

At a meeting of the Gloucester Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on February 2, 2017:

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

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

Also present: Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Susan Harris, Deputy 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 recited.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he wishes to add an item to the Agenda. Councilor G. Steere explained that there has been established a Special Legislative Commission to study the Low and Moderate Income Housing Act formed by the State and its compliance by cities and towns. Councilor G. Steere stated that this Commission is looking for input by February 16th, which is two (2) weeks from today. Councilor G. Steere stated that he had asked to have this on the Agenda, but it was omitted in error. Councilor G. Steere asked for a Motion to add discussion on the Low and Moderate Income Housing Act, how it applies to Gloucester and what actions our Town can take to relieve some of the burden this Act has brought. Councilor G. Steere stated that if the Council can come to a consensus on how to participate with our options, we can have a vote to ratify our actions at the next Council meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADD to the Agenda discussion regarding the Low and Moderate Income Housing Act, how it applies to Gloucester and what actions our Town can take to relieve some of the burden this Act has brought; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry

NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, asked when this discussion will be taken up. Councilor G. Steere replied it will be Item G., at the end of New Business.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

A. Approval of Town Council regular meeting minutes of January 19, 2017

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the approval of Town Council minutes of January 19, 2017; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Boards & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action

a. Gloucester Housing Authority

One 5-yr term to expire 07/2017

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Clerk's Office reached out to the Chair of the Housing Authority for their recommendation but the Chair is away until after tonight's meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE THE APPOINTMENT TO the Gloucester Housing Authority for a 5-year term to expire 7/2017; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

b. Board of Tax Assessment Review

One 6-yr term to expire 12/2022

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT George Kain to the Board of Tax Assessment Review for a 6-year term to expire 12/2022; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Boards & Commissions - Terms concurrent with Town Council- Discussion and/or action

1. Personnel Board - Two expired terms

Councilor G. Steere stated that at the last meeting it was discussed that Councilor Burlingame would meet with the HR Director to discuss the charge of this board going forward.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he and the HR Director have not been able to come to a resolution on this matter and asked that it be tabled for one more month.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE until the next Council meeting the appointments for two expired terms to the Personnel Board; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Recreation Commission - Five expired terms

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Clerk has been working with Councilor Henry to clarify the make up of this board. Councilor G. Steere stated that we must first establish how many seats are available, noting that according to the current Chair, Kevin Leahy, the only two members are himself and Stephen Alexander. Councilor G. Steere stated that if Council and the Chair have reason to believe the other members are no longer interested those positions should be declared vacant before Council appoints new members.

Councilor Henry stated that she called Martha Huston but her phone was disconnected and it appears that she has moved away. Councilor Henry further stated that she has left several messages for William Elderkin, but has not gotten a reply. Councilor Henry stated that she has spoken with Kevin Leahy and Stephen Alexander, both of whom wish to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to VACATE position #2 (William Elderkin) & position #4 (Martha Huston) from the Recreation Commission; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to REAPPOINT Kevin Leahy & Stephen Alexander to the Recreation Commission and to APPOINT Thomas Lemos & Crystal Charbonneau to the Recreation Commission for terms to expire 1/2019; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: Councilor Henry stated that she interviewed both Tom Lemos and Crystal Charbonneau and feels that they are qualified to serve on the Recreation Commission. Councilor Henry noted that there is still one (1) vacancy on the Commission that they are working on.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to TABLE the appointment to the 5th position on the Recreation Commission; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

3. Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission - Three expired terms & Two Alternate terms

Councilor G. Steere stated that at the last meeting the following were appointed: Joel Gates, Jena Degre, Arthur Santoro and Roy Anderton. Councilor G. Steere stated that three more regular terms and 2 alternate positions are still open.

Councilor Burlingame stated that this is a Commission that should not be spending taxpayer money and should just be advisory. Councilor Burlingame stated that they should not be budgeted anything. Councilor Burlingame expressed his opinion that a Community Resource Commission should be a community effort with involvement of members of the community. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council needs to reassess this Board as to whether it is doing what the Council intended it to do. Councilor Burlingame asked to table these appointments until the next Town Council meeting.

Regarding the Budget, Councilor W. Steere stated that in the past, the Community Resource Commission has advertised the Energy Saving Lighting Fairs that they have held at the Senior Center. Councilor W. Steere also pointed out that we are already two (2) months into the year, so we should give them a charge so they can get going. Councilor Burlingame agreed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE until the next meeting the appointments to the Community Resource & Wastewater Advisory Commission for three expired two year terms to expire 1/2019; and two Alternate members for one year terms to expire 1/2018; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

4. Affordable Housing Advisory Board - (1) Two year term

Councilor Burlingame stated that this is another significant Board in light of what is happening now with regard to Affordable Housing. Councilor Burlingame explained that the charge of this Board is to provide input to the Planning Board so we could achieve our goals toward Affordable Housing. Councilor Burlingame stated that we have not met our goal of 10% and now have a problem to address. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council needs to look at the charge of

this Board.

Councilor G. Steere stated that there are currently four (4) members on the Board and one (1) vacancy. Councilor G. Steere noted that they have not met recently. Councilor W. Steere commented that the Planning Board and Town Planner have put a lot of work into this matter and they could use the help. Councilor G. Steere suggested that the current members be contacted to see if they are even interested in meeting. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the current members have indicated that they wish to continue to serve on the Board.

Councilor Henry asked who is the Council liaison to this Board. Councilor W. Steere replied that he is the liaison and will speak to the members to find out when their next regular meeting will be.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Affordable Housing Advisory Board for a two year term to expire 1/2019; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
 NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. New Business

- A. Boards & Commissions - Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - 1. Conservation Commission
 - One Alternate term to expire 2/2018

Councilor G. Steere stated that this position is for the expired term of Alternate Richard Perry. But the Clerk has received a note from Mr. Perry stating that he does not wish to be reappointed.

Councilor Henry stated that she was present at the Conservation Commission meeting this evening and stated that Michael Ahnrud, chair, has asked that this appointment be tabled until he has an opportunity to review the Talent Bank applications.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to TABLE THE APPOINTMENT TO the Conservation Commission for the one year Alternate term to expire 2/2018; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
 NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Land Trust
One five year term to expire 2/2022
One Member at Large term to expire 2/2018 (Planning Board)
One Member at Large term to expire 2/2018 (Conservation Commission)

Councilor G. Steere stated that these positions are all expired terms. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Clerk's Office has reached out and it appears all want to be reappointed. Councilor G. Steere stated the designee from the Planning Board and from the Conservation Commission have been or will be recommended by a vote of their board.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to REAPPOINT Rebecca Schultz to the Land Trust for a five year term to expire 2/2022; to REAPPOINT Janine Pitocco to the Land Trust as the Member at Large, Planning Board designee for a term to expire 2/2018; and to REAPPOINT Roy Najecki to the Land Trust as the Member at Large, Conservation Commission designee for a term to expire 2/2018; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

3. Historic District Commission
One Alternate term to expire 11/2017

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Clerk has received a recommendation from the Chair of this Commission to appoint Marjorie Swift to this alternate position.

Councilor Henry stated that she attended the Historic District Commission meeting at which Marjorie Swift was interviewed and noted that she has a great background in interior design.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to APPOINT Marjorie Swift to the Historic District Commission to an Alternate, one year term, to expire 1/2018; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

- B. Gloucester Community Septic System Loan Program - Discussion and/or action
 1. Resolution (Additional program funding)Councilor Burlingame read the following Resolution into the record:

RESOLUTION 2017-01
Community Septic System Loan Program

WHEREAS, the Town of Gloucester has entered into a Loan Agreement, since 2001, with the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency, now known as **Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank**, under the Community Septic System Loan Program (CSSLP) to provide town residents loans greater than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) at an interest rate of zero percent 0 to the Town, a one percent (1%) Service Fee on the outstanding balance of the homeowner's loan and a one-time Loan Origination Fee of three hundred dollars (\$300.000) payable to Rhode Island Housing and Finance Corporation (RIHMFC); and

WHEREAS, this loan program is administered through RIHMFC Finance Corporation and the Town of Gloucester in order to assist property owners in Gloucester who are required to either repair or replace failing or failed septic systems and cesspools in compliance with loan criteria to the program; and

WHEREAS, the Town has almost depleted the original allocation of \$300,000 and has now secured an additional reserve of \$300,000; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gloucester has submitted an ONSITE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN to the Department of Environmental Management and such a plan has been approved; and

WHEREAS, such approval is a prerequisite for participation in CSSLP.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following criteria, which is -the original agreed upon criteria that has been amended over time, shall be applied to the loans administered by RIHMFC:

1. The maximum amount of the loan shall be fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) and may include applicable one time fees for processing the loan.
2. The loan term shall be up to a maximum of ten (10) years.
3. There will be no prepayment penalty.
4. The debt to income ratio shall be no higher than forty-five percent (45%).
5. The borrower must be current with all obligations to the Town of Gloucester at the time of application.
6. A failed system is defined by current DEM Regulations and the Gloucester Wastewater Management Ordinance. For purposes of accessing loan funds, all cesspools will be considered failed systems.
7. The loan is for repair or replacement of substandard individual sewage disposal systems and cannot be used for home improvements, additions or remodeling or other uses that require increased sewage handling capacity to include but not limited to conversion from summer to year- round use.
8. Under the existing CSSLP provisions, group or cluster septic system projects are not allowed nor are commercially owned property projects.
9. Priority of funding will generally be to failed systems first.
10. Property owners must solicit bids from a licensed and insured contractor and the work will conform to all applicable federal, state and local laws and ordinances.
11. Funds will be available after a certificate of conformance is issued by the DEM.
12. In addition to systems installed under the Agreement, applications for loans under

this program may be approved for systems installed up to six (6) months prior to the date of the loan becoming available to qualifying residents.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; The Town Council authorizes the Town Council President and the Finance Director to execute any and all documents necessary for application to participate in the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank's Community Septic System Loan Program including the request for a non-restoring line of credit in the amount of \$300,000 for the initial establishment and operation of the program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, This Resolution shall become effective upon passage.

George O. Steere, Jr.
Glocester Town Council President
Dated this 2nd day of February 2017
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
 NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Authorization for Signature - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Loan Agreement - Between the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank & the Town of Glocester

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Solicitor has reviewed and forwarded the loan agreement for the additional funds to be used for the Community Septic System Loan Program.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE The Town Council President to sign the Loan Agreement between the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank & the Town of Glocester, dated February 2, 2017, in the amount of \$300,000 between the R.I. Infrastructure Bank and the Town of Glocester; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
 NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Non-Restoring Line of Credit Promissory Note in the amount of \$300,000.00

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Solicitor has reviewed and forwarded the completed promissory note for the additional funds to be used for the Community Septic System Loan Program.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE The Town Council President to sign

the Non-Restoring Line of Credit Promissory Note, dated February 2, 2017, in the amount of \$300,000 between the R.I. Infrastructure Bank and the Town of Gloucester; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Authorization for Signature - Discussion and/or action

1. Cooperative Agreement between Grow Smart Rhode Island & the Town of Gloucester (re: an offer to assist with research & ordinance proposals on objectives chosen by the Town)

Councilor G. Steere explained that this item is for the Cooperative Agreement from the Planner regarding the Grow Smart RI assistance, which has been reviewed by the Planner and the Solicitor for Council's approval and signing.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the agreement entitled "Cooperative Agreement between Grow Smart Rhode Island and the Town of Gloucester, Rhode Island" to be dated February 2, 2017; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere noted that there was much discussion at the last meeting and although the Council was leery about getting involved in this, the agreement is limited to two (2) subjects chosen by the Town and we are under no obligation to adopt the findings that come forward.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

D. Abandoned Properties (Bank owned) - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Henry spoke regarding an abandoned bank-owned property at 15 Dorr Drive, stating that it is in the Historic District and it is a shame that it is in such a state of disrepair. Councilor Henry stated that we are in the process of putting in a beautiful pavilion next to this historic building that is about to fall down. Councilor Henry stated that she was given a file by the Building Official and has been investigating the situation and feels that she has made some headway. Councilor Henry stated that a letter in the file dated January, 2015 was addressed to Wells Fargo and Litton Loan Servicing, so she called both companies but was unsuccessful in speaking to anyone. Councilor Henry asked the Tax Collector who is paying the taxes on the property, to which the Collector replied "Ocwen", a loan servicing company that replaced Litton. Councilor Henry stated

that she made many calls and was referred to Alti Source, the company that is responsible for maintaining the property. Councilor Henry stated that she was assured that work order is in place and work is scheduled to begin this week.

Councilor Henry stated that as a result of her research, she now has current names, phone numbers and addresses for Wells Fargo, Ocwen and Alti Source. Councilor Henry stated that she asked for the name of the vendor who is supposed to be doing the work and it is the same person who was supposed to do it for Litton Loan two (2) years ago, but did nothing. Councilor Henry suggested that if work does not start within one (1) week, a letter be sent stating that they are in violation of our code and fines will be imposed.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, commended Councilor Henry for her effort and stated that he has begun the process of filing a complaint against the company, which must be done before we can fine them. Councilor Henry stated that she would like this to stay on the agenda so if nothing is happening, the Council can authorize the Solicitor to send a second letter. There was Council consensus to place this matter on the next agenda for discussion and/or action.

E. Acotes Field Maintenance - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Reichert stated that Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, asked him to put this on the Agenda. G. Treml stated that two (2) years ago, we had an agreement with the Little League that his Department would mow the outfields and the Little League asked him to continue to do so last year, as they did not have the funds to hire somebody. G. Treml commented that Spring will be here soon and asked the Council what is the plan for this year.

Greg Agnone, Budget Board chair, stated that the League has stated that they do not expect Public Works to mow this year, however they have submitted a request for a new well at approximately \$10,000 as well as a mower for approximately \$5,000. G. Agnone stated that the Budget Board suggested that the League try to purchase used equipment, perhaps from the Cemetery Association.

Councilor Henry stated that the League has requested \$10,000 for a new well and they are not even assured that they will get water. G. Agnone concurred, stating that they are looking at several locations, but there is no guarantee that they will hit water. Councilor Burlingame commented that there is a problem over there and Dino's had to drill three (3) times before they were successful.

Councilor Henry asked if there are other baseball fields in Town that they could use. G. Agnone replied the only one is a softball field at Gloucester Memorial. G. Agnone noted that the Town does not have control of Acotes Field and stated that the Little League has a commitment from the Cemetery Association stating that the League can use the property for the next 20 years.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he does not see how we could support drilling a well on private property. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Little League should look into fracking the well that is there now. Councilor G. Steere stated that there might be grants available for things such as this.

Councilor W. Steere commented that the Little League will have to come before the Council to discuss what we are willing to do and what we are not willing to do. G. Agnone stated that they did come before the Council. Councilor W. Steere noted that they appeared last year, but not this year. There was further discussion regarding fracking, which would be less expensive than drilling a new well.

F. Town Hall Building Security - Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Council W. Steere to move this item until after Correspondence; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

G. Affordable Housing

Councilor G. Steere spoke regarding the Special Legislative Commission to study the Low and Moderate Income Housing Act. Councilor G. Steere explained that the State is requiring each city and town to have a minimum of 10% low and moderate income housing. Councilor W. Steere commented that some large cities, such as Providence and Woonsocket, are not bound by that Act, although some of them already have the 10%. Councilor G. Steere stated that he thought it was across the State.

Councilor G. Steere stated that we currently have about 2% and are supposed to have a plan in place to work towards the 10% requirement. Councilor G. Steere stated his personal opinion that this is not achievable in the town of Glocester, noting that if there were one child in each of the 320 units, it would add 320 students to the school system which would cost \$5,280,000. Councilor G. Steere also pointed out that if these units are rentals, the owner will only have to pay 8% of the rental income as a tax. Councilor G. Steere stated that the outcome of this would be devastating to the Town.

Councilor Burlingame agreed, stating that this would be completely unfair because if the project is taxed at the value of the project, it would generate \$300,000 a year compared to \$22,000, and we would be adding \$5,000,000 to the amount to be raised by taxes.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the only mobile homes that would be allowed to be considered affordable housing are the ones that are rehabilitated. Councilor Burlingame asked about the senior housing units at Laurel Crest and Pine Meadow. Karen Scott, Town Planner, stated that they do count toward the requirement.

Councilor G. Steere stated that this Commission is meeting two (2) weeks from today and is asking for input from rural communities on this subject. Councilor G. Steere stated that he feels that a

Council member should attend to testify to some of our concerns. Councilor G. Steere stated that there are other Towns that are in the same predicament. Councilor W. Steere noted that rural towns do not have the services to physically support this type of development.

Councilor Burlingame stated that we have Zoning laws designed to protect groundwater because we do not have municipal sewers or water. Councilor Burlingame stated that this kind of project flies in the face of everything we have tried to do and it is blatantly unfair.

Councilor G. Steere suggested that the Council write a letter to the other rural communities to ask for their support and to recommend that they also attend the meeting of the Commission. K. Scott stated that the Commission wants to hear from communities that are not meeting the 10% requirement and what specifically is hindering them.

Councilor G. Steere stated that they are asking people that are in the affordable homes to pick up the tax burden for the ones that are coming in and will pay only 8% of their rental revenue as a tax. Councilor G. Steere commented that the developers are the only ones making money and he feels that this is a scam, the “fleecing of America”.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, suggested that the Town Planner prepare a summary for the Council to present as testimony.

There was Council consensus to send a letter to other communities and that Council members will attend the meeting of the Special Legislative Commission on February 16th. T. Kane stated that this will be on the next agenda for ratification.

VIII. Town Council Correspondence and/or Discussion

- A. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from DEM stating that the Army Corps of Engineers will be doing a state wide water quality certification and asking if we have any objections.
- B. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from Linda Nichols.
- C. Councilor G. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the Trust regarding the OPEB funding program and its annual program review coming up on Feb. 16th.
- D. Councilor G. Steere stated that another letter was received from the Trust regarding a supervisory program that they are offering.

VII. F. Town Hall Building Security - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that he asked for this discussion. Councilor W. Steere stated that because of the world we live in these days, he feels that the Town Hall employees should have training to be able to handle certain situations should they arise. Councilor W. Steere stated that it

is a short curriculum of about an hour, and he feels it is important to allow our employees to have this ability. Councilor W. Steere also stated that several years ago, there was discussion regarding the installation of security cameras in certain places at the Town Hall.

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that there is a program for the high school and middle school employees and he could do a short course here at the Town Hall if the Council wishes. Regarding security at the Town Hall, Chief DelPrete stated that there will be a cyber security meeting at which different upgrades and costs will be discussed, and he will bring the information back to the Council for review.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the reason he asked for this to be on the Agenda is that there is always something going on, for example yesterday there was a shooting at a School Administration Office in Boston. Councilor W. Steere further stated that since it is Budget season, the Council may have to make a decision now.

IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

A. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she was asked today for a Special Event license for a business that serves alcohol. Councilor G. Steere stated that we should send a letter to all liquor establishments asking them to get their thoughts together after which a public hearing will be scheduled.

B. Councilor W. Steere stated that he has received several calls about a situation on Hazelwood Road and asked Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, what action he has taken and what is our next step. K. Johnson explained that there has been some excavation going on at 44 Hazelwood Road, noting that he has dealt with this resident last fall regarding complaints that were received. K. Johnson stated that the resident was stopped because he had reached his limit, but he has started back up last week, upsetting the neighbors. K. Johnson stated that he went to the site and asked the resident how far he expected to go and his response was that he would be done over the weekend. K. Johnson reported that he went back this week and the excavator was still operational. K. Johnson noted that he has been asking for a soil and erosion plan but the resident is avoiding it.

K. Johnson stated that he was going to have the Police Chief deliver a cease and desist order but he thought it might cause animosity, so he sent a letter by certified mail and has not received a response as of today. K. Johnson stated he has spoken with the Police Chief and the order will be hand-delivered tomorrow.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he spoke with the resident and was told that there is no soil and erosion plan in the works. K. Johnson stated that it is not the first time he has been lied to and hopefully the resident will cooperate tomorrow.

Councilor Burlingame stated that this has been going on for year and urged K. Johnson to have the cease and desist order delivered tomorrow and if there is a violation of the order, legal will get involved.

X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/Discussion

None.

XI. Open Forum

A. George Charette stated that new speed limit signs have been placed on Route 102 and he has noticed that traffic has slowed down as a result.

G. Charette stated that things are coming down from the State House and if we do not get prepared, we will be in trouble in this part of the State. G. Charette questioned why our Representatives do not attend our meetings to guide the Council regarding what is being proposed and how it will affect the Town. G. Charette stated that the legislators have no idea what they are doing with regard to affordable housing.

B. John O'Donnell, of Cooper Road, spoke regarding Harmony Hill School, stating that over the past few years there has been a lot of things going on, such as kids getting out and doing damage to property, ringing doorbells, etc. J. O'Donnell reported that this week a student got out and had a weapon. J. O'Donnell stated that he called Harmony Hill and was referred to the Town Council. J. O'Donnell stated that this issue was brought up to the Town Council about a year ago but fell through the cracks. J. O'Donnell expressed concern for the safety of the residents of the neighborhood as well as the students of Harmony Hill. J. O'Donnell stated that he would like to be notified when a situation occurs.

Jeff Gales concurred that there is a problem and expressed concern that something really bad is going to happen to a resident, to one of the kids, or both. J. Gales stated that the residents do not feel safe.

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that in the last two (2) years, the Police have been at Harmony Hill at least 100 times. Chief DelPrete noted that the recent incident referred to by J. O'Donnell was a medical call because the student was suicidal. Chief DelPrete stated that there hasn't been an escape in 18 months and the three (3) offenders were tracked down in Providence within 24 hours. Chief DelPrete stated that Harmony Hill does not have any "training school caliber" inmates but there are behavioral issues. Chief DelPrete stated that he will implement a call list to notify abutters of any escapes, however there is a time delay because the staff at Harmony Hill tries to apprehend the student before calling the Police. Councilor Burlingame suggested that Harmony Hill have a 10-minute window and call the Police if the student is not found within that time. J. Gales stated that a 10-

minute window is unacceptable because in 10 minutes, someone could be in his back yard.

Councilor Henry asked if anybody has been to the school to see what they have in place. Chief DelPrete stated that there is only one building that is locked. Councilor Henry stated that they need to improve how they are maintaining security if these kids are getting out. Councilor Henry stated her opinion that the abutters should be contacted immediately when a student gets out. Chief DelPrete stated that he will set up a meeting with the Director and the staff to discuss the matter.

Councilor W. Steere commented that Harmony Hill does not pay taxes to the Town, however the Police have responded to many calls because we want to protect our residents.

There was Council consensus to ask the Chief of Police to provide a status report at the next Town Council meeting.

XII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel - Discussion and/or action

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 W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

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

MOTION was made by Councilor to Reconvene Open Session, to seal the minutes of Executive Session and to disclose that no votes were taken; seconded by Councilor

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

XIV. Adjourn

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

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert, & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED