

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on January 17, 2019:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: George O. (Buster) Steere, Jr., President; Walter M. O. Steere, III, Vice-President; William E. Reichert; Patricia Henry; and Julian (Jay) Forgue.

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Robert Shields, Recreation Director; Jerry Mosca, EMA Director; David Steere, Budget Board Chair.

Members of the Gloucester School Committee: Walter M.O. Steere, Jr.; Melissa Worthy; Jonathan Burlingame; Mary Elizabeth Keeling.

School Administrators: Patricia Dubois, Gloucester Superintendent and Michael Barnes, F/G Supt.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV.

Future local school funding - Discussion

Discussion: D. Brennan, Finance Director, stated this information is to let know Council where we are currently and into the future with school spending. D. Brennan distributed handouts to Town Council members, entitled: "Analysis of School, Revenues and Expenses" & "Gloucester School Department, Analysis of Funding". D. Brennan pointed out, as identified on handout, that local aid from the Town is the same as it was in 2010. D. Brennan stated the chart shows some variations in revenues and expenses over the years. D. Brennan stated the school has built up a cumulative fund balance which has been relied upon in the last few years, some of which even went toward school renovations (1.5 million). D. Brennan explained the handout shows revenue and expenses proposed now (FY 2019) and into FY 2021. D. Brennan stated the School Committee adjusted their current budget by approx. \$40,000 to bring it down to the voted allocation. Diane explained the increase proposed of \$634,887 is made up of a 4% increase of \$254,887; loss of state aid of \$180,000, and an assignment of \$200,000 plus an additional draw from fund balance of \$506,269. D. Brennan also distributed a sheet entitled "Gloucester School Department, Fund Balance Analysis, As of June 30, 2018". D. Brennan explained that the fund balance for the school, Restricted for Education is an important line that shows at the end of 2018 there was \$514,649 available for use to help balance this years budget. D. Brennan stated that the current budget has, in the assigned category, \$514,000, with a contribution of a draw down from the fund balance of \$1,086,695 and which also includes the \$300,000 for school renovation project. D. Brennan stated to start FY 2020 there is

\$514,649. available in the fund balance.

D. Brennan stated that if in FY 2019 we used the proposed fund balance allocation and if FY 2020 is funded, as proposed, to include the fund balance there would only be \$43,000 available causing “a hole to be plugged” (in 2021) in the amount of \$463,025. D. Brennan stated there are still a lot of unknowns but this meeting is to have the discussion with the town to discuss how to alleviate a significant problem down the line.

Councilor W. Reichert questioned if this is the situation the Council was told was coming some years ago. School Committeeman Steere stated in the affirmative. D. Brennan stated, if you look at the actual, the school has been good stewards by not spending every cent available. D. Brennan also stated the school has funded renovations without going out to bond or borrowing which has saved and will continue to save funds for the Town. D. Brennan stated this situation has the potential of being devastating.

Councilor W. Steere asked if it was true that we gave back to the region, or were asked to give back, the pass through funds coming down to the local school for busing. D. Brennan stated the cost of transportation for communities that are regionalized is a state incentive, so the town of Glocester pays for the middle school and high school and we provide that information to the region. D. Brennan stated the region then submits to the state for reimbursement funds to come back to the schools for these costs. D. Brennan stated the additional costs that the region incurs due to busing to activities wasn't submitted in the past and it is possible that these cost can now be included in the numbers submitted to the state. D. Brennan stated the Region gets the funds back from the state and would then remit to the Town. D. Brennan stated she is aware of discussion that the Region would be keeping the funds to offset their own budget. Councilor W. Steere stated that will impact the elementary schools. Councilor W. Steere asked if the School Committee makes the final decision on the budget as to whether to include those funds in the regional budget and then asked for an estimate of the amount we are talking about. Councilor W. Steere stated this will impact the elementary school if the portion we paid went back to the region. D. Brennan stated that would be a good question to ask.

Councilor G. Steere asked School Committeeman Steere where and why is there a 4% increase in the proposed budget. W. Steere stated part of that has to do with loss of state aid. D. Brennan stated the School Committee is looking for a 4% increase on their base budget in the amount of \$634,887 which also includes \$180,000 (loss of state aid) and the assigned \$200,000. D. Brennan stated there is an increase in expenses of \$261,589.

Councilor Henry questioned where we currently are year to date in the budget because the school, traditionally, has not used their funded amount. Councilor Henry also asked for the current fund balance amount. D. Brennan stated the fund balance we have at the moment is \$514,649 (as shown on report) but that includes a draw down of \$1,086,695 so those two added together would be our true fund balance. D. Brennan stated the school needed to draw \$658,774 from fund balance last year but were able to turn over funds representing a little savings over what they had appropriate. D. Brennan stated we are running pretty parallel to where we typically are this time of year.

Councilor Henry asked what made us say 4%. D. Brennan stated that 4% is relating to the levy amount increase allowed.

W. Steere stated he was ok with the 4% because the school is getting to a point where they are going to need funds. W. Steere stated that the loss of state aid and the \$200,000 are funds the town “put

away” for the schools and if we include it in the operating it will increase the maintenance of effort for the next year and if so funding at that level next year, at about 6%, will only level fund the schools.

W. Steere also stated that Gloucester is going to get “smashed” by the region, citing student proration. W. Steere stated the first budget presented was \$500,000 higher because of proration and we were told that would come down but then the second budget presented is at \$672,000 extra that Gloucester will have to pay. W. Steere stated the cap of 4 % is around \$800,000 and if the regional budget stays the way it is there wouldn’t be enough room to give the region their money. W. Steere stated there is a real problem with budgets this year and unless we get the region down to a reasonable amount we will have a real problem here in Gloucester this year. W. Steere addressed pass-through money stating we are getting more from the state if extra curricular busing is included. W. Steere stated the Town of Gloucester is going to lose money because the region is going to use the reimbursed funds to pay for a budgeted item. Councilor G. Steere asked if that money was due back to the town how can the region grab it. W. Steere stated that could be a legal issue. Councilor W. Steere asked if the school committees could just say they weren’t going to do that. W. Steere stated they could but they are not going to.

Councilor W. Steere stated there is only one pot of money for everyone and if everything went through as expected right now we will be out of money. Councilor W. Steere stated everyone needs to re-examine their budgets carefully. Councilor W. Steere referred to funds spent by the region on items that are “nice to have items”, over the last couple of years, such as lights. Councilor W. Steere stated they were nice to have but didn’t help our test scores. Councilor W. Steere commented at the local schools, however, test scores came out very well. Councilor W. Steere stated they need to re-examine their budgets because the funds can only go either to the region or the local and we need to be able to figure out how to fund both.

Dave Steere, Budget Board Chair, referred to a handout regarding actual expenses. D. Steere stated the operating expenses were pretty consistent until 2017. D. Steere stated Council needs to actually go through the budget and look at where the money is being spent.

D. Steere also advised the Council to ask the Finance Director what other monetary funds the school may have. D. Steere referred to a sick day buy out fund with \$375,250 which has been there since 2010 and hasn’t changed. D. Steere stated that came from the two years the fund balance was at its highest and the (former) Finance Director made two large deposits into that account. D. Steere stated, he believes, they hid money because the fund balance had increased. D. Steere referred to a OPEB account that is at \$180,274 that has been there forever and hasn’t been used. D. Steere stated there were a few other similar accounts. D. Steere in the last three years the school has spent over \$100,000 on “severance” and it shows up as an actual expense. D. Steere stated that he believes they are using that money to pay retiring teachers for sick days but he felt it should be coming out of a sick day fund and not an operating expense. D. Steere stated Council needs to dig deeper to see what is going on. D. Steere stated he is not saying they are good or bad accounts but there has been no activity in those accounts.

School Comm. member John Burlingame addressed the pass through funds. J. Burlingame stated he does not know how the school committee will vote on that but explained the region is entitled to some of the funds. Councilor G. Steere stated if they propose taking 100% of the reimbursement that

is stealing. J. Burlingame agreed. J. Burlingame addressed the proration swing and stated they are looking at some sort of three year spread so the swing does not affect the town's so hard.

Councilor G. Steere asked J. Burlingame how the tuitioned in students effect the overall budget or the swing. J. Burlingame stated the tuitioned in students do not effect the swing but they would affect the budget for more teachers, classes, etc. J. Burlingame stated the swing is based upon the percentage of students and land evaluation. Councilor G. Steere questioned if we were paying the same per student as tuitioned in students. J. Burlingame stated the tuitioned in students should offset costs. Councilor G. Steere stated it should but a few years ago the budget showed revenue for tuitioned in students and there was actually more funds coming in after the vote. Councilor G. Steere stated the Council expected those funds to go into surplus but was informed by the school that they were going to just spend it. Councilor G. Steere asked if this is still happening. J. Burlingame stated it shouldn't be but he will ask more questions.

Councilor W. Steere stated he had asked for an accounting of those funds from tuition-in students and could never get it. Councilor Henry stated she and former School Committee member M. Carroll asked for accountings but never could get them. Councilor Henry stated it would be nice if the region brought down that revenue and gave taxpayers of Foster and Glocester some relief.

Councilor W. Steere stated the swing in student proration is something that is going to continue each year, alternating towns. Councilor W. Steere stated there is one pot of money and then stated whatever funds go to the region is less money for the elementary schools. Councilor W. Steere stated increases come mainly from the region.

V. Open Forum - For Agenda Items - None

VI. Masonic Lodge - Donation - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere introduced Mason John Barnes Jr. Mr. Barnes stated, as the Master of the Chepachet Friendship Lodge of Free Masons, he is presenting a check in the amount of \$500 to the town's fuel fund. Mr. Barnes stated that the Lodge has already forwarded a donation in the amount of \$2000 and is here to present that additional check. Mr. Barnes was thanked by all. Mr. Barnes stated the Mason's raised the initial \$2000 through fund-raising efforts and the Grand Lodge of the state Mason's matched their donation in part through a grant. Councilor W. Steere stated the lodge does a lot of fund-raising and giving to the town. Mr. Barnes stated that is what the Masons do.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to forward correspondence in thanks to the Chepachet Friendship Lodge for their donation to the Town of Glocester for fuel assistance; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Public Hearing

A. ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE

REQUEST FOR OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT - Discussion and/or action

1. Hill's Tavern and Grill, LLC, d/b/a Hill's Tavern and Grill, 417 Putnam Pike

Councilor G. Steere stated this Public Hearing was previously advertised and is a continuation of a Public Hearing opened on November 15, 2018 & then continued on December 6<sup>th</sup> & December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Councilor G. Steere stated the Council has received a request from Mr. Hill's attorney to table this item to February 7, 2019.

Discussion: None.

**MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to CONTINUE** the Public Hearing for an Entertainment License, Request for Outdoor Entertainment for owner/applicant: Hill's Tavern and Grill, LLC, d/b/a Hill's Tavern and Grill, 417 Putnam Pike to February 7, 2019; seconded by Councilor W. Reichert

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. SPECIAL EVENT LICENSES - Discussion and/or action

1. Daniel Smiley, Purple Cat Tavern, Inc., d/b/a The Purple Cat!

Location: 11 Money Hill Road, Glocester, RI

Request for miscellaneous 2019 Special Events with outdoor Entertainment

Councilor G. Steere stated this Public Hearing was previously advertised and is a continuation of a Public Hearing opened on November 15, 2018 and then continued on December 6<sup>th</sup> & December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated Mr. Smiley is not present tonight. Councilor W. Steere asked if any further information was received. The Clerk stated she has offered to help but has not heard from applicant. Councilor W. Reichert asked if Mr. Smiley was still continuing to hold events he wasn't licensed for. The Solicitor stated he doesn't believe that this has occurred since the last transgression. Council asked the Solicitor how they can handle this situation.

Councilor G. Steere stated we have tried to save the applicant the expense of calling another public hearing by continuing the open public hearing.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to CLOSE the Public Hearing for Applicant: Daniel Smiley, Purple Cat Tavern, Inc., d/b/a The Purple Cat!, Location: 11 Money Hill Road, Glocester, RI and to REMOVE this item from the Table; seconded by Councilor W. Reichert

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council regular meeting minutes of January 3, 2019
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements - December 2018
- C. Finance Director's Report - December 2018
- D. Pole Grant: Cooper Road - Propose New Joint Owned Pole Location

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council meeting minutes of January 3, 2019; to APPROVE the ADDITIONS to the 2018 Tax Roll in the amount of \$422.36 and the ABATEMENT to the 2018 Supplemental Tax Roll in the amount of \$404; to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for December 2018; and to APPROVE the Pole Grant for Cooper Road for a proposed new joint owned pole location; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. Unfinished Business

- A. **DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS:** Terms Concurrent with Town Council - Discussion and/or action
  - 1. Asst. Animal Control Officers
  - 2. Senior Center Director

Councilor G. Steere stated the Council needs to complete the list of 2019 Department Appointments with the appointment of the Assistant Animal Control Officers and the Senior Center Director.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Reichert to APPOINT for 2019 & 2020 the following:

- 1. Assistant Animal Control Officers - **Victoria Kramer, Rachel Tufano & Nancy Saucier**
- 2. Senior Center Director - **Melissa Bouvier**

seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- B. Town Council Liaisons for Boards, Comm. & Depts.- Discussion and/or Action
  - 1. Economic Development

Councilor G. Steere stated that due to Council considering the formation of an Economic Development Commission we are adding that group to the list of Council liaisons.

Councilor Forgue asked that this action be tabled at this time as more input is needed. Councilor Forgue asked if there was an issue with potential members to be from out of town. The Solicitor stated he would have to review to determine if there is anything that prohibits that action. There was discussion of possibly having ad-hoc members or advisors attending these meetings.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE Town Council Liaisons for Boards, Comm. & Depts., Economic Development Commission ; seconded by Councilor W. Reichert.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- C. Boards and Commissions
  - 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
    - a. Zoning Board - Alternate terms
      - Two 1-year terms to expire 1/2020
        - 1. Alternate #1

Councilor G. Steere stated the Chair has requested the member appointed to the Alternate #2 position be moved to the Alternate #1 position.

Councilor W. Reichert MOTION to APPOINT Joseph Fogarty to the Zoning Board, Alternate #1 position, for a one year term to expire 1/2020; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Alternate #2

Councilor G. Steere stated the Chair has recommended Adam Muccino for this position and Council has received a talent bank listing.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Reichert to APPOINT Adam Muccino to the Zoning Board, Alternate #2 position, for a one year term to expire 1/2020; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- X. New Business
  - A. Appointment of Town Council team to negotiation Union Contracts (3 contracts to expire 6/30/2019) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated the Council will appoint members to begin negotiations with each employee union for successor agreements:

- 1. Local Union #1322 - Town of Gloucester Clerks

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE Councilors Forgue and G. Steere to enter into negotiations for a successor agreement with Local #1322 Town of Gloucester Clerks; seconded by Councilor W. Reichert.

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0  
MOTION PASSED

2. Local Union #1322 - Police Department Civilian Employees  
MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE Councilors Henry and Reichert to enter into negotiations for a successor agreement with Local #1322 Police Department Civilian Employees; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Local Union # 638 - International Brotherhood of Police Officers  
MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to AUTHORIZE Councilors W. Steere and Forgue to enter into negotiations for a successor agreement with Local #638 - International Brotherhood of Police Officers; seconded by Councilor W. Reichert.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Appointment of Town Council team to discuss employee benefits with Dept. of Public Works Employees - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated that the Public Works employees have expressed an interest in sitting with Council to convey their own concerns.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Reichert to AUTHORIZE Councilors Reichert and G. Steere to discuss employee benefits with Department of Public Works employees; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Financial Town Referendum 2019: Approve and set dates per Home Rule Charter - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated the Clerk has worked on the calendar for the 2019 Referendum. Councilor G. Steere stated that before plans can go forward she is looking for Council approval of the date for the referendum first and then the public hearing on the proposed budget.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated, for background information, that since starting the referendum process in 2015 we have held the referendum on the third Tuesday of May. Councilor G. Steere stated that date, for 2019, would be May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The Clerk explained the deadlines and

thought processes used in determining these dates. The Clerk also stated all considerations were made in accordance with the Charter.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Reichert to SET the date for the 2019 Financial Town Referendum for May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion:

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor G. Steere stated the Town Clerk will explain the other dates to discuss:

J. Fecteau stated we have a five day window of dates we can hold the public hearing, from April 20<sup>th</sup> to April 25<sup>th</sup>. The Clerk stated that last year the Town held the meeting on the Wednesday night so we have used the Wednesday night (the 24<sup>th</sup>) for our plan but that choosing anyone of the other days will not be a problem. J. Fecteau asked the council if they had any preferences and also stated if Council needs more time to review dates we do not have to set this particular date tonight.

Councilor G. Steere asked the Clerk to now review the other dates involved in the budget process.

**Meeting with Budget Board:** The Clerk explained for the last few years Council has been meeting earlier with the Budget Board so that everyone has the opportunity to understand what direction we are all going in before the budget is presented to Council. J. Fecteau stated that the Finance Director and Budget Board Chair have set a tentative date of Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:40 p.m. with the Budget Board.

**Receive Budget:** The Clerk stated, by Charter, the Council will receive the budget from the Budget Board on March 21, 2019. J. Fecteau explained that at that time Council will receive and, if ready, approve for Public Hearing. J. Fecteau stated the reason we request this action is to allow the Finance Director the time to get state approval of the advertisement for the town's public hearing.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to SET the date for a Town Council Public Hearing for the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 for April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m. to be held at the Town Hall; seconded by Councilor Forgue

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

**Adopt Budget to go to Referendum:** The Clerk stated if ready, Council can adopt budget to go to voters at your regular meeting of May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Clerk also stated Council can wait until it gets closer to determine if that will work adding that the budget must be adopted at least 15 days prior to Referendum. Possible dates were discussed but no date was set at this time.

D. Eagle Scout Project Request to Council - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated that Council has received a request from a local Scout. Councilor W. Steere asked Atty. Kane, as we do not own Spring Grove, what is the ramification of allowing access from our beach. Discussion followed on whether the Town could grant this request.

Discussion: Bob Shields, Recreation Director, stated that he discussed this with the Solicitor prior to Christmas, but they did not get into much detail regarding the liability issue. B. Shields stated that he feels that the individual would have to get some sort of approval for his project. Solicitor Kane stated that the Scout could pursue private parties, but if it is another town beach, he would want to consult with the Trust. Councilor G. Steere suggested that we run it by the Trust and if they are good with it, we could help the kids out. B. Shields stated that he will inform the Scout's mother that we are checking with the insurance company. T. Kane stated that he and Diane Brennan will contact the Trust.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to TABLE the Eagle Scout Project Request to Council until the Town Council meeting of February 7, 2019; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Ancient and Horribles Parade Committee - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor Henry stated that she had put this on the agenda back in October and got correspondence from the current chair stating that he needed more time. Councilor Henry noted that we are in the middle of January and the parade is six short months from now. Councilor Henry stated that the Committee has a budget in excess of \$45,000 and asked if we still see it as a viable volunteer committee. Councilor Henry commented that the Ancients and Horribles Parade is one thing that Gloucester is known for and it is her opinion that it may be time for the parade to re-look at its direction and image. Councilor Henry stated that she applauds the efforts of the volunteers for their hard work but the reason this is on the agenda is because they, unfortunately, missed their Budget Board meeting again. Councilor Henry noted that she is the liaison to the Budget Board and they have asked her to bring this to the Council's attention. Councilor Henry stated that when this happened last year, it put the Council in the position where we had to fund the parade, which is not fair to the Budget Board nor to the Council. Councilor Henry noted that all boards and commissions, as well as department heads, are asked to meet with the Budget Board and bring forth their requests. Councilor Henry stated that she would like to see the Parade Committee submit, in a timely manner, what their needs are going to be going forward and to let us know if there is a viable committee.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the Parade Committee has a meeting scheduled for next Thursday. Councilor G. Steere stated that he contacted the chair and talked to him about this issue. Councilor G. Steere noted that their budget has been about the same for several years, \$25,000 for the parade and \$15,000 for the fireworks, and stated that the fireworks vendor has agreed to continue that contract for one more year. Councilor Henry expressed her opinion that if everyone from the Police Chief down can find time to meet with the Budget Board, the Parade Committee can also. Councilor G. Steere replied that he does not disagree, but the Police Chief gets paid more than the Parade Committee chairman. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Committee is meeting next week and hopefully will move forward. J. Fecteau noted that the agenda includes election of officers, so maybe that will change.

Councilor Henry stated that the Council has had discussion regarding whether the parade, since it is sponsored by the Town, should fall under the purview of the Recreation Department, and should the budget of \$45,000 be controlled by the Recreation Director, along with a volunteer committee. Councilor W. Steere stated that there was discussion last year when this came up. Councilor Henry noted that in other towns, the person who runs a parade receives a salary and we are so grateful for this committee who pulls this parade off year after year. Councilor Forgue commented that sometimes things like that need a little more direction and suggested talking with the Recreation Director to see if he is interested in helping out.

Bob Shields, Recreation Director, stated that “many hands make light load” is applicable in this situation and that spreading out the responsibilities between the Parade Committee and Recreation Committee might seem more appropriate. B. Shields stated that somebody in a recreation position could act as liaison between the various groups. B. Shields noted that Bristol has multiple groups that focus on different aspects of the parade and suggested that we look at their model to make some of these things more manageable. Councilor Henry agreed but stated that this may not be the year because we are only 5 or 6 months away from the Parade, and we don’t want to dump it on the Recreation Department because that wouldn’t be fair. B. Shields stated that it is not something that he would want to take on, but he sees it as necessary to assure that we still have that identity that separates Gloucester from other towns in the northwest corner. Councilor Henry stated that if we start to put some energy into it, the parade will only get better.

Councilor G. Steere again stated that the Parade Committee is meeting next Thursday. Councilor Henry stated that she will attend as the Recreation Committee liaison to let them know about this discussion. Councilor G. Steere stated that he will also attend. Councilor Forgue also expressed interest in attending, but Councilor G. Steere noted that this would constitute a Council quorum.

F. Creation of Board and/or Adoption of charge relating to Economic Development  
- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue asked that this item be tabled and stated that he should have some suggestions by the next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE item F. Creation of Board and adoption of charge relating to Economic Development to the meeting of February 7, 2019; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

G. Update to Council - Status of F.M. Global Taxation Agreement/Amendment -  
Discussion and/or Action

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the negotiating team, which consists of himself, Councilor Reichert and Lori DeSantis, Tax Assessor, are meeting prior to the next Council meeting to determine the assessment of the building as of 12/31, which will give us a baseline to come up with a figure to discuss with FM Global. T. Kane stated that he left a message for their attorney that they would hear from us by mid-February to start a dialogue.

Councilor Henry stated that the Budget Board has asked if they would be getting a number to put in to their line item for this additional revenue from FM Global. Councilor G. Steere stated that we are working on it and will have it as quickly as possible. Councilor Henry asked if we would have an advisory opinion or an estimate to give to the Budget Board. Tim Kane replied in the affirmative, stating that we will go conservative for budgeting purposes.

#### XI. Town Council Correspondence and/or Discussion

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has not received any correspondence, however he wished to share a comment from the Gloucester Facebook page. The comment stated that the two (2) ladies in the Building/Zoning Department are so nice, are very helpful and go above and beyond to help residents. Councilor G. Steere further stated that a responding comment stated that it is an understatement and that the Building Inspector, Ken, is such a gentleman who goes above and beyond as well. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that a similar comment was made about Beth at Public Works.

#### XII. Department Head Reports/Discussion

- A. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that our contract with Direct Energy will end in December, 2019. D. Brennan stated that she received an email from Power Options and Constellations, which is the company that is working with the RI League of Cities and Towns. D. Brennan stated that we have gotten bombarded with the number of vendors who want to help broker our energy needs.

Councilor G. Steere stated that we have been approached by the applicants for a solar project in Harmony. D. Brennan stated that there has been talk regarding incentives for vendors to assist with municipalities. D. Brennan stated that this company comes to us from the League and they claim they can help us with our electric supply procurement. Councilor G. Steere commented that it wouldn't hurt to shop around but that solar company has tentatively offered a 23% discount from what we are paying Direct Energy now, if this project is approved and goes through. Councilor Forgue stated that it wouldn't be a bad idea to have a backup in case the solar project does not go through.

There was Council consensus to put this on the next Council agenda.

- B. Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, reported that he is still currently in the hiring process for a part-time dispatcher and has extended the advertisement period for another week. Chief DelPrete stated that this is for two (2) 16 hour per week positions to fill in the gaps.

Chief DelPrete spoke about some issues at the Police Department such as a failing septic system and a heating system that needs replacing. Chief DelPrete stated that he will meet with the Public Works Director and the Building Official to formulate a strategy for the next Fiscal Year to get those jobs done. Chief DelPrete stated that he will forward a report on needs assessment to the Council which will get us through the next 20 or 25 years. Chief DelPrete stated that he would like to do a concept of design later this year for expansion of the building. Chief DelPrete noted that the septic system is an unexpected item that came up this year which needs to be done in the next Fiscal Year.

Chief DelPrete stated that, on the positive side, the major problem regarding water in the garage has been resolved by the Department of Public Works.

- C. Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, reported that there has been a lack of protocol again at the high school, this time at the agricultural building. K. Johnson stated that the contractor has proceeded without the proper permits and has started construction without the Building Office's knowledge. K. Johnson stated that this is more serious than a residential issue because these are public school buildings. K. Johnson stated that he has notified the Commissioner's office of this serious matter.

K. Johnson stated that plans are supposed to be filed with the Fire Department first for a plan review, after which they send the plans to the Building Official's office. K. Johnson explained that while the plans were in the Fire Department's hands, the contractor asked if they could get a foundation permit. K. Johnson stated that he did a plan review on the foundation only and allowed them to proceed as such, however they proceeded past the foundation. K. Johnson noted that the site was completely unsecured and students would have access to the site and the equipment. K. Johnson stated that he called the Director of Physical Plant and directed him to lock the gate to secure the site.

K. Johnson stated that as of now, they have submitted what they needed to submit to the Fire Department, but they have yet to come to the Building Office to submit plans for the plan review. K. Johnson stated that this project is going to be delayed until he says so, adding that he has no tolerance for this, not from a School Department that feels they are autonomous and can do whatever they want.

Councilor Henry commented that this is not the first time this has occurred. K. Johnson stated that it is the third time, first with the lights, then with the gasoline tank. K. Johnson noted that if the gasoline tank had come before him, he would not have allowed it to be installed there because it is in a limited disturbance area.

Councilor Reichert stated that in his line of work, he would be fined if he did not obtain the proper permits. Councilor Reichert stated that these contractors should know better and should be fined.

Councilor W. Steere asked if John Obiurka is the project manager. K. Johnson replied that J. Obiurka is the Director of Physical Plant but is not in charge of Capital projects at the school. However, K. Johnson stated that he relies on J. Obiurka to fill him in on activities at the school, but John was told by the contractor that permits had been issued. K. Johnson noted that this work was done in cold weather and he doesn't know if they used the right mortar or who did the wiring. Councilor W. Steere stated that the School Committee is not aware that permits were not issued. Councilor W. Steere expressed concern that this is a \$700,000 project and nobody is monitoring it. Councilor W. Steere stated that he can't imagine the Town doing something of that magnitude without somebody watching over it.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the kicker is that this is the third or fourth project where this has happened. Councilor Henry asked where is the Superintendent in all of this. K. Johnson stated that he contacted the Superintendent who replied that he will talk to John Obiurka and the contractor, Martone. Councilor Forgue asked if it

is the contractor who pulls the permits. K. Johnson replied in the affirmative. Councilor Forgue asked how you can inspect electrical work when you can't see it.

Councilor Henry asked if the Council should ask the Superintendent and Mr. Obiurka to appear before the Council to explain themselves. Councilor G. Steere stated that it would be up to K. Johnson, adding that it has already been reported to the licensing board. K. Johnson stated that it is frustrating that they take this issue so lightly. K. Johnson stated that ultimately it is the contractor who is at fault. K. Johnson stated that he is responsible for every building in this Town, and we have to ensure that it is safe for people to go inside.

Councilor Forgue asked where do we go from here. K. Johnson replied that the Fire Department has stamped the prints, which will be picked up from there and brought to the Building Office.

There was Council discussion regarding any action that could be taken. K. Johnson stated that technically, we could make them take everything down. Councilor G. Steere stated maybe we should. Councilor Forgue agreed, stating that there will be things that we can't see. Councilor G. Steere commented that this is not the first time they have done this. Councilor Henry asked if the Council should send a letter to the School Committee. K. Johnson replied that everybody has been made aware of the circumstances and how serious they are. Councilor Forgue again asked what will be done about the things we cannot see. K. Johnson stated that he will meet with his electrical and plumbing inspectors to discuss the matter and he will keep the Council informed. Councilor G. Steere stated that if it was up to him, he would make them pull apart whatever is necessary for the inspectors to perform their inspections.

The Councilors thanked K. Johnson for his report.

- D. Gerry Mosca, EMA Director, spoke about the weather forecast for the weekend and expressed concern that the wet snow will turn to sleet, followed by a flash freeze. G. Mosca stated that power outages are expected and asked that residents call National Grid even if they already know. G. Mosca explained that the more people that call, the higher we become on the priority list. Councilor G. Steere suggested that a Code Red message be given on Saturday.

Councilor Henry asked Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, if there is sand available at the Transfer Station for residents to pick up. G. Treml replied in the affirmative.

### XIII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

- A. Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, spoke about the issue brought up by the Building Official, stating that R.I.D.E would like to know about it because they are paying half of the bill and under the new reimbursement rules, some projects have to have an inspector from R.I.D.E., similar to a Clerk of the Works. W. Steere, Jr. stated that some projects do not need one because they are not complicated, but this is a new building. W. Steere, Jr. noted that the School Committee just found out about the situation several days ago.

### XIV. Open Forum

- A. Councilor Henry stated that the Budget Board had asked her to get clarification regarding a line item for Ed Juairé's contract. Councilor Henry stated that we do not have a contract for this individual and the Budget Board would like to know the parameters of the contract.

Dave Steere, Budget Board chair, explained that there is a large increase for the consultant, Ed Juairé, and the Board is looking for something in writing so we know how he is getting paid and what services are provided.

- XV. MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to: R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5) Potential Litigation; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- XVI. Reconvene Open Session

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session and to Disclose that no votes were taken in Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Reichert,

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- XVII. MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Adjourn at 10:35 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED