

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on March 17, 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; Edward C. Burlingame; and 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; and Gary Treml, Director of Public Works

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Resolution

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

The following Resolution was read into the record by Councilor G. Steere:

GLOCESTER TOWN COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION 2016-06  
REQUESTING AMENDMENT TO R.I.G.L. §16-7-23

WHEREAS, the Town of Gloucester is part of the Foster Gloucester Regional School District ("the District") said District being created by Chapter 109 of R.I. Public Laws of 1958 ("the Act"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 109 of R.I. Public Laws 1958, the Regional School Budget is determined by the taxpayers at the annual regional school district budget meeting and subsequently the Towns of Gloucester and Foster must contribute their proportionate share of said budget; and

WHEREAS, R.I. General Laws §16-7-23 states in part:"The school committee's budget provisions of each community for current expenditures in each budget year shall provide for an amount from all sources sufficient to support the basic program and all other approved programs shared by the state. Each community shall contribute local funds to its school committee in an amount not less than its local contribution for schools in the previous fiscal year. "; and

WHEREAS, because of the budgetary procedures as stated above there exists a possibility that an overall budget may be passed at the District's annual meeting which reflects prior year(s) non-recurring capital expenditures which are no longer on the books of the District, thereby binding the Town of Gloucester to fund an expenditure which is no longer occurring; and

WHEREAS, there is an inherit ambiguity and conflict in the budgetary procedures as set forth above and Title 16 of R.I. General Laws should be amended to address the ambiguity and conflict as the same applies to Regional School Districts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Town Council for the Town of Gloucester respectfully request that the General Assembly amend R.I. General Laws §16-7-23(a) by adding the following language to section (a) to include non-recurring capital expenses in said paragraph:

(1) Provided, however, that notwithstanding any provision of this title to the contrary, debt service that is no longer carried on the books of any school district shall not be included in any school districts' annual budget, nor shall non-recurring debt service be included in maintenance of effort as set forth in this chapter, nor shall any non-recurring debt service be included, nor shall any non-recurring capital expenses (as defined in Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting, Definitions) be included in the operating annual budget or in the Maintenance of Effort of any school district. For the purposes set forth above non-recurring capital lease payments shall be considered non-recurring debt service.

And further, The Gloucester Town Council respectfully requests that Senator Paul W. Fogarty; Representatives Michael Chippendale, Cale Keable, and Thomas Winfield introduce legislation to enact the proposed amendments.

The Town Clerk will forward this Resolution, upon passage, along with a request to the Town of Foster as well as to all other thirty-nine cities and towns in our state requesting their support and the support of their legislators.

Walter M. O. Steere, III - President Gloucester Town Council  
Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Adopted by the Gloucester Town Council on March 17, 2016

Seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Public Hearing - Discussion and/or action  
A. Renewal of Earth Removal Licenses

1. Applicant: Adler Brothers Construction, Inc.  
Location of Business: Putnam Pike, further described as AP 14, Lots 18, 19 & 20

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on March 3, 2016 and abutters were notified.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing Open and asked if anyone wished to speak regarding the Earth Removal License renewal.

Discussion: None.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing Closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to GRANT the renewal of an Earth Removal License to: Applicant: Adler Brothers Construction, Inc.; Location of Business: Putnam Pike, further described as AP 14, Lots 18, 19 and 20; contingent upon : 1) Building/Zoning approval; 2) all Town fees being paid; 3) current bonding secured; said license to be valid April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2018; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Applicant: George O. Steere, Jr. et als  
Location of Business: Route 102, further described as AP 13, Lot 2

Councilor G. Steere recused himself from this Public Hearing.

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on March 3, 2016 and and abutters were notified.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing Open and asked if anyone wished to speak regarding this matter.

Discussion: None.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing Closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to GRANT the renewal of an Earth Removal License to: Applicant: George O. Steere, Jr. et al, Location of Business: Route 102, further described as AP 13, Lot 2; contingent upon : 1) Building/Zoning approval; 2) all Town fees being paid; 3) current

bonding secured; said license to be valid April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2018; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

3.       Applicant:     Stephen E. Hopkins, Trustee  
                          Location of Business: Keach Dam Road, further described as  
                          AP 12 Lot 134.

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on March 3, 2016 and abutters were notified.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing Open and asked if anyone wished to speak regarding this matter.

Discussion: None.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing Closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to GRANT the renewal of an Earth Removal License to: Applicant: Stephen E. Hopkins, Trustee, Location of Business: Keach Dam Road, further described as AP 12, Lot 134, contingent upon : 1) Building/Zoning approval; 2) all Town fees being paid; 3) current bonding secured; said license to be valid April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2018; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- VII.   Consent Items - Discussion and/or action
  - A.     Approval of Town Council Reg. meeting minutes of Special Meetings of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7th & 14th, & Regular Meeting of March 3, 2016
  - B.     Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements - February 2016
  - C.     Tax Collector's Abatements
    1.     2005 Receivable Tax Roll
    2.     Tax Sales Fees - 2005
  - D.     Finance Director's Report - February 2016

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of March 2nd

and March 3rd; No Additions or Abatements to the 2015 Tax Roll for February 2016; to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for February 2016; to APPROVE the Abatement of the 2005 Receivable Tax Roll outstanding balance which totals \$26,815.87 and the Tax Sales Fees from 2005 of \$563.47; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, if a motion is needed to table the minutes of the March 7th and March 14th Town Council meetings. T. Kane replied in the affirmative.

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to TABLE the minutes of the Town Council meetings of March 7th and March 14th; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. 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 appointment to the Conservation Commission for the alternate one year term to expire 2/2017; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: The Clerk stated the Chair has informed her that they are interviewing applicants.

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

A. Public Works

1. Maintenance of Recreational areas

Town & Private - Discussion and/or action

Discussion: Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, stated that after discussion with Councilor Burlingame & representatives from Little League & Acotes it was determined his department will not be taking care of the grass area at Acotes Field, noting that a sprinkler system was installed

by the Little League last year.

Councilor Burlingame stated that the Little League put in a sprinkler system and spent a lot of money on the field that they lease from the cemetery, therefore we are not involved. Councilor Burlingame stated that a question came up regarding Leja Field, which is used by both the Middle School and the Little League. Councilor Burlingame noted that the Little League did not submit a request to the Town for funding, but has suggested that the funds be diverted to bringing Leja Field up to good standards. Councilor Burlingame expressed his opinion that it would make sense that Public Works not be involved with Acotes and that Leja Field could be a showcase for us and other towns that may come in to use the field. Councilor Burlingame stated that the recommendation is that the Little League would take care of Acotes Field and the Town would fix and maintain Leja Field.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ratify the Public Works Director's recommendation to no longer support Acotes Field, with regard to maintenance, and to bring Leja Field up to quality standards; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked the representative from Little League if they concur with that action. Bob DiGiulio, Recording Secretary for the Gloucester Little League Board of Directors, stated that they agree with work on Leja Field but that he was not expecting that the grass-cutting by the Town would be eliminated, but if that is the trade-off, he feels that it is okay. Mr. DiGiulio stated Little League would like grass on the infield and questioned if there was irrigation. Mr. DiGiulio stated they would have their games in other times because the field wasn't in "very good" condition.

Gary Tremml, Director of Public Works, stated that last year, he took out the grass from the infield and put in dirt, per the Recreation Director's request. G. Tremml stated no you want me to put the grass back in and there is no water at that location. G. Tremml stated in order to possibly grow grass he would have to bring a water truck over there every day. G. Tremml commented that it will be difficult to make the grass grow again but, if that is what the Council wants, there will have to be a tradeoff because he will have to have people there everyday. G. Tremml stated it won't be as easy as just planting grass.

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

MOTION PASSED

**B. Gloucester Little League Funding Request - Discussion and/or action**

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that the Little League did not submit a funding request to the Budget Board. Councilor W. Steere explained that the Little League is not looking for funding but, as stated previously, is requesting the funds go toward an upgrade and maintenance at Leja Field. Bob DiGiulio of the Little League concurred.

No action required.

C. Personnel

1. Consideration of request for advance of sick time - Discussion and/or action  
Councilor W. Steere read the following memo from the Personnel Director:

To: Honorable Members of the Town Council  
From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance/ HR  
Date: March 17, 2016  
Re: Sick Time Advance

A Clerk II employed in the Clerk's Office has exhausted her available sick time. The Clerk contract allows for the Town Council to advance up to 30 days leave for employees. In making the decision, I have provided the council with the specifics of the contract and the employee.

The contract states "any employee with at least ten years of continuous service who contracts a serious illness may be granted, at the discretion of the Town Council, an advance on future sick leave not to exceed thirty days in addition to his/her accumulated sick leave as of the date such illness occurs." The employee's date of hire is full time July 1, 2006 and part time May 16, 1996.

The contract is silent as to use of available time in place of sick time. For this employee, as of March 3, 2016 sick time was exhausted. Available vacation time is 78.54 hours, and 7.5 hours of personal time as of that date. I am in receipt of a doctor's note stating the employee is unable to work until March 19, 2016.

This employee would need 49.83 hours of sick time to cover this time due to this illness. The contract states that "sick leave shall not accumulate during such extension and such extended sick leave shall be credited against future accruals of sick leave or, if the employee terminates his or her employ with the Employer while the employee has a negative sick leave balance, the amount paid in wages for such negative sick leave balance, shall be deducted from employee's final paycheck." The extended time needed, if granted, would take approximately 5 ½ months to "work" off.

I am providing this information to allow the council to consider these factors in making this decision.

(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Reichert noted that this has been done in the past. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the employee is scheduled to return to work on Monday. Councilor W. Steere commented that since the Contract is silent regarding use of available time in place of sick time, perhaps it should be addressed and defined.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to GRANT the request for advance of sick time; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Diane Brennan, Finance Director, asked if the Council is granting 30 days or just what the employee needs at this time. There was Council consensus to grant the advance of 49.83 hours

of sick time.

Councilor Sette withdrew his MOTION and Councilor Reichert withdrew his second.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to GRANT the request for an advance of 49.83 hours of sick time; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

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

MOTION PASSED

D.       Communication sent from High School employee to Residents

1.       Authorization of & Use of School Database - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Burlingame stated that he received a copy of a communication which was directed to parents of students involved in athletics. Councilor Burlingame explained that the email included the graduation year of the students in the address, which would indicate that the school's database was used for this communication. Councilor Burlingame further stated that the email was sent by the Athletic Director, identifying himself as the high school football coach. Councilor Burlingame noted that the wording stated that programs would be cut if the proposed school budget was not passed. Councilor Burlingame expressed his opinion that this was a political action letter and was inappropriate.

Councilor W. Steere agreed and stated that he brought this up to Dr. Barnes, Superintendent. Councilor W. Steere stated he asked Dr. Barnes if he gave permission to any employee to send any communication to parents of students regarding the Foster-Glocester Regional Financial meeting. Councilor W. Steere stated that Dr. Barnes replied in the negative. Councilor W. Steere stated that the individual did this on his own, and the issue is that the signature he used was his title at the school. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council should send correspondence to the School Department to let them know we are not happy about this.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to authorize the Town Council President to send a letter to the Regional School District and the Superintendent expressing the Council's feelings regarding the communication sent from a High School employee to residents; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor Sette added that it is offensive to use students as a political football by telling them that we would eliminate music, art and sports versus anything else in the budget.

Councilor G. Steere stated that it is despicable for a School Committee member to move the question and end discussion when there were still residents who wished to speak.

Councilor Burlingame noted that the students had performed five (5) shows of the Music Man this weekend and at each one, a School Committee member spoke to the audience, urging them to attend the Financial Meeting because "the Town wanted to slash the budget". Councilor Burlingame stated



that this is inappropriate and in his opinion, a form of extortion.

Councilor Sette stated that he has lived in Gloucester for 30 years and he does not believe that the Schools have ever cut music, art or sports from a budget. Councilor Sette commented that to use those things as a leverage point to get people to vote for a budget is wrong.

Councilor Burlingame stated that the correspondence we send should be specific and we should ask for a response.

Councilor W. Steere noted that when the School Budget was cut \$100,000 several years ago, no school programs were cut.

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

MOTION PASSED

E.       Regional Financial Town Meeting

1.       Discussion/ and or Action on Vote, process, and/or Action taken

Councilor G. Steere stated it was despicable and very low of the person that moved the question and ended all discussion. Other people at the meeting that went to talk had points to make. Councilor G. Steere stated he confronted that person who responded “so what, who wanted to speak, 5 people?”. Councilor G. Steere stated he doesn’t care if it was 5 people or 500 people. Councilor G. Steere stated we were promised by the Co-Chair everyone would have the opportunity. Councilor G. Steere stated he believes it was “preplanned” that School Committeewoman Carroll would do what she did and it is not fair.

Councilor W. Steere stated that a vote is a vote and people voted for the budget, however he objects to our Board of Canvassers being harassed based on something over which they had no control. Councilor W. Steere added that the School Committee's Solicitor was bullying the Board of Canvassers. Councilor W. Steere stated he summoned the police officer when he was touching ballots. Councilor W. Steere stated he was then threatening people and he is concerned about that. Councilor W. Steere stated that this is not the first year that our Board has been abused and has had bad things said about them. Councilor W. Steere stated he has had it.

Councilor Sette stated that this has gotten to the point where we just cannot do the old Town meeting vote any longer, adding that there should be a Referendum instead.

Councilor Burlingame stated that when he questioned the Solicitor about it, he did not receive a civil answer. Councilor Burlingame stated that he did not know that the co-chair of the School Committee had worked out an arrangement with the Board of Canvassers beforehand regarding majority being based on the number of votes as opposed to the number of voters present. Councilor Burlingame commented that this individual's behavior at the ballot machine was a continuation of his arrogant attitude. Councilor Burlingame stated it will be an ongoing problem when you hire

someone like that.

Councilor Sette stated that it would be interesting to survey other school districts in the State to see if they vote at a town meeting or at a referendum. Councilor Sette stated that he believes that most of them have gone the route of the all-day referendum.

Councilor Burlingame pointed out that at a General Election, voters must present an ID. Councilor Burlingame stated that there was some indication that some people that voted at the Financial meeting should not have voted and that will be pursued later.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the video screen displayed a manipulated budget from the Town of Gloucester, adding that the Budget Board has not yet confirmed anything for the Council to approve or disapprove. Councilor W. Steere stated that if we had to have another vote due to the voting machine error, this could have had an effect on the vote. Councilor Burlingame stated that we need to find out who authorized the budget being displayed as part of the presentation, noting that it was a preliminary budget, nothing official.

Ron Cervasio, member of the Regional School Committee, stated that he didn't know that the meeting was going to be shut off and was also unaware about the letter from the individual from the school. R. Cervasio stated once debate was cut off it is the Chairs decision. R. Cervasio stated that if the letter was authorized, it would have been from a School Principal, not the Superintendent, but it will be reviewed. Regarding the Town's budget, R. Cervasio stated that it was obtained from the Attorney General's website and was not manipulated. R. Cervasio stated that at last year's meeting, the chairs of both Boards of Canvassers approached him and stated that they would like to do positive/negative votes. R. Cervasio stated that the Moderator can do whatever he or she wishes concerning the voting method.

Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, stated that he agrees that the meeting was orchestrated to limit comments and pass the budget as quickly as possible. W. Steere, Jr. stated that it takes a two-thirds vote to move a motion and he doesn't know if the moderator realized that. Councilor Burlingame commented that the attorney should have known. W. Steere, Jr. stated that in the past, motions to pass a budget always came from the floor, however at this meeting, it was changed to a reading of the motion by School Committee people. W. Steere, Jr. stated that he doesn't know who has the authority to make these changes.

W. Steere, Jr. spoke regarding Debt Service, stating that there used to be two (2) separate votes taken, Operating Costs and Construction Costs. W. Steere, Jr. noted that they were separate in the Charter because they are figured differently, one by student population and the other by valuations in the Town. W. Steere, Jr. stated that in 2009, it was all combined into one lump sum. W. Steere, Jr. stated that he does not recall the School Committee ever voting to do this and assumes that it was an administrative action. Councilor Burlingame agreed, stating that he argued against it at that meeting in 2009. Councilor Burlingame commented that it was a strategic move on the part of administration to lump them together. W. Steere, Jr. stated that he feels that the School Committee should have some say. Councilor G. Steere stated that he recalls that John Bevilacqua and Brad

Gorham both got up and argued about it.

W. Steere, Jr. stated that he spoke to the attorney prior to the meeting regarding majority vote of those present versus majority of votes cast, and the attorney stated that they are the same thing. W. Steere, Jr. stated that he disagrees, adding that two years ago, there was a note inserted at the bottom of the rules with no adoption. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Charter has control and the attorney cannot vacate the Charter. W. Steere, Jr. stated that the attorney does not know how the District used to run meetings in the past. W. Steere, Jr. commented that it is too complicated to obtain an exact number of people in the room before each vote, but this is what the Charter calls for and to change that, you must go through the process to amend the Charter. Councilor Burlingame stated that it is a point of order and he will not let it go. W. Steere, Jr. agreed that we should look into it.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that unfortunately we do not run the meeting. T. Kane commented that the language in the Charter is clear that it is a majority of voters present, not the majority of votes cast.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he cannot understand how the attorney could say that it is the same thing, adding that the only way it could be the same would be if everybody present got up and voted.

Walter Steere, Jr. stated that just before the meeting, changes were made to the Capital Projects five-year plan. W. Steere, Jr. noted that he was told that the figure may not have been reflected in the Budget that was presented. W. Steere, Jr. stated that they will be spending another \$134,000. Councilor G. Steere asked if they had already submitted the Budget to the State for a certain amount of money. W. Steere, Jr. stated that he does not have enough information to answer.

Councilor Burlingame asked if there is Open Forum at the Region's meetings. W. Steere, Jr. replied that people can speak at the end of the meeting. W. Steere, Jr. stated that he was embarrassed that people were not allowed to talk at the Regional Financial meeting. W. Steere, Jr. commented that after the first vote was taken, the School Committee knew they were going to win, but should have let the people speak. Councilor Burlingame stated that it was a positive sign that 365 people attended and 165 of them voted to cut the Budget. Councilor G. Steere expressed his opinion that most of the people that voted in favor of the Budget were not aware of some of the issues and facts, and maybe would have voted differently if they had known. W. Steere, Jr. replied that most people who attend the meeting know how they are going to vote before they get there, however there should have been an opportunity to speak.

Regarding the previous conversation about combining the Budget numbers, Ron Cervasio, School Committee member, stated that it was former Solicitor Piccirilli's ruling to do so. Concerning the issue of whether the vote is based upon voters present or people who vote, R. Cervasio suggested that Tim Kane and the School Committee's Solicitor talk this out. T. Kane spoke about the attorney questioning the integrity of the Clerk, who was working to bring everything together. T. Kane stated if he treated the Regions Clerk the way their attorney treated the Clerk he wouldn't be here. R. Cervasio stated that he was not present when this occurred.

David LaPlante recommended that the Town push for an all-day referendum for the Regional School Budget. D. LaPlante stated that nothing will change as long as we have the annual financial meeting because they have their game plan in place. D. LaPlante commented that it is absurd the way they treat people. D. LaPlante stated that misinformation was given regarding taxes; someone stated that Glocester is one of the lowest in the State, when we are actually number 13 of 39 cities and towns, and we are the highest taxed rural town in Rhode Island. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council will pursue the all-day referendum. Councilor W. Steere commented that another way to change things is to change the makeup of the people who sit on the School Committee.

Lauren Niedel stated that she was at the meeting and feels that it was ridiculous and was unfair to all who wanted to be heard. L. Niedel suggested that if it is not changed to an all-day referendum, there should be an impartial moderator to lead the meeting and not somebody from the School Committee. L. Niedel referred to the communication sent by a high school employee and stated that it should be made available to everyone in the District, not just parents of students.

George Charette stated that the meeting was a joke and he sympathized with Councilor Burlingame when he was asking legitimate questions but was not given any answers and was told to sit down. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Foster representative and the Business Manager addressed him after he sat down, which was totally out of line.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to send a letter to the Regional School Committee and Superintendent expressing the Council's concerns and summarizing the comments made tonight regarding the Regional Financial Meeting; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- F.     Boards & Commissions - Discussion and/or action
  - 1.     Parade Committee
    - a.     Resignation

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town Clerk has received the resignation of regular member, Christine Bates, from the Parade Committee:

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ACCEPT the resignation of Christine Bates from the Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:           AYES:           W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

The Council thanked Christine Bates for her service on the Parade Committee.

b. Appointment

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Chair would like to make a recommendation for the next Council meeting as the interested volunteer needs to fill out a volunteer form first for the Council to consider.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

G. Request for Use of Senior Center: Community Resource Commission - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received a request for use of the Senior Center for an informational presentation on solar power and new technologies. Councilor W. Steere stated that there will be no solicitation, business cards, etc. allowed at this event, adding that it will be strictly educational. There was Council consensus to allow the use of the Senior Center for this activity, reiterating that advertising will be prohibited.

Councilor W. Steere stated he will inform Linda Nichols, chair of the Community Resource Commission, of the Council's decision as she is not present due to illness.

H. Electronic Waste Disposal (Options or plan going forward) - Discussion and/or action

Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, stated that at this time he is not accepting any televisions at the Transfer Station. G. Treml noted that he has located a company in Cumberland that accepts them and he has disposed of the ones that he had in storage at a cost of \$3,842.00, not including the cost of pallets and shrink-wrap. G. Treml suggested that we stay the way we are and not accept these items until Resource Recovery implements a program to dispose of them. The Council members agreed, stating that people can still get rid of them by taking them directly to Resource Recovery.

X. Council Correspondence/Discussion

A. Councilor Burlingame noted that he has forwarded the Planner's report to the Town Clerk. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Governor's bridge project has pushed back our Route

44 project. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Route 100 project may be completed this year as scheduled. Councilor Burlingame stated that we did not receive any Block Grant money this year and he wondered if it is because we took a position against the toll proposal.

B. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from Jessica Kurtz regarding the Braking AIDS Ride 2016 which will take place on September 23rd. This will be forwarded to the Chief of Police.

C. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Department of Transportation regarding improvements to Route 44. Councilor W. Steere stated that, based on studies conducted, the sidewalks will be eliminated and a left-turn lane into Saw Mill Road will be added.

D. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Emergency Management Agency with regard to grant funding opportunities. This has been forward to the Chief of Police and the EMA Director.

E. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank regarding pooled wastewater bond money which will be available in January, 2017.

#### XI. Department Head Report/Discussion

A. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she has received a notice of a Public Hearing pertaining to the proposed power plant in Burrillville, the Public Hearing will take place at Burrillville High School on Thursday, March 31st. J. Fecteau asked for the Council's opinion regarding whether to post the notice on the Town's website. There was Council consensus to post the notice.

#### XII. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion

A. Greg Agnone, chair of the Budget Board, submitted the final Budget for Council consideration. G. Agnone reviewed several adjustments which resulted from the Town Council/Budget Board workshop of March 3rd. G. Agnone stated that the Budget reflects an increase of 1.81%. Councilor W. Steere stated that there will be a Public Hearing on the proposed Budget on April 16th at which time residents can make comments and suggestions.

G. Agnone noted that an additional \$67,000 was transferred from Surplus to offset some of the Regional School Budget. The Council members thanked the Budget Board for their work.

B. Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, stated that he will ask the Committee at their next meeting to put their share of the Capital Projects, 1.5 million, into a restricted account to ensure that the money will always be there for Capital Projects. W. Steere, Jr. thanked the Town for putting their half in. Councilor W. Steere commented that if the School Committee does not vote to do that, the Council should reconsider our commitment.

XIII. Open Forum

A. Lauren Nidel spoke regarding a bill which was passed by the Senate which states that if a property owner's leaves or pine needles cross over onto a neighbor's property, they could be fined \$500.00. L. Nidel stated that this is the most ridiculous bill she has ever seen and urged people to call their Representatives to express their opinion. L. Nidel also recommended that the Town Council submit a Resolution in opposition to the bill.

L. Nidel stated that the voter registration deadline for the Primary is March 27th and the Police Station will be accepting registrations on that day. L. Nidel also suggested a Code Red notification to remind people of the deadline.

L. Nidel spoke regarding the proposed power plant in Burrillville, stating that it would have a dramatic effect on the quality of life in Glocester with regard to traffic, noise and pollution. L. Nidel stated that she has information regarding the Public Hearing and other meetings that are scheduled.

B. Dave Steere questioned if now that the Council has the proposed Budget, is it a public document and can it be obtained at the Finance Office, along with the School Budget. Council answered in the affirmative.

C. Councilor Sette commented that the film "Pathways", which was shown at the Regional Financial meeting, was produced by a public relations firm at a cost of \$21,000, paid for by the taxpayers.

D. Pat Henry spoke about the Pathways program, stating that it is actually Career and Tech, and she finds it interesting that Ponaganset High School is using a tremendous amount of funds to develop its Career and Tech program. P. Henry stated that Rhode Island has five (5) very sophisticated, well-funded Career and Tech centers. P. Henry stated that the Superintendent has stated that the school has articulation agreements with 47 universities throughout the United States. P. Henry suggested that the Council ask for verification of the facts being pitched by the Superintendent. P. Henry commented that only one foreign language is offered at Ponaganset, yet we are developing Pathways. Councilor Burlingame stated that P. Henry has a good point and asked her if she could put together a request for verification. P. Henry replied that she would be glad to do so.

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 9:29 p.m.; seconded by Councilor

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

MOTION PASSED