

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on September 6, 2018:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 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; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Lori DeSantis, Tax Assessor; and Robert Shields, Recreation Director.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Public Hearing

A. Victualing License (New) - Discussion and/or action

1. Applicant: Albert L. Hill, Jr.

d/b/a: Hill's Tavern and Grill

Location of Business: 417 Putnam Pike

Councilor G. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on August 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and the Woonsocket Call on August 25, 2018.

Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Open and asked if anyone wished to speak regarding this application.

Discussion: David D'Agostino, attorney for the applicant, stated that Al Hill wishes to open a new establishment at the former Sticks Tavern location. D. D'Agostino noted that the restaurant will have a family-friendly atmosphere where everyone can enjoy food and beverage. D. D'Agostino stated that the applicant and his family are present to address any specific questions the Council may have.

Councilor G. Steere again asked if anyone wished to speak.

Hearing none, Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to GRANT a Victualing License for Applicant: Albert L. Hill, Jr., d/b/a: Hill's Tavern and Grill; Location of Business: 417 Putnam Pike; contingent upon: 1) payment of all Town taxes; 2) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 3) Fire and/or Police approval as needed; 4) current Health Department approval; 5) current Food Manager Certificate; and 6) current Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid to November 30, 2018; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Entertainment License (New) - Discussion and/or action

1. Hill's Tavern and Grill, LLC

Applicant: Albert L. Hill, Jr.

d/b/a Hill's Tavern and Grill

Location of Business: 417 Putnam Pike

Councilor G. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.

Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Open.

Discussion: D. D'Agostino stated that he would be happy to address any questions the Council may have.

Councilor W. Steere asked Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, if he had any comments regarding this application. Chief DelPrete's questioned the TIPS certification. D. D'Agostino stated that prior to the meeting, two (2) TIPS certifications were received by email, adding that two (2) or three (3) more will be sent tomorrow. D. D'Agostino further stated that the applicants have food manager licenses, which will be dropped off at Town Hall tomorrow.

Councilor W. Steere noted that this is a "new" entertainment license and asked if anything is carried over from the previous business. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, replied that the previous owner turned in their licenses, therefore these are considered new. T. Kane stated that if the applicants want to have special events, they will have to go through the process in November, and if they wish to serve liquor outside, it would need to be advertised as a separate hearing.

Councilor Henry asked why this was not part of the application. T. Kane replied that alcohol can be consumed outside, but they cannot have a bartender serving outside. T. Kane noted that if outdoor service is requested, there is a process to go through. D. D'Agostino stated that they will update the Council in November if it is something they would like to do.

Councilor G. Steere asked if anyone from the public wished to be heard regarding this application.

Hearing none, Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

Discussion: Tim Kane stated for the record that outside means the fenced-in area, not the parking lot.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to GRANT an Entertainment License for Applicant: Albert L. Hill, Jr., d/b/a: Hill's Tavern and Grill, Location of Business: 417 Putnam Pike; contingent upon: 1) Payment of all Town taxes; 2) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 3) Fire and/or Police approval as needed; this license is valid to November 30, 2018 and is subject to the following stipulations:

1. Alcohol may be consumed outside but may not be served outside. All service must be from the interior of the premises.
2. That all entertainment be confined to the inside of the building,
3. That all windows on the premises are kept closed, but not permanently, and that doors are only opened for normal ingress and egress from the premises.
4. That all live entertainment cease at 1:00 a.m.
5. When there is live entertainment, the Town Council, at its discretion, may assign a supplemental police officer or officers at such time and in such a place as the Town Council deems appropriate and the license holder shall reimburse the Town of Gloucester for the expense of such police officer(s):
6. Any other reasonable conditions and restrictions as the Town Council may require.

seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked when we say “be served”, we know it means no bartender, but could a waitress come out and take someone’s order. T. Kane replied in the negative. T. Kane stated that this should have been read with the next motion, therefore this motion has to be re-read without this stipulation.

Councilor Henry WITHDREW her second.

Councilor Reichert AMENDED his MOTION by removing the sentence regarding outside service; seconded by Councilor Henry.

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

MOTION PASSED

- C. Class B-V Liquor License - Discussion and/or action
  1. Hill's Tavern and Grill, LLC  
Applicant: Albert L. Hill, Jr.

d/b/a Hill's Tavern and Grill  
Location of Business: 417 Putnam Pike

Councilor G. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Providence Journal on August 22 and August 29, 2018.

Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Open.

Discussion: D. D'Agostino incorporated his prior comments and stated that he would be happy to answer any further questions.

Councilor G. Steere asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak. Hearing none, Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to GRANT a Class BV Liquor License to Applicant: Albert L. Hill, Jr.; d/b/a: Hill's Tavern and Grill; Location of Business: 417 Putnam Pike; contingent upon: 1) Issuance of a valid Victualing License; 2) payment of all Town taxes; 3) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 4) Fire and/or Police approval as needed; 5) current Rhode Island Certificate of Good Standing, 6) current Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales, 7) current Alcohol Service Certification for all employees, 8) current copy of menu, 9) current Rhode Island B.C.I. check; 10) a Certificate of commercial, general-liability and property damage insurance for a minimum amount of \$300,000; this license shall be for the **interior of the premise only**, meaning that alcohol may be consumed outside but may not be served outside, all service must be from the interior of the premise; and is valid to November 30, 2018; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: Councilor Henry stated that point #5 must be corrected to read "current Rhode Island Certificate of Good Standing". Councilor Henry stated that Councilor Reichert read it as "current Sales Certificate of Good Standing".

Councilor Burlingame WITHDREW his second.

Councilor Reichert corrected his motion to read " 5) current Rhode Island Certificate of Good Standing"; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

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

MOTION PASSED

The Council wished the applicant good luck with his business. Albert Hill stated that he and his family are extremely happy to be part of the community.

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Minutes of Town Council Meeting of August 16<sup>th</sup> & August 27, 2018
- B. Pole Grants
  - 1. Location: Indian Trail - New joint owned pole location
  - 2. Location: Vernon Drive - New joint owner pole location
- C. Finance Director's Report - July, 2018

Councilor G. Steere stated that he was not present at the meeting of August 27<sup>th</sup>. Councilor W. Steere stated that he was not present at the meeting of August 16<sup>th</sup>.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to APPROVE the Town Council meeting minutes of August 16<sup>th</sup> & August 27, 2018; to GRANT the Pole Grants for Indian Trail & Vernon Drive - two new joint owner pole locations; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for July 2018; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE on minutes of August 16, 2018:

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

MOTION PASSED

VOTE on minutes of August 27, 2018:

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

MOTION PASSED

VOTE on Pole Grants and Finance Director's Report - July, 2018

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

MOTION PASSED

## VII. 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

Councilor Henry stated that at the last meeting, it was stated that the Council did not want to see this on the agenda again until October.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to TABLE the appointment to the Historic District Commission for the Alternate one year term to expire 11/2018 until the second meeting in October; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

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

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Chair has advised Council to fill the positions with available volunteers. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Clerk reached out and Linda Laliberte and Thomas Marfeo wish to still be considered for a position on the Housing Authority. Councilor G. Steere noted that both had filled out talent bank apps some time ago.

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Linda Laliberte to position #4 on the Gloucester Housing Authority for a five year term to expire 7/2022; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Thomas Marfeo to position #5 on the Gloucester Housing Authority for a five year term to expire 7/2023; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

## VIII. New Business

### A. Boards & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
  - A. Juvenile Hearing Board

Councilor G. Steere stated that two (2) members are up for renewal:

1. One Three year term to expire 9/30/2021

Councilor G. Steere stated that this item is for the expired three year term currently held by Kevin

Kitson, who wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to REAPPOINT Kevin Kitson to the Juvenile Hearing Board for a three year term to expire 9/30/2021; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

2. One Alternate One-year term to expire 9/30/2019

Councilor G. Steere stated that this item is for the expired one year Alternate position currently held by Richard Travers, who wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to REAPPOINT Richard Travers to the Juvenile Hearing Board for an one year Alternate position to expire 9/30/2019; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Recreation Commission

1. One term to expire 1/2019 (position #3)

Councilor G. Steere stated that there is currently one vacant seat on the Recreation Commission and stated that a talent bank application has been turned in. Councilor Henry stated that she attended the Recreation Committee meeting where a new chair was appointed and several applicants were in attendance. Councilor Henry stated that Christy Ann Long was present and has done some volunteer work with the Commission. Councilor Henry stated that the Chair has informed her that the Commission is recommending the appointment of Christy Long.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to APPOINT Christy Ann Long to the Recreation Commission for a two year term to expire 1/2019; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Planning Board - Recording Clerk - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere read the following recommendation from the Finance Director:

To: Honorary Town Council Members  
From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance/ HR  
Date: September 4, 2018  
Re: Planning Board Clerk

Three individuals applied for the position of Planning Board Clerk. Three interviews were conducted by Karen Scott, Planning Director, George Charette, Chair of Planning Board, and myself. The recommendation by the panel is to appoint Brenda Aquilante to the position of Planning Board Clerk. Brenda has experience from her current position as a senior administrative clerk at the City of Providence, Water Department. The planning board looks forward to working with Brenda as the new board clerk. The recommended appointment date is September 6, 2018 in time for the next planning board meeting. This position is not eligible for benefits. The salary for the position is \$150 per meeting upon approval of the minutes.

This recommendation is for consideration at the meeting on Thursday September 6, 2018.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to APPOINT Brenda Aquilante to the position of Planning Board Clerk at the rate of \$150 per meeting upon approval of minutes, effective September 6, 2018; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Proposed Pavilion Event (with possible exemptions from rules & regulations)  
Scarecrow Festival - Discussion and/or action

Discussion: Councilor Henry stated that Mr. Rechter and Mr. Robidoux would like to come forward to present their proposal, which includes some changes and additions from last year.

Mark Rechter, of 1218 Putnam Pike, and Dennis Robidoux, of 750 Putnam Pike, appeared before the Council. M. Rechter stated that the event was very successful last year and assuming that the regulation 221-18 has not changed, they are asking for fewer exceptions than last year. Councilor Henry suggested that we go through the list of exceptions, 1 through 9, and remove the ones that are not needed.



1. Relief from Subsection A: granting a two-hour extension for setup on Friday night. **M. Rechter stated that this relief is not needed.**
2. Relief from Subsection E: granting permission to set up a grill. **M. Rechter stated that they already have the Department of Health permit and noted that the location of the grill will be different from last year. M. Rechter stated it will be at the entrance.**
3. Relief from Subsection I: granting of permission to set up signage outside of the wall. **Councilor Henry pointed out that there already is signage. M. Rechter stated that this will be the extent of the signs, whereas last year there were more.**
4. Relief from Subsection K: granting permission to close the parking area to traffic the day of the event. **M. Rechter stated that they definitely need this exception.**
5. Relief from Subsection O: granting permission to sell grilled food, under the stipulation a Department of Health permit shall be received by applicant, and there shall be a fire extinguisher on premise. **M. Rechter stated that this will be needed.**
6. The need for portable toilets, to be used as additional facilities, will be considered by Applicant. **M. Rechter stated that this can be removed as they do not need additional facilities. M. Rechter noted that none of the concerts have had a porta-john. Councilor Henry asked G. Treml if a porta-john was necessary. G. Treml replied: INAUDIBLE.**
7. Cleanup and trash removal will be the responsibility of the Applicant. **M. Rechter agreed that this should stay.**
8. The Applicant will work with the Chief of Police regarding a police presence for safety. **M. Rechter stated that last year, they had an officer who really didn't do much, and pointed out that when concerts were held, they did not have an officer for traffic control. M. Rechter noted that people will not be staying there, they will be moving up and down the street. M. Rechter further stated that there are two (2) crosswalks and the portable electric sign could be used to warn people of the traffic and pedestrian situation.**  
**Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that for safety there should be a Police car and officer available at this type of event. Chief DelPrete stated that we have had the Police at every venue this year and have come to the resolution that when having these events, we will have a Police officer present. M. Rechter stated that the time of the festival has been condensed from last year. It was agreed they will work together on the placement of an officer.**

Councilor Henry asked what are the date and hours of the event this year. M. Rechter replied that the date is Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and they will start set-up at 9:00 a.m., judging will be at 12:00 and awards will be given at 1:00 p.m. M. Rechter stated that at 2:00 p.m., the library-sponsored concert that was cancelled during the summer will take place at the Pavilion, and another group may follow after that. M. Rechter stated that there may be continuous entertainment for 2 to 3 hours. Councilor Henry asked what is the ending time. M. Rechter stated that the festival will end after the awards are handed out at 1:00, but the concert will follow. Councilor Henry asked what time the concert will end. M. Rechter replied that he does not know and Councilor Henry will have to talk to the Library. Councilor Henry commented that the Library will have to talk to the Council. M. Rechter

stated that technically, this is not part of the event, although they are advertising it, along with Harmony Lodge's entertainment that night. W. Steere stated if you are advertising it is part of the event. Council agreed it should be viewed as one event. M. Rechter stated that they want this to be a full lineup of things to do in Gloucester. Councilor Henry asked M. Rechter to tell the Library that they have to come in to say what they are requesting permission to do. M. Rechter stated that he thinks the music will only go an hour until 3:00, but if there is another group, it could go until 4:00.

Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk, asked M. Rechter what she should be telling people who call asking what time the festival runs. M. Rechter replied that it starts at 9:00 to 2:00 or 3:00. Councilor W. Steere stated that we need to be very specific so that everybody is on the same page.

9. Subject to Fire Department requirements, to include a hose on site. **M. Rechter stated that they will do that.**

Councilor Henry asked if anybody wanted to add anything else before she reads the motion. Councilor W. Steere questioned the relocation of the grills and asked if they will still be 50 feet from the pavilion. M. Rechter replied that they will be more than 50 feet away. Councilor W. Steere requested that the applicant ask the Fire Department if the grills are in a safe place.

Councilor Burlingame asked when the festival will end. M. Rechter replied that the festival will technically be over by 3:00 p.m. Councilor Burlingame suggested that it be 4:00, to be on the safe side. Councilor Henry asked if any pop-up tents will be used. M. Rechter replied in the negative. Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk, asked if there will be food trucks. M. Rechter replied that there will be no food vendors at all. M. Rechter stated that the Grange will be selling hamburgers and he has told other community groups, provided they have a certified food handler, that they could also participate, but he has not heard back. Councilor G. Steere pointed out that the Council is only approving that the Grange can sell grilled food. M. Rechter again stated that nobody has come forth so it won't be happening. Councilor Henry asked that if any animals such as bunnies or goats will be there for children to pet, would Department of Health approval be required. M. Rechter replied that they have a Certificate of Liability. Councilor Burlingame told the applicant to check with the Town Clerk.

Councilor W. Steere stated that we are in Election season and stated that last year there was an issue with group that left their stuff at the pavilion. M. Rechter stated that if a political party wanted to sponsor a scarecrow, they would have to go through the process. Discussion followed regarding political statements. Councilor Henry asked if it is against people's first amendment rights to say no political statements. Tim Kane replied that the Pavilion is on Town property, where political signs are not allowed.

Bob Shields, Recreation Director, stated that he emailed the applicant a field request form which must be filled out and submitted. M. Rechter stated that he has trouble with his email and asked that the form be emailed to D. Robidoux.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to grant the use of the pavilion to the Chepachet Grange #38 for their Gloucester Scarecrow Festival to be held on Saturday, October 13, 2018, or in case of rain, Sunday, October 14, 2018, and to grant relief from the following regulations in Article 3-221-18:

1. Relief from Subsection E: granting permission to set up a grill, a minimum of 50 feet from the Pavilion, subject to applicant receiving a Department of Health permit.
2. Relief from Subsection I: granting permission to set up signage outside of the wall.
3. Relief from Subsection K: granting permission to close the parking area to traffic the day of the event.
4. Relief from Subsection O: granting permission to sell grilled food, under the stipulation a Department of Health permit shall be received by applicant, and there shall be a fire extinguisher on premise.
5. Cleanup and trash removal will be the responsibility of the Applicant, Chepachet Grange #38.
6. The applicant, Chepachet Grange #38, will work with the Chief of Police regarding a Police presence for safety. The hours and number of officers needed will be at the Chief's discretion.
7. Subject to Fire Department requirements, to include a hose on site.
8. No political statements are allowed on Town property.

Seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere suggested tabling this matter to allow the applicants to have everything necessary and be ready to go. Councilor W. Steere stated that we want to have the plan all in one place and noted that the Recreation Director needs some things and the Chief needs to have some discussion. Councilor Henry stated her opinion that we are okay and she would just like to move forward. Councilor Henry asked Bob Shields if he is uncomfortable not having the form. B. Shields replied that we don't want to have things added on two days before the event.

Councilor Henry WITHDREW her motion and Councilor Burlingame WITHDREW his second.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to TABLE this permit until the applicant gets the form in to the Recreation Director, Robert Shields, all spelled out as was discussed tonight, until the next Town Council meeting; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: M. Rechter stated that they have added to the event to have music along the street at different locations by Gloucester students who have music talent. M. Rechter noted that they used to do this at Heritage Day. Councilor W. Steere asked if these musicians would be on private property. M. Rechter replied in the affirmative. Councilor W. Steere inquired about liability. T. Kane stated that he will look into it, but feels that if a property owner wants to let somebody play music on their property, it is up to them. Councilor W. Steere stated that it is an expansion of the event. Councilor W. Steere stated he doesn't have a problem with the concept; he just wants to make sure everybody is safe. Councilor Henry asked the applicant to be somewhat specific in his application. M. Rechter stated that he has already asked Kevin Kitson's location, the Tavern on Main and

Citizens Bank who are all involved. Regarding Tavern on Main, S. Harris stated that they do not have an outdoor entertainment license.

Councilor Burlingame stated that we have to be careful because we recently got involved in a Special Event license on commercial property, and there is a fine line regarding something taking place on commercial property. Councilor Burlingame stated his opinion that it is a “slippery slope” when you are having music at commercial places and recommended that the applicant stay away from it and keep the activities at the Pavilion.

Councilor Henry commented that we are a rural town with ordinances and the applicant had a very successful festival last year with great scarecrows affixed to every lamp post which people enjoyed for the whole month. Councilor Henry suggested that music be contained to the pavilion site. Councilor G. Steere agreed, stating that none of the businesses have an outdoor entertainment license and if we allow it, it will cause a problem. M. Rechter stated that the reason for doing this was for the students to show their talents outside of the controlled environment of a band concert. Councilor Burlingame suggested that they do it at the pavilion because he would be skeptical of approving anything other than that.

Councilor G. Steere stated we were moving on until Mr. Rechter added more to the event for consideration.

Mr. Rechter asked who he could meet with to discuss, and he was advised to work with Mr. Shields.

Mr. Robidoux asked if bands would be allowed on private property. Mr. Robidoux was advised to add to application for consideration.

S. Harris asked B. Shields if the request form discloses everything that the Scarecrow Festival committee would be doing. B. Shields replied that it is a simple form asking which field will be utilized and for what purpose. B. Shields stated that there is a place for the applicant to describe the activities planned.

C. Resident Request - Continuation of Elderly Tax Exemption- Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere read the following request from a resident:

August 15, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Richard D. Irace. I have lived in Gloucester for 43 years on Anan Wade Road. We wanted to downsize so we sold our house and purchased a condo on Bella Vista Circle in September of 2017.

My concern is that I have been to the town hall on two separate occasions to retrieve my tax bill and was told they will be out in July. As August came around and still had not received anything I returned to the town hall. After two more visits and more research we found that my taxes were sent

to Bella Vista Group in Smithfield not to me in Gloucester.

I also never received my elderly exemption and was told I lost it for this tax year because I didn't fill out the form that I never received as well as my veterans exemption.

I have enclosed a copy of my 2018 tax bill that was sent to Bella Vista Group as well as my deed papers that prove I am still living in Gloucester.

Thank you for taking time to look into this matter.

Richard D. Irace

(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated that after Mr. Irace contacted him, he spoke to Lori DeSantis, Tax Assessor. Councilor G. Steere stated that nobody did anything wrong, but he feels there is a “glitch” or hole in the system. Councilor G. Steere stated that when Mr. Irace sold his property and bought another property in Gloucester, nothing came to the Assessor’s office to indicate that.

L. DeSantis stated that if he had purchased the house the same day, she would have seen the deed and had sent him a letter as a courtesy, but he sold the house in October, therefore she did not send him a renewal notice. L. DeSantis stated that he did get his veterans exemption because when he sold his property, she applied it to his motor vehicle.

Councilor Burlingame stated that this situation came up a few months ago and stated that when someone sells a piece of property, the exemption goes away because the Town doesn’t know anything about it. Councilor Burlingame stated that when the person buys another property, the exemption doesn’t necessarily carry unless they apply. Councilor Burlingame stated that now that the town has eliminated the income test, he asked if it would make sense to say that once you have the exemption, you have it until you die; however it is only for owner-occupied property, so if someone is in a nursing home, they no longer qualify. Councilor Burlingame stated that we do have a two year window where someone can get their exemption back without a waiting period. Councilor Burlingame stated the only glitch he sees is that the tax bill was sent to Bella Vista instead of the owner. Councilor Burlingame noted that even if it had been sent to the owner, there was no application filed in March. Councilor Burlingame stated that it is an unfortunate thing with the timing and even if he had gotten his tax bill in June, it would have been too late to apply. Councilor Burlingame noted that we make every effort to contact people to remind them to send in their applications. Councilor G. Steere stated that unfortunately, Mr. Irace has lost the exemption for this year and will have to sign up again next year.

## NO ACTION

### D. Gloucester Memorial Park

1. Authorization for purchase of materials for improvements - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Little League has come forward and volunteered to finish the work at Leja Field and is looking to make a long-term agreement with the Town. Councilor G. Steere further stated that they are looking to eventually expand it to the other two (2) fields. Councilor G. Steere stated that they are requesting that the Town supply the materials needed for

the project, but they are willing to do all the work. Councilor G. Steere stated there was also discussion about the well on the property. G. Treml replied (mostly inaudible) about work he has done and work to be done, including electric work. G. Treml questioned they need a load of infield mix and a load of loam. Councilor G. Steere agreed stating they may need more than one load of loam.

Bob Shields, Recreation Director, was asked for his input. B. Shields stated that he is not privy to this information because he does not handle maintenance of fields. Councilor G. Steere stated we will need to talk to you about future plans.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the purchase of materials for improvements to Gloucester Memorial Park; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor Henry asked if we have a price for the materials. Councilor G. Steere stated that the cost will be covered in the Public Works budget.

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

MOTION PASSED

2.           Future plans for maintenance/oversight - Discussion and/or action

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere asked about scheduling of the fields at Gloucester Memorial Park. B. Shields stated that there is a traveling softball field that will be using the field for practice until mid-September. Other than that, B. Shields stated that there are no longer any softball leagues in town nor anyone else that has been practicing on the fields. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Little League's offer sounds good, but would we be giving them a monopoly on the fields. B. Shields stated he would go along with what Council proposed and further stated that he had planned to reclaim those two (2) fields and re-purpose them into more of a multi-purpose field. B. Shields stated that he has always thought that the playground is too close to the roadway and should be moved back to one of the fields. B. Shields noted that there are still some funds that his predecessor had requested that was going to be used for playground equipment, however with the potential of Little League becoming involved, the plans might change.

Councilor G. Steere suggested that B. Shields meet with the Little League to hear their ideas and proposals. B. Shields expressed concern that if the Little League has Leja Field and the front field, we will lose a little bit of control with what's going on there. B. Shields stated that he would like to explore other options before entering into an agreement. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, spoke from his seat and was fairly inaudible on the recording. G. Treml did indicate that Little League should call his office. B. Shields stated that if the Council deems that we should go forward with this, he will be on board with it. Councilor G. Steere stated the Little League has done a good job fixing up Acotes Field.

Mark Rechter, of 1218 Putnam Pike, stated that he is abutter and asked if the abutters will be advised of changes at GMP. Councilor W. Steere replied that there will be no change. Councilor G. Steere

noted that this is the first discussion regarding this matter. Councilor W. Steere pointed out that any changes would have to be approved by the Town Council at a public meeting. M. Rechter asked if the abutters would get a letter about a public meeting. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, replied in the negative.

E. Route 44 Access from Douglas Hook Road & Post Office access and egress - Discussion and/or action

Discussion: Councilor Burlingame stated that he put this on the agenda because when pulling out of Douglas Hook Road, it is difficult to see oncoming traffic due to cars parked on the left and the right. Councilor Burlingame stated that it is the same when exiting the Post Office parking lot and suggested removing a few parking spaces to the east of both locations. Councilor G. Steere agreed that it is a problem, but the Council had asked the State DOT not to take those parking spaces away because we needed all the parking we could get.

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that if the Council opts to do that, they will have to go to the State Traffic Commission and a hearing will be held, which he will attend on the Town's behalf if the Council wants him to. Chief DelPrete commented that this would take spots that are needed and the State will put signage indicating "no parking to corner".

Councilor W. Steere asked how many accidents have occurred at Douglas Hook and Route 44 over the last two (2) years. Chief DelPrete stated that he is not prepared to answer that, but off the top of his head, not many and they were very minor. Councilor W. Steere stated that if we do it there, we would have to do it at every business, which would eliminate a lot of parking. Chief DelPrete noted that as we have seen at some of our events, parking is a problem.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the State did not want to have parking at the corners, but we asked them to leave them there and they did. Chief DelPrete noted that in most metropolitan areas, there is no parking to corner. Councilor Burlingame stated his opinion that the parking spaces at the corners should be eliminated at Douglas Hook Road and the Post Office parking lot. Councilor W. Steere asked why not the other corners because we have had accidents at places other than 44 and Douglas Hook. Councilor Burlingame stated that he has received the most complaints about Douglas Hook and the Post Office. Councilor Burlingame stated that if we ask the State to eliminate those spaces, we will be going back to what the Traffic Commission recommended in the first place. Chief DelPrete stated that we would get striping and signage. Councilor Burlingame stated that it would not bother him and he would rather do something than nothing.

Charlie Wilson stated his opinion that this would "open a big can of worms". C. Wilson stated that if the Council goes back to the State, we will lose many parking spaces. C. Wilson stated "Don't go there, it's a bad thing to do".

Chief DelPrete suggested that the Council table this matter to allow him to get more information from the Engineer.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE Route 44 Access from Douglas Hook Road and Post Office access and egress until the next meeting for further discussion; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

F. Tax Treaty - Providence Water Supply Board & Town of Gloucester  
Authorization for signature - Discussion and/or action

Discussion: Councilor Burlingame stated that he met with Solicitor Bernstein and the Tax Treaty is due this coming January. Councilor Burlingame stated that it is a 10-year deal and the last time we went through it, Providence Water Supply Board wanted to sue us for taxing too much and we said we were not taxing enough. Councilor Burlingame stated that after much back and forth, we managed to work out a good agreement with them. Councilor Burlingame noted that there was an increase in the assessment of the property because somebody had deeded property to Providence Water Supply Board. Councilor Burlingame stated that they have agreed to pay the going tax rate provided it does not go above 4%. Councilor Burlingame stated his opinion that this is a good agreement and we should accept it.

Councilor W. Steere asked what would happen if the Water Supply Board becomes privatized. Councilor Burlingame stated that this is not part of the agreement. Councilor W. Steere asked if this should be memorialized somewhere in the agreement. T. Kane read Subparagraph B on page 4 which covers it.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Tax Treaty between the Providence Water Supply Board and the Town of Gloucester effective until 12/31/2028; seconded by Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. Town Council Correspondence /Discussion

A. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council received a letter from DOT stating that there will be no political signs on State property.

B. Councilor W. Steere stated that a valued and respected member of our community, Carl Buckley, passed away this week. Councilor W. Steere commented that Carl was very involved and did a lot for the Town.



- C. Laurie Gaddis Barrett spoke about the correspondence concerning political signs, asking if somebody lives on a State road, how much does the State own. Councilor G. Steere stated that it varies; in some places it is only a few feet but in others they could own 40 to 50 feet.

X. Department Head Reports/Discussion

- A. Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated he would keep Council updated on the selection process (INAUDIBLE).
- B. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, spoke regarding Article 9 of the State Budget, which pertains to school funding and conditions that were set forth. D. Brennan stated that criteria has been set up for all school budgets, and there are three (3) conditions that must be met with regard to Maintenance of Effort. D. Brennan stated that it looks like it will be a significant increase to the school budget. D. Brennan explained the conditions and stated that it would be almost \$97,000 that we would have to provide for use to maintain our buildings. D. Brennan stated that RIDE has provided us information, but it is still in draft form. Councilor G. Steere asked if this will count toward the \$600,000 that we have in the Town and School budgets for repairing the elementary schools. D. Brennan replied in the negative, stating that this is in our normal operating budget.

Councilor Henry stated that she had asked D. Brennan to bring this to the Council's attention because she attended the School Committee meeting where Supt. Barnes spoke about increasing the School budget due to this Article 9. Councilor Henry stated that Dr. Barnes is looking at it like an add-on to the budget, but the way she looks at it, we have a 2% set-aside from Capital in our budget and we don't consider that as adding onto our budget.

D. Brennan stated that the key is in the details, but there has been no guidance from the State agencies that are supposed to provide guidance to us. D. Brennan pointed out that she doesn't expect guidance to come to us soon because a little bit of Article 9 is contingent upon whether the voters approve the \$250 million bond issue that will be acted upon in November. D. Brennan stated that this is something that we want to pay attention to.

Councilor Henry stated that she didn't think that it would be shadowed within a budget in our Gloucester schools, but she feels we should be aware as we approach all the budgets. D. Brennan noted that there would be a bigger impact with the Region.

XI. Bds. and Commissions Reports/Discussion

- A. Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, stated that at the last School Committee meeting, there was discussion regarding full regionalization and Dr. Barnes stated that if Gloucester does not want to fully regionalize, he would like to

have a Charter change which would allow Foster to do it by themselves.

Councilor Henry noted that she has met with the Regionalization Committee and has forwarded the Council's questions and answers to them, so they clearly know where we stand on this. Councilor Henry stated that the Foster members of the School Committee are in favor of it, but the Gloucester members are split. Councilor Henry suggested that this be on the agenda for the next Council meeting, and she would like to make a motion at the next meeting that the Council send forth a letter to the Regional School Committee stating exactly where we stand on regionalization. Councilor Henry stated if this Council is not in favor of regionalization we should let them know now so they don't waste their time. Councilor Henry stated that at the meeting, Shelley Pezza, of the Foster School Committee, told her that the School Committee are elected officials and the Town Council should not have any input regarding their budget. Councilor Henry replied that the Council answers to the constituents of Gloucester and the schools represent almost 70% of our budget. Councilor Henry stated with that attitude she knows where she stands on regionalization.

Councilor Burlingame commented that there is a high level of arrogance with the majority of the School Committee. Councilor Burlingame stated that somebody got a raise of \$17,000 at the beginning of the school year, mid-contract. Councilor Burlingame stated that he supports Councilor Henry's idea to send a letter to the School Committee. Councilor Burlingame stated it has run amuck and that the region is spending money like drunken sailors.

W. Steere, Jr. spoke regarding the person who got the raise, stating that she does all the work for the Pathway program, which has gone from 50 students to 160. W. Steere, Jr. stated that the position entails a lot more work and the employee's days of employment have gone from 184 to 260. W. Steere, Jr. stated that he voted for this increase and believes it was the right decision. Regarding full regionalization, W. Steere, Jr. asked if the Town has any control over it and it can be done at a Financial Meeting or a General Election. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that he can do a memo at the next meeting. W. Steere, Jr. asked if there are ways to stop this thing if the Town does not want it to go ahead. Councilor G. Steere asked if their solicitor is looking for ways to circumvent the Town. W. Steere, Jr. replied that he does not know, but the Foster members are really pushing this and have been for a long time.

Councilor Burlingame stated that it has to go to both towns and both towns have to approve it, as it was when regionalization was first passed years ago. Councilor Reichert agreed and stated both towns had to say yes or both towns had to say no. Councilor Henry stated that the people in Foster are trying to do this without having to go to the ballot. Councilor Henry asked T. Kane to research this so the Council does not get blind-sided.

Michelle Allen stated that Foster was pushing for regionalization and it was stated that they could do it split, but they can't make a decision until Gloucester has full information of the whole process, start to finish. M. Allen stated that this will be discussed at the next School Committee meeting and suggested that the Council members attend. Councilor Burlingame pointed out that when this first came up, the Committee asked the Council for their input, they gave them all the concerns of the Town of Gloucester and they ignored it.

Councilor Henry stated that, as liaison to the schools, she has spent many hours trying to get some concrete information. Councilor Burlingame stated that Foster's agenda is to get us to pay for their schools and they just don't want to hear it. M. Allen noted that she was the only person in attendance who was not on the School Committee or Town Council. Councilor Henry stated that the Committee always goes into Executive Session at the beginning of the meeting, making the public wait a long time before being allowed in. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council members have all been there many times. M. Allen stated that the Council is in charge of the School Committee. Councilor Henry replied that they are not in charge; the School Committee members are elected on their own and do not answer to the Town Council. Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk, stated that School Committee candidates will be on the November ballot, noting that they have staggered terms.

## XII. Open Forum

- A. Laurie Gaddis Barrett and Katie Guilbault appeared before the Council to clarify some "gray areas" regarding their special event, Gloucester Galleria. Councilor Burlingame stated that this should have been an agenda item for discussion. L. Barrett stated that she is working with Ken Johnson in Zoning and one of the items on the agenda was accessory use. L. Barrett stated that they are using Hill's parking lot as a parking lot for the event. L. Barrett stated that she is also working with Chief DelPrete regarding a site plan and does not expect there to be any problems. L. Barrett stated that they have communicated with the vendors that the category of commercial products is closed. With regard to the BCI checks, L. Barrett asked if we could leverage the BCI checks that are already being done for the School Department, as some of the vendors are also parents in the school districts. Chief DelPrete spoke but was inaudible on the recording. L. Barrett asked if the Council will require that every vendor involved in the event have a separate BCI check specific to this event, or can we rely on an existing BCI check that has not expired. Susan Harris stated that those BCI checks are for the schools and we don't ever see them in the Clerk's office. Chief DelPrete stated that if they have the form, they can send in a copy, if it is fairly recent.

L. Barrett stated that they have Harmony Child Care listed as a participating vendor under "Arts & Crafts". Councilor Henry stated that this was already covered at the last meeting and it was very specific that it was art & craft vendors only. Councilor Henry stated that there would be no travel services, child care services, etc. L. Barrett

clarified that Harmony Child Care was going to have an arts and crafts table for the children. Councilor Burlingame stated that this sounds like an “end run”. Councilor Henry stated that we are trying to avoid having other child care companies come to the Council and ask why they were excluded. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council tried to make it very clear at the special meeting that it was to be arts and crafts only.

Susan Harris read the motion from the special meeting as follows:

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPROVE a Special Event License, under Gloucester Code of Ordinance 190-9, for September 22, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at property located at 401 Putnam Pike, not to exceed 50 outdoor/indoor arts and crafts type vendor only, live music, face painting, comedy, and a bounce house, approval is subject:

1. Compliance with all licensing requirements per Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 190, as set forth by the Gloucester Town Clerk;
2. Public Safety Plan approved by Police Chief;
3. All property owners where the event or parking will take place must provide shall provide cert of liability insurance naming the Town of Gloucester as Certificate Holder.

Seconded by Councilor Henry

Councilor Henry stated that re-asking the same question will not change the answer. Councilor Henry stated that the Council was very clear in its motion. Councilor Burlingame stated that no further discussion is necessary.

Regarding somebody coming to do arts and crafts with the kids, L. Barrett asked if we would call it entertainment. Councilor Reichert advised L. Barrett not to put a sign with the child care company as sponsor. Councilor G. Steere stated that you can't offer it to one commercial business and not to others. Councilor Henry stated that they could have a table for kids to do arts and crafts, but it must be generic.

- B. Walter Steere, Jr. spoke about the parking situation on Route 44, stating that people have complained about it before. W. Steere, Jr. stated that the biggest problem is when a truck is parked there because you just cannot see when pulling out. W. Steere, Jr. commented that even a fender-bender will leave you without a car for a week or two. W. Steere, Jr. stated that it has been talked about before and maybe we should get some advice on how to solve this problem.

### XIII. Adjourn

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

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