

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on December 15, 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; Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Member Absent: William E. Reichert

Also present: Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Karen Scott, Town Planner; and Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to add to the Agenda a presentation by the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 44 from Gloucester; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

Christopher Hebert, Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 44, stated that he is currently working on the rank of Eagle Scout and explained his project which would benefit the community. C. Hebert stated that he chose the Gloucester Food Pantry as he has been volunteering there for several years. C. Hebert stated that he organized a clothing drive with Saver's, a company that pays a certain amount of money for used clothing, calculated by the weight of the clothing. C. Hebert noted that Saver's is an organization that also donates a percentage of their profits to the Big Brother and Big Sister Foundations. C. Hebert stated that the Boy Scouts were able to raise \$1,044 for the Gloucester Food Pantry and presented the Town Council with a check for that amount.

Councilor W. Steere, on behalf of the Town Council, thanked C. Hebert for his efforts, stating that this will help many people, especially this time of year.

Myles Beltram, Troop 44 Committee Chair, spoke to the Council regarding all Eagle Scout projects performed by Troop 44 over the past year. In addition, M. Beltram stated that Troop 44 performed two community service projects:

Scouting for Food, which benefitted the Gloucester Food Pantry and the Chepachet Union Church Food Pantry, and the cleanup of Chestnut Hill Road.

M. Beltram noted that the 11 Eagle Scout projects and community service projects totaled in excess of 1,000 hours of community service performed by Troop 44 Gloucester. M. Beltram thanked the Town Council for their continued support and stated that they look forward to performing more service projects as the younger Scouts move up the ranks.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town Council would like to thank the leaders and the members of Troop 44 for their hard work and dedication to the community.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items
None.

V. Resolution #2016-19

A. In Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol
Councilor W. Steere stated that we have a resolution supporting the 75th Anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol, Rhode Island Wing. Councilor G. Steere read the following into the record:

**Resolution # 2016-19
In Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol**

WHEREAS, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) was founded on December 1, 1941, to supplement the US military during World War II; and

WHEREAS, in 1948 CAP was designated as the US Air Force's official auxiliary with three missions; emergency services, cadet programs and aerospace education; and

WHEREAS, Since CAP's beginning, the organization has set itself apart during the country's most tumultuous times: Locating enemy submarines during World War II, assisting rescuers and State agencies immediately following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, heavily supporting hurricane relief efforts in 2005, 2008, and 2012 and in response to the Gulf Coast oil spill in 2010, as well as aiding communities during other natural disasters, such as floods, wildfires, ice storms and tornadoes; and

WHEREAS, CAP further provides vital homeland security missions that help ensure the protection of the nation's capital and the nation as a whole by assisting Air Force pilots and the military with target-intercept training and acquiring distant targets; and

WHEREAS, CAP's Aerospace Education Program annually touches more than 1,800 educators, over 150,000 youths, cadets and others in classrooms across America, teaching multi-disciplinary aviation concepts that emphasize aviation's connection to history, math, science, government and economics;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Town Council of the Town of Gloucester, do hereby commend CAP for its "75 years of Missions for America" and its outstanding cadet and aerospace programs, which annually touches many lives and ensures the safety of thousands of American citizens ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Gloucester Town Council encourages all Rhode Islanders to support the important work and dedication of the Rhode Island Wing, Civil Air Patrol, based in Quonset, Rhode Island.

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

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to move Item IX. A. R.I. Dept. of Transportation, Discussion and/or action, to this point of the agenda; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

- A. R. I. Dept. of Transportation - Discussion and/or action
 - 1. Project Updates/Discussion

Councilor W. Steere stated that representatives from the R. I. Department of Transportation are present to discuss plans and answer questions regarding the roundabout in the center of the village.

Steve Soderlund, Project Manager in charge of this project, stated that construction is scheduled to begin in March of 2017 with completion expected in the Spring of 2018. S. Soderlund stated that the construction budget is just over \$1.2 million. S. Soderlund asked if the Council members had any questions.

Councilor Burlingame asked if that includes taking down the gas station. S. Soderlund replied in the affirmative. Councilor Burlingame asked if the unused portion of the property will be deeded to the Town, as was previously discussed. S. Soderlund replied that he is not aware of this but will look into it.

There was discussion regarding the placement of the ornamental street lights. Councilor G. Steere stated that they are too close to the curb and have been damaged by snow plows. Councilor

Burlingame agreed, stating that we were told that this is the design standard. Councilor Burlingame noted that in Smithfield and Scituate, the design standard suddenly changed and the poles were placed further from the curb. Councilor W. Steere requested that they be placed on the back end of the sidewalk, away from the curb. Councilor Burlingame commented that we are responsible for the cost of replacing damaged poles. Councilor G. Steere pointed out that it will be more of a problem in the circle than it is on the straightaway. S. Soderlund stated that he understands and will do what he can.

Councilor Sette asked for the time line again. S. Soderlund stated that the project will go out to bid in January, and the procurement period is usually 60 days. S. Soderlund stated that they are hoping for a notice to proceed in March. S. Solderlund noted that utility work is driving the project and most of the work will be done by next winter.

Lauren Niedel, resident, inquired if anything will be put in for bike riders. S. Soderlund replied in the negative. Tom Cunningham, D.O.T., stated that there will be a shared roadway concept. Councilor W. Steere asked if it will be a single lane roundabout. The response was yes.

James Houghton asked about traffic during construction. S. Soderlund replied that they are planning three (3) phases of construction with the majority of it will being done at night so it should not interfere with daily traffic.

Councilor G. Steere asked if there will be raised islands on the approach on all three (3) sides. S. Soderland replied in the affirmative.

2. Construction & Maintenance Agreement (for the improvements to Routes 44/102/100, including the roundabout, between Town of Gloucester & R.I.D.O.T.) - Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign an agreement titled: Improvements to Route 44 - Contract 3E, Route 44/102/100 Intersection - Roundabout, Gloucester, Rhode Island, RIFAP No: F-0044(007) RI Contract No: 84109 B, Construction and Maintenance Agreement by and between the State of Rhode and the Town of Gloucester, to be dated December 15, 2016; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: The D.O.T. representatives present stated (from their seats in the audience) that due to a late engineering adjustment, the light poles will be placed at the back, away from the road.

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

MOTION PASSED

- VI. Public Hearing
- A. Gloucester Code of Ordinance

1. Proposed Amendment to Chapter 350-46 Solar Facilities
Proposed Repeal & Replacement of Text (To define performance standards for the siting and design of solar facilities based on size and to include an amendment to Section 350, Attachment #1, Table of Use Regulations)

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised on December 1st, 8th & 15th, 2016 in the Valley Breeze/Observer.

Councilor W. Steere **DECLARED** the Public Hearing Open and read the following into the record:

To: Town Council Members

From: Karen Scott, Town Planner

Date: December 7, 2016

RE: Advisory Opinion, Solar Facilities Zoning Ordinance Revision

At their December 5, 2016, the Planning Board unanimously approved the attached Advisory Opinion to be forwarded to the Town Council for consideration as part of the December 15, 2016 public hearing.

I also plan to attend that meeting to answer any questions you may have.

**Solar Facilities Zoning Ordinance Revision
Advisory Opinion of the Planning Board
December 5, 2016**

At their December 5, 2016 meeting, Planning Board Vice Chairman David Calderara made the following motion:

After careful consideration and discussion at the September 19, 2016 and October 17, 2016 Workshop meetings and the November 7, 2016 regular meeting, the Gloucester Planning Board hereby recommends that the Town Council enact revisions to the Gloucester Zoning Ordinance as detailed in the attached Draft Section 350-46, Solar Facilities Zoning Ordinance revision, dated 11/09/16 attached hereto. Said revisions further define performance standards for the siting and design of solar facilities based on size. The Board recommendation in this regard is based upon the following Findings of Fact Relating to Consistency with the Gloucester Comprehensive Community Plan and Purposes of Zoning per RIGL Title 45 Chapter 24, 'the Zoning Enabling Act of 1991' as noted below.

Findings of Fact

Consistency with the Comprehensive Community Plan

1. The proposed amendments are consistent with Goal 1 of the Land Use Element: Preserve, enhance and protect Gloucester's rural character and sense of place.

2. The proposed amendments are consistent with Goal 2 of the Land Use Element: Encourage responsible land use decisions by public officials and public bodies.
3. The proposed amendments are consistent with Goal 1 of the Economic Development Element: Allow for future economic development to occur that does not conflict with or degrade the desirable attributes of the Town and that help to sustain the Gloucester Vision.
4. The proposed amendments are consistent with the following implementation item under recommendation 4h of the Land Use Element: Establish zoning, subdivision and/or land development regulations that consider site-specific and area wide environmental impacts resulting from any land development proposal.
5. The proposed amendments are consistent with the following implementation item under recommendation 4f of the Natural Resources section of the Natural and Cultural Resources Element: Consider the adoption of the following natural resources protection standards in Zoning - design requirements for all land uses to preserve the natural resources through limits to site disturbances and enhancement actions such as plantings and aesthetics.

Consistency with the Purposes of Zoning

The Planning Board finds that the proposed zoning amendments are consistent with the following general purposes of zoning ordinances per RIGL § 45-24-30:

1. Promoting the public health, safety and general welfare.
2. Providing for a range of uses and intensities of use appropriate to the character of the city or town and reflecting current and expected future needs.
3. Providing for orderly growth and development which recognizes:
 - (i) The goals and patterns of land use contained in the comprehensive plan of the city or town adopted pursuant to chapter 22.2 of this title;
4. Providing for the protection of the natural, historic, cultural, and scenic character of the city or town or areas in the municipality.

In making this recommendation, the Board has considered the following:

1. Discussions held at the September 19, 2016 and October 17, 2016 Workshop meetings and the November 7, 2016 regular meeting; and
2. Solar facilities ordinances from other Rhode Island municipalities, and nearby states;

The motion was seconded by Lynn Furney. Motion was unanimously approved. Ayes - (Charette, Calderara, Furney, Pitocco, Folcarelli, Gross)
(end of memo)

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone wished to be heard regarding this Ordinance amendment.

Discussion: Karen Scott, Town Planner, explained that the Zoning Ordinance amendment is in response to the Town Council request to revisit the Town's current regulations related to solar facilities. K. Scott stated that this would repeal the current section in its entirety and replace it with brand new language. K. Scott stated in drafting these regulations, she and the Town Solicitor

reviewed solar facility regulations for several towns similar to Gloucester, including Burrillville, Foster and North Smithfield.

K. Scott reviewed some of the key changes, stating that this draft ordinance breaks down solar facilities into three (3) sizes; small, medium and large:

Small facilities are up to 25 kilowatts and are those typically found on a house and are still allowed, by right, in all zones.

Medium solar installations, those up to 249 kilowatts, are permitted by right in all zones except the village center district. Medium facilities would be subject to performance standards and would be required to be reviewed by the Planning Board as major land development projects. This would require public notice twice, once as a Public Hearing and once as a Public Meeting.

Large solar installations would be from 250 kilowatts up to 5 megawatts and would be allowed by Special Use Permit in all zones except for the village center district, subject to performance standards. Large facilities would be reviewed by the Planning Board as a major land development project and by the Zoning Board for the Special Use Permit, entailing notice to abutting property owners at least three (3) times, once for a Public Meeting, once for a Public Hearing and again for the Zoning Board hearing for the Special Use Permit.

K. Scott stated that no facilities over 5 megawatts would be permitted in Gloucester.

Councilor Burlingame asked how many acres would 5 megawatts cover. K. Scott replied that there is somebody from the industry present who would be able to give a more accurate answer. The response was 20 acres. K. Scott stated that the performance standards for medium and large installations are a lot more detailed than the previous ordinance.

K. Scott explained that performance standards for both medium and large installations would cover height (12 feet for ground mounted, maximum height in district for roof mounted), setbacks (same as zoning, except for large installations which would require a 200 foot setback from any roadway), lot coverage (20% in A-4, A-3 and R-2 zones and lot coverage to match existing zoning in the commercial and industrial zones), site preparation (prohibiting the clear cutting of property for solar projects), lighting, noise (40 decibels at the property line), distribution lines (underground), security fencing (6' chain link around the perimeter), emergency access, signage, siting and screening (20 foot vegetated buffer from all adjacent properties and roadways with a minimum height of 6 feet at planting), abandonment, decommissioning, failure to remove and financial surety.

K. Scott proposed two (2) technical corrections: the first would be in the *Purpose*, taking out the word "ground-mounted". Second, in the *Performance Standards*, under *Siting and Screening*, K. Scott stated that they want to add the language "at planting" in reference to the 6 ft. height of buffer screening. K. Scott asked the Council members if they had any questions.

Councilor Sette asked if the lot coverage includes any buffer area. K. Scott replied that the lot coverage only includes the structures.

Councilor Burlingame referred to the A-4 zone, stating that the ordinance states that structures shall not exceed a maximum lot coverage of 20% of land suitable for development. Councilor Burlingame asked if that means if you have a 5 acre lot, you can't use any more than one acre for a solar facility. K. Scott replied in the affirmative and noted that the current lot coverage in A-4 is 4%, which is felt to be very restrictive.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he has been reading about the subject and in upstate New York, they are having issues with farms being totally plastered with solar panels. K. Scott stated that they looked at many neighboring municipalities, some that are more generous with their lot coverage and some that are more restrictive.

Councilor Sette spoke about major development plan review, asking if the Planning Board can put additional restrictions for any developments that may come up. K. Scott replied that if someone came in for a medium size development and they were not going for a Special Use Permit, the Planning Board would likely not be able to add restrictions, if the performance standards are met. K. Scott stated that if someone applies for a Special Use Permit for a larger facility, the Zoning Board has the flexibility to be a little more restrictive.

Councilor G. Steere referred to the 20 foot vegetative buffer, asking if this means trees planted to a 20 foot depth, or one row of trees to cover 20 feet. Councilor G. Steere stated that this needs to be defined. K. Scott replied that a 20 foot row of trees would not meet the standard. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Planning Board put a lot of work into this ordinance, but we need to be careful because we have received calls about the facility in Harmony, that it is so close to the road. Councilor G. Steere stated that this ordinance allows medium size installations in the Village Overlay District, which means the lot at the corner of Route 100 and 102 could be covered with solar panels.

Councilor Sette pointed out that the requirements were not applied to the facility in Harmony. Councilor G. Steere stated that the 200 foot setback is only required for large installations. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that we had discussion at the last Planning Board meeting, and it is a difficult decision with regard to the medium size. Councilor G. Steere stated that his brother has one that is 450 feet off the road and we still get complaints about it because you can see it.

Councilor Burlingame brought up the site preparation, stating that the ordinance states that forested areas shall not be cleared for the purpose of installing solar installations. Councilor Burlingame pointed out that Steve Kopeski had to clear the land behind his store to put in his facility. Councilor G. Steere commented that by not allowing them in forested areas, we are leaving ourselves open to people putting them right next to the road. Councilor Burlingame stated that if these installations are going to go in open space and fields, they will be very visible from the road. Councilor Burlingame felt that we are potentially setting ourselves up for a problem. Councilor Burlingame further stated that he would not like to see one in the Overlay District.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that an option would be to consider anything over 26 KW a large facility, which would require a 200 foot setback and would have to go to the Zoning Board for a Special Use Permit.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone wished to be heard regarding this amendment.

- A. George Charette, Planning Board chair, stated that the Council's discussion has eliminated some of its reservations regarding this matter. G. Charette noted that he is not against solar but is leery of seeing the natural characteristics of Gloucester change. G. Charette stated that when the proposal was first brought up in January of 2014, he thought the solar panels were just going on people's roofs. G. Charette stated that he is not in favor of solar installations in the Village Overlay District.

Councilor Burlingame asked G. Charette why he did not include his concerns when he put together the Planning Board's proposal for the Council. Councilor Burlingame stated that the suggestions made to the Town Planner and the Town Solicitor will address many of these concerns. Councilor Burlingame stated that we can't say we don't want solar because we don't like it.

- B. Scott Milnes, of the Econox Group Inc., stated that his company has built most of the projects in Town and explained that there were underlying issues with one which made it necessary to build it close to the road. S. Milnes noted that if this ordinance was in place, most of the installations in Town would not have been built due to the fact that forested areas could not be cleared. S. Milnes suggested that we allow a percentage of the trees to be cleared. T. Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the Council is considering getting rid of the tree-cutting prohibition and modifying the language to say only as much trees and vegetation necessary for the installation of the system. There was further discussion regarding lot coverage and site preparation.

S. Milnes spoke about size definitions, stating that we may want to think about segmenting them out to have more control over the larger installations. Councilor Burlingame agreed, stating that the jump from 250 kilowatts to 5 megawatts is too big and there should be something in between. T. Kane stated that the sizes relate to the review process, so when it is over 250 a Special Use Permit is required. Councilor G. Steere stated that maybe we should not allow anything over 2 megawatts.

S. Milnes spoke about financial surety, suggesting that bond and surety not be required for small installations (25 to 250 kilowatts). S. Milnes stated that some ordinances (other communities) state that, after a certain number of days, if a facility is not operating, it must be taken down or the Town will take it down and charge the owner. Councilor W. Steere expressed his opinion that the Town does not want to be involved in taking them down.

Regarding the possible requirement for a noise study, S. Milnes noted that solar facilities do not generate any noise. T. Kane pointed out that it says "may require" and if the applicant

testifies under oath that there will be no noise, the Planning Board may not require a study.

- C. Jim Houghton, of Jackson Schoolhouse Road, stated that the big sites sound totally ridiculous. J. Houghton stated that he moved to Gloucester because of trees and wildlife and he feels that taking down 20 acres of land would wipe out habitat. J. Houghton stated that we should have a cap on the number of solar systems that can be built in the Town. J. Houghton stated that he likes the way the Town is now and doesn't want to see it change. Regarding the surety bond, J. Houghton stated that if the company goes bankrupt they won't pay, but if we get it up front, it's already paid for should we need to remove it.

Councilor W. Steere commented that there is a lot to think about here and he would like the time to think about the points brought up. T. Kane stated that we don't want to take too much time for obvious reasons. Councilor Burlingame stated that he feels that the Council should put something in now, taking into consideration the comments made tonight, and if we need to fine tune it later on, we can do that. T. Kane pointed out that the large facilities have to go before the Zoning Board for a Special Use Permit, which has a four or five part criteria.

The Council reviewed the changes to be made to the proposed Ordinance amendment.

Councilor G. Steere stated, in general, the Council feels that the medium and large should not be allowed in the overlay or the center districts.

With regard to forested areas, Councilor G. Steere stated that there is nothing to stop somebody from going to DEM and getting a permit to clear-cut three (3) acres, then a year later coming in and putting up an acre of solar panels.

(Scott Milnes, of the Econox Group Inc. spoke from his seat, inaudible on tape.)

After discussion (including S. Milnes), there was Council consensus to change the percentage of clearing to 40%.

Tim Kane listed the proposed changes as follows:

1. Under Section A, we would delete the words "ground mounted" in the first sentence.
2. Under Section H, we would add a sentence to subparagraph 2 stating "medium solar installations shall be set back at least 150 feet from any roadway".
3. Section H, subparagraph 4, Site Preparation, would read "no more than 40% of forested areas shall be cleared for the purpose of installing solar installations."
4. Section H, subparagraph 11, would be clarified that the planting would be a minimum of six (6) feet at planting.

5. The Land Use Table would be amended to state that medium and large would not be permitted in the Village District and the Center District.

Scott Milnes stated that if it is a net-metered project on the roof of a building, the Council may want to consider this with regard to surety.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone else wished to be heard regarding these proposed changes.

Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

Motion was made by Councilor Sette to **ADOPT**, with changes suggested by the Town Planner and Town Solicitor, the amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Repeal & Replacement of Text: Section 350, Section 46, Solar Facilities, effective upon passage; in granting this motion the Town Council adopts the findings of the Planning Board as to consistency with the Gloucester Comprehensive Plan; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council regular meeting minutes of November 17th and December 1st, 2016
- B. Tax Additions & Abatements - November 2016
- C. Finance Director's Report - November 2016

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPROVE the Town Council meeting minutes of November 17, 2016 & December 1, 2016; No Additions & Abatements for the month of November, 2016; and to APPROVE the Finance Director's Report for November, 2016; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette
(Councilor Sette recused himself from Town Council minutes of 11/17/16.)

NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards & Commission
 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Senior Center Board of Directors

One five year term to expire 10/2021

Councilor W. Steere stated that a past talent bank applicant was contacted and indicated they are no longer interested. There were no other recommendations.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Senior Center Board of Directors for one five year term to expire 10/2021; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Budget Board

One three year term to expire 01/2018

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone on the Council has a recommendation. Since there were none, there was Council consensus to advertise for candidates for this position and positions on other Boards and Commissions.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board for one three year term to expire 01/2018 and to AUTHORIZE the Town Clerk to advertise for volunteers; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

A. R. I. Dept. of Transportation - Discussion and/or action

- 1. Project Updates/Discussion
- 2. Construction & Maintenance Agreement (for the improvements to Routes 44/102/100, including the roundabout, between Town of Gloucester & R.I.D.O.T.) - Discussion and/or action

Items IX A. 1 and 2 were addressed earlier in the meeting.

B. Boards & Commissions

1. Resignations

a. Board of Tax Assessment Review

One six year term to expire 12/2020

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Tom Cash from the Board of Tax Assessment Review, effective January 1, 2017.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to ACCEPT, with regret, the resignation of Thomas J. Cash from the Board of Tax Assessment Review for a six year term to expire 12/2020; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Steere noted that the Tax Assessor's Board of Assessment Review will not have a quorum if there are any additional resignations. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that in January, Bob Balme does not wish to be reappointed. J. Fecteau stated that she will include this board in the advertisement.

C. Authorization for Signature

1. R.I. Infrastructure Bank & Town of Gloucester

Community Septic System Loan Program

Terms of Funding (for additional funds) as of 12/15/2016

Councilor W. Steere stated that on August 18, 2016 the Council passed Resolution #2016-16 requesting an additional allocation of \$300,000 be reserved for use by our residents as part of the Community Septic System Loan Program. Councilor W. Steere stated this item on the agenda is for the terms of funding for that additional funding.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere asked if this program has any connection to HUD. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, replied in the negative.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the R.I. Infrastructure Bank Community Septic System Loan Program, Terms of Funding Application (for the amount of \$300,000), which will be dated with an Accepted date of December 15, 2016 ; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere asked T. Kane if he must recuse himself because he installs septic systems. T. Kane replied in the negative because this is not directed at one particular person.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

D. Personnel

1. Appointments

a. Police Officer Recruit Appointment

Councilor W. Steere read the following memo into the record:

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
Date: December 6, 2016
Subj: Police Officer Recruit Appointment
Cc: Diane Brennan, Personnel Director

Dear Council Members:

I would respectfully request to appoint Cody Beaudette, of Cumberland to the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy commencing on Monday January 9, 2017. This appointment is contingent on the successful passing of the town employment physical examination.

His Rhode Municipal Training Academy salary will be \$500.00 per week until May 26, 2017, with single medical coverage provided by the Town of Gloucester on January 1, 2017 with 15 per cent copay as outlined in the IBPO collective bargaining agreement. After successful completion of the R.I. Municipal Academy he will be granted a one year probationary police officer position with the Gloucester Police Department with a salary of \$49,241.46 and benefits, and also to include any changes that may occur with the upcoming 2016-2017 IBPO local #638 contractual agreement.

This appointment is necessary to fill an anticipated police officer vacancy in the next several months.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph DelPrete
(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to APPOINT Cody Beaudette to the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy commencing on Monday, January 9, 2017, terms of employment as follows: Training Academy salary will be \$500.00 per week until May 26, 2017, with single medical coverage provided by the Town of Gloucester on January 1, 2017 at a 15% copay as outlined in the IBPO collective bargaining agreement, upon successful completion of the Academy a one year probationary police officer position will be granted with the Police Department at a salary of \$49,241.46 with benefits, to include any changes that may occur with the upcoming 2016-2017 IBPO local #638 contractual agreement; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- X. Town Council Correspondence and/or Discussion
 - A. Councilor W. Steere thanked Councilor Sette for his service on the Town Council as his term comes to a close. Councilor W. Steere commented that the Council has had a

good working relationship and noted that there are some very serious Town-changing decisions which will have to be made over the next few years. Councilor Sette replied that it has been a pleasure to be part of this Council for quite a few years, adding that he has seen a lot of changes in the Town since he first began to serve.

- B. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received correspondence from DEM regarding Tree City USA Certification.
- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that we received an update from DOT regarding projects.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received a reminder from the Trust concerning the deadline for the Safety Enhancement Grant applications.
- E. Councilor W. Steere stated that we received correspondence from the RI League of Cities and Towns regarding tipping fees for 2017 and 2018. Councilor W. Steere stated that RI Resource Recovery will phase in the increases over the two year period. There was Council discussion regarding pay-as-you-throw programs, curbside trash pickup and charging for stickers.

XI. Department Head Reports/Discussion

- A. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she was contacted by a business owner in the Village who would like to install, at her own expense, a waste receptacle near the parking area. J. Fecteau state that she will put the person in touch with Gary Trembl, Public Works Director, so he can advise where to place it so it doesn't get in the way of mowing.

XII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/Discussion

None.

XIII. Open Forum

- A. George Charette, as a member of the Kent Property Commission, thanked the Council for accomplishing something with that property. Councilor G. Steere thanked G. Charette for all of his help and commented that it was G. Charette who got things rolling.
- B. Lauren Niedel, resident, stated that she has been working with people in Burrillville to stop the proposed power plant and notified the Council that Woonsocket is having a meeting on January 6th concerning the sale of water to Invenegy. L. Niedel stated that it would be great if a member of the Council could attend because if the power plant is built, it will have a major impact on Glocester. L. Niedel also recommended that anyone against the power plant should call the Mayor of Woonsocket and the City Council to voice their opinion.

XIV. MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) Collective Bargaining: Contract Negotiations; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XV. Reconvene Open Session (Disclose votes taken in Executive Session)

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session & Disclose that no votes were taken; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to ADJOURN at 10:05 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED