

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on June 20, 2019:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

Also Present: Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Gerald Mosca, EMA Director; Lori DeSantis, Tax Assessor; Bob Shields, Recreation Director; Judy Branch, Director of Human Services.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Proclamation - Ponaganset High - DECA Club- Discussion and/or action

Councilor Henry read the following Proclamation into the record:

**Proclamation of the Town of Gloucester
#2019-03 Ponaganset High School DECA Club**

WHEREAS, DECA, Distributive Education Clubs of America, prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe; and

WHEREAS, With nearly a 70-year history, DECA has impacted the lives of more than ten million students, educators, school administrators and business professionals since it was founded in 1946; and

WHEREAS, Established at PHS in 2018, the DECA club has experienced rapid and wonderful success. During the club's first year they were recognized as a State and National Chapter. Under the guidance of Advisors Alex MacLeod, Linda Bucci and Monique

Sanborn, three Seniors, Max Swanson, Nathan Watts and Ryan Watts earned 2nd place at the RI DECA Career Development Conference Competition, in the Start Up Business Plan Competition, earning them a chance to compete at the International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, GA, there they earned a Certificate of Excellence; and

WHEREAS, This year the club experienced over a 300% rate of growth and was recognized at the ICDC, International Career Development Conference, this year in Orlando, FL, for having the largest growth rate of any chapter in the state; and

WHEREAS, A majority of the forty two current members competed this year at the RI DECA CDC at Johnson & Wales University. Of those that competed thirteen earned 1st or 2nd place in their respective competitions, thereby earning a trip to ICDC this year in Orlando.

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN, that the Town Council and the Town Clerk express our sincerest congratulations to the Ponaganset High School DECA Club for their outstanding achievements.

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

Jean Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Dated this 20th day of June, 2019

Seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Proclamation Ratification - Chapter 258-3 Korean War Veterans - Discussions and/or action
Councilor G. Steere stated that the Town Clerk recently presented a Proclamation to Chapter 258-3 Korean War Veterans at the Senior Center and the Proclamation now needs to be ratified.

Councilor W. Steere read the following Proclamation into the record:

Proclamation

WHEREAS, The Korean War Veterans, Chapter 258, was incorporated by the National Korean War Veterans Association on August 23rd, 2001; and

WHEREAS, For over ten years this Chapter has considered the Glocester Senior Center their home base using the facility to hold chapter meetings, give presentations and hold celebrations. From this home base the officers of this chapter hold monthly meetings where the members plan their participation in town events, volunteer for

fund raisers to help those veterans in need, and provide veterans with support and much needed information; and

WHEREAS, These meetings have, most importantly, served to hold a band of heroes together. Your dedication to your Country, your military career, your Chapter and the Town of Gloucester have and will continue to teach us the values that are important to preserving our dignity and honor in our Country; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council, Town Clerk, and all residents of the Town of Gloucester would like to thank and honor the Korean War Veterans, Chapter 258, who have endured and sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans; and ask all to carry with them this quote from Elmer Davis, the first Director of the Office of War Information:

“ This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.”

And with that we welcome you to your home

George O. Steere, Jr.
Gloucester Town Council President

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Dated this 12th day of June, 2019

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere noted that Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, purchased a plaque, which will be hung at the Senior Center, at her own expense.

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council meeting minutes: June 6, 2019 Regular Meeting
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements - May 2019
- C. Finance Director's Report - May 2019

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the Town Council meeting minutes of June 6, 2019; to APPROVE the ABATEMENT to the 2018 Tax Roll in the amount of \$223.67, (NO ADDITIONS); and to accept the Finance Director's Monthly Report for May, 2019; seconded by Councilor Forgeue.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Public Hearing

A. Special Event Application - Discussion and/or Action

Applicant: Hill's Tavern and Grill, LLC
d/b/a Hill's Tavern and Grill
417 Putnam Pike, Glocester, RI

Councilor G. Steere stated that the applicant has filed a request for a Special Event proposed at above location on June 29, 2019. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze on June 6, 2019 and abutters were notified.

Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and explained that this request is to hold a Fund Raiser to benefit Operation Stand Down, RI, on June 29, 2019, between the hours of 3-7 PM or 4-8 PM, to be determined.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere noted that the applicant is not present. Councilor Forgue stated that this is an outdoor event and made note that it will count as one of the outdoor events allowed at the establishment. Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk, stated that she has not heard from the applicant regarding his absence at the meeting. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council will choose the hours of the event; either 3:00 to 7:00 or 4:00 to 8:00. Councilor Forgue stated his opinion that 3:00 to 7:00 is reasonable. Councilor G. Steere noted that the Police Chief signed the application and is aware of the event. Councilor Forgue asked if there will be a Police Officer at the event. Councilor G. Steere replied that it would be up to the Chief to decide.

Councilor W. Steere referred to the advertisements on Facebook and the tavern's website which state that at on June 29th at 4:30, they will have Dirty Deeds performing outside, but nothing is mentioned about the benefit for Operation Stand Down RI. Councilor Reichert asked if there is a way to determine if the people they are doing the fund raiser for are actually getting the funds. Councilor Forgue stated that he does not know if there is an organization called "Operation Stand Down". Councilor G. Steere stated that it is to help a Burrillville resident who needs assistance.

Bob Shields, Recreation Director, stated that the applicant has also advertised on Facebook for a crafter/vendor fair but he cannot recall the dates. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that it is mid-July. Councilor Henry pointed out that they are not necessarily licensed for that. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council will deal with that in July. T. Kane noted that if it is a Special Event, they will not make the 30-day time frame.

Councilor W. Steere stated that on Operation Stand Down's website, it only lists a charity wiffle ball event in Pawtucket for June 29th. S. Harris read an email from the applicant's attorney which states that Mr. Hill will be coordinating with the Police Chief regarding Police detail coverage and with the Harmony Fire Chief regarding crowd management. Councilor W. Steere noted that the email is dated May 29th, which was before the last Council meeting where there was in-depth discussion with the applicant regarding another event which was ultimately cancelled.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council needs to come up with a solution for Special Events because he is tired of being put in this position. Councilor Forgue stated that it is odd that the event is not advertised on Operation Stand Down's website. S. Harris stated that in the Council's packet, there is a letter from the Harmony Fire Department mailed directly to Mr. Hill regarding this event, stating everything the Fire Department is expecting from them. Councilor Reichert suggested that one of the conditions of approval be proof that this is for Operation Stand Down.

Councilor Henry asked if perhaps the applicant was confused from the last meeting and thought that this event was cancelled also. Councilor W. Steere replied in the negative, stating that Mr. Hill specifically asked if this was cancelled and was told to come back tonight for this Public Hearing.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the application is in and the Police and Fire Chiefs have acknowledged it, so the Council can consider it. Councilor Forgue stated that he has no problem approving it but would like to see some evidence that it is a charity event, such as a letter from Operation Stand Down. Councilor Henry referred to the canned goods request and asked where they would be donated to. Councilor W. Steere replied that there is no mention of it in the ad.

Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, spoke regarding Operation Stand Down, stating that we were involved with them regarding a veteran who lived in Gloucester housing. K. Johnson stated that they assisted the veteran, but did not come forward formally. K. Johnson stated that they came to his office to try to find alternate housing for the veteran. K. Johnson stated that the organization is supporting the gentleman who resides in Burrillville, but he does not believe that they have sanctioned the event. K. Johnson stated that perhaps Hill's Tavern is jumping on board to do something to assist the gentleman, but he does not think Operation Stand Down is fully involved. Councilor Reichert stated that either way, he would like to see proof.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council could approve something with the conditions that everything here is met, and if not, it does not happen. Councilor W. Steere also suggested that no further special events be allowed there for the rest of the year because in his opinion, this is ridiculous. Councilor W. Steere commented that it is not the Council's job to plan something out for a business. Councilor G. Steere stated that we are not planning something out for him; we are telling him what he can't do. Councilor G. Steere added that the applicant should be here.

Councilor G. Steere asked if anyone else wished to speak for or against this application. Hearing none, Councilor G. Steere declared the Public Hearing CLOSED.

Councilor W. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, how the Council could make sure that money is given to this organization. T. Kane replied that the Council could request that the applicant provide proof of a monetary donation to Operation Stand Down.

Councilor W. Steere asked Judy Branch, Human Services Director, if anyone has contacted her regarding a donation of canned goods to the Food Bank. J. Branch replied in the negative. Councilor Henry noted that the ad does not indicate where the canned goods are going.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPROVE a fund raiser to be held on June 29, 2019 between the hours of 4:30 PM & 7:30 PM to benefit Operation Stand Down, RI for Applicant: Albert Hill, Hill's Tavern and Grill, LLC, d/b/a Hill's Tavern and Grill: with the following stipulations:

1. Crowd Management and parking plan filed prior to event.
2. No on-street parking allowed on Route 44.
3. The approval of the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief.
4. This approval may be rescinded by the Town Council for just cause.
5. Alcohol is only allowed in previously approved areas.
6. Entertainment is only allowed in previously approved areas.
7. Compliance with the Special Event Ordinance.
8. Applicant must provide to the Town Clerk proof of a donation of 5% of ticket sales to Operation Stand Down.

Seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Steere commented that in most other towns, if an applicant is not present, this would have been denied, so he does not want to hear anybody give this Council grief about how we don't help businesses in Town. Councilor W. Steere stated that what we just did here is proof that we do.

The Council asked Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk, to contact the applicant and point out stipulation #8.

IX. Unfinished Business

A. Personnel

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Recreation Dept. - 2019 Summer Positions
 1. Arts & Crafts Instructor
 2. Tennis Aides
 3. Tennis Instructor
 4. Water Safety Instructor
 5. Water Safety Aides
 6. Parks & Grounds

Councilor G. Steere stated that Bob Shields, Recreation Director, has submitted a list of

recommendations for the summer recreation appointments.

Discussion:

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to APPOINT the following Recreation appointments:

Arts & Crafts Instructors

Danielle Charron	\$11.00/hr.	start date July 1
Elizabeth Tamarro	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1

Tennis Instructor

Richard Lawrence	\$22.50/hr.	start date July 1
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Tennis Aides

Sebastian Campanella	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Amelia Campanella	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Caitlin Coleman	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Elijah Gouin	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Jacob Lawrence	\$11.50/hr.	start date July 1
Colton Mousseau	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Ellysa Tancrede	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1

Water Safety Instructor

Madison Akkaoui	\$16.00/hr.	start date July 1
Mae Belleavoine	\$15.00/hr. (contingent upon finishing WSI training)	start date July 1

Water Safety Aides/L.I.T.

Emaly Akkaoui	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Nora Giorgianni	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Natalie Gray	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Sarah MacNeil	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Eve Nadeau	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Hannah Parker	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Nathan Tellier	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1

Lifeguards

Brooke Anderson	\$12.00/hr. (contingent upon completing lifeguard training 6/27)	start date July 1
Caleb Carlson	\$12.00/hr. (contingent upon completing lifeguard training 6/27)	start date July 1
Joe Conte	\$12.00/hr. (contingent upon completing lifeguard	

training 6/27) start date July 1

Parking Attendants

Anthony Carter	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Ryan Corry	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Cameron Masiello	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1

Parking Attendant Subs

Domenic Savastano	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Benjamin Garland	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Jordan Arpin	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1

Parks & Grounds

Dylan Carpenter	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1
Scott Chase Jr.	\$10.10/hr.	start date July 1

seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: Councilor Henry asked why Tennis Aide Jacob Lawrence will be receiving more than the other tennis aides. Bob Shields, Recreation Director, explained that Jacob has been with us for the past four (4) years and will be taking on more of a supervisory role with more responsibility.

Councilor W. Steere asked if these are all Town residents. B. Shields replied that we hired all of our Gloucester residents first, with the exception of Nathan Tellier of Burrillville, who was an ideal candidate because he does swim lessons with Special Olympics. B. Shields further stated that our Parking Attendant Subs are all from Burrillville because the Gloucester residents from the lottery passed on the positions. Regarding the Parks & Grounds positions, B. Shields stated that no Gloucester individuals applied, so he took the last two (2) candidates from the pool of parking attendants.

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

MOTION PASSED

X. New Business

A. Harmony Hill School - Security & Protocol - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated that he put this on the agenda but they are not present. Councilor G. Steere asked that this item be moved to the end of New Business.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to move Harmony Hill School - Security & Protocol Discussion to the end of the agenda; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

B. Selection of Energy Provider - Town of Gloucester- Discussion and/or Action
Councilor G. Steere read the following into the record:

To: Honorable Town Council Members
From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance
Memo: Utility Pricing
Date: June 19, 2019

The League of Cities and Towns has procured a vendor, PowerOptions/Constellation, on behalf of its members. The current contract with Direct Energy expires in December 2019. There will be a representative at the council meeting to discuss the process and the results of the award to the successful vendor.

The recommendation to be considered at the council meeting will be to consent to approve the League vendor for the Town of Gloucester or to undertake the task to develop a “Request for Proposals” and evaluate the results to award to a qualified vendor. This would be with the assistance of an outside expert to write the RFP and evaluate the responses.

The timeliness of the award and/or the process is significant to meet the expiration of the current contract with Direct Energy.

If approved to award to PowerOptions and Constellation, a subsequent contract outlining the terms and pricing conditions will be brought to the council for approval. Poweroptions has provided a sample contract that was forwarded to our legal council for preliminary review.
(End of memo)

Discussion: Diane Brennan, Finance Director, introduced Peter Schaefer, of the RI League of Cities and Towns, who is here to answer any questions the Council may have.

Councilor Henry stated that she has read everything that was submitted and commented that the reason we belong to the League is for exactly this opportunity. Councilor Henry stated that they have done a tremendous amount of legwork and we could benefit from some of the things they can provide us with.

P. Schaefer gave a brief history of this program, which began in 1998. P. Schaefer noted that for the first 10 years it was one price for all cities and towns. P. Schaefer stated that a survey of

municipalities was conducted and it was determined that they wanted more flexibility for offsetting their cost for renewable energy. P. Schaefer stated that Constellation is the energy supplier and PowerOptions is a non-profit organization that works with non-profits, mostly in Massachusetts and Connecticut. P. Schaefer stated that the League has paid the fee so that all their members are getting this information.

P. Schaefer explained that the League has spent a lot of money on an outside consultant and has fine-tuned the contract. P. Schaefer noted that the League receives a small fee. P. Schaefer stated that the old contract had a provision which required a municipality to use at least 70% of the prior year's load, whereas with the new contract you could lock in and if you are aggressive with renewable energy you won't have to pay for the shortfall.

P. Schaefer stated that a problem with Direct Energy is that some communities had to pay pass-through charges. P. Schaefer noted that there is nothing like that in this contract.

Councilor G. Steere stated that a gentleman had approached the Council regarding a solar project that he was planning and had proposed to sell electricity to the Town at a 22% discount of what we were paying Direct Energy. Councilor G. Steere stated that the project was approved, but he doubts that it will be ready by December. P. Schaefer stated that this can be complicated and this is why it is important to sign on with PowerOptions because they have a consultant to help but they are not conflicted by the previous problem we had, where our energy provider just wanted to sell energy. Councilor Henry asked if we decided to get some energy from the solar project would that be in conflict with this. P. Schaefer replied that when you lock in you are not required to buy a certain amount of electricity. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that there is an 80-page addendum to the contract which he has not had a chance to read yet and stated that he is not sure we can buy from another supplier.

Councilor Forgue asked if we sign on for a year does the rate stay the same or does it fluctuate. P. Schaefer replied that there are three (3) different rates, depending on the length of the contract. P. Schaefer stated that the price for a one (1) year contract is 7.76 cents per kilowatt hour, slightly less for a two (2) year contract and slightly less again for a three (3) year contract. P. Schaefer noted that there are brokers out there who can always beat our price, for several months, but this is a guarantee that this pricing will apply for the period locked into.

Councilor Henry asked, of the 39 cities and towns, how many have signed on. P. Schaefer replied that nine (9) communities had contracts that expired in December of 2018 and seven (7) of those have signed up with PowerOptions/Constellation. P. Schaefer further stated that some contracts are expiring in December of 2019 and PowerOptions/Constellation is reaching out to those communities. P. Schaefer commented that this time of year is the best time to lock in.

Councilor Forgue asked Diane Brennan if we were getting two (2) bills. D. Brennan replied in the affirmative, stating that we were getting bills from National Grid and Direct Energy. P. Schaefer stated that this firm prefers dealing with combined billing.

Councilor G. Steere wished to confirm that 7.76 cents is the total price and there is no surcharge. P. Schaefer stated that if we re-price two (2) weeks from now, the price will be different. Councilor Henry asked if they are looking for the Council to award the contract but not sign anything yet. D. Brennan replied that she is looking for the Council to give her direction to pursue this or to come up with another solution.

Councilor Reichert stated that this is all future-based and noted that right now, you can't buy anything for what you bought it for two (2) days ago. Councilor Reichert stated that this is a good price for a year and recommended doing it because oil has skyrocketed. Councilor Henry pointed out that experts have done all the research. T. Kane advised the Council to approve this tonight subject to his review of the contract.

There was further discussion regarding whether or not we can use the solar project. T. Kane stated that we don't know when it will be going online or if it will ever get built. D. Brennan stated that she is not looking for the Council to award the contract tonight, just to tell her the direction to move forward and hopefully she will have a contract for them to sign at the next Council meeting. Councilor Forgue recommended the one (1) year contract, then see what happens with the solar.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to AUTHORIZE the Town Council to award a one-year utility contract, subject to approval by the Town Solicitor of the contract, for the Town of Gloucester to Constellation New Energy and Power Options as the new REAP energy provider for the year December, 2019 to December, 2020; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Gloucester Memorial Park - Authorization of artwork/improvements - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated that a resident, Brian Trainor, has provided samples of his artwork which he would like to do at the Skate Park at GMP, including the building. Councilor Forgue asked B. Trainor if he will just be doing the sides and not where they are actually skateboarding. B. Trainor replied that he will be using ideas that the Public Works Department can touch up with the same design or pattern as needed. Councilor Forgue stated that this was his concern, that two (2) years from now, we would have a Skate Park that is pretty beat up. B. Trainor stated that he could supply the Public Works Department with some stencils and they could just paint the circles over. Councilor Forgue stated that he loves art but does not want to introduce more work and maintenance for the Public Works Department.

B. Trainor stated that at the last meeting, it was stated that the Skate Park may be torn down in a year. Councilor Henry stated that we are in a multi-stage process at GMP and we have the possibility of

getting a giant grant and if that comes through we will have a whole plan. Councilor Henry stated that this is kind of a stop-gap measure to give us a little color there, free of charge to the Town. Councilor Forgue commented that nothing is free and when B. Trainor is gone, there will be a cost to the Town to freshen it up again. Councilor Henry stated that the plan is that it will all be changed anyway. B. Trainor stated that there are a lot of things in this Town that need to be updated.

Bob Shields, Recreation Director, stated that the areas that B. Trainor is addressing are areas that are not skated on. Regarding the upkeep, B. Shields stated that if maintenance is needed, it can be done by some of our summer employees and himself. Councilor Forgue thanked B. Shields for his explanation and stated that he just does not want to put any more work on the Public Works Department.

Councilor Henry stated that B. Trainor has been in Town a couple of years and has been wanting to do this for quite a while so she would like to move forward with a motion.

B. Trainor stated that he would like to find, through social media, people who might want to come to the park to help paint it. B. Trainor stated that if the youth have something to do with it, they will have an interest in the park. B. Trainor stated that he would like to see the Town move forward in a positive way.

Councilor Forgue stated that he is sorry that he sounds negative, but he was concerned regarding what B. Trainor was going to paint and where. Councilor Forgue stated that he feels comfortable about asking because he has a responsibility to the Town and to not put a burden on anyone who works for this Town because they are burdened enough as it is.

Councilor G. Steere stated his opinion that we should let B. Trainor paint the non-skating areas of the Skate Park to see how it looks and talk about the buildings after. Councilor Henry agreed, stating that it wouldn't hurt and would add some excitement to GMP.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to give permission to Brian Trainor, local artist, to do creative painting at the Gloucester Memorial Park Skate Park, to be done on the surfaces discussed, subject to the signing of a liability waiver drafted by the Town Solicitor; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked B. Trainor when he anticipates starting the project and how long it will take to complete. B. Trainor replied that it depends on the weather, but he plans to spend a few hours each morning on it.

Councilor Reichert asked if the Council is okay with B. Trainor's idea to ask for volunteers on Facebook. Councilor Forgue stated that it would be great to get the community involved. Tim Kane commented that he will give a blank waiver form to B. Trainor to give to people who work for him. B. Trainor stated that he feels that getting people involved will result in them taking pride in the park. Councilor W. Steere noted that the Gloucester Facebook page is not sanctioned by the Town.

Regarding any minors who volunteer, S. Harris asked if they must also sign the waiver. T. Kane replied that the waiver should be signed by a parent of the minor. B. Trainor commented that if any youth are going to be there, a parent must also be there.

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

MOTION PASSED

D. Community Septic System Loan Program - Discussion and/or Action
Town of Glocester Request for Addition Funds Agreement

Discussion: Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that this is the contract that came from the State of Rhode Island regarding the additional \$300,000. Councilor Henry asked if this is because we already went through the funds available. D. Brennan replied in the affirmative.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the R.I. Infrastructure Bank Community Septic System Loan Program, Terms and Conditions, for the amount of \$300,000.; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, if it is all right for him to vote on this matter. T. Kane replied in the affirmative.

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Senior Center - HVAC replacement
Authorization for Town Council Signature: Installation Agreement - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated that this came in at more than anticipated and asked Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, to address the Council. G. Treml explained that we had hired Prism Energy Services to design the systems at the Police Department and the Senior Center. G. Treml stated that the initial quote for Police Department was less than the Senior Center, so monies will have to be moved from one account to the other. G. Treml noted that the total of the two (2) is covered in the Budget and there should be money left over. G. Treml spoke regarding incentives we received from National Grid. G. Treml stated that the work can begin next week, which is a week earlier than July 1st, but he was afraid if he had said no the schedule would get pushed back. Councilor G. Steere asked where they would start. G. Treml replied that they would start at the Police Station.

Councilor Henry asked for the record if G. Treml could specifically say what each would cost and the total of the two (2). G. Treml stated that the total cost for the Glocester Police Department is \$121,146.67, minus incentives of \$4,800, for a total customer investment of \$116,346.67. Regarding the Senior Center, G. Treml stated that the cost is \$131,706.67, minus incentives of \$8,013, for a total customer investment of \$123,693.67.

Councilor G. Steere asked if this agreement is for both jobs. G. Treml replied in the affirmative. Councilor Henry stated that this is a total of \$240,039. G. Treml noted that there should be approximately \$10,000 remaining, between the two (2) projects.

Councilor Henry asked Diane Brennan, Finance Director, how much was set aside in the Budget. D. Brennan replied that G. Treml is correct.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, asked if we are talking about both the Senior Center and the Police Station. Councilor G. Steere replied in the affirmative. T. Kane stated that the motion will need to be changed.

Councilor Henry stated that the actual budget does not start until July 1 and asked if we need any money before that. Councilor Reichert stated that by the time the job is done, it will be the end of July. Councilor G. Steere pointed out that the Senior Center budget already has \$90,000 and has had it for a year.

Councilor G. Steere noted that the only thing on the agenda is the Senior Center as the Council has not received the Police Station contract. Councilor G. Steere stated that we can approve the Senior Center contract tonight and have a special meeting for the Police Station. Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk, stated that she needs 48 hours to post the agenda. There was Council consensus to schedule a special Town Council meeting for next Tuesday, June 25th at 6:45.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Installation Agreement for the “Energy Cost Saving Proposal/High Efficiency HVAC Upgrades for the Gloucester Senior Center; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

F. Personnel

1. Approval of Salary Adjustment: Tax Assessor’s Clerk
From Clerk II to Senior Clerk

Councilor G. Steere read the following into the record:

To: Honorable Town Council Members
From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance/HR
Date: June 17, 2019
Re: Senior Clerk, Tax Assessor’s Office

Jessica Parker was hired on May 7, 2018 as a Clerk II in the Tax Assessor’s Office. At that time, the

position was advertised as a Senior Clerk. Jessica was asked to take courses during the year to become better skilled at the duties in the Assessor's Office. Jessica has done so and is preparing to continue to do so in the upcoming year as well.

She has completed 3 courses to date. I am asking the council to approve the change in position for Jessica from a Clerk II to a Senior Clerk beginning July 1, 2019. The budget has been prepared with funds to cover the change.

Please consider approving this change for Jessica Parker due to her successful completion of courses related to the position in the Tax Assessor's Office.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the change in position for Jessica Parker from a Clerk II to a Senior Clerk beginning July 1, 2019; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Approval of Benefit Adjustment: Town Planner
Authorize Benefits

Councilor G. Steere read the following into the record:

To: The Honorable Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan, Finance/HR Director
Re: Town Planner Position
Date: June 17, 2019

Karen Scott has been the part time town planner since August 22, 2016. When she assumed the role it was without benefits. Subsequently, the council has approved part time sick and vacation time for her position. At this time, I am requesting the council to approve Karen for inclusion in the state retirement system. Her hours have been increasing and often bordering greater than a half time position.

The budget has been prepared with funding to allow for this change. Please consider this request for approval for Karen Scott to become part of the state retirement system beginning July 1, 2019.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to APPROVE the request for Karen Scott, Town Planner, to become part of the State Retirement System beginning July 1, 2019; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Human Resource Director - Discussion and/or Action
Plan and/or Formulation of Job Description

Councilor G. Steere stated that money was put in the Budget to hire a part-time Human Resource Director in the new Fiscal Year so it is time to consider job descriptions and move forward. Councilor G. Steere stated that Councilor W. Steere had forwarded possible job descriptions to the Council members, which was a good start. Councilor W. Steere stated that we need to move on this because we have been talking about it for a year now. Councilor G. Steere suggested that the Council members review the job descriptions and make any notes or additions to be discussed at the next meeting. Councilor Henry stated that at that time we could also have the Finance Director prepare an ad for the Council to authorize. Councilor W. Steere stated that the job description should be approved before we go forward with advertising.

Councilor Forgue suggested reaching out to other towns to see what they have. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Trust and the League of Cities and Towns may also have some information for us.

X. New Business

A. Harmony Hill School - Security & Protocol - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated that he received a phone call from a resident regarding an incident where a youth ran away from Harmony Hill School. Councilor G. Steere stated that the resident lives in the area and is supposed to be on the call list, but did not receive a call and was very upset. Councilor G. Steere commented that Harmony Hill School is a chronic problem and some of the youths have broken into houses and stolen vehicles. Councilor G. Steere noted that some of the vehicles' owners have not been reimbursed in full for damage. Councilor G. Steere stated that they have promised to change their criteria for the youths they are bringing in, stating that some of them may belong in prison, not in a school. Councilor G. Steere stated that it is a burden for the town of Gloucester's resources and the neighbors are living on edge. Councilor G. Steere wondered if they have changed their criteria or if they even care about it. Councilor G. Steere stated that they were notified of tonight's meeting but stated that they were busy and could not attend. Councilor Reichert stated that their attorney called him to say she was out of town.

Councilor Forgue stated that he has spoken with a friend of his, Eric, who is involved with the school. Councilor Forgue stated that Eric provided documents that indicate that the damage to the vehicles was paid to the owners. Councilor Forgue commented that the school is fortunate that there has not been an incident because most people in Gloucester have guns in their homes, but with these youths walking into people's houses and stealing cars, it is just a matter of when and where. Councilor Forgue stated that Eric told him that many of the youths that are there are ordered by a judge not to spend time in a prison facility because he feels they will not get rehabilitated there. Councilor Forgue stated that Eric is open to any suggestions regarding security issues and has invited the Council members to visit the school.

Councilor Henry stated that she took a tour of the facility last year and noted that it is an open situation where you could just walk off or walk on; the dorm buildings are not within a secured premise because it is not a prison. Councilor Forgue noted that there are restrictions on what you can do; you cannot put locks on windows or have fences with barbed wire.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he is in favor of rehabilitating youths, but the Chief could tell about a few of the youth that were caught stealing vehicles and robbing gas stations. Councilor G. Steere disagreed that all of the people have been fully compensated.

After further discussion, Councilor Forgue stated in his opinion that it would be a good idea for the Council to visit the facility. Councilor G. Steere stated that they need to come talk to us too. Councilor Forgue agreed and stated that he could not make a good judgement because he has not seen the facility.

Councilor G. Steere stated that there is nothing to vote on tonight but he was hoping to get a few answers. Councilor Forgue stated that he advised Eric to attend but he had a previous commitment. Councilor W. Steere stated that we could ask him to attend on July 18th because it is a month away and he could clear his schedule.

XI. Town Council Correspondence and/or Discussion

- A. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from Skyler Wolsey of Ballston Spa, NY suggesting improvements to safety on the roads in Gloucester.

- B. Councilor G. Steere stated that a request was received from Steve Mitchell, Land Trust chair, for the Council to attend the August 13th meeting of the Land Trust regarding work to be done at the Hawkins Dam. Councilor W. Steere stated that he thought it was just him and Councilor G. Steere and expressed his opinion that it should be the whole Council. Councilor G. Steere stated that S. Mitchell is proposing to come to the Council after that meeting, when they will have a final report from the engineer. Councilor W. Steere stated that he feels that all Council members should go to the meeting and ask questions. Councilor Henry stated that Mr. Mitchell should be told to bring the engineer to report to the Council. Councilor G. Steere stated that he will attend the meeting and make that request. Councilor G. Steere further stated that

the Council and Land Trust could have a joint meeting.

- C. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from a Mr. Smith who has 8 ½ acres of land off Killingly Road that abuts Town land which he is offering to sell to the Town. Councilor G. Steere stated that it is landlocked with a right of way and is worthless to the owner. There was Council consensus to put this on the next agenda.
- D. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from Stacey Swift regarding the Griffin property on Hartford Pike. Councilor G. Steere noted that Mr. Griffin came in for a Zoning Variance and was denied, but is now appealing the decision. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the case is in Superior Court. Councilor G. Steere noted that there is nothing more the Council can do until that is over with.
- E. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Smithfield School Department is looking for a Resolution in support of the Safe Schools Act of 2019.
- F. Councilor Fougue stated that the Senior Center cleaning services contract has expired and we are looking to renew it. Councilor G. Steere stated that they offered a one-year extension at the same price. There was Council consensus to put this on the special meeting agenda next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
- G. Councilor Fougue referred to a Police officer, Joe Mattera, who retired a year ago, and recommended that the Council give him some sort of citation. There was Council consensus to put this on the next regular agenda.

XII. Department Head Reports/Discussion

- A. Karen Scott, Town Planner, stated that Heidi Blank, our GIS specialist, is working on getting a GIS website portal online which will be a great service to our residents.
- B. Bob Shields, Recreation Director, stated that a local Cub Scout group inquired about having a car wash at the Pavilion. B. Shields stated that he feels that this would set a precedent and other organizations would want to use our resources in this way. B. Shields stated that the Pavilion By-Laws do not give a direct answer. Councilor G. Steere agreed that this is not something we want to get involved in.

B. Shields stated that there is a church that meets at the Chepachet Grange and would like to do a prayer service at the Pavilion. B. Shields expressed concern about the separation of Church and State. Councilor G. Steere stated that we can't stop a group of people from gathering there. B. Shields stated that he was leery because of potential advertising. Councilor Henry stated that there will be some people in Town, of no faith, who will say that it is not to be used in that way. Councilor Henry stated that if it may happen spontaneously, but we should not sanction them advertising the use of the Pavilion.

Bob Shields spoke regarding a test pilot for a Farmer's Market this summer. B. Shield gave the Council members information and asked for their feedback. B. Shields noted that it will start on July 14th and run through August 11th, on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Councilor G. Steere asked who would be the manager of the Farmer's Market. B. Shields replied that it will be him for the time being, but he hopes that eventually the position will come from the Recreation Commission because that is where it started. B. Shields stated that Sunday was chosen because he did not want to compete with Burrillville and Scituate, who have theirs on Saturday. B. Shields further stated that he hopes people coming from Church will stop by.

Councilor Henry asked if the water testing at the ponds is okay. B. Shields replied that he dropped the samples off prior to the rain and noted that the rain is the reason he pushed back the opening with the lifeguards. B. Shields stated that he has not heard from the lab regarding bacteria levels.

- C. Councilor W. Steere asked Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, about the old Purple Cat building which is falling apart. K. Johnson stated that he spoke to the owner recently. Councilor Forgue stated that he also told him that something has to be done but the owner replied that he is having financial issues right now. Councilor Forgue stated that he suggested that the owner do something within six (6) months and the owner was comfortable with that. K. Johnson noted that the owner has taken some action with the building, and the strip mall behind it will be taken down.

Councilor Henry stated that when she came on the Council, she was told this would be taken care of in a matter of months, but here we are three (3) years later. K. Johnson asked what the Council would like him to do. Councilor W. Steere replied that the owner should give a timeline. Councilor Forgue suggested that if something is not done in six (6) months the Council should take action. K. Johnson commented that his job is frustrating because it is difficult to get business owners to cooperate.

Councilor Forgue stated that the Economic Development Committee is trying to move the Town forward and give it a new look. Councilor Forgue stated that if we are doing all the right things that property, which has been an eyesore for years, could get sold sooner if people see the Town moving in that direction.

Councilor Henry noted that everyone on the Council has had numerous conversations with Mr. Lavoie, but it has been 15 years since that place has been abandoned. Councilor Henry stated her opinion that no other business owner would be allowed to let a derelict property sit in the middle of the Historic District. K. Johnson stated that with the sign issue, we have to "walk a thin line" legally, but he can enforce the Zoning Ordinance and require the owner to either repair the building or take it down. K. Johnson stated that since the owner is on the EDC, he hopes the other members will urge him to cooperate, but if he does not, we will have to go the legal route.

Councilor Henry stated that the owner has said that in six (6) months, the problem will be solved. Councilor Henry asked if the owner can sign an agreement to that effect. Councilor Reichert stated that the Council continued to give the family a liquor license for five (5) years until they realized they could not issue an active liquor license on a place that was shuttered. K. Johnson noted that the owner was born and bred in this Town. Councilor Henry stated that the Council members are approached by people who want to know what they are doing about the Purple Cat. Councilor Forgue stated that he will visit the owner again and tell him he can either spend money to take the building down or he can spend money on a lawyer and will still have to take the building down.

Councilor G. Steere asked K. Johnson if he has answered the owner's questions regarding setbacks and grand-fathered rights. K. Johnson replied that he and the Town Planner have laid out a plan of what he can do with the property if he takes the building down. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that he can build within the same footprint. K. Johnson commented that this was one of the owner's excuses for not taking the building down. Councilor Reichert stated that no matter who buys the building, it will have to come down.

Councilor W. Steere stated that we have had discussions and have to hold him to the six (6) months. Councilor Forgue stated that the owner should be told that if nothing is done within that time, he will have to come before the Council and action will be taken.

Councilor G. Steere inquired about the barn on Adelaide Road. K. Johnson stated that portions of the building have been taken down, but another one has caved in. K. Johnson expressed concern that youth could get in there and it may collapse. K. Johnson stated that he has told the owner on numerous occasions that he has to do something. K. Johnson stated that they all claim that they don't have the money to do it but that is not an excuse because they own the property and are responsible for it. Councilor W. Steere asked if we need something in our Zoning Ordinance to give it "teeth", such as fines. K. Johnson stated that the only person who can fine somebody is a judge.

Councilor W. Steere noted that these two (2) particular situations have been around for many years. K. Johnson stated that he sends many letters to the owners. Councilor Henry suggested that we tell the owner that if he does not take the barn down, we will do so and a lien will be placed against the property for the expense incurred. K. Johnson stated that he will keep the Council updated on these situations.

XIII Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion
None.

XIV. Open Forum
None.

XV. MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2) Collective Bargaining - Discussion and/or Action; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

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

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Reconvene Open Session

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

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

MOTION PASSED

XVII. Discuss/Consider and act upon Department of Public Works Employee Compensation and Benefits for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has decided to address this matter at the end of the Special Meeting on Tuesday.

XVIII. MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Adjourn at 11:45 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

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

MOTION PASSED