

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on August 16, 2018:

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: Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Jane Steere, Tax Collector; Gerald Mosca, EMA Director; and Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

A. Approval of Minutes of Town Council Meeting of August 2, 2018

B. Tax Assessors Additions & Abatements - July 2018

C. Finance Director's Report - July 2018

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council meeting minutes of August 2, 2018; to APPROVE the ABATEMENTS to the 2018 Tax Roll in the amount of \$8,531.29; the 2017 Tax Roll in the amount of \$78.15; the 2016 Tax Roll in the amount of \$202.93; the 2013 Tax Roll in the amount of \$630.83; the 2012 Tax Roll in the amount of \$631.13; the 2011 Tax Roll in the amount of \$643.30; the 2010 Tax Roll in the amount of \$446.75; the ADDITIONS to the 2018 Tax Roll in the amount of \$13,919.75; 2010 Tax Roll in the amount of \$164.15; the 2009 Tax Roll in the amount of \$159.01 and to TABLE the Finance Director's Report for July 2018; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Boards & Commissions

1. Historic District Commission

a. Appointment- Discussion and/or action

1. One alternate - one year term to expire 11/2018

Charlie Wilson, Chair of the Historic District Commission, stated that the candidate that they wished to interview has been sick but they expect to interview him in September. C. Wilson asked the Council to table the appointment until October.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Historic District Commission for a one year term to expire 11/2018; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Gloucester Housing Authority

a. Appointment - Discussion and/or action

1. One five year term (#4) to expire 7/2022
2. One five year term (#5) to expire 7/2023

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has been trying to fill these vacancies and the Clerk's office has sent out letters to determine if talent bank listing members are still interested. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Clerk has begun to receive responses and suggested tabling the appointments one more time.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointments to the Gloucester Housing Authority until the next Town Council meeting; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VII. New Business

A. Chepachet Village Banners - Gloucester Business Association - Discussion and/or action

Charlie Wilson spoke on behalf of the Gloucester Business Association and the Historic District Commission, stating that they have the money for the banners and plan to order them. C. Wilson noted that the GBA is paying 100% of the cost of the banners. C. Wilson described the style and colors of the banners and stated that they will also purchase holiday banners for the four (4) holiday seasons. C. Wilson stated that the banners will be positioned seven (7) feet from the ground to eliminate any chance of somebody hitting them. C. Wilson stated that if the Council has no issues with this, the order will be placed next week. C. Wilson noted that the GBA logo will be on the banners because they are paying for them.

Councilor W. Steere asked if the banners are made of fabric. C. Wilson replied that they consists of soft vinyl that can move with the wind and added that the poles are fiberglass, not steel, so they can bend also. Councilor G. Steere asked if they are clamped to the pole. C. Wilson replied in the affirmative and stated that the clamps are stainless steel that will not rust.

Councilor G. Steere asked if a motion is necessary. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, advised the Council to approve the purchase with a motion.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE the sign plan presented by the GBA, to be mounted on Town property; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor Henry asked how many banners will be ordered. C. Wilson replied that there are 38 poles and 40 banners will be purchased.

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor G. Steere thanked C. Wilson for his presentation. Councilor Henry suggested a letter of thanks be sent to the GBA and the HDC.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to have the Town Clerk's office send a letter to the Gloucester Business Association and the Historic District Commission for making the banners happen and to the Gloucester Business Association for coming up with the funds to pay for them; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Town Council Correspondence /Discussion

- A. Councilor G. Steere stated that correspondence was received from a taxpayer concerning his tax exemption.
- B. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council thanking us for video taping a congratulatory message to the people of Belper, England. It was stated that Edna Kent, Town Historian, sent the video.
- C. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from DOT concerning the environmental assessment of toll locations. Councilor G. Steere stated that the comment period has been extended and additional public hearings have been scheduled. Councilor G. Steere noted that Karen Scott, Town Planner, has written a letter outlining some of our concerns.
- D. Councilor G. Steere stated that we received a letter from Foster stating that they are having a public hearing in September for a zoning amendment concerning marijuana.

IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

- A. Councilor Henry stated that Recreation is not present tonight, but she would like to discuss the report filed by the Director, which states that local residents are requesting to hold a craft and vendor fair, called the Gloucester Galleria, at the Pavilion. Councilor Henry stated that the Director has sent her a flood of information and the event seems to be in full swing. Councilor Henry stated that she contacted the two (2) people to suggest that they not go any further with their planning until they contact a Councilor to be put on the September agenda for the full Council to hear what their plans are.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he received a call from Will Worthy at Big Bear, who had been contacted by these people. Councilor Burlingame expressed his opinion that what they want to do far exceeds the scope of the intent of the pavilion and needs to be looked at within the guidelines that we have for the use of the pavilion. Councilor Burlingame stated that the rules for the use of the pavilion are clear and would not allow this event. Councilor Burlingame stated that W. Worthy has suggested that his parking lot be used instead.

Councilor Henry stated that she advised these people that there is a process to be followed, as was done for the Scarecrow Festival and the GBA Halloween walk, adding that these were worked on for 7 or 8 months in advance. Councilor Henry commented that this is not something that can happen overnight.

Councilor Burlingame stated his opinion that it is not appropriate for this organization to come before the Council because it far exceeds the rules and regulations for the pavilion. Councilor Henry stated that our rules prohibit the sale of goods or services of a commercial nature, without the permission of the Town Council.

Councilor W. Steere stated that no matter where it is, there is the matter of public safety, especially on Route 44. Councilor W. Steere stated that either location would require a Police detail.

Councilor Henry stated that the initial meeting was in early July, three (3) months before the event, which is not enough time for something of this magnitude. Councilor Henry stated for the record that she does not want to nix great things that could happen, but there is a process and a lot of timing and planning.

- B. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Finance Director has requested that the Council set aside some time before one of the meetings in September to speak to the person who is doing the position reviews and salary evaluations. Councilor Burlingame will advise the Clerk which meeting in September will be an early start to include this item.
- C. Councilor Burlingame stated that Bill Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor, has been in contact with the Providence Water Supply Board regarding a tax treaty for the next ten (10) years. Councilor Burlingame stated this negotiation is on track and is moving forward. Councilor Burlingame stated that this will be on the agenda for a Council meeting in September.

X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/Discussion
None.

XI. Open Forum

- A. Laurie Gaddis Barrett, 900 Snake Hill Road, and Katie Guilbault of Jackson Schoolhouse Road were both present to speak to Council. Ms. Barrett spoke regarding an event (Glocester Galleria) that she is planning. Ms. Barrett thanked Councilor Henry for her correspondence and agreed that this seems to be a “surprise” to Council. Ms. Barrett also stated she thought they had the approval of the Recreation Director and that it was in the authority and purview of the Rec Director. Ms. Barrett stated she understands the concerns. Ms. Barrett explained

that they were very excited at the idea of having a celebration of Gloucester and apologized if they overstepped in their excitement. Ms. Barrett stated she is hoping to get approval to use the Big Bear parking lot for September 22 for what they hope to be a reoccurring great experience for everyone.

Councilor Henry stated that she is in favor of Gloucester having great events and wants nothing but the best for Gloucester. Councilor Henry stated that last year, she was contacted about 8 months prior to the Scarecrow Festival and it was brought before the Council. Councilor Henry stated that a few variances to the Ordinance were granted so the event could be successful, which it was. Councilor Henry stated that we learned some lessons from it as well. Councilor Henry stated that the GBA then did the Halloween walk which was a year in the planning. Councilor Henry stated that the Town Clerk's office has licensing on events like this and they need lead time.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he likes the concept but public safety must be considered if there are 50 vendors, and parking will be an issue, especially on Route 44.

L. Barrett mentioned the proposal before Council. Councilor Henry stated she has not seen a proposal.

L. Barrett stated that she and Katie Guilbault have already spoken with the police department and they have made arrangements for a police detail at the pavilion. L. Barrett also stated they have acted on the advice from the Town Clerk's office regarding getting BCI checks. Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk, stated that as far as the vendors are concerned, it would depend on what they are selling. S. Harris stated that there is a list of things that are required. S. Harris further stated that if the event is held at Big Bear, the owner would have to sign off on all the applications. S. Harris stated that food vendors would have to get a hawker's license. K. Guilbault spoke and stated she had met with Bob Shields and they discussed how food trucks would be an easier way to go because they should have all that is necessary to get licenses. S. Harris stated that food trucks should already have all the information needed.

L. Barrett stated that Councilor Henry asked L. Barrett and K. Guilbault if they have ever done an event like this. The response was affirmative. Councilor Henry confirmed that Barrett and Guilbault were aware of all that is involved with event planning. Councilor Henry stated that she does not know how the event got to this size without them thinking they had to come to the Town Council. Councilor Henry stated that she is not against it, but does not want something that is way out of control.

L. Barrett stated she is happy to sit down and talk to anyone about their plans and stated she understood Councilor Henry feelings about being surprised by the magnitude of this plan. L. Barrett stated that she has had conversations with B. Shields and explained that social media has had hundreds of comments. L. Barrett confirmed it did go further than they expected but, again, they thought the Rec. Director had authority over the pavilion.

There was conversation, not at a microphone, that might not have been audible for transcribing.

S. Harris stated that she recalls telling them, quite a while ago, that the Clerk's office was putting together the protocol and the type of vendors would determine what was needed. S. Harris further stated that she directed them to speak to Bob Shields, Recreation Director, because he oversees the Pavilion. One of the applicants stated there was some sort of disconnect.

There was discussion concerning the number of vendors planned for the event. Councilors questioned how this number of people could fit in that space. Councilor G. Steere cautioned the Council that we are just in Open Forum. Councilor W. Steere stated that he is trying to think of ways that this event could happen. Councilor Burlingame stated that he would not encourage using the pavilion for commercial purposes. Councilor W. Steere mentioned the two (2) events last year, but Councilor Henry pointed out that they were not selling anything. Councilor Burlingame stated that this discussion is out of order. Councilor W. Steere disagreed. Councilor W. Steere stated we are just having a discussion. Councilor G. Steere agreed with Councilor Burlingame but Councilor W. Steere stated it would depend on what we were talking about.

(Again, difficult to transcribe, not at microphone) L. Barrett stated she would be happy to sit down and review but asked if tonight if they could move the location to the Big Bear property. Councilor Burlingame responded that Will Worthy had stated that they could use his parking lot for the event and suggested that they pursue that option to determine if that could happen. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council could have further discussion to fine-tune the use of the pavilion. Councilor W. Steere stated to Ms. Barrett that a discussion with one Councilor does not mean approval. Councilor Henry stated to L. Barrett they would need to get on agenda.

Councilor W. Steere stated that his point was that we are running out of time and the Council does not meet again until September 6th. Atty. Kane stated Councilor G. Steere asked S. Harris if they would have enough time to come into the Clerk's office to get the proper licensing. S. Harris, again, stated that it would depend on what they are selling and noted that food safety is very important. The applicants

stated there would be apparel sold also. S. Harris asked L. Barrett to submit a list of vendors to the Clerk's office, including what they would be selling, as soon as possible.

Councilor Henry commented that if the event is held at Big Bear she is concerned about ingress and egress from the parking lot and stated that a Police detail would be necessary. Councilor Henry stated that she would like to see them do something on a smaller scale.

S. Harris inquired if any of the vendors would be having tents. The response was in the affirmative. S. Harris stated that the Fire Department would have to get involved, even if they are just pop-up tents. Councilor W. Steere advised the applicants to just contact Harmony Fire and they will advise what should happen.

L. Barrett stated, just to be clear, we are "ok" to move forward with the event at Big Bear provided the persons selling items are properly licensed. Councilor G. Steere stated you will have to get together with Town Clerk for licensing.

L. Barrett asked what is the procedure to be placed on a Town Council agenda. Councilor Henry replied that a Councilor must be contacted. L. Barrett asked to be on the September 6th agenda.

- B. Charlie Wilson stated that the roundabout is wonderful and there are no traffic backups, but the problem is speed. C. Wilson stated there have been five (5) accidents in the past thirty days. C. Wilson stated he has a speed gun. C. Wilson stated drivers are going between 40 and 60 miles per hour and when somebody tries to cross the street, the first driver will stop but the second one cannot. C. Wilson stated that something has to be done before somebody dies. C. Wilson stated the Chief knows about it and the State says it is fine, but someone needs to be accountable.

Jane Steere stated that she lives on Route 44 and comes through at least six (6) times a day and most people cross wherever they are and not in a crosswalk. J. Steere stated she can see why this happens. Councilor Reichert suggested having the Chief put up the portable speed sign and start issuing speeding tickets.

- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that he spoke to the Gloucester Little League regarding how to rehabilitate Leja Field. Councilor W. Steere stated that they are willing to take care of the field, as well as the ones out front, because they have been told that they have to leave Acotes within 10 years. Councilor W. Steere stated that they would do most of the work, they would just need the materials. Councilor G. Steere stated they are looking for a couple of loads of fine screened loam and infield mix. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Little League would like to get Leja Field seeded

so it would be playable next year. Councilor G. Steere stated that they are also willing to come to an agreement with the Town to maintain not only Leja, but the other two (2) fields at GMP. Councilor G. Steere stated that the fields do need work and it would be great if they could be used. Councilor W. Steere stated that we would have to find funding for the materials. Councilor Burlingame asked Councilor Reichert to contact the Public Works Director to see if he could purchase the materials, if there is money in their budget, as soon as possible. Councilor Henry stated maybe Little League needs to come before the Council and tell us what they need. There was Council consensus to meet with the Director of Public Works and representatives from the Little League to discuss the matter, particularly the well status. For future agenda item.

XII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 8:25 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

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

MOTION PASSED