

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on April 6, 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: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; William Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Anthony Parrillo, Recreation Director; and Judy Branch, Director of Human Services.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

- A. Carol Crook, of 52 Echo Road, stated she recently moved to Gloucester from Maine, where gypsy moths were also a problem. C. Crook stated that the pine trees on her property are totally gone and have no pine needles growing. C. Crook noted that pine trees will only grow new needles from existing needles on the tree. C. Crook gave the Council members an article from the Maine Sentinel regarding spraying and asked that something be done about this in Gloucester.

V. Resolutions - **Discussion and/or action**

- A. 2017-03 Motor Vehicle Tax, Proposed Repeal

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Town of Burrillville has requested the Council's support of their resolution regarding the repeal of motor vehicle taxation. The following Resolution was read into the record by Councilor Burlingame:

RESOLUTION # 2017-03
Motor Vehicle Tax - Proposed Repeal

WHEREAS: State Officials, including the Governor and the Speaker, have committed to the phase-out of Rhode Island's motor vehicle tax, an action that the Gloucester Town Council generally supports with reservations; and

WHEREAS: a phase-out has been attempted in the past, with devastating impact on Rhode Island cities and town when the program was abruptly terminated; and

WHEREAS: it is critical to the smooth operation of cities and towns to have predictable, reliable revenues; and

WHEREAS: the taxpayers of the State of Rhode Island deserve fair and equitable taxes; and

WHEREAS: the Town Council of the Town of Gloucester is concerned about the risk to town

revenues if the State abandons reimbursements; and

WHEREAS: the Town Council of the Town of Gloucester believes that if there are modifications or a phase-out of the motor vehicle tax, it must include state support, sustainability, consistency, ease of implementation and fairness; and

WHEREAS: without full revenue reimbursement by the State, the elimination of motor vehicles taxes would impact the Town of Gloucester motor vehicle levy in the amount of \$2,264,281, an increase of approximately 13% to the average real estate tax payer in the Town of Gloucester; or approximately \$673 on average, and

WHEREAS: in the best interests of the taxpayers across the State, any modification, including complete phase-out of Rhode Island Motor vehicles taxes should include full reimbursement from the State to the municipalities resulting from the lost revenue.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that we, the Town Council of the Town of Gloucester, respectfully request that the Governor, Rep. Chippendale, Rep. Keable, Rep. Winfield, and Senator Fogarty guarantee full reimbursement to Cities and Towns for any loss of revenue which may arise from the modification or repeal of the motor vehicle tax.

George O. Steere, Jr.
Gloucester Town Council President

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Dated this 6th day of April 2017

seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that he agrees with this Resolution because the State has a way of taking away money that is promised. Councilor W. Steere gave another example of RI Department of Education pass-through funds which were promised to the Region. Councilor G. Steere expressed agreement. Councilor Burlingame stated that cities and towns were at first to be exempt at \$6,000, but the State then took it away. Councilor Burlingame stated that he supports this Resolution.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. 2017-04 Blackstone Valley Tourism Council - Regional Hotel Tax Formula
Councilor W. Steere read the following Resolution into the record:

RESOLUTION # 2017-04
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council - Regional Hotel Tax Formula

WHEREAS: the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, the Rhode Island designated regional

tourism development agency representing the Blackstone River Valley since 1985, has represented our community, our businesses and attractions well, and

WHEREAS: the Blackstone Valley has been designated America's 402nd National Historical Park, and the Town Council supports the development of tourism along with the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council; and

WHEREAS: the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council's international award winning program of work developing sustainable tourism has significantly helped grow the number of tourism-related jobs in Northern Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS: the promotional efforts of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council help generate multiple taxes and fees that our community benefits from; and

WHEREAS: a healthy tourism program is critical to the stability and growth of our commercial tax base, along with promoting local community and economic growth that improves our quality of life; and

WHEREAS: the State of Rhode Island receives significant funds via other travel related taxes to fund state tourism efforts, including but not limited to: lodging taxes, taxes on Airbnb, cottage rentals, sales tax, gas tax and gaming revenues; and

WHEREAS: forty-seven percent (47%) of the hotel sales and use taxes generated by the hotels in the Blackstone Valley is directed to the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council as its major funding source to do its work; and

WHEREAS: this helpful redistribution from the original funding formula expires on June 30, 2017. This original formula of regional hotel tax distribution provided sufficient funds for regional tourism development, as opposed to a new formula, which would cut regional tourism development funding by ten per cent (10%) or \$40,000; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; the Gloucester Town Council requests the Rhode Island General Assembly support the existing regional hotel tax distribution formula at forty-seven percent (47%) of the hotel taxes collected within the region, which is now in effect. Maintaining the current funding formula will continue the successful efforts of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council on behalf of the Town of Gloucester.

George O. Steere, Jr.
Gloucester Town Council President

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated his opinion that this is another State deal where they give something to Blackstone Valley Tourism and then take it away.

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

MOTION PASSED

C. 2017-05 Resolution by Regional Coalition of School Districts & Communities in Support of: Full Funding of Transportation Categorical Aid

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has received two requests from Supt. Barnes: The requests are for the support of transportation cost reimbursements more fully funded and to reinstate the regionalization incentive, which in FY2010 was drastically reduced and subsequently phased out over two years. Councilor Reichert read the following Resolution into the record:

RESOLUTION # 2017-05
Regional Coalition of School Districts and Communities in Support of the
Funding of Transportation Categorical Aid (as outlined in R.I.G.L 16.7.2)

WHEREAS: the regional incentive was promised to local districts when the regional districts were formed; and

WHEREAS: the regional incentive was phased out in 2010 with the passage of the new funding formula; and

WHEREAS: transportation categorical funds were provided to the regional districts to partially offset the loss of the regional incentive by partially reimbursing the higher transportation costs of the regional districts; and

WHEREAS: R.I.G.L. 16-7.2-6e “requires that the State and regional school district share equally the student transportation costs net any federal sources of revenue for these expenditures”; and

WHEREAS: the Transportation Categorical funds allocated in FY 2018, the final year scheduled increases in the funding formula, do not result in full funding of Transportation Categorical Aid to “share equally” transportation costs as outlined in R.I.G.L. 16-7.2-6e; and

WHEREAS: the Regional School Districts have designed and implemented a number of innovative educational programs that meet the learning needs of students; and

WHEREAS: the investment of resources in our regional school districts have yielded positive education results and innovative educational programs and services for students and adults that have been a wise investment of local and state resources; and

WHEREAS: to ensure that students attending the regional school districts continue to receive a high quality public education and to reduce the burden on regional taxpayers, that the Chariho Regional School District, the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District, and the Foster-Glocester Regional School District, formed a Regional

Coalition in 2016; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Gloucester Town Council joins with other members of the Regional Coalition to:

1. Request our State legislatures introduce legislation that codifies in State Law the full funding “equal sharing” of transportation costs between the State and Regional Districts to protect the interest of regional school districts and advance the educational missions of our schools;
2. Seek the support of all Town Councils and Legislators that comprise the Regional School Districts regarding this matter of mutual interest to the schools and taxpayers of our regional districts; and
3. Request that our State Legislature act on the proposed legislation in the 2017 legislative session.

George O. Steere, Jr.
Gloucester Town Council President

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Dated this 6th day of April 2017

Seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

D. #2017-06

Councilor Henry read the following Resolution into the record:

RESOLUTION 2017-06

**Regional Coalition of School Districts and Communities in Support of the
The Reinstatement of a portion of the Regionalization Bonus as outlined in R.I.G.L 16.7.2**

WHEREAS: When the Regional School Districts were formed they were provided an incentive to do so in the form of additional State aid and that promise of additional State aid was broken with the passing of the funding formula in FY2010 which drastically reduced then phased out the regionalization bonus; and

WHEREAS: The reduction and phase out of the regional incentive is codified in R.I.G.L 16-7.2-6-f.2 which states: “the regionalization bonus in the first fiscal year shall be two percent (2%) of the State’s share of the foundation education aid for the regionalized

district and the regional bonus in “second fiscal year shall be one percent (1.0%) of the State’s share of the foundation education aid for the regionalized district as calculated pursuant to §§ 16-7.2.3 and 16-7.2.4 in that fiscal year” and

WHEREAS: the Regional School Districts have designed and implemented a number of innovative educational programs that meet the learning needs of students; and

WHEREAS: the investment of resources in our regional school districts has yielded positive education results and innovative education programs and services for students and adults that have been a wise investment of local and state resources; and

WHEREAS: To ensure that students attending the regional school districts continue to receive a high quality public education and to reduce the burden on regional taxpayers, the Bristol-Warren Regional School District, the Chariho Regional School District, the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District, and the Foster-Glocester Regional School District formed a Regional Coalition in 2016; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Gloucester Town Council joins with other members of the Regional Coalition to:

1. Request our State legislatures introduce legislation that modifies R.I.G.L. 16-7.2-6-f.2 to provide a regionalization incentive at the reduced rate of two percent (2%) to all regional districts beginning in FY 2018; and
2. Request that this regionalization incentive be available to all existing regions districts and any future regional school districts as an incentive to regionalize and maximize the use of resources; and
3. Seek the support of all Town Councils and Legislators that comprise the Regional School Districts regarding this matter of mutual interest to the schools and tax payers of our regional districts; and
4. Request that our State legislature act on the proposed legislation in the 2017 legislative session.

George O. Steere, Jr.
Gloucester Town Council President

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Dated this 6th day of April 2017

seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor Henry questioned the last two (2) Resolutions, asking if we are giving our consent to further regionalization. Councilor G. Steere replied that it does not sound like it to him and stated that he would not be in favor of it. Councilor W. Steere stated that it is a program that we

want to continue, not something new. Councilor Burlingame commented that it would just put us back where we were.

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Citations - Discussion and/or action

A. Chepachet Grange Annual Awards - 2017

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Clerk has been asked by the Chepachet Grange to, once again, provide Citations for their annual awards ceremony. Councilor G. Steere stated the Grange recognizes people each year that have contributed to the community and we have prepared an individual citation for each honoree, to be given to them the night of their awards ceremony, and tonight we will read and adopt one citation listing all names. The following Resolution was read into the record by Councilor W. Steere:

CITATION
Chepachet Grange 2017 “Community Service Awards”

The National Grange founded in 1867 is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, fraternal organization that advocates for rural America and agriculture. With a strong history in grassroots activism, family values and community service, the Chepachet Grange is part of more than 2,100 hometown granges across the United States; and

The Chepachet Grange #38, organized in 1907, has always enriched our community and celebrates the importance of citizens in our community that share their ideals and give unselfishly of their time and effort; and

The Chepachet Grange, annually, acknowledges the good work of individuals in our community at a Community Service Awards Night; and for 2017 the Chepachet Grange has chosen the following honorees:

Very Reverend T J Varghese, Citizen of the Year;
Patrolman Jon Ricciarelli, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year;
Rescue Captain Paul G. Silva, Firefighter of the Year;
Jessica A. Phaneuf, Teacher of the Year;
Robin M. Meek, Agriculturalist of the Year;
W. Robert & Cynthia M. Steere, Grangers of the Year;
Project Cold Hands/Warm Hearts, Group of the Year

The Gloucester Town Council and the Town Clerk wish to congratulate and express our appreciation to these citizens on this occasion and we wish to thank the membership of the Chepachet Grange for their hard work, sense of community, dedication to our Town; and good sense to honor those chosen for the **2017 Community Service Awards**.

George O. Steere, Jr.
President, Gloucester Town Council

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Dated this 6th day of April 2017

Seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated that the Ceremony is April 18, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. and asked for a Council volunteer to attend to represent the Town Council. Councilor Henry stated that she will attend.

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

A. Approval of Town Council regular meeting minutes of March 16, 2017

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE the Town Council regular meeting minutes of March 16, 2017; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Boards & Commissions - Terms concurrent with Town Council-

1. Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission - Three expired terms & Two Alternate terms - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere asked that the Council address A and C together. W. Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor, stated that a Motion could be made to change the Agenda order.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to move Agenda item VIII. C ahead of VIII. A; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council had asked him to look into creating a new charge for the Commission. Councilor W. Steere stated that there were four (4) members, but one moved out of town leaving three (3), which is not enough to have a meeting. Councilor W. Steere stated that

over the last eight (8) years, the Commission has fulfilled and adhered to their charge for the most part and listed the following: the commission looked at water power using grant money, they investigated solar projects on Town property, they had energy audits done for all Town buildings, they have attempted to have Community Gardens and have conducted Energy Fairs at the Senior Center. Councilor W. Steere stated that he sees no need to change their charge. Councilor W. Steere further stated that since there are only 2 or 3 people interested right now, he would like to wait until the Council decides what they want to do before appointing anyone.

Councilor G. Steere agreed that the charge is good the way it stands, as long as they stay on point. Councilor Burlingame also agreed. Councilor Burlingame suggested that the Commission be suspended until we get enough volunteers. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, recommended that the Council remove these two items from the table and try to find volunteers for the board.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Remove from the Agenda VIII. A and C until we get enough people to go forward; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

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

Councilor Henry stated that she has looked at other communities and has compiled a list of potential rules and regulations for the use of the Pavilion. Councilor Henry suggested that the Council make a decision regarding the Recreation Commission overseeing the use of the Pavilion. Councilor G. Steere noted that Anthony Parrillo, Recreation Director, was present at the last meeting and agreed to take charge of that.

Councilor Henry reviewed her list of Pavilion Guideline Suggestions:

The Recreation Commission will be the department that will oversee the use of the Pavilion.

Persons/Town Boards or Committees interested in using the Pavilion will do so thru the Recreation Director.

The use shall be for the enjoyment or education of the entire public of the Town of Gloucester and shall not be used for any private party. Councilor Henry explained that no one using the pavilion could exclude another person from using the pavilion.

Examples of use could be: Town Concerts, informational programs, or Town celebrations

Recreation will maintain a Calendar for event sign ups and post it to the Town Website.

A small placard/sign will be placed on site at the Pavilion with contact information regarding use of the Pavilion.

Example:

For information regarding the Pavilion use Please contact the Recreation Commission at: (phone number)

Thank you.

A form will be provided by Recreation to be filled out as to basic information of who will use the Pavilion and for what purpose.

Recreation will collect a refundable deposit of \$ _____ along with the request for use form

Upon trash removal and clean up of the area the deposit will be returned within 3 days after the event.

The bathroom is to be maintained by the Public Works Department.

Councilor Burlingame questioned if someone had to be certified to maintain the facility. G. Trembl stated they did not.

Councilor Henry suggested that Public Works would hold the keys, opening and closing the facilities before and after a scheduled event. Councilor Henry felt that Recreation should also have a key.

The bathroom will remained locked unless an event is scheduled.

Councilor Henry stated her personal opinion that the bathrooms should remain unlocked during the day and suggested that we try that and if vandalism occurs we could address it at that time. Councilor Henry stated she felt that was a negative to leave the facilities locked.

A secure trash can is to be on site and maintained by Public Works.

The maintenance of the Pavilion site will be the responsibility of Public Works to include mowing, sweeping, and any seasonal plantings on the site.

Councilor Henry stated that she would like the Council to discuss if there should be a celebration for the opening of the Pavilion and whether to have a historical district sign at the entrance. Councilor Henry asked if the Pavilion should be named and what is the plan for tables, benches, lighting, etc. Councilor Henry stated that somebody suggested installing a bike rack and she feels this is a good idea. Councilor Henry spoke regarding the parking area and asked if a sign should be placed prohibiting commuter parking.

Councilor Henry listed the following discussion points regarding the Pavilion:

1. Should there be a celebration for the “Opening of the Pavilion”, if so when?
2. Should there be an approved historical district sign at the entrance? (GBA has suggested an interest in a contribution toward a sign)
3. Should the Pavilion be “named”? If so, names to consider:
 Gloucester Pavilion
 Chepachet Village Pavilion
 The Pavilion on Main
 The Village Pavilion
4. What is the plan for tables, benches, trash receptacles, lighting, plantings, or bike racks?
5. How many parking places will be on site?
6. Is there a need for signage prohibiting commuter parking?
7. Rules and Regulations need to be written and approved by Council? (see below suggestions)
8. Should a Rules and Regulations laminated sign (8x10) be posted on site?
9. Bathrooms: to be maintained by Public Works?
10. Bathrooms: hours open to the public? Discussion.....should they remained locked except on the weekends? Should they be open everyday 9-4:00 pm?
11. Keys: to be held by Public Works and recreation?
12. Public Use.....for persons more than 10, but less than 30, (**Councilor Henry pointed out these are regulations used by other communities**) a Use Permit needs to be completed (obtained by Recreation) along with a permit fee of \$50.00 (?) to cover any possible damages. This fee will become a line item in Public Works budget to cover the costs of the Pavilion maintenance. For groups larger than 30, the Permit Use, \$50.00 fee, and a refundable security deposit of \$150.00 (?) will be collected. This security deposit will be returned upon approval of Recreation Director that the facility was maintained and found to be in the condition it was in prior to use. If bathroom facility is not open, it will be opened and closed by either Recreation or Public Works?
13. A Permit Use form needs to be created by Recreation Director.
14. Recreation Commission will be the department that will oversee the use of the Pavilion.
15. All reservations for use of the Pavilion will be made thru the Recreation Director by calling:
16. Public Works Department will be responsible for the overall maintenance, mowing, and cleaning of the Pavilion.

Councilor Henry stated that Rules and Regulations could be posted with an opening paragraph containing a brief history of the property, possibly written by our Town Historian, Edna Kent.

Councilor Henry outlined possible rules and regulations, (**that other towns have found it necessary to use**) such as:

1. No alcoholic beverages may be sold or consumed on the premise.
2. Chairs, tables, other furniture and equipment that any group wishes to use at the Pavilion must be pre-approved by the Recreation Director prior to use and removed by said group upon completion of the use.
3. No open flames, charcoal or gas grills or fire pits of any type are allowed on the premise, nor

- fireworks of any type allowed on the premise.
4. No skateboarding is allowed on any part of the facility, including the parking area.
 5. The Pavilion is a public facility and there shall be no expectation of private use.
 6. No one person or organization shall reserve the building for more than two (2) consecutive days.
 7. Any event held on the premise will not begin before 8:00 AM and will commence at or before 8:00 PM unless otherwise approved by the Recreation Director or Town Council.
 8. No nails, tacks or staples shall be allowed on the walls, posts or ceilings. No stickers, tapes or paints of any kind will be permitted on the floor or columns.
 9. The renting party will be responsible for returning the building and grounds, including the parking lot, to the condition in which it was found. The Pavilion floor must be broom-clean and all trash must be removed from the facility.
 10. The Town of Gloucester shall not be liable for property loss or personal injury sustained by any lessee or lessee's agent, guest or invitee as a result of use of the Town facility.
 11. The Town reserves the right to cancel any reservations if false or misleading information has been given in the application or contract, or if the Town determines a scheduled function would be detrimental to the operation of the Pavilion.
 12. No reservation shall be effective until counter-signed by the appropriate Town representative.

Councilor Henry commented that these are the kind of things that other communities have found it necessary to address.

Councilor G. Steere asked if everybody has had a chance to digest this information. Councilor W. Steere stated that the "hot button" seems to be the bathroom. Councilor W. Steere stated that the facilities at Gloucester Memorial Park are not open unless an event is going on. Councilor W. Steere also pointed out that these are composting toilets which are not made for heavy usage. Councilor Henry asked why there is a bathroom at the Pavilion site. Councilor W. Steere replied that it was part of the Grant. Councilor Henry stated that it should be able to be used by people who are passing by.

Councilor Reichert commented that it's unfortunate, but people destroy everything, like what occurred at Gloucester Memorial Park last year. Councilor Reichert stated his opinion that the bathrooms will have to be monitored and should not be left open. Councilor G. Steere stated that we cannot be handing out keys because that is what led to the problem at GMP. Councilor G. Steere stated he agrees, and referred to previous damage at GMP, but stated that if everybody agrees, we could try it out for a month or two.

Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, stated that he could open the facilities in the morning and a Public Works employee could close them at the end of the workday. Councilor W. Steere asked about weekends when the real usage would take place. G. Treml stated that we could try it out and if it doesn't work, we could readdress the situation. Councilor Henry pointed out that it would take the burden off the business owners in town. There was Council consensus to try keeping the bathrooms open from Spring through Fall. Councilor W. Steere again asked about weekends. G. Treml replied that he could open them on Saturday mornings, adding that if someone wrecks the

place, we will fix it and keep it locked. There was Council agreement.

Councilor Henry suggested that the Town Solicitor review the Rules and Regulations with regard to legal issues such as liability. William Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor, stated that he will look it over.

Charlie Wilson, chair of the Historic District Commission, stated that his Commission as well as the Heritage Society and Chepachet Grange will be seeking to use the Pavilion for different community events.

Councilor Burlingame clarified that the bathroom would be open from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and all weekend. (Gary inaudible)

Councilor G. Steere asked G. Treml about the cleaning deposit that would be charged. Councilor Henry replied that other towns stated that if there are more than 10 people in a group, a permit fee of \$50.00 would be charged and kept by the Town to defer the expense of keeping the Pavilion clean. Councilor Henry stated it would be to defer the costs of cleaning. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, asked if this would include groups such as the Chepachet Grange or Town committees or just private groups.

Walter Steere, Jr. asked who would be enforcing this and stated that 20 people could say that they just all showed up at the same time. W. Steere, Jr. also asked who would be checking to see if people had cleaned up after their event and noted that others could come afterward and cause a mess. W. Steere, Jr. stated it seems like a lot of regulation and enforcement and he thinks it should be first come first served.

Councilor G. Steere stated his opinion that the Council is not ready to act on this tonight. Councilor Burlingame agreed and suggested that it be placed on the next agenda. Councilor G. Steere stated that in the meantime we will get feedback from the Solicitor.

W. Bernstein stated there should be some regulation, particularly regarding safety issues, such as skateboarding.

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

Addressed previously (see VIII. A.)

IX. New Business

A. Personnel:

- 1. Gloucester Public Safety -
 - a. Gloucester Emergency Management Agency -Discussion and/or action
 - 1. Accept Resignation: EMA Director

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has received the resignation of Jason Rhodes from the position of EMA Director, effective March 20th, 2017.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ACCEPT, with thanks, the resignation of Jason Rhodes from the position of Director of the Gloucester Emergency Management Agency, effective March 20th, 2017; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Action to fill position

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that with the Council's authorization, he will start advertising the position. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the candidate must be a Town resident per the Charter.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to begin the process of hiring a new EMA Director; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Appointment: Acting EMA Director

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, to the position of Acting Gloucester Emergency Management Agency Director, effective immediately; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Police Dispatch - **Discussion and/or action**

1. Accept Resignation: Full Time Police Dispatcher

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has received the resignation of Ericka Newman, effective April 2, 2017.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ACCEPT, with thanks, the resignation of Ericka Newman from the position of full time Police Dispatcher, effective April 2, 2017; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere inquired how long Ericka has been a dispatcher. Chief DelPrete

replied twelve (12) years.

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Appointment:
 - a. Police Dispatch - Full time

Councilor G. Steere read the following request from the Chief:

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
Date: March 23, 2017
Subj: Dispatcher Appointment

Dear Council Members:

I would respectfully request to appoint Jacqueline M. Casale of Burrillville, to a full time dispatcher position at the Gloucester Public Safety Complex. Mrs. Casale was one of twenty-five candidates who applied for this position and has previous emergency fire and police dispatching experience including training certifications.

Mrs. Casale will start her training for this position on Monday March 27, 2017 which will continue to April 14, 2017 up to 32 hours per week at \$14.00 per hour. After successfully completing training I would request that Jacqueline Casale be appointed to a full-time position starting on Sunday, April 16, 2017 and paid the first step contract rate of \$18.46 per hour. Mrs. Casale will be placed on (6) six months' probation and her appointment will further afford her all other benefits as outlined in the Laborers International AFL-CIO Local 1322 Gloucester Dispatcher Contract.

Respectfully Submitted,

(Chief) Joseph DelPrete
(end of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Jacqueline M. Casale to the position of full time dispatcher at the Gloucester Public Safety Complex effective Sunday, April 16, 2017. Said position will be paid the first step contract rate of \$18.46 per hour for a (6) six months' probation period and will include all other benefits as outlined in the current Laborers International AFL-CIO Local 1322 Gloucester Dispatcher Contract; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS - 0
MOTION PASSED

b. Police Dispatch - Part time

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Chief has also made the following request:

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
Date: March 23, 2017
Subj: Part-time Dispatcher Appointment

Dear Council Members:

I would respectfully request to appoint Ericka Newman to a part-time dispatcher position at the Gloucester Police Department with an hourly rate of \$16.00 per hour.

Ericka Newman has resigned her full time position as of Sunday April 2nd, 2017 for a second career. Ericka Newman will be leaving in good standing after twelve years of full time dispatcher service to the Town of Gloucester. She has the knowledge, skills, and experience to be an excellent part-time dispatcher when called upon.

Any part-time dispatcher call backs will be in accordance with the current International AFL-CIO Local 1322 Gloucester Dispatcher Contract.

Respectfully Submitted,
(Chief) Joseph DelPrete
(end of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Ericka Newman to a part-time dispatcher position at the Gloucester Police Department with an hourly rate of \$16.00 per hour, all dispatcher call backs will be in accordance with the current International AFL-CIO Local 1322 Gloucester Dispatcher Contract; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Planning Department

a. Planning Board - **Discussion and/or action**

1. Accept Resignation: Planning Board Recording Clerk

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has received the resignation of the Planning Board Recording Clerk, Karen Emond.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ACCEPT the resignation of Karen Emond from the position of Planning Board Recording Clerk, effective April 30th, 2017; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Action to fill position - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere asked if we should advertise the position or look for somebody in-house. Councilor Burlingame replied that he would like to advertise.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to advertise the position of Planning Board Recording Clerk; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Ratification of correspondence: To Lieut. Governor re: response to letter reaching out to municipalities for input regarding regionalization and unfunded or underfunded mandates- Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere explained that at the last Council meeting there was some conversation about correspondence received from the Lieutenant Governor. Councilor G. Steere stated that Karen Scott, Town Planner, prepared a reply to Lieut. Governor McKee's offer to hear our concerns regarding unfunded and underfunded State mandates focusing on the affordable housing mandate. Councilor G. Steere stated the Clerk has received a consensus to send the correspondence. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council should ratify that action tonight.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to RATIFY correspondence sent to Lieut. Governor Daniel McKee on March 20, 2017 from the Gloucester Town Council regarding and explaining Gloucester's position on affordable housing mandates and asking for **(as quoted)** "the support of your office in getting the current law amended to take into consideration the diversity among the State's municipalities so that all municipalities, including the rural areas, can have a more realistic expectation of complying with State law in regard to low and moderate income housing"; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that he hopes Lieut. Gov. McKee is keeping an eye on the current legislative session because there are bills that contain a lot more unfunded and underfunded mandates from the State.

Councilor Burlingame stated the he heard something today about the new affordable housing development going in just over the line on Route 100, that preference will be given to people who do not live in town. Councilor Burlingame stated that the intent is to bring in people from other communities like Woonsocket and Pawtucket. Councilor G. Steere stated that this developer has alluded to the fact that they first look for people from town. Councilor Burlingame stated, in our town, we should hold them to that to avoid a real problem.

Councilor G. Steere stated that Councilor W. Steere had a great idea regarding senior exemptions, veterans' exemptions and disability exemptions which are municipally subsidized programs and, therefore, should count toward our affordable housing.

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor G. Steere noted that Karen Scott forwarded this correspondence to all the communities that have supported Gloucester's efforts and asked those communities to also state their concerns regarding this mandate to the Lieut. Governor. Councilor Burlingame commented that her letter was well thought-out and she should be commended for that.

C. Gypsy Moth Remediation / course of action - **Discussion and/or action**

Councilor Reichert stated that he has been contacted by several residents of Paine Estates regarding whether the State has plans to deal with gypsy moths. Gary Trembl, Director of Public Works, stated that he has spoken with the Forestry Division of DEM and was told that there are no plans to spray at this point unless the Legislature directs them to do so. G. Trembl stated that DEM will post information on their website advising how to hire a contractor to spray for gypsy moths. G. Trembl noted that last year a contractor was hired to spray the trees at the Transfer Station.

Councilor Reichert stated that it would cost \$300 per acre to hire a company to spray Paine Estates, for a total of \$17,000. Councilor Reichert stated that the residents have asked if the Council could send something to our Legislators regarding this matter. Councilor Reichert noted that the Governor does not think that gypsy moths will be a problem.

Councilor Burlingame asked if there is a list available of contractors and what type of chemical is used in this type of spraying. Councilor Reichert replied that he does not think it is harmful. Councilor Henry stated that this was discussed at the last Conservation Commission meeting and Roy Najecki plans to put some information on the Town's webpage. Councilor Henry noted that last year, there was nothing on DEM's website. Councilor Henry stated that a wet spring followed by hot weather will cause a fungus to grow that will kill the gypsy moths. Councilor Henry commented that last year, many people went to the emergency room to be treated for a rash caused by the moths.

Carol Crook, 52 Echo Road, stated that many people could not go outside because of the gypsy moth droppings. C. Crook showed the Council photos of her pine trees that will not come back, according to an arborist. C. Crook stressed the outcome of another outbreak this year.

Councilor Reichert suggested that we send something to the State Representatives that states that we are in a rural area which is impacted more than the city. Councilor Reichert stated his opinion that it is cost-prohibitive for people to have their property sprayed.

There was Council consensus to send a letter asking the State if there are plans to spray or assist in some way with the gypsy moth problem. Councilor Henry pointed out that some people will be against chemical spraying and will be upset.

D. Gloucester Memorial Park - Skate Park - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Henry stated that she asked for this discussion because it was left unresolved at the last Council meeting. Councilor Henry stated that it has been determined that we will start at one end of the park to make repairs to the tennis courts, basketball court and skate park. Councilor Henry stated that we are not here to talk about getting rid of the skate park, but if there are things that are out of code, we need to address that.

Anthony Parrillo, Recreation Director, stated that there has been some damage to the park over the years, but he does not think the extent of the damage is that costly. A. Parrillo described several things that do not meet code. A. Parrillo noted that there is also damaged signage & graffiti that will need to be cleaned up.

Councilor Henry stated she wanted to get this out because a lot of misconceptions have been put out on facebook.

Councilor Henry stated that if the park has code violations we are putting ourselves in a position of liability if we allow kids to use the park. Councilor Henry further stated that she would like to have picnic tables again without having them vandalized. Councilor Henry stated that people don't want to realize what is going on there.

A. Parrillo noted that some State grant money was used for the park and kids use it, some mis-use it, and there are some kids that use it for a hangout. A. Parrillo suggested that video surveillance or even a fake camera be placed at the park as a deterrent.

Councilor Henry stated that she understands that kids need a place to go and we will have to spend money to fix the code violations and then put up signage regarding using the park responsibly.

Councilor W. Steere asked if the Trust has weighed in regarding the skateboard park. A. Parrillo replied that he supplies a report to the Trust, each year, but he has not received a response.

Councilor Burlingame asked if there is an estimate to bring the park up to code. A. Parrillo replied that Public Works did a lot of the initial work when the park was installed, therefore he does not know how much any of it would cost. Councilor Burlingame asked G. Trembl if this is something his department could handle. G. Trembl's stated his department would take a look at it.

Councilor W. Steere asked if we should shut down the skate park until the violations are addressed. William Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor, highly recommended that the facility be brought up

to code, especially if the Trust has a certain set of guidelines to meet, and we should make it a priority. Councilor W. Steere agreed, stating that it is the time of year when it will be used.

Councilor Henry asked A. Parrillo and G. Treml to get back to the Council as soon as possible regarding what needs to be done.

Lew Pryeor, resident, mentioned that in West Warwick there is a park in a tough neighborhood where a camera was installed which cut back on the vandalism.

L. Pryeor stated the only reason he posted on facebook the park may be taken down was because of the last meeting minutes of the Town Council which stated "Councilor Henry stated that there is drug use, drinking and swearing at the skate park, and the Commission spoke about taking it down." Councilor Henry clarified that it was the Recreation Commission that spoke about possibly taking it down but did not say it would be taken down.

L. Pryeor, resident, spoke regarding the gypsy moths stating that we must do something about it, but agreed that some people will object to spraying. L. Pryeor stated that has tried to contact the Forestry Division to ask for an informational meeting in Town to let residents know of natural ways of controlling the gypsy moths. Councilor Henry stated that she is the liaison to the Conservation Commission and she will ask the chair if he can schedule something.

E. Historic District - Sign update - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Henry asked Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, for an update regarding the letter he sent to businesses in the Historic District concerning signs. K. Johnson stated that we are 30 days into the 60 day deadline to submit a plan for their signs. K. Johnson stated that he has received some responses but there are a few businesses that he does not expect to comply. K. Johnson reiterated he has asked businesses to at least submit a viable plan in the sixty day window. K. Johnson stated that after the sixty days, it will be turned over to legal. Councilor Burlingame stated that this goes back 10 or 12 years and the Council granted leeway several years ago by allowing the businesses to wait until the Chepachet Village project was done. K. Johnson stated that he will report back to the Council after the sixty day period has expired.

F. Trash & Litter - Transfer Station & town wide - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Henry stated that she received a phone call from Eric Lariviere, from the Sand Dam Association, regarding the amount of litter that is piling up around the Keach Dam/Sand Dam area. Councilor Henry stated that we do not enforce the State mandate that requires trash to be covered when transported in an open bed. Councilor Henry noted that the people who live along the way to the Transfer Station have to deal with trash that blows out of vehicles. Councilor Henry stated her opinion that if it is a State Law, it applies to us as well. Councilor Henry stated this is about doing the right thing, keeping Glocester clean, and keeping trash out of the lake. Councilor Henry suggested that a police officer be in the area of the Transfer Station and if somebody goes by with their trash uncovered, pull them over to remind them to cover their trash. Councilor Henry stated she is not asking for people to be ticketed or fined.

Councilor Burlingame stated that there was a lengthy discussion about this at the Department Head meeting on Monday. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Police Chief had conducted a survey

which showed that 90% of the people were compliant and their loads were secure and covered. Councilor Burlingame stated that the majority of the problem in the area was speeders. Councilor Burlingame stated that it was suggested that we not accept any loads at the Transfer Station unless they are covered, and to post a notice to that effect.

Councilor W. Steere pointed out that our recycling bins do not have lids on them and this would penalize our residents for using what we have provided for them. G. Treml explained that with single stream recycling, lids are not provided.

Eric Lariviere, resident, showed a picture of the bank of the lake across from the Transfer Station. E. Lariviere stated that this is a problem that he does not want to see continue. E. Lariviere stated that it is a violation of the law to have uncovered loads. E. Lariviere stated that he lives near the Transfer Station and he respectfully disagrees with Chief DelPrete regarding the number of uncovered loads. E. Lariviere stated that he would like people to be reminded that they have to comply with the law, adding that it will benefit the whole town.

Councilor W. Steere stated that most of the problem at the lake is due to things blowing out when people are dumping into the bins because of the wind. Councilor W. Steere stated that if the Police are going to enforce this, they must do it town-wide. Councilor W. Steere stated we want people to do the right thing but we don't give them the tools to do it.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he puts his recycle bins in the cab of his truck because if he put it in the back, it would be half empty when he got there. Gary Treml, Public Works Director, stated that this will only affect people with pickups or trailers. G. Treml stated all we are asking is that they put a cargo net over their loads. G. Treml stated all we are asking is after a certain date if your load isn't covered you can't dump in the transfer station.

Councilor W. Steere states maybe we need a fence at the transfer station. G. Treml stated that won't stop plastic bags from blowing.

Councilor W. Steere stated it is windy at the transfer station and when people dump things blow around. G. Treml stated plastic bags do not belong in the recyclable bins.

Councilor Henry mentioned an ad that the Burrillville Lions Club placed in the Bargain Buyer regarding Earth Day, encouraging neighborhood cleanups. Councilor Henry suggested that we place a similar ad. Councilor W. Steere stated that he has no problem with that, but in the past we had big flashing signs at the Transfer Station that people did not even see. Councilor W. Steere stated we just need to be consistent town wide.

Councilor G. Steere stated that we should put an ad and we could add that if you are transporting trash or recyclables in an open pickup bed or trailer, the load must be covered. Councilor Burlingame agreed and Councilor Henry offered to write the ad.

Councilor W. Steere asked if he had 3 trash bags in his truck, do they have to be covered if they are tied securely. E. Lariviere replied that there is a "gray area" in the law, but he has seen full trash

bags on the side of the road and reiterated the loads must be secured.

Councilor Henry asked about putting a sign in front of the Transfer Station. Councilor Burlingame suggested that we run the ad to put people on notice and then put up a sign that effective on a certain date, uncovered loads will not be accepted. It was stated that the effective date will be decided at the next meeting.

Judy Colaluca thanked the Town Council on behalf of the Sand Dam Association.

G. Town Council Review & Consideration of pavilion landscape - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere referred to a sketch of the proposed layout of the area surrounding the pavilion. Councilor G. Steere stated that the idea is to come in and out one way and to keep most of the asphalt on the right side for parking. Councilor G. Steere stated that other than the sidewalk around the pavilion, the rest will be grass. Councilor W. Steere asked how many parking places are proposed. Gary Treml replied approximately 35 parking spots. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that we wanted green space, not a parking lot. G. Treml pointed out that the building is 30 by 80 and can hold up to 75- 100 people so parking is necessary. G. Treml stated he can do whatever Council wants.

Councilor Burlingame stated that we would have green in the front and the majority of the asphalt to the right. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that 35 parking places are too many and noted that there is parking at the Town Hall and also on the road.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ACCEPT the design as proposed; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that this is a wet area and asked about drainage. Councilor Burlingame replied that drainage is taken care of. G. Treml explained the water will drain where it has always drained.

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

MOTION PASSED

H. R.O.W. Issue / Resident request - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Burlingame stated that a resident wanted to sell property on Elbow Rock Road but an issue came up regarding a right-of-way that passes through Land Trust property. Councilor Burlingame stated the question is whether that right of way goes through that persons property or just up to that property. Councilor Burlingame stated that he wants to go on record that we will turn this over to legal to get some help for the property owner.

I. Social Media - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Henry stated that she asked for this discussion in light of recent social media posts where

the Land Trust was spoken about and things were said that were not facts. Councilor Henry stated that this is not about First Amendment rights, but there is a Facebook page called Gloucester, RI which residents think is a Town page, even though there are disclaimers that say otherwise.

Councilor W. Steere stated that at least half of the time, the information on this Facebook page is incorrect and he is concerned that people think it is a Town of Gloucester site. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town has nothing to do with it and does not endorse that site. Councilor W. Steere asked if we can ask for the name of the site to be changed. William Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor, stated that it is a First Amendment issue and we cannot stop speech. Councilor W. Steere stated that he would just like the name of the page to be changed.

Councilor Burlingame stated that they call it the “Gloucester Group” and there are three administrators for that site that monitor it carefully. Councilor Burlingame stated that if anyone puts up anything offensive they are warned and if they persist, they are removed from the group.

Councilor W. Steere stated that it is not Gloucester Group; it is called Gloucester RI which gives the impression that it has something to do with the Town. W. Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor, stated that the Council may wish to consider putting a statement or disclaimer on Gloucester’s official government website.

J. Governor’s Proposal re: “free-college plan” - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council received a Resolution from Charlestown asking us to support the Governor’s plan to provide two years of free college tuition at a cost of \$30 million a year. Councilor G. Steere stated that he is opposed to this plan and would like to adopt a Resolution against it. Councilor Burlingame agreed, stating that he feels it is outrageous. Councilor W. Steere stated that we could take no position by not supporting Charlestown’s Resolution. Councilor G. Steere stated that some kids would put it to good use, however others would abuse it because it is a “free ride”. Councilor G. Steere stated he paid for his children to attend college and sacrificed to do so.

Councilor Henry stated that she supports Councilor G. Steere’s position and stated that Rhode Island has other financial burdens to meet and could take better care of its Veterans. Councilor Henry stated that the Council should send a Resolution to the Governor opposing this plan.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he does not disagree, but asked how this affect the Town. Councilor Henry replied that it will affect every taxpayer in the Town because our State taxes will go up. Councilor G. Steere stated that it is just more debt. Councilor Henry stated that we should send a Resolution because the State is starting to realize that Gloucester has a voice. Councilor Burlingame stated that this is misdirected to spend \$30 million on two years of college because companies like Electric Boat are having trouble finding skilled workers; the money should be directed toward improving vocational skills.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to send a Resolution opposing the Governor’s free-education plan; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

X. Town Council Correspondence /Discussion

- A. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council received a letter from the ACLU asking for support of their position regarding the non-enforcement of immigration laws. Councilor Henry stated that she would not support this because it is filled with rhetoric and biased information.
- B. Councilor G. Steere stated that we have a letter from Judy Colaluca inviting the Council to a wine tasting to benefit the Smith & Sayles Association at Bella Restaurant on April 8th.
- C. Councilor G. Steere stated that correspondence was received from DEM regarding an application for an alteration of freshwater wetlands at 254 Pine Orchard Road.
- D. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Attorney General regarding House Bill H5555 and Senate Bill S0420 pertaining to Adult Use of Cannabis Act.
- E. Councilor G. Steere stated that there is a letter from a resident regarding unsightly yards on First, Second, Centre and Middle Roads and Lake Drive.
- F. Councilor G. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the Department of Health looking for a Memorandum of Understanding in support of a grant for the prevention of lead poisoning in children. No Action
- G. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from Nicole Pope who was recently appointed the DOT Legislative Director and the Director of the Office of Government Relations. Councilor G. Steere suggested that the Council contact her regarding the water runoff problem at Chepachet Hardware.
- H. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from Marie Sweet of the Heritage Society thanking the Council for considering their request for funding for matching grants. It was discussed that the taxpayers would now need to adopt the budget.

XI. Department Head Reports/Discussion

- A. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the Budget Public Hearing is April 17th at the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. and the all-day referendum will be May 16th from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

J. Fecteau reported that Denise Steere, resident of Gloucester, was awarded the 2017 Boston Educator of the Year Award. J. Fecteau stated that this is substantial and asked the Council to recognize the accomplishment with a Resolution at the next meeting to let Denise know how proud we are of her.

XII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion
None.

XIII. Open Forum

A. Walter Bienieki, of Rainbow Road, spoke regarding a problem with a plow truck driver. W. Bienieki stated that the driver has a vendetta against the residents of the neighborhood. W. Bienieki stated that the driver runs over stakes that have been placed by the residents and also destroyed a mailbox. W. Bienieki stated that he reported the situation to the Highway Garage, but nothing was done about it. W. Bienieki stated that he is the spokesperson for 8 people in the neighborhood and asked that the driver be replaced on that route. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council will look into the matter.

B. George Crook, 52 Echo Road, stated that he bought his property in January of 2015 and was told that to receive the elderly and veterans exemption, there is a five-year residency requirement. G. Crook disagreed about the veterans exemption, stating that there is nothing in the bylaws addressing that. G. Crook stated that he pointed that out to the Assessor's Office and was told that it was too late to apply for 2017 and he would have to wait until next year. Carol Crook asked if there is a way to bypass the deadline of March 15th, stating that "a veteran is a veteran". C. Crook gave the Council a written request.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he thought that any time during the year, someone could file for the veterans exemption for the current year by presenting their DD214. Councilor Burlingame noted that for the senior exemption, the deadline is March 15th. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Finance Director will take care of Mr. and Mrs. Crook regarding this matter.

C. Fred Naylor spoke about the recent property revaluations. F. Naylor stated that there are a lot of issues with Vision Appraisal and several municipalities have filed class action lawsuits against the company. F. Naylor stated that the appraisers try to intimidate homeowners to let them into their house. F. Naylor noted that the State gives cities and towns two (2) companies to choose from, Vision Appraisal and Certified Revaluation Company, both of whom he feels are unprofessional. Councilor G. Steere stated that it is a problem but he does not know what the Council can do about it.

D. Marie Sweet, of the Heritage Society, suggested that smoking be prohibited at the Pavilion. Regarding the gypsy moths, M. Sweet stated that she is a member of the RI Tree Council and the Northern RI Conservation District, and they have a lot of

information on the subject. M. Sweet expressed thanks to Edna Kent, Town Historian, for her help regarding the funding request to the Town Council, and thanked the Town Council for granting the request.

- E. Walter Steere, Jr. congratulated Denise Steere on her achievement of receiving the Boston Educator of the Year Award, stating that there were many applications but hers was far and above the others.

W. Steere, Jr. agreed with Fred Naylor's comments about the revaluation company, stating that he will never let them into his house. W. Steere, Jr. noted that next time will be the full revaluation and some people will see their valuations increase while the senior discount remains the same. W. Steere, Jr. stated that this is a "double whammy".

W. Steere, Jr. spoke regarding the trash problem in Town, stating that it is windy at the Transfer Station and papers blow away when people dump their trash.

- F. Don Simpson, of 150 Lake View Drive, spoke about the problem of speeding drivers on Route 44 in the Village. D. Simpson noted that if you drive the speed limit, which is 30 MPH, drivers behind you flash their lights and blow their horns. Councilor G. Steere stated that he will speak to the Police Chief regarding these concerns.

- G. George Charette spoke regarding the concerns about the recent revaluations. G. Charette stated that in 2010 his property valuation went up \$60,000 without a physical inspection and this year it went up another \$88,000. G. Charette stated his opinion that the comparable sales used in the valuation are not actually comparable.

- H. Lance Chappel, Legislative Aide to Rep. Roberts of West Greenwich, stated that he came tonight on behalf of Fred Naylor to speak about Vision Appraisal. L. Chappel stated that he has been monitoring the situation across the State and two (2) things disturb him about the revaluation process. L. Chappel asked what national organization certified Vision's appraisal software and asked if the people who go out to appraise are certified. L. Chappel gave an example of two (2) homes in East Providence that were side by side and identical but were appraised by different assessors and two (2) entirely different values came back. L. Chappel stated that the Legislation needs to be tightened up, specifically with regard to the software and the appraisers' qualifications.

XIV.

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

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Reconvene Open Session, to Seal the Minutes of Executive Session, and to Disclose that one (1) vote was taken to approve a Consent Order in the matter Town of Glocester vs. Robert Grenga and Shana Grenga, Providence County Superior Court #2017-0693; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ADJOURN at 10:48 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED