

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

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

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; and Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Resolution - Discussion and/or action

- A. 2017-1 A Resolution to Oppose “The Marijuana Regulation, Control, and Taxation Act” And the Creation of a Commercial Marijuana Industry in Rhode Island and This Community

Councilor Burlingame explained that he brought this up because he is in opposition to the recreational use of marijuana.

Councilor Burlingame read the following Resolution in opposition to the latest proposed R.I. Marijuana legislation:

Resolution 2017-02
A Resolution to Oppose “The Marijuana Regulation, Control, and Taxation Act”
And the Creation of a Commercial Marijuana Industry
in Rhode Island and This Community

WHEREAS, “the Marijuana Regulation, Control, and Taxation Act,” a proposed legislative initiative in the Rhode Island General Assembly, would create a billion-dollar commercial marijuana industry in Rhode Island to promote and support the consumption of so-called “recreational” marijuana by residents and visitors to Rhode Island and its thirty-nine (39) cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, The Act would authorize to be located in Rhode Island and its cities and towns an unlimited number of marijuana retail stores, wholesale growers and manufacturers, to produce and distribute marijuana and marijuana products, including specifically marijuana candy and other

edibles and highly potent marijuana concentrates; and

WHEREAS, The states of Colorado and Washington that have been the earliest adopters of commercial marijuana are already experiencing highest-in-the-nation teenage use and a doubling of marijuana impaired driving fatalities; and

WHEREAS, The Act severely limits the right and ability of local officials elected to impose reasonable and meaningful restrictions on the marijuana industry, including impediments to local rules regarding the number, type and location of marijuana retail stores, growers, manufacturers and “home grows”; and

WHEREAS, The Act would introduce new and additional drug-based activity into cities and towns at a time when so many residents, families and communities are struggling with the human and social consequences of addiction with Rhode Island facing an unprecedented opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, The Act risks creating a new industry that, much like Big Tobacco, subverts public health for private gain, even as so many questions about its consequences remain unanswered and when the information that is available casts grave doubt on its merits and desirability; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gloucester Town Council opposes the adoption of the initiative petition known as “The Marijuana Regulation, Control, and Taxation Act” and urges the members of the General Assembly to oppose this legislation when brought to a vote.

George O. Steere, Jr.
Gloucester Town Council President

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Dated this 2nd day of March 2017

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

 A. Approval of Town Council regular meeting minutes of February 16th, 2017 & the minutes of a Council & Budget Board joint workshop of February 22nd, 2017

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting minutes of February 16th & the Town Council/Budget Board joint workshop of February 22nd, 2017; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Boards & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action

a. Conservation Commission

One Alternate term to expire 2/2018

Councilor G. Steere stated that the chair of this Commission has asked for the appointment of the latest talent bank applicant, Matt Varatta.

Councilor Henry stated that she has spoken with Mike Ahnrud, chair of the Conservation Commission, who indicated that he has met the candidate and would like the Council to appoint him.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to APPOINT Matt Varatta to the Conservation Commission for the 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

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

1. Recreation Commission - One expired term

Councilor Henry stated that she attended their meeting this week and they have a candidate who will be ready to be appointed by the next Council meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

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

Councilor W. Steere stated that he has not heard from the members and commented that there is a lack of leadership on this board right now. Councilor W. Steere stated that there will be discussion later regarding this matter and asked that the appointments be tabled for now.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the appointments to the Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Boards & Commissions:

1. Planning Board (2) 5 year terms- Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that this is for two expired terms: Doug Folcarelli and Mike DeGrange, both of whom wish to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Reichert to REAPPOINT Doug Folcarelli and Michael DeGrange to the Planning Board for five year terms to expire 3/2022; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Request for archeological research/review - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere explained that a resident has asked Council to request an archeological review on a site proposed for a housing development currently before the Planning Board.

Councilor G. Steere noted that there have been several studies done recently in this area as well as at the site of the Reuben Mason House. Councilor G. Steere stated that this is a reasonable request and asked if it should be referred to the Planning Board. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, replied that the Council should make a motion to ask the Planning Board to consider asking the developer for an archaeological review of the property.

Councilor Burlingame suggested that the RI Preservation Society be involved and the Nipmuc and Narragansett tribes be made aware of this.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ask the Planning Board to seek the appropriate opinions for an archaeological review of the proposed site of an affordable housing development; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that while he is not opposed to it, he feels that this could be a slippery slope, and where does it start and end. Councilor W. Steere stated that the whole Town could be viewed as an archaeological site and asked if he wanted to build a house, could someone request an archaeological dig. Councilor W. Steere asked if it has anything to do with the use of Federal money on a project.

Councilor Burlingame stated that this is a federally subsidized program. Councilor G. Steere noted that the property is right next door to where we had to have a study done. Councilor Burlingame stated that with something this big we are totally within our rights to require the study.

Councilor G. Steere stated that because of the federal funds and the location of the site, it is a reasonable request.

Russell Gross stated that when the applicant appeared before the Planning Board the first time, a member asked if anything along those lines had been done. Councilor Burlingame stated that now the Council's request will be on record.

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Rules/Regulations: Pavilion Use - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Henry stated that she asked for this discussion because we are in the process of putting up the pavilion and the Council should talk about its use, maintenance, responsibility, etc. Councilor Henry stated that she spoke with the Burrillville Town Clerk and requested a copy of their rules and regulations which, when Councilor Henry received them, appear to be more of a Special Use Permit. Councilor Henry stated that at the Recreation Commission's meeting, there was discussion regarding different activities that could take place at the pavilion. Councilor Henry stated her opinion that the pavilion should not be rented out. Regarding the restrooms, Councilor Henry stated that she is hearing from people who would like them to be open for use during the day on weekends, perhaps from Memorial Day through the Fall, for people walking and shopping in the Village.

Councilor G. Steere agreed that it is time to think about it. Councilor G. Steere stated that if someone wishes to use the pavilion for an event, a deposit should be required. Councilor G. Steere noted that on the application for Burrillville, a "cleaning deposit" is charged.

Councilor Henry stated that we would need a calendar for events to avoid having a conflict. Councilor Henry asked how involved we want to be. Regarding the bathroom, Councilor Henry pointed out that if people walk over to use it and it is locked, they will be annoyed. Councilor W. Steere noted that the bathroom was not designed for heavy use and there is the question of upkeep if it is open during the day.

Councilor Burlingame stated that we have had a tremendous amount of problems regarding the restrooms at Gloucester Memorial Park and to open the facilities at the pavilion would be opening a can of worms. Councilor Burlingame strongly urged that this be ruled out and the restrooms only be open during scheduled activities.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE discussion regarding Rules/Regulations: Pavilion Use until the next Town Council meeting; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

D. Budget 2017/2018: Discussion and/or action on items to be included or eliminated in proposed budget before presentation to Council

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council had a workshop with the Budget Board and there was a list of things that needed more discussion.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he had concern with the lighting maintenance but as long as it is a separate line item, it is fine.

Councilor Henry stated that there is \$12,000 in the Budget under Recreation for swing sets at GMP, and asked if this should be moved to Capital where the other swing set is listed.

Councilor G. Steere spoke regarding Town Hall security, stating that it is not in the Budget and the Council should talk about it.

Councilor Henry stated that she would also like the Council to talk about the Gloucester School Budget. Councilor Henry stated that she personally feels that the Gloucester Schools could be level-funded based on the 2016 Annual Financial Report which shows that there was quite a bit of unspent revenue at the end of that year.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he discussed this with the Finance Director and the Superintendent and stated that we have been consciously level-funding the Gloucester Schools for several years now to avoid reducing the maintenance of effort. Councilor Burlingame explained that some years ago, the State reduced the aid to cities and towns by 10% per year, which in our case, was supposed to be \$80,000 per year over a 10-year period. Councilor Burlingame stated that it has been changed to where the money now follows the kids and we never saw that drastic reduction. Councilor Burlingame stated that each year we were generating a surplus because the number of students was decreasing and we reached a point where the surplus was significant. Councilor Burlingame stated that the State had a program where we could renovate the schools and receive a 35% of 45% reimbursement, so we agreed to take 1.5 million from our General Fund and the School Committee was going to do the same, getting us between 5 and 6 million dollars for renovations to Fogarty and West Gloucester. Councilor Burlingame stated that by level-funding them, there is still enough money where we will not be in a position to have a big increase next year.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to level-fund the Gloucester Schools for Budget Year 2017/2018, removing \$127,442 from the proposed budget of \$6,499,477; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

There was Council discussion regarding the School Resource Officer. Councilor G. Steere stated that this came up several years ago, when we were in favor of it but the Region was not. Councilor G. Steere expressed concern that if we do it and the Region doesn't fund it next year or the year after, are we stuck with another full-time police officer. Councilor W. Steere stated that the way things are going, he feels that a Resource Officer is important. Councilor G. Steere agreed but stated that if the Region doesn't want to fund it in the future, whose employee is he.

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that the officer will always be our employee and the salary will be paid by both Towns for the nine months of the school year, but he will come back to us in the summer. Chief DelPrete noted that at this time, nobody wants to do it so that would be an issue. Chief DelPrete stated that we have another officer joining the force in May but he won't be full-time on the road until October. Councilor Burlingame pointed out that the new officer will be replacing an officer who is leaving, so we are probably two years out from getting a Resource Officer for this program. Councilor Burlingame stated that it doesn't make sense to commit right now. Chief DelPrete stated that he is 100% in support of the program, but he doesn't feel that we are set up for it right now.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he personally would be in favor of it but he would want some sort of guarantee or good-faith agreement from the Region.

Councilor Henry asked if the Region would also cover the Resource Officer's benefits. Chief DelPrete replied that the Region would pick up a percentage of the total of the salary and benefits.

Councilor Burlingame asked Chief DelPrete for his recommendation. Chief DelPrete replied that he cannot fill the position right now and recommended that the Council not make the commitment this fiscal Year. Councilor Burlingame stated that it might be worthwhile for the next year to meet with the School Committee and get some form of commitment.

Councilor W. Steere asked Michael Barnes, Foster-Glocester Superintendent, if Foster has been approached regarding having the Resource Officer come from Foster. Dr. Barnes responded that he has not had a conversation with Foster regarding this matter.

There was Council discussion concerning Town Hall Security. Chief DelPrete stated that there is a plan in place and he will have a recommendation at the Department Head meeting on Monday.

Councilor G. Steere stated that there is a request for three (3) Police cars, but the Budget Board has recommended one (1). Chief DelPrete stated that his request for three (3) cars is \$105,000, which is a low end estimate. Chief DelPrete stated that the Public Works Director has reported that he is putting a lot of his budget into maintaining the eight or nine year old cars that will be sold within a year. Chief DelPrete noted that of the seven cars purchased during his tenure, 4½ of them were paid for by the Town and 2½ were obtained through grants, forfeitures, etc. Chief DelPrete stated that if we don't do something this year, he will come back next year and ask for four (4). Chief DelPrete stated that the mechanic has said that we have some unsafe cars that cannot be inspected.

Chief DelPrete stated that he asked for \$105,000 from Capital, but he is looking at areas where he can get some funding, so if he can get 2½ cars at \$95,000, he thinks he can get what he needs. Chief

DelPrete pointed out that it costs \$8,000 to \$9,000 to outfit a Police vehicle.

Councilor G. Steere asked how many cars we have in total. Chief DelPrete replied approximately 15, adding that we are on an 8-year program for replacement. Chief DelPrete stated that if the Town picks up 2 and 2/3, he will find a way to make up the remaining 1/3.

Councilor Henry asked if the Budget Board requested a detailed list of all the vehicles and their mileage. Chief DelPrete replied in the affirmative.

Councilor W. Steere stated that if we don't do it this year, we will be doing it next year. Councilor Burlingame stated that he will go along with the Chief's proposal.

Councilor Henry asked for clarification, stating that the Chief originally proposed 2 1/2 but now says 2 and 2/3. Chief DelPrete stated that it will probably be 2 and 2/3 because he is coming down from \$105,000 to \$95,000.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to fund the Police Department \$95,000 for the purchase of 2 and 2/3 Police cars; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Steere asked if any money was included in the Budget for the repair or replacement of the period lighting. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, replied that there is a separate line item so we can keep track of it.

There was Council discussion regarding the Senior Center. Councilor Henry stated that she went to the Senior Center to see what some of their requests were. Regarding the part-time Activities Director, Councilor Henry suggested that the Council hold off on that. Councilor Burlingame agreed and explained that there is some indication that the Director may be retiring so we may have the opportunity to reorganize the operation. Councilor Burlingame stated that we are in the process of conducting a study regarding salaries for Department Heads and Directors. Councilor Burlingame suggested that we include as part of that line item money to upgrade the position for a future director which would eliminate the need for a part-timer.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to remove \$11,700 from the Senior Center Budget for a part-time Activities Director; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Henry stated that she walked the whole facility to see some of the things that are being requested such as furniture replacement, carpeting, painting of walls, etc. Councilor Henry stated that the carpeting looks to be in good shape, other than needing to be cleaned, however the carpet in the Director's office should be replaced. Councilor Henry stated that the copy machine was supposed to be moved to the Director's office, but it has not and is still where the public can use it. Councilor Henry stated that she does not want to replace any copier until that is understood. Councilor Henry commented that the tile floors in the bathrooms need to be replaced. Councilor Henry stated that there is \$5,000 in the Budget for equipment and \$5,000 for furniture for a total of \$10,000. Councilor Henry stated that the request includes a new freezer and she asked Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, for his opinion. G. Treml stated that the fan makes noise when it starts up, but it could last for a long time. G. Treml noted that the freezer is not used much and suggested that if it dies, we will buy a new one. Regarding furniture, G. Treml stated that we just bought new chairs and re-covered other chairs. Councilor Henry stated that other than the flooring in the men's room and the carpeting in the office, the Center looks great.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Senior Center gets a lot of use and we should just do it, if the money is there. Councilor Henry stated that she would like to reduce the Budget, not the Capital. Councilor Henry recommended removing the two \$5,000 line items, furniture/fixtures and mechanical/appliance replacement. Councilor G. Steere stated that we should leave something in mechanical/appliance replacement because the copy machine will eventually need to be replaced.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to remove \$5,000 from the Senior Center Budget for furniture/fixtures; and to reduce mechanical/appliance replacement to \$2,000; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

There was Council discussion regarding the Human Services Department. Councilor Henry stated that there is a line item for creating a new part-time position in the amount of \$1,097. Councilor Henry stated that she is not in favor of creating new positions and noted that we have a lot of volunteers. Councilor W. Steere stated that he is not totally against it but the Council would have to create that position first before budgeting for it. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Director is mainly looking for help with paperwork a couple of hours a week. Councilor W. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, what is the process to create a new position. T. Kane replied that the position would have to be funded and the Personnel Director would have to advertise and do a job description. Councilor Burlingame stated that it would be similar to hiring a clerk to a board. G. Treml suggested that one of the drivers be utilized and just increase the number of hours for that employee. There was Council consensus to further discuss the matter with the Director of Human Services.

There was Council discussion regarding increases for new employees. Councilor Burlingame stated that we are currently conducting a review of salaries of Department Heads and commented

that some employees have left because we are not competitive. Councilor Burlingame stated that we are not comparable with other communities similar to Gloucester. Councilor Burlingame stated that whenever we have lost an employee, we end up paying \$10,000 or \$15,000 more to replace them. Councilor Burlingame recommended putting a \$20,000 increase for the potential replacement of the Senior Center Director and another \$30,000 for other Department Heads and Directors.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to add \$20,000 to the Budget for the potential replacement of the Senior Center Director and \$30,000 for other Department Heads and Directors; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: Councilor Burlingame noted that our appropriation this year will be a very small increase and if we are going to do something, now is the time. Councilor Burlingame further stated that we settled contracts with our three (3) Unions which were significantly higher than the CPI, but comparable with other towns. Councilor Burlingame stated that we want to make sure the non-union employees get a fair shake.

Councilor Henry stated that this is why she makes suggestions in other areas, because all the people who work in Town Administration are so dedicated and work so hard, we need to make sure that they are compensated competitively.

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

MOTION PASSED

There was Council discussion regarding the Budget request for Parade/Fireworks. Councilor W. Steere commented that these events are a good thing for the Town in his opinion. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Parade Committee has a significant amount of money already, so he recommended that we keep it as it is or add a small amount.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to fund \$14,000 for the Parade/Fireworks; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

There was Council discussion concerning the Gloucester Heritage Society. Councilor Henry stated that a letter was received from Edna Kent, Town Historian, stating that the Heritage Society missed the Budget Board presentation but is seeking funding for exterior painting and mold abatement of the historic Reuben Mason House. Councilor Henry stated that the total amount requested is \$20,000.

Councilor G. Steere asked Edna Kent if she has the opportunity for grant money with matching

funds from the Town. E. Kent responded but was inaudible on the recording. Councilor W. Steere noted that the Rhode Island Foundation has a grant round out right now which does not require matching funds. Councilor W. Steere stated that he knows work needs to be done on the house, but does not want to become the sole funding source. Councilor G. Steere agreed. There was Council consensus to allocate \$2,500 for the Heritage Society.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to fund \$2,500 for the Gloucester Heritage Society for the Reuben Mason House; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

There was Council discussion regarding the aid request from the Gloucester Little League. Councilor W. Steere stated that they have requested \$3,400 and suggested that we make it an even \$5,000 to help offset their costs. Councilor Henry agreed and stated that Little League is important for kids in Town. Councilor W. Steere stated that we also might be able to help them with equipment at some point. Councilor G. Steere stated that we must make it clear whether the Town will do any mowing. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, stated that the League will take care of their own mowing, noting that the lawn mower from the Community Resource Commission is sitting in his shop ready to be used by the League. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council needs to have a discussion with the Little League because we have been taking care of the fields for 50 years and we cannot just cut it off. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Aid Request is separate from mowing the fields. Councilor Burlingame stated that he is okay with giving the League \$5,000, but he wants to stick by the decision made by the Council regarding mowing the fields.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to fund \$5,000 to the Gloucester Little League; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor G. Steere stated that there was a request for \$1,000 from the Gloucester Senior Association which was submitted late due to a health issue of the chairman. Councilor W. Steere expressed concern that when the Association thought they were going to disband, they used some of their funds for a party. Councilor W. Steere stated that we want to make sure that the money is spent appropriately. Councilor Henry asked for more information regarding the Gloucester Senior Association. Councilor G. Steere stated that it is comprised of some members of the Senior Center, both from Gloucester and Burrillville. Councilor G. Steere stated that they conduct activities, such as bus trips. There was Council consensus to deny the request.

There was Council discussion regarding the request from the Northwest Conservation District. Councilor Burlingame stated that they are based in Johnston and our focus has been to keep Town aid more specific to the residents of Gloucester. There was Council consensus to dismiss this request.

There was Council consensus to grant the request from the libraries. Councilor Henry stated that they are conducting a feasibility study concerning combining the libraries.

There was discussion regarding the Capital Budget. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council had talked about the new/used equipment account for the Public Works Department. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Director of Public Works had a request for \$50,000 for an asphalt reclamation machine (zipper), but he bought one at auction for \$16,200, so the funds will be used for other things coming up, such as a dump truck. Councilor G. Steere commented that this account gives the Director the flexibility to purchase equipment at auction for a fraction of what it would cost to just go out and purchase it.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to refund the amount of \$16,200 which was used to purchase the zipper instead of \$30,000; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

There was Council discussion regarding Recreation. Councilor Henry stated that at the Recreation Commission meeting, there was discussion concerning the poor condition of the skateboard park at Gloucester Memorial Park. Councilor Henry further stated that there is drug use, drinking and swearing at the skate park and the Commission spoke about taking it down. Councilor Henry also noted that most of the vandalism is at the skate park. Councilor Henry stated that she would like to see more funds going to Recreation for repairs to the basketball and tennis courts.

There was discussion concerning ways to fix the basketball and tennis courts and how much it would cost. G. Trembl, Director of Public Works, stated that he will have solid figures after he has taken measurements. Councilor Burlingame suggested doing one this year and the other next year. Councilor G. Steere stated that we should look at the tennis courts first. Regarding the skate park, Councilor Henry stated that it is unsafe and she will put it on the agenda for the next meeting. Councilor Henry noted that the Recreation Director has requested that a metal bench be placed at the tennis courts so people don't have to sit on the ground to tie their shoes. G. Trembl stated that he will have estimated costs at the next meeting.

- E. Community Resource & Wastewater Advisory Commission - Consideration and/or Recommendations for the amendment of existing Commission charge - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that he wants to meet with the current group to get their ideas of what they would like to see done. Regarding the person who was not reappointed, Councilor W. Steere stated that he was questioned whether she can be appointed to that board or any other board going

forward. Councilor Burlingame stated that he doesn't feel that a person who was openly criticizing the Council members during the election should be working for the Council. Councilor Burlingame stated that he would not appoint that person "come hell or high water". Councilor W. Steere pointed out that we have a hard time finding people to volunteer. Councilor Burlingame commented that over the last year or two, this individual, as chair of the Commission, has argued with the Council on issues and refused to take direction from the Council. Councilor W. Steere stated that he would like to table this until he has spoken with the members of the Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the discussion and/or action regarding the consideration of amending the existing charge of the Community Resource Commission; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. Town Council Correspondence and/or Discussion

- A. There was discussion regarding a request from Big Bear Hunting & Fishing Supply for a "Grand Reopening" event. Councilor W. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, if there is action the Licensing Board should take. T. Kane replied in the negative, stating that they will not be serving alcohol and the caterer will have the proper licensing. Councilor Burlingame stated that if there will be tents, they must check with the Harmony Fire Department for guidelines. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, suggested that they notify the Police Chief in case there is a traffic issue.
- B. Councilor G. Steere stated that we have received Resolutions from other towns supporting our Resolution regarding low and moderate income housing.
- C. Councilor G. Steere stated that we received correspondence from Burrillville regarding the proposed power plant.
- D. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council received correspondence from the Department of Health regarding the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Priority List. Councilor Henry noted that there will be a well water workshop on March 20th at the Greenville Library and asked that this be placed on our website.
- E. Councilor G. Steere stated that an invitation was received from the City of Newport for their St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- F. Councilor G. Steere stated that a complaint was received regarding a sign. This will be referred to the Zoning Office.
- G. There was correspondence from the PawSox regarding a program to recognize student scholars at the middle school level. This will be forwarded to Dr. Barnes,

Foster-Glocester Superintendent.

H. Councilor G. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the University of Massachusetts regarding the Rhode Island Healthy Aging Data Report.

X. Department Head Reports/Discussion

A. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council had discussed re-doing the signs at the mini-park. J. Fecteau stated that she has samples that she will send to the Council members. Councilor W. Steere asked that we get rid of the sign that is there now as it is lying on the ground.

B. Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, stated that he has a meeting with representatives of the bank on Monday morning regarding the property at 15 Dorr Drive. K. Johnson stated that he has received an inquiry from somebody who is interested in purchasing the property.

XI. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

None.

XII. Open Forum

A. Don Simpson , of Lakeview Drive, spoke regarding the Marijuana Regulation, Control and Taxation Act. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Resolution which was read earlier was to oppose the State forcing us to allow it in our Town. Councilor W. Steere stated that counties in Colorado can opt out if they wish to. Councilor Burlingame pointed out that the Resolution adopted tonight does not prohibit anyone that has a card from using marijuana or from growing their own for medicinal purposes. Councilor Burlingame stated that it pertains to the commercial side and would prohibit big greenhouses and retail outlets.

XIII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2) Potential Litigation - Discussion and/or action
Town of Glocester vs. Robert & Shana Grenga, Superior Court Civil Action
PC -2017-0693.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to convene to Executive Session pursuant to: R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2) Potential Litigation - Discussion and/or action
Town of Glocester vs. Robert & Shana Grenga, Superior Court Civil Action # PC -2017-0693;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

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

MOTION PASSED

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to Reconvene Open Session, to seal the minutes of Executive Session and to disclose that one (1) vote was taken; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ADJOURN at 9:55 PM; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

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

MOTION PASSED