactory completed. The final plat was endorsed by the Technical Review Committee on February 17, 2016, and the plat was recorded as provided in § 300-45, at which time the lots within the subdivision may be transferred or sold per § 300-32(a)(1).

The applicant's representative has provided a letter to the Gloucester Town Council requesting the conveyance of public improvements, future maintenance, and the acceptance of all dedicated areas. Final plan approval shall not impose any duty upon the Town of Gloucester to maintain or improve those dedicated areas until the Gloucester Town Council accepts the completed public improvements as constructed in compliance with the final plans per § 300-30(e).

It is of the opinion that the applicant has met all requirements per §300 with regard to the following application, and that the Gloucester Town Council is well within to consider any conveyances, future maintenance, or dedicated areas based on any further technical details provided.

Tim Inacio  
Town Planner  
(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked the Public Works Director if the road is ready for the town to take it over. G. Trembl stated it was ready and the finish coat is on, however, there will be heavy vehicles passing over during construction. K. Johnson, Building Official, stated the contractor has supplied an alternate route during construction. After discussion it was agreed that a memo could go out to contractor reminding them if they “break it” they will fix it.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ACCEPT Cole Street, located in the subdivision known as Lakeview Estates at Spring Grove, and ADD said road to the official Town Road List contingent upon applicant filing deeds referenced above; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: none

VOTE:           AYES:           W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
                  NAYS:           0

MOTION PASSED

E. Board of Contracts and Purchases

1. Award Bid IFB #2016-02 Senior Center Cleaning Services - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that per the Board of Contracts: This bid was advertised in the Providence Journal on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and posted on the town’s website and after a mandatory pre-bid walk through, one bid was received.

Councilor W. Steere stated the bid was reviewed for compliance and the Public Works Director made the following recommendation:

March 3, 2016  
To: Honorable Town Council  
From: Gary S. Trembl  
Public Works Director

Re: Recommendation- Bid IFB 2016-02- Gloucester Senior Center Cleaning Services

I recommend to award IFB 2016-02 Gloucester Senior Center Cleaning Services to Simply-Clean from 37 Wellesley Avenue, North Providence RI for a cost of \$1,500.00 per month. This monthly charge includes supplying all paper products, trash bags hand soaps and satirizers, Washing of windows interior and exterior, shampooing of carpets and stripping and waxing floors are at an additional charge.

This contract will be for a 12 month period following a 3 month probationary period.

They will begin on March 7, 2016 stripping and waxing floors and March 14, 2016 with daily cleaning.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary S. Treml  
(end of memo)

Councilor W. Steere stated the Board of Contracts & Purchases met on March 3, 2016 and the following recommendation to the Town Council was passed:

J. Fecteau made motion to award IFB 2016-02 GLOCESTER SENIOR CENTER CLEANING SERVICES to:

Simply-Clean with a three(3) month probationary period and twelve (12) month contract with the prices as follows:

Maintenance Including all supplies--	\$	1,500.00 Per month
Wash windows-interior/exterior		500.00 Per month
Shampoo Carpets		200.00 Per month
Strip & Wax Floors:		.35 per sq. ft. Per time

Police have done BCI checks and we have their Certificate of Liability Insurance.

J. Steere seconded. Approved by all.

Discussion: Councilor Burlingame stated this will be a 3 month trial period and questioned how often the Public Works Director felt the "other" items would be needed. G. Treml stated the stripping & waxing may only be once a year or as G. Treml feels is necessary. G. Treml will get the dollar amounts to D. Brennan for the budget.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AWARD (or TABLE) IFB 2016-02- Gloucester Senior Center Cleaning Services to:

Simply-Clean with a three (3) month probationary period and twelve (12) month contract with the prices as follows:

Maintenance Including all supplies-- \$ 1,500.00 Per month  
 Wash windows-interior/exterior 500.00 Per month  
 Shampoo Carpets 200.00 Per month  
 Strip & Wax Floors: .35 per sq. ft. Per time  
 To begin on March 7, 2016 stripping and waxing floors and March 14, 2016 with daily cleaning;

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
 NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Award Bid RFP #2016-01 Statistical Reappraisal and Revaluation -  
 Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that per the Board of Contracts: This bid was advertised in the Providence Journal on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and posted on the town's website and two bids were received:

Vision Government Solutions, Inc. \$69,000  
 with annual maintenance (software) year 1- \$5,900.00  
 year 2- 6,077.00  
 year 3- 6,259.00

Tyler Technologies, Inc. \$96,700  
 (No annual maintenance fees, they propose using existing software)

After the bid was reviewed for compliance the Tax Assessor made the following recommendation:

I have carefully reviewed these bids and my recommendation is that we choose Vision Government Solutions, Inc. to be the contractor for the 2016 Statistical Revaluation for the Town of Glocester. (End of memo - Full memo in Council file)

Councilor W. Steere stated the Board of Contracts & Purchases met on March 3, 2016 and the following recommendation to the Town Council was passed:

J. Fecteau made motion to award the bid to Vision Government Solutions with the following price and annual maintenance for a three year period:

Vision Government Solutions, Inc. \$69,000.00  
 annual maintenance year 1- \$5,900.00  
 year 2- 6,077.00  
 year 3- 6,259.00



Hopkinton with regard to Transportation Categorical Aid.

B. Councilor W. Steere stated that an invitation was received from the Mayor of Newport to participate in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

C. Councilor W. Steere read the following letter from a resident:

Dear Council Members,

I have been a resident of this town for over 40 years and have seen many changes within the town,

I know the economy is not good and people have different problems, but there is no valid reason that property owners within our town, should be allowed to build something then abandon it to the point of decay and collapse

I like our town, but there comes a time that things that affect the finances of the town are being dragged down as well as suppressing the adjoining property values by some very irresponsible property owners. Their lack of caring for their properties to the point of total decay and collapse. These properties currently have collapsed which is a safety hazard for any child or adult going near them. To make that even worse they are located right on Route 44, Which the Main roadway through our town, Can you imagine what out of towners must think What an impression that must make on people who want to move to our town and see this sight? What if they wanted to build here? I don't think they would, seeing the mess we have on our hands.

The first property is located right across from Angel's auto body. The disgusting amount of garbage on the property is bad enough , the house has collapsed and no one says anything.

The next one next to Christy's liquor store, another disgusting sight. Some person actually tried living in that nasty thing.

The worst in the center of our town and because of it's size is the former horse barn opposite the Church. Now this property is of size and would have a higher value if cleaned up.

Allow me to bring to you the beginning of what has happened before anyone says, those poor people.

First not one of the structures was ever built by the building code of our town. That is the reason for their failure to remain structurally sound. I go so far as to say because of their age they probably never had a building permit. We can not tell another person what to build, but they must meet our building code for safety. If that person is granted a permit to build then, it also their responsibility make that property safe. To abandon the property leaving it unsightly, unhealthy for joining property owners , and lastly the environment, the trash left behind contains chemicals which contaminate our soils and water supply. Do not think for a moment that these properties are not contaminated just in the garbage they have left behind. It is not the responsibility of the town for their cleanup. The owners should be made to clean up , they put it there, they should take it away. If they do not want to cooperate then that property should have a tax lien placed on it, and looking at these properties have they ever paid taxes?

That would be a shock. The lien is the same legal document used for taxes, water bills , sewers, It is not new and the town should take action. Safety is first, Getting these properties clean

would help get them into build able sale able condition and back on the tax rolls.

Sincerely Gerald Catalano

(end of memo)

Ken Johnson, Building Official, stated he has received a complaint. (The Clerk will forward this letter to K. Johnson) K. Johnson updated the Council on his attempts to “chase down” the banks for the “bank owned properties” and that no one from these banks wants to take responsibility. K. Johnson also stated the management companies that oversee these abandon buildings change frequently. Discussion followed on whether the Town should clean up properties and lien them and the fine process.

K. Johnson will work with T. Kane, Solicitor.

D. W. Steere referenced a letter from the state Office of Housing & Community Development regarding the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Set Aside fund.

E. W. Steere stated correspondence was received from the Trust regarding the Trust Management’s Member Equity Disbursement.

F. Discussion followed on a legislative bill pertaining to changing time frame for revaluation. There was discussion of sending a resolution in support of this bill.

X. Department Head Report/Discussion

A. Gary Treml, Public Works Director, spoke regarding E-Waste. G. Treml stated he has found a company that will take away the waste we currently have at \$7.00 per piece, for approx. \$2,800 to take it all. Discussion followed on going forward and what the fee should be if Town decides to accept these items again. Discussion followed on covering costs, labor & fees.

XI. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion - none

XII. Open Forum

David LaPlante, of Absalona Hill Road, stated that he recently went through the permitting process for structural changes to his property and commended the Town employees who were very professional.

XIII. MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:           AYES:           W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
                  NAYS:           0

MOTION PASSED

XIV. Reconvene Open Session

Disclose votes taken in Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to seal the minutes of Executive Session and to disclose that no votes were taken in Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

VOTE:           AYES:           W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
                  NAYS:           0

MOTION PASSED

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 9:40 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

VOTE:           AYES:           W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, and Burlingame  
                  NAYS:           0

MOTION PASSED