

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on October 5, 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; Timothy Kane, Town Solicitor; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Jane Steere, Tax Collector; Robert Shields, Recreation Director; and Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Councilor G. Steere asked all to remain standing and observe a moment of silence for the victims of the Las Vegas shootings.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Resolution: #2017-13 In Opposition of public funds being used for the proposed "Paw Sox" Baseball Stadium

Councilor G. Steere stated that at the last Council meeting there was a motion of the Council to prepare a Resolution opposing the use of public funds for a new stadium. Councilor Henry read the following into the record:

**Resolution #2017-13
In Opposition of public funds being used
for the proposed "Paw Sox" Baseball Stadium**

WHEREAS: there is currently pending Legislation introduced by the R.I. General Assembly (House Bill 6367) entitled "Relating to Cities & Towns, Redevelopment Agencies and Projects" which, if passed, would amend the types of projects development agencies would be authorized to seek funding for by eliminating the criteria of "blighted and substandard areas"; including "furnishing & equipping" as types of redevelopment and would also include "recreational" as the type of construction authorized; and

WHEREAS: there is also Legislation introduced by the R.I. General Assembly (House Bill 6366) entitled "Authorizing the State to Enter into Financing Lease and Payment Agreements in Connection with the Construction of a Ballpark in the City of Pawtucket" which would authorize the State (through its taxpayers) to contribute \$23,000,000 by the issuance of revenue bonds by the Pawtucket Redevelopment Agency, with debt service projected to be funded from State taxes and taxes generated by "Ballpark users", and

WHEREAS: these two proposed bills would be “setting the stage” for a proposed “deal” for funding a new Paw Sox Stadium at an expense to the tax payers; and

WHEREAS: proponents of this arrangement state the “financing deal” would pay for itself with anticipated revenues from the operation of the ball park; and

WHEREAS: it has been shown that anticipated revenues can and often fall short causing this proposal to be seen by some as a gamble with tax payer dollars as no stipulations are in place for a shortage of “repayment revenue”, and

WHEREAS: taxpayers in Rhode Island need to be able to control the use of their hard earned tax dollars with investments and programs guaranteed to benefit all, and not used towards the betterment of private business; and

WHEREAS: the people of Rhode Island have experienced the ramifications of questionable financial investments and we now ask our legislators to proceed forward with the idea that business ventures of this nature may not necessarily be in the best interest of our common goal to financially survive and thrive, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Gloucester Town Council **STRONGLY URGES** our Senators and Representatives to **OPPOSE** this legislation that proposes using public funds and any future use of taxpayer dollars to fund private business enterprise regardless of the proposed benefit.

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

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Adopted this 5th day of October, 2017

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated he found it interesting that the wording of one of the pieces of legislation stated “The State and City revenues to be generated by the Ballpark are projected by industry experts to be more than sufficient to cover the State's and the City's respective costs of financing the Ballpark.” Councilor G. Steere commented that if the experts state this perhaps the owners should get their own loans if it is such a good deal. Councilor G. Steere stated he is glad the Council is moving forward with this resolution.

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council meeting minutes of September 7th & September 21st 2017
- B. Ratify: Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements - August 2017
- C. Finance Director's Report -August 2017

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council meeting minutes of September 7th & 21st, 2017; to Ratify the APPROVAL of the August Abatement to the 2017 Tax Roll in the amount of \$3,356.19 and the August Addition to the 2017 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,308.14; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for August 2017; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor Burlingame stated that he must abstain from the approval of the minutes of September 21st as he was not present at the meeting.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
 NAYS-0
 ABSTAIN - Burlingame (Approval of Sept. 21st minutes)

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Town Employee, Department Head Hiring Processes - Discussion and/or action
 Councilor G. Steere explained that this item was tabled so that the entire Council has the opportunity to weigh in with additional suggestions.

After discussion this is the final process to be adopted:

DEPARTMENT HEAD HIRING PROCESS

1. The Finance/HR Director will notify Council of vacancy and will request posting *and/or advertising* (if required) for the position.
2. Council will then determine:
 - a. Who will assist the following staff in interviewing prospective employees.
This staff will include:
 HR /Finance Director
 Council liaison to Finance /HR
 At least one additional department head, council person, or designee.
Council reserves the right to add additional individuals, as needed. (Ex. Expert in field or department from neighboring community)
 - b. The number of candidates the HR/Finance Director will bring forward to council for final interviews
3. Council will interview the candidates brought forward for a final decision.
4. The Council will determine whether to hire from that pool of candidates or continue the search, if it is the consensus that there are no appropriate candidates from the pool interviewed by the Council.

(End)

Discussion: There was discussion about correcting what was initially proposed and agreement to utilize staff as opposed to the forming of a committee. Councilor Reichert questioned if the Personnel Board would be eliminated. Atty. Kane stated he was in agreement with the process.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADOPT the process entitled “Department Head Hiring Process”, as amended, to be dated October 5, 2017; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- B. Creation of exploratory sub-committee to determine need for Town Manager/Administrator and possible scope of responsibility - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that this item was tabled for discussion until a full council was present.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated he feels the town is at a point where, in the near future with a world moving fast while we are trying to run a \$30 million dollar business, we need someone here on a day to day basis to “run the ship”. Councilor W. Steere stated our department heads may need guidance at times and a manager/administrator could relieve them of some of their duties so that they can focus, in more detail, on their areas. Councilor W. Steere also stated that we may be missing things, such as: grant opportunities and being more up to date on the latest legislation introduced. Councilor W. Steere stated we could have someone running the ship on a day to day basis but ultimately answering to the Town Council.

Councilor Henry recalled that this idea was brought forward in the past and voted down. Councilor Henry stated she has always been transparent about not growing government to that extent. Councilor Henry also stated that this could come at a minimum cost of \$125,000 yearly salary plus benefits. Councilor Henry stated we have very competent department heads and questioned how this position would align with these department heads. Councilor Henry stated she is not in favor of this idea but more importantly in the next budget period there is room to hire “worker bees” in some departments. Councilor Henry stated those dollars could be more effectively used to help out certain departments that need more staff. Councilor Henry stated she knows of some departments that do need more staff, whether part time or full time, and stated that would be a better use of tax dollars.

Councilor G. Steere stated he was opposed at the last charter review and still doesn’t think we are ready for this. Councilor G. Steere stated he also thinks we have great department heads and a five member council that all do a good job. Councilor G. Steere stated he feels the time to discuss this is when the charter review comes up again and not necessarily to start up for just this subject.

Councilor Burlingame stated the original charter review commission in 1990, of which he was a member, reviewed all forms of government; considered the size of the community; considered the distribution of the budget among departments, and the commission felt the form of government we have was the best for our town. Councilor Burlingame discussed the different town departments and how a manager wouldn't be able to contribute. Councilor Burlingame stated he agrees with Councilor Henry that if we are going to put money into personnel, put it where we need it. Councilor Burlingame referred to housing projects and stated if completed there will be huge demands for increased services. Councilor Burlingame stated that two or three review commissions have questioned the need for a manager/administrator and, fortunately, the Councils have said no because it made no sense. Councilor Burlingame suggested to let this be brought up for discussion by a Charter Review Committee.

Councilor W. Steere stated he has asked for an exploratory committee and now everyone has given their opinions, essentially "poisoning the well" because should a committee be formed they will feel, before they even start, that the Council doesn't want this concept. Councilor W. Steere stated he thinks the cost estimate is a little off as the the average manager salary, in R.I. & Mass, is seventy four to seventy eight thousand dollars, but that could be decided by Council. Councilor W. Steere stated we are part time administrators and we have no authority as individuals, without a vote of the Council, to tell any town employee to do anything. Councilor W. Steere stated there is no one here on a daily basis to make decisions if something comes up. Councilor W. Steere stated we have a \$10 million business, taking the school out of it, with upper management and next level management with nothing in between to go back and forth because the Council has no authority, except by the president or vice president in an emergency situation, to tell any employee what to do. Councilor W. Steere stated that puts us in a position to not be able to react or be proactive. Councilor W. Steere stated if we had someone here on a daily basis it could be their job to be proactive. Councilor W. Steere stated Council can only do so much with the time they have on a part time basis and he is trying to be proactive as we don't know what the composition of the Council may be in five years. Councilor W. Steere also stated we have excellent department heads that also could be gone. Councilor W. Steere stated again he is trying to be proactive and not wait until we are in a situation.

Councilor Burlingame stated he doesn't feel we need a solution looking for a problem. Councilor Burlingame reviewed the achievements of current department heads. Councilor Burlingame stated he thinks what we have is a better solution then having a town manager. Councilor Burlingame used the school for an analogy with their abundance of administration telling people how to do something and we have one of the worst systems in the state. Councilor Burlingame compared charter schools to the bureaucracy of a typical structure stating charter schools outperform the typical structure schools considerably. Councilor Burlingame stated we have been fortunate to stay away from that bureaucracy and we have a high performing administration.

Councilor Reichert stated his opinion that we may not know what we are missing and sited possibly grant opportunities as a possibility. Councilor Reichert stated we are lucky that some of

us have time to come into the town hall but that could change. Councilor Reichert stated we will have to see what the charter review committee comes up with at the next review.

Councilor W. Steere agreed we do have high performing department heads and questioned how much better could they be if we had a manager that could take some of the responsibilities off our department heads so they could be more proactive. Councilor W. Steere stated perhaps when we do our compensation analysis for the whole town we can look at the role of a town manager and what they can do. Councilor W. Steere stated it is unfortunate that we are not looking forward, at least with an exploratory committee, for this help in the future. Councilor W. Steere stated the pace of the world is picking up and while we are fortunate to have the people we have but someone here, in that capacity, could help us in the future. Councilor W. Steere stated he believes we do become a bureaucracy if we can't be proactive and further, we could become reactive to anything that happens.

Councilor G. Steere stated Councilor W. Steere makes good points but he believes this whole conversation is a reaction of public works blocking off Snow's Clam Box. Councilor G. Steere stated it was discussed by Council and he would take full responsibility. Councilor W. Steere stated this has nothing to do with that but it may be symptomatic of that. Councilor W. Steere stated we have talked about this for the last four or five years and it is unfortunate we didn't go forward. Councilor G. Steere stated that is Councilor W. Steere's opinion and stated he doesn't feel anyone is poisoning the water, as Councilor W. Steere stated. Councilor G. Steere stated he feels Councilor W. Steere is poisoning the water in the opposite way. Councilor G. Steere stated no one is poisoning the water, we all have our opinions. Councilor W. Steere stated if we now have an exploratory committee they will see that council members are not in favor before they start their review.

Councilor Burlingame stated the exploratory committee should be the charter review committee. Councilor W. Steere expressed that is too far off. Councilor Burlingame stated you would need a charter referendum and he doesn't want to do that. Councilor Henry stated she is in and out of town hall a few times a week and she doesn't feel as though our department heads need help. Councilor W. Steere stated the current group of department heads may not need help but we are looking to the future. Councilor W. Steere stated these are my thoughts and if we don't have agreement that is the will of the council.

Councilor Henry asked the Clerk when the next review is. J. Fecteau, Clerk, stated the Charter review is every five years or more often as needed. The Clerk stated the last review was in 2014.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to form an exploratory committee to look at the possible scope of responsibility and to determine the composition of the exploratory board; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION FAILED

- C. Boards and Commissions
 - 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Senior Center Board of Directors
One term to expire 1/2019

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Bob Lapierre to the Senior Center Board of Directors for the two year term to expire 1/2019; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- b. Conservation Commission
One Alternate term to expire 2/2018

Councilor G. Steere stated that there is no recommendation from the Chair at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Conservation Commission for one Alternate term to the October 19, 2017 Town Council Meeting; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

- A. Ratify Support to Governor re: House Bill #5881 An Act Relating to Towns & Cities-Firefighter Disability - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that last week the Governor's Office was seeking support for her veto of House Bill 5881, regarding Firefighter Disability. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council members were contacted, a consensus was reached and Gloucester expressed its support to the Governor.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to RATIFY the Town Council's commitment to support the Governor's veto of House Bill #5881, An Act Relating to Towns & Cities - Firefighter Disability; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor Henry stated she felt it was responsible of the Council to support this action. Councilor Henry stated it was not about a lack of support for firefighters but that the disabilities

discussed are a cause of many health factors.

VOTE: AYES
NAYS

MOTION PASSED/FAILED

- B. Boards and Commissions
 - 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Foster-Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board
One Alternate term to expire 9/2018

Councilor G. Steere stated that this is for the expired term of Richard Travers, who has indicated that he wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to REAPPOINT Richard Travers to the Foster-Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board for an Alternate one year term to expire 9/2018; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- C. Recreation Director: Glocester Memorial Park's Master Plan - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Henry stated this item is due to discussions we have had regarding different elements of GMP. Councilor Henry stated we are always trying to approach each piece with fixes and funds. Councilor Henry stated the Recreation Committee/Director felt, strongly, that a larger discussion about the future of GMP is needed.

Bob Shields, Recreation Director, pointed out that GMP is in a slow state of decay and has long been an under utilized area. B. Shields stated leagues have left to go elsewhere and they feel the use and purposing is mis-allocated. B. Shields stated the Committee would like to investigate bringing in an outside agency to help the town re-purpose and create a master plan for GMP. The Recreation Director stated this plan would include a systematic based approach towards executing an over all plan that would see an improvement to this facility and make it more applicable to multiple groups. B. Shields stated this wouldn't be completed next year or within the next few, we want to take a long standing approach and improve on the facility over the next couple of years. B. Shields stated our recreational facilities do not have a plan in place to keep them in a pristine state and we feel that is why GMP is now on the decline. B. Shields stated, overall, we would like to discuss master planning for GMP and keep this facility a flagstone facility for our town.

Councilor Henry commented that Glocester does not really have a premier park. Councilor Henry stated that Winsor Park is small and tucked in the woods, and our two (2) swimming areas have been

allowed to get overgrown. Councilor Henry also noted that signage for the recreation areas is “hit and miss”. Councilor Henry stated that GMP currently does not have signage to let somebody know where it is located. Councilor Henry would like to consider the possibility of raising GMP to be the premier park that is has the ability to be, knowing that it might take some initial investment. Councilor Henry stated that the Recreation Director has looked at three (3) different companies that could advise the Town in this matter.

Councilor G. Steere asked what these companies would do. B. Shields replied that a needs assessment would be performed, residents would be surveyed to determine what the needs are, and then they will come back with several different models and options for the Town to consider. B. Shields stated that after the needs assessment, an architectural plan would be created, including engineering of the land, which he feels is very important. B. Shields noted that this could be a phased approach which could be spread out over several years. B. Shields added that grants and other funding may be available for this purpose.

Councilor G. Steere expressed his opinion that architects and engineers work on a percentage of the projects they create and most of them write their own paycheck. Councilor G. Steere stated that it would be good to have a plan but he is concerned about the second stage when architects and engineers become involved.

B. Shields stated that the initial needs assessment would be separate and the Town could do the projects on their own.

Councilor Reichert stated that this could cost several hundred thousands of dollars and he feels that it would be a waste of money. Councilor Reichert stated that we know what needs to be done but affordability is the issue.

B. Shields spoke about the elderly residents, stating that we are not able to fulfill their outdoor recreational needs. B. Shields feels that GMP needs to appeal to that group more than it currently does.

Councilor W. Steere asked about the needs assessment and whether we could do that internally. Councilor W. Steere stated that he is concerned about grants, stating that maybe we would receive them but maybe we would not. B. Shields replied that we could do some of it internally, but he does not have the time to dedicate to this process. Councilor W. Steere commented that if we had an administrator, they could take on some of that.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he likes the idea of having a plan and we are fortunate enough to have the DPW crew that we have. Councilor G. Steere compared it to the pavilion project, which was done without any engineering on the groundwork.

B. Shields stated that if we don't have a plan in place, we will continue to go ahead and patch this and patch that. B. Shields stated that if we have a vision going forward, we will know what we need to do.

Councilor Burlingame commented that Leja Field has been a thorn in our side and that will get fixed right. Councilor Burlingame also stated that we have already approved work on the tennis courts. Councilor Burlingame stated that this is the baseline for the master plan going forward. Councilor Burlingame expressed his opinion that the needs assessment is important. Councilor Burlingame stated that when the park was built, he didn't agree with the location because the area is wet, but now we can make the best of a bad situation.

Councilor Henry noted that we now have a good working Recreation Commission that can partner with the Recreation Director and the Public Works Department to work on this master plan.

Councilor G. Steere asked how much a company would get to do a needs assessment and provide a rendering. B. Shields replied that the best comparable would be Deerfield Park who is bringing in the Guildford Group to do engineering for an expansion, at a cost of \$25,000. B. Shields stated that Narragansett paid \$20,000 for a needs assessment for their new sports complex. Councilor G. Steere asked what would you get for that amount. B. Shields replied that we would get a rendering, all of the signage, and expert help regarding bonds and fund-raising.

Councilor Burlingame suggested that B. Shields look into the Rhode Island Foundation for grant opportunities. B. Shields replied that this is a good place to start looking, but he does not know if it fits our needs at this time. G. Shields stated that he is looking at other grant options, noting that they are looking to fund this rather than ask for taxpayer dollars.

Councilor Reichert spoke regarding a 100 acre parcel that the Town bought for the purpose of recreation. Councilor Reichert stated that this parcel has a pond and the potential for walking trails. Councilor Burlingame suggested that B. Shields take a good look at this property on Snake Hill Road because it has unlimited potential and we bought it for the future. Councilor Reichert pointed out that many grants cannot be obtained unless you own the land.

Councilor G. Steere commented that we need a plan for GMP even if we only chip away at it a little at a time and do a little bit each year.

Councilor W. Steere stated that B. Shields has people to help him, such as the Senior Center Director with ideas for senior use and the Public Works Director. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that the concept is a good idea and that GMP definitely needs work.

B. Shields stated it would be nice to have something in the center of town for public use and we will continue to look at cost saving solutions.

Gary Trembl, Director of Public Works, stated that his department can't keep up with everything that needs to happen at a park on a daily basis and we would need somebody on a full time basis to take care of the park. G. Trembl noted that Deerfield Park has three (3) personnel that are there all the time and that's all they do. G. Trembl stated that his department can fix things when needed, but if you don't take care of it on a regular basis, it will fall by the wayside.

Councilor G. Steere stated that maybe the Town has grown to the point where we need somebody

full time, maybe not year-round but eight (8) months a year. G. Trembl stated that if we want the park to be nice, we need somebody to take care of all the little things that need to be done.

Walter Steere, Jr. commented that the ball fields and the basketball courts may need to be reconfigured. W. Steere, Jr. further stated that the play area needs to be redone, but we need to have a plan before we start to do anything. Councilor Henry agreed and stated that this is why she wanted this discussion.

Councilor Reichert stated that by the time we're done, we will put several hundred thousand dollars into it, and he would prefer to put money into the 100 acre parcel that he spoke about earlier.

George Charette stated that the park has been in trouble for many years and we have spent a lot of time discussing it and a lot of money trying to repair it. G. Charette commented that we could spend millions of dollars to repair it, but it could be destroyed in a few months because we have nobody to watch it. G. Charette stated that the concession stand was destroyed in 5 years, it was repaired and it is still getting destroyed. G. Charette spoke regarding vandalism at the Pavilion, stating that the video surveillance is not effective because if the vandalism occurs during the night, the video is not seen until after the fact. Councilor Burlingame stated that there have been three (3) incidents of vandalism and all of the vandals have been arrested. Councilor Burlingame further stated that there will soon be live feed surveillance installed at the Pavilion.

D. Litter Concerns from Sand Dam Association - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Henry stated that she was contacted by Judy Colaluca and Eric Levesque of the Sand Dam Association regarding litter. Councilor Henry stated that ads were placed asking residents to make sure their trash loads were secured, but we didn't go as far as covered. Councilor Henry asked that this item be tabled tonight because at the last minute, the residents were unable to be present. Councilor Henry asked the Council to consider several ordinances that have been passed by other communities with regard to covering loads, which goes in tandem with State Law. Councilor Henry stated that we have a litter issue in Town and we need to be proactive about it.

Councilor Reichert asked why we would have to have another law since it is already State Law to cover a load. Councilor Henry replied that we were not sure if the State Law gave us the authority to enforce it in our Town.

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that the fine for not fastening a load is \$250 and he is concerned about tagging Town residents with a fine if their load was uncovered and a couple of things came out.

Councilor Henry stated that she will table this until the next Council meeting when the group that has this concern can come and speak about it. Councilor Henry stated that she will forward to the Council the ordinances that other towns felt the need to have on top of the State Law.

Chief DelPrete stated that we still have the littering law that we could enforce instead of the fastening of the load, which was intended for commercial vehicles. Chief DelPrete also stated that he will use the portable sign to remind residents to secure their loads on the way to the Transfer

Station.

IX. Town Council Correspondence/Discussion

- A. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from Robert Bernier regarding newly painted lines on his road that the Public Works Department has just resurfaced.
- B. Councilor G. Steere stated that a complaint was received regarding activity on Hazelwood Drive. Councilor G. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, how many complaints do we have to get before doing something about it. Councilor W. Steere asked if the neighbors are contacting the Police or just writing letters to the Council. Councilor G. Steere stated that they have been told that they need to contact the Police or Building Official to document the activity.
- C. Councilor G. Steere stated that we received notice of an amendment to the Rhode Island Law about not being able to count weekends and holidays as part of the 48 hour notice for public meetings.
- D. Councilor G. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation regarding their annual performance report.
- E. Councilor G. Steere stated that the RI DOT sent a notice concerning the Municipal Road and Bridge Revolving Fund for 2018.
- F. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council received excerpts from the Gloucester Building Code 116.4, Violations and Penalties, along with an excerpt from the State Building Code which is enforced by Providence and North Providence from resident Joe Somers.
- G. Councilor W. Steere stated that twice he has pulled out a Power Plant sign from the Town mini-park.

X. Department Head Reports/Discussion

- A. Councilor W. Steere asked Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, for an update on the school and/or Holiday Acres. K. Johnson replied that he is still investigating what is going on at the high school. K. Johnson stated that one company has come forward and obtained two (2) permits for lighting work that was performed over the summer at the tennis courts and the football field. K. Johnson stated that Narragansett Improvement Company still has not come forward. Councilor W. Steere asked if he has stopped the work. K. Johnson replied that he did in the beginning, but now they are getting the field ready for a game where they will need the lights. Councilor W. Steere stated that it's okay to say no, they can't have a game. K. Johnson stated they have been made aware and letters were sent to the chairs of the School Committee and the Superintendent. K. Johnson stated that he is trying to bring back the contractors that are responsible for the work and make them pull the permits and to

get the engineers to take responsibility for the work that was done because none of it was inspected by the Building Office.

Councilor W. Steere asked, if they don't do that and something happens, who is liable. Atty. Kane stated the school department would be the entity liable. Councilor W. Steere stated the school should be going after their contractors. K. Johnson stated the letters went out but there has been no response and stated a little cooperation and feed back would help. K. Johnson stated they haven't even sent the plans.

K. Johnson stated the schools have been put on notice about the contracts coming up at the the elementary schools during winter recess because he does not have plans filed yet in his office. K. Johnson expressed his concern that these schools are doing work on their buildings, autonomously, without any inspections.

Councilor Burlingame stated this subject came up at a recent department head meeting and K. Johnson will be reaching out to the facilities manager, at the high school, to ensure that there is a clear understanding that all work is permitted in the future. Councilor Burlingame stated that when the bid specs go out for jobs the permitting is part of the specs. Councilor Burlingame stated that the facilities manager should be responsible to ensure all jobs are permitted. Councilor Burlingame referred to plumbing being done at Fogarty School without inspections. Councilor Burlingame stated K. Johnson will work with the Superintendent of Gloucester Schools to get a list of all upcoming work for the next year and identify which items need permits. Councilor Burlingame stated it was critical that K. Johnson receive that list of pending improvements. Councilor Burlingame stated, in the case of the region, they paid the contractor for permitting that was never pulled.

Councilor Burlingame stated we need to go back to the region and hold their facilities managers feet to the fire. Councilor Burlingame further stated the facilities manager has no authority or qualifications to inspect work done. K. Johnson stated the Town's inspectors need to ensure safety.

Councilor Burlingame stated you should have a response from the letters you sent out to the Superintendent and the School Committee by next week. Councilor Burlingame stated if you receive no response you should raise a red flag.

K. Johnson stated the discovery is on going and he will keep the Council informed.

Councilor W. Steere asked the Building Official to report on progress at Holiday Acres. K. Johnson stated he is waiting for D.E.M.'s report on the issues that are their authority. K. Johnson stated he is working with the Town Clerk and the Chief regarding issues that are existing that are in violation of our ordinance. K. Johnson stated we are being pro-active and we will keep Council informed. Discussion followed on the fact that winter camping will not be allowed by license.

- B. Bob Shields, Recreation Director, Councilor W. Steere questioned if the Recreation Director answered a request regarding men's basketball. B. Shields stated everything was taken care of and the schedule is all set.

XI. Bds. and Commissions Reports/Discussion

- A. Charlie Wilson, HDC chair, discussed the need for working with the Council on the ordinances in place to save the Historic District.

- B. Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, stated he brought up the subject for permitting the lighting at the school at a school committee meeting. W. Steere stated the clerk of the works was suppose to ensure everything was done correctly. Councilor Burlingame stated they are suppose to bring plans in before work commences and questioned who is in charge to make sure these things are done correctly. W. Steere stated he believed the architect would make sure these things are done correctly. W. Steere stated when they take a permit out the Building Official should go up there and check. Councilor G. Steere stated they didn't take a permit out. Discussion followed on with who responsibilites lay. W. Steere stated the School Committees reaction was the town is over-reaching again.

W. Steere stated Councilor Burlingame's comment earlier about the region being one of the worst in the state was an incorrect statement. W. Steere stated we have one of the best school districts in the state as far as education is concerned. Councilor Burlingame stated he was stating that the bureaucracy at the region is one of the worst.

XII. Open Forum

- A. Marie Sweet, Glocester Heritage Society, thanked everyone who made it possible to give the Heritage Society \$2,500 in this year's budget. M. Sweet explained the grants they have received and the work done to the Heritage Society's property.

Marie Sweet, Chestnut Hill Road, discussed the ratification to support the Governor's veto on firefighter's disability. M. Sweet stated in the line of work these individuals are in anything they do can contribute to their health. M. Sweet stated she takes this personally because of her family history with firefighting and illnesses related to their profession. M. Sweet stated she understands where cities and towns are coming from but the statistic are there to prove the dangers.

- B. Tom Sanzi, resident, referred to a quote by Blackstone Valley President , Bob Billington, regarding tourism: "tourism brings in tourism dollars" and stated it is important to continue to restore our recreational areas. T. Sanzi reminded all of the Halloween tours coming up in town soon.

- C. Mike Robinson, of 103 Pine Ledge Road, stated he serves on the Historic District

Commission and discussed issues he feels are a problem in the district. M. Robinson spoke regarding structures that are disappearing in the district and stated he agrees with the idea of meeting with Council to discuss these issues.

XIII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 9:32 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

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

MOTION PASSED