

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on June 18, 2020:

Pursuant to R.I. Executive Orders # 20-05 and # 20-25 executed by Governor Gina Raimondo on March 16th, April 15th, and June 20, 2020 this meeting is being teleconferenced by Zoom. The information to join this zoom meeting was included in our posting as required by the noted Executive Orders.

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: Matt Floor, IT Director; Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; William Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Ken Johnson, Bldg/Zoning Official; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Councilor G. Steere reminded the Council there may be some people joining this meeting by telephone or without video capability so please identify yourself when speaking, particularly when making or seconding a motion please identify yourself.

Councilor G. Steere went on to explain the procedure for the meeting via zoom.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor G. Steere stated those wishing to speak, should raise their hand and Karen Scott will recognize those that wish to speak in turn.

None

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting minutes of June 4, 2020
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements - May 2020
- C. Finance Director's Report - May 2020
- D. Pole Grants
 - 1. Potters Lane- install new pole and anchor/guy pole # 5 for service.

2. Willie Woodhead Road- install new poles # 29 and # 30 for service
Motion was made by Councilor Henry MOTION to TABLE the approval of the Town Council minutes of June 4th, 2020; to APPROVE the Tax Assessor's Abatements to the Supplemental 2019 Tax Roll in the amount of \$241.19; No Additions to the 2019 Tax Roll; to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for May 2020; and to APPROVE the Pole Grants for Potters Lane & Willie Woodhead Road; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye
Councilor Henry -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor W. Steere -Aye
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Policy for access to Town Security cameras - Discussion and/or Action
Councilor W. Steere stated that he is working on language.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE this item to the next scheduled meeting; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye
Councilor Henry - Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor W. Steere -Aye
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. New Business

A. Covid-19 Updates/Actions - Discussion and/or Action
1. EMA Update

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to return to this item on agenda later in the meeting; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Council Discussion: none

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye

Councilor Henry - Aye

Councilor Reichert - Aye

Councilor W. Steere - Aye

Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Foster/Glocester Regional School Budget 2020/2021 Vote
Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated the Regional School Committee voted on a budget Tuesday night. Councilor W. Steere stated in the affirmative that the Foster/ Glocester Regional School Committee met and approved their budget on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. Councilor W. Steere stated he was concerned. Councilor W. Steere stated the Regions' Solicitor contacted our Solicitor and simply stated that is what they were doing. Councilor W. Steere stated the Foster Town Council had in their motion that they would go along with this action that if the Education Commission approved the action. Councilor W. Steere stated he is aware that Dr. Barnes contacted B. Daniels of the League of Cities and Towns to question if the Region could "get in" on pending legislation formulated to by-pass regional financial meeting processes. Councilor W. Steere stated as of this afternoon there were still school committee members that were not aware of any guidance from RIDE's on this issue. Councilor P. Henry questioned Councilor W. Steere concerns after stating she was not made aware of this meeting. Councilor P. Henry stated she is not aware of where all this information came from. Councilor W. Steere stated the Region took a vote by-passing the voters of each town. Councilor W. Steere stated other towns are having their financial town meetings and, in his opinion, the Region took the easy way out and he doesn't think they can do this. Councilor W. Steere read the following statute used by the Region to justify by-passing the taxpayers/voters:

"§ 16-3-14. Regional representatives.

In cities and towns that do not have a regional school district financial meeting, the regional school committee or an alternative mechanism approved by the board of regents for elementary and secondary education shall determine the regional school district budget as to overall amounts, the purchase of land, and the construction of buildings."

Councilor W. Steere stating that a \$20 million dollar budget was passed without the taxpayers say and that in taking this vote the Regional School Committee did not follow the Regional Charter without permission.

Councilor W. Steere questioned the Council on conversations Dr. Barnes has stated he had with individual council members.

Councilor G. Steere stated Dr. Barnes had called him and read the statute Councilor W. Steere previously read. Councilor G. Steere stated to him it seems that statute is referring to a regional school that does not have a budget process in place, not an emergency where they cannot hold their meeting. Councilor G. Steere stated he previously spoke to Tim Kane and to Dr. Barnes and that Dr. Barnes had stated that the dollar amount that the Finance Director had included in the proposed budget would be the figure voted upon. Councilor W. Steere stated he was not aware of any of this information. Councilor P. Henry stated she is the liaison to the school and she has no knowledge of any of these conversations. Councilor W. Steere stated Dr. Barnes referenced that both Town Councils (Glocester & Foster) had agreed to a \$120,000 reduction and he is not aware of that agreement. Councilor W. Steere stated he did not know where that came from. Councilor W. Steere also referenced the Foster motion that stated it was contingent upon Commission of Education's approval. Councilor W. Steere questioned if this vote was legal.

William Bernstein said that the authority Dr. Barnes relied upon was due to interpretation. W. Bernstein stated the School Committee is responsible for reading and following the law and the charter. Councilor Forgue stated it appears to be a mote point. Councilor W. Steere questioned if this logic will be used again and felt it is a slippery slope of not following the charter. Councilor W. Steere stated he feels they worked harder on how not to have a vote than to have a vote. Councilor Forgue asked what could be done about this and what can we do to prevent this from happening next year. William Bernstein suggested a review of the Charter and for a letter to be sent to the Region putting the School Committee on notice going forward. Council consensus to send correspondence to the Region. Councilor W. Steere again stated they speak of an agreement and he personally did not vote on any agreement. Councilor G. Steere stated Dr. Barnes had spoken about a number for budget with D. Brennan and that was the number plugged into the budget. Councilor W. Steere stated he doesn't care about the numbers at this point. Councilor J. Forgue suggested we have Atty. Bernstein look into this issue and report back to Council. Councilor W. Steere stated we need to put them on notice that this cannot ever happen again. Councilor Forgue stated if this shouldn't have happened we need to do something about it. Atty. Bernstein stated he could meet with Atty. Kane to discuss and send a letter putting the Region on notice that this should not happen again. Councilor P. Henry questioned what the number was that was used. Councilor W. Steere stated D. Brennan may have that number. Councilor J. Forgue suggested Atty. Bernstein research to ensure that what was done was legal.

Councilor W. Steere stated he hopes the number to be voted on by the voters next week is the correct number.

D. Brennan spoke regarding the proposed Regional budget and the numbers she used.

Councilor P. Henry questioned it is Thursday now and this vote supposedly occurred Tuesday and asked if D. Brennan if she had received a call from the Region. D. Brennan answered in the negative.

Councilor J. Forgue read emails that were sent to Councilor G. Steere by Dr. Barnes where he outlines his intentions and their budget numbers.

Councilor G. Steere stated he spoke with Shelly Pezza, from Foster, and Dr. Barnes and asked if the number they were voting on was the number previously conveyed to him.

Councilor J. Forgue read another email sent by Dr. Barnes asking the Town its intention, regarding the Regional budget, when it adopts its budget.

Councilor W. Steere stated he is just disappointed because he feels people expect the Council to do the right thing and he feels we need to address this.

Atty. Bernstein and Atty. Kane will review. Atty. Bernstein stated that Atty. Kane was called, not for his opinion, just to be told what the school was proposing.

Councilor Reichert stated the Region thinks they can do this with other subjects.

Councilor P. Henry questioned as liaison why wasn't she the one contacted. Councilor G. Steere stated he only answered calls and Councilor P. Henry should question the School Committee.

C. Personnel

1. Town Clerk's Office

a. Consideration of Extension of Town Council Authorization: Family Medical Leave Act

Councilor G. Steere stated Council has received a request to extend an employee's FMLA leave as the current authorization is set to expire the end of June. Councilor G. Steere stated the employee is requesting another two months.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to APPROVE the request for a two month extension of a Town Clerk employees' FMLA leave to September 1, 2020; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye

Councilor Henry - Aye

Councilor Reichert - Aye

Councilor W. Steere - Aye

Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Building/Zoning Office

a. Request for Bldg/Zoning Clerk to carry over vacation time from 2019/2020 fiscal year to 2020/2021 fiscal year

Councilor G. Steere stated that Council has received a request from the Building/Zoning Official to allow the Bldg/Zoning Clerk, Denise Cadoret, to carry over vacation time to the next fiscal year.

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the request to authorize the carry over of up to 32 hours of vacation time, for Bldg/Zoning Clerk Denise Cadoret, from fiscal year 2019/2020 to fiscal year 2020/2021; seconded by Councilor Forgue

Council Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated that it has been hard for the clerk in that office to use vacation time and referred to how busy that office has been.

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye

Councilor Henry - Aye

Councilor Reichert - Aye

Councilor W. Steere - Aye

Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Local Ballot Questions - 2020 Elections

Councilor G. Steere stated that local questions for the ballot in 2020 need to be certified by the Board of Canvassers and sent to the Secretary of State by August 5th.

1. Proposed Town Charter Amendments

Councilor G. Steere stated that Council rec'd recommendations on Feb. 11th from the Charter Review Commission. Councilor G. Steere also stated that Council would need to hold a public hearing in July in order for questions to be prepared for the General Election ballot.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forge to SET a Public Hearing for July 16th, 2020 to consider, for inclusion on the ballot in November 2020, the Charter Review Commissions recommendations; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye

Councilor Henry - Aye

Councilor Reichert - Aye

Councilor W. Steere - Aye

Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Proposed Local Legislation - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated this is for any other proposals for consideration.

Councilor W. Steere introduced the discussion about a Town Manager as helping to run the business of the Town . Councilor Forgue asked about the costs . Councilor W. Steere said that the last three Charter Commissions suggested the Town have a Manager. Council discussed cost to town . Councilor W. Steere said the Council could design the job description and would support feedback from other people. Councilor Forgue agreed information would be great.

David Laplante, resident, asked to speak, and stated that he believes the average salary for a Town Manager is \$ 83, 000.

At this point, the EMA Director was present and Council addressed: Item VII. New Business

A. Covid-19 Updates/Actions - Discussion and/or Action

1. EMA Update

The Clerk updated that she is working to get business moving ahead at the Town Hall.

Gerry Mosca, EMA Director, updated the Council.

G. Mosca stated that people are still being infected and dying so he stressed continued caution. G. Mosca recommends Town Hall open by appointment only. Karen Scott prepared a control plan for opening on a limited basis and has forwarded to Department Heads. Concerns regarding the Senior Center, library and coolness centers were discussed. G. Mosca discussed the reimbursement request for the police generator. G. Mosca is seeking out additional PPE equipment. G. Mosca recommended an extension of the Emergency Declaration for two more weeks.

2. Emergency Declaration Status, Extension, and/or Amendments
(Currently in place until 6/19/2020)

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to AMEND the Gloucester Declaration of a State of Emergency by extending to July 16, 2020 with the exception of July 4, 2020 activities only; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye

Councilor Henry - Aye

Councilor Reichert - Aye

Councilor W. Steere - Aye

Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion was made by Councilor Forgue to authorize Gerry Mosca, EMA Director and Timothy Kane, Esq. Town Solicitor to send a letter to Hill's Tavern specifying that they cannot have special events with Chief Delprete, Gloucester Police Dept. delivering the letter ; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Council Discussion:

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye
Councilor Henry -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor W. Steere -Aye
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED

E. Authorization to sign and/or award to vendors for services under Grant:

1. R.I. DEM 2020 Recreation Grant Award : Gloucester Memorial Park Improvements
Councilor G. Steere stated that Council has rec'd a request from the Town Planner for the authorization of the R.I.D.E.M. 2020 Recreation Grant agreement for improvements to GMP:

Discussion: K. Scott explained this item is to sign the grant award to receive the funds. K. Scott also stated that she has received questions from abutting property owners and she has sent out correspondence to them reassuring them that there would be a time for their's and the publics input regarding the project.

MOTION by Councilor Forgue to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the 2020 Recreation Grant Agreement between the R.I. Department of Environmental Management and the Town of Gloucester in the amount of: \$400,000.00 for the period July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2023 for improvements to Gloucester Memorial Park; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Council Discussion: Councilor George Steere thanked K. Scott for the work she did in obtaining the grant. Gerry Mosca was also thanked for his grant work.

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye
Councilor Henry - Aye
Councilor Reichert - Aye
Councilor W. Steere - Aye
Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Restoration of Betty the Learned Elephant

a. R.I. Foundation Grant Award Grant Agreement

Councilor G. Steere stated the Town Planner has requested Council authorization of the R.I. Foundation Community Grant Agreement in the amount of \$8,500 for restoration of Betty the Elephant.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the R.I. Foundation Grant Award Agreement; said grant in the amount of \$8,500 and is for the restoration of Betty the Potato Head Elephant; seconded by Councilor Forge.

Council Discussion: Councilor Henry commented that she was glad the Council took more time to investigate the repair and got the grant.

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye

Councilor Henry - Aye

Councilor Reichert - Aye

Councilor W. Steere - Aye

Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Authorization of vendor for services to repair the Learned Elephant -

Councilor G. Steere stated Karen Scott has submitted the following request:

To: Diane Brennan, Finance Director

From: Karen Scott, Town Planner

Date: June 15, 2020

Re: Repairs to Betty the Learned Elephant

On June 9, 2020, the Town was awarded \$8,500.00 in grant funds to repair Betty the Learned Elephant potato head statue. These funds require no match from the Town. I propose that we use the funds to contract with Amaral Fabrications in Rumford, RI to make all the necessary repairs to Betty. I am proposing that Amaral Fabrications be considered a sole source contractor for this project. Amaral Fabrications was the firm that originally constructed the potato head statues as part of Hasbro's efforts to place these unique statues throughout the state. They have agreed to make all the necessary improvements for the \$8,500 in grant funds. The Public Works Department reached out to several similar local firms who work in fiberglass repair including automotive and boat building contractors. All felt that the specialized nature of the statue were beyond their capabilities.

Authorization to sign the grant agreement with RI Foundation is on the June 18, 2020 Town Council agenda for approval. I am requesting approval to move forward with the expenditure of the RI Foundation grant funds using Amaral Fabrications once the grant agreement is signed.

Thank you.

(End of memo)

MOTION made by Councilor Forge to AUTHORIZE the Planner to work with Amaral Fabrications for the restoration of Betty the Elephant; said restoration to be funded by a R.I. Foundation Grant; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye

Councilor Henry - Aye

Councilor Reichert - Aye

Councilor W. Steere - Aye

Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Contract Between Town of Gloucester and Haynes / de Boer Architecture + Preservation for architectural services related to the Historic Preservation Subgrant program.

Councilor G. Steere stated Karen Scott has requested the following:

To: Town Council Members

From: Karen Scott, Town Planner

Date: June 15, 2020

Re: Historic Preservation Architectural Services

The Town received a \$250,000 grant from the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Subgrant Program to fund a Chepachet Village National Register District Historic Revitalization Subgrant program which will fund building facade improvements to commercial and mixed use buildings that are contributing structures to the Chepachet Village National Register District. In addition, the Town received a \$13,700 grant from the RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission to fund architectural and engineering review assistance for the above subgrant program.

Following the regulations outlined in RIGL 45-55-8.1, Qualification- Based Selection of Architects and Engineers, the State's Master Price Agreement (#494) for Architects and Engineers was used to select Haynes/de Boer Architecture + Preservation. Haynes/ de Boer is a highly qualified architecture firm with vast experience in historic preservation projects. They provided an hourly rate and a not to exceed figure that is within the budgeted grant funds for the project. All funds

associated with this contract are grant funds and no town funds will be used. Both the National Park Service and the RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission have approved this selection. Once the agreement for services is signed, I plan to convene the subgrant review committee via zoom to finalize the process to solicit applications for subgrant funds
(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Contract Between the Town of Glocester and Haynes / de Boer Architecture + Preservation for architectural services related to the Historic Preservation Subgrant program in an amount not to exceed \$12,000; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye
Councilor Henry - Aye
Councilor Reichert - Aye
Councilor W. Steere - Aye
Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

F. Finance Director Request: Departmental Budget Transfers - FY 2019/2020
Councilor G. Steere stated the Council has received a memo from Diane Brennan requesting authorization to make departmental budget transfers. Councilor G. Steere stated these transfers would be solely to cover Contractual employee obligations and to fund an overage in the Planning Department, Salaries.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to AUTHORIZE the Departmental Budget Transfers for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 as outlined in the Finance Director's memo of June 15, 2020, to cover contractual employee obligations and to fund an overage in the Planning Dept., Salaries; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Council Discussion: Councilor Henry thanked Diane Brennan, Finance Director for her work.

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye
Councilor Henry - Aye
Councilor Reichert - Aye
Councilor W. Steere - Aye
Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

G. Recreation Department

1. Summer 2020 Recreation Plan for Programs - Approval and/or amendments

Robert Shields, Recreation Director, gave the following updates as to the Recreation Program: the Farmers Market which will starting on July 19th; swim lessons and the concert series which will hopefully start in the Governor's Phase 3 plan for Rhode Island. R. Shields explained there will be no track and field this summer; and no crafts at the beach, instead participants will drive up and pick up craft packets at the Pavilion. R. Shields further stated the beaches will be open five days per week and a swim at your own risk sign will be placed at the beaches stating no lifeguards will be present for the other two days.

2. Summer 2020 Recreation Staff Appointments

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to APPOINT to the **Arts & Crafts Instructors** position @ \$11.00, per hour, with a start date of June 19, 2020:

Danielle Charron
Elizabeth Tamarro

Tennis Instructor position @ \$22.50 per hour, with a start date of June 19, 2020:

Richard Lawrence

Tennis Aide Position @ \$10.50 per hour, with a start date of June 19, 2020:

Sebastian Campanella
Amelia Campanella
Elijah Gouin
Colton Mousseau

Tennis Aide Position @ \$10.50 per hour, with a start date of June 24, 2020:

Anneliese Curry

Tennis Aide position @ \$11.50 per hour, with a start date of June 19, 2020:

Jacob Lawrence

Water Safety Aides/l.i.t @ \$11.00 per hour, with a start date of June 19, 2020:

Nora Giorgianni
Natalie Gray
Sarah MacNeil
Eve Nadeau

Lifeguards with a start date of June 19, 2020

Brooke Anderson @ \$12.50 per hour
Mae Belleavoine @ \$13.00 per hour
Joe Conte @ \$12.50 per hour

Chayce DeMarco @ \$13.00 per hour
Alexandra Drexler @ \$13.00 per hour,
Seth Drexler @ \$13.00 per hour
Ian Parker @ \$13.00 per hour
Nathan Tellier @ \$12.00 per hour

Parks & Grounds @ \$10.50 per hour, with a start date of June 19, 2020:

Dylan Carpenter
Scott Chase Jr.

All current certifications and work papers, as applicable, must be filed with the Town before employee's start date.

Seconded by Councilor Forge

Council Discussion: Councilor Walter Steere asked if all appointees are Gloucester residents. Recreation Director, Robert Shields stated that all appointees except three are Gloucester residents.

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Fogue -Aye
Councilor Henry - Aye
Councilor Reichert - Aye
Councilor W. Steere - Aye
Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Summer 2020 Parking Lot employees - Lottery-
Councilor G. Steere stated that each year we have a lottery for the selection of parking lot employees.

After the lottery: MOTION by Councilor Henry to APPOINT to the position of Parking Attendants @ \$10.50 per hour, with a start date of June 24, 2020:

1. Megan Falls

2. Elsie McLaughlin

3. Mally Falls

4. Jessica Filpo

5. Kayla Hawkins

6. Jared Gaudiana

7. Taya Tesseris

seconded by Councilor Forgue

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye

Councilor Henry - Aye

Councilor Reichert - Aye

Councilor W. Steere - Aye

Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

H. Litter Control - Property Abutting Transfer Station -

Councilor P. Henry explained she has received numerous calls from members of the Sand Dam Association regarding a letter that was sent to Council regarding trash issues along Chestnut Hill Road. Councilor P. Henry stated they are asking the Council to take the trash problem seriously and to do something about the situation across from the Transfer Station. Councilor P. Henry acknowledged that signs did go up but that it doesn't seem to be enough. Councilor P. Henry stated she finds it appalling that people litter this way. Councilor J. Forgue stated he finds this is happening on Snake Hill Road also. Different options were briefly discussed for controlling trash from the Transfer Station. Councilor P. Henry will discuss further with Sand Dam to see what they want and come back to Council.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to table Item. H. Litter Control to the next meeting ; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye

Councilor Henry - Aye

Councilor Reichert - Aye

Councilor W. Steere - Aye

Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

I. Boards & Commissions

1. Resignation - Discussion and/or Action

a. Budget Board - One Three year term to Expire 1/2022

Council has received a resignation from Alfred Fuoroli for the Budget Board.

MOTION by Councilor Forgue to ACCEPT the resignation of Alfred Fuoroli from the Budget Board; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Council Discussion: Council expressed their thanks to Mr. Fuoroli

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye

Councilor Henry - Aye

Councilor Reichert - Aye

Councilor W. Steere - Aye

Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Appointment

a. Budget Board - One Three year term to Expire 1/2022

MOTION by Councilor Henry to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board for a three year term to expire 1/2022; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye

Councilor Henry - Aye

Councilor Reichert - Aye

Councilor W. Steere - Aye

Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

J. Approval of 4th of July celebration plans

Councilor G. Steere asked Tanya Srabian to review her celebration plans.

T. Srabian explained on July 3rd there will be a competition where people will be able to decorate their front yards and our judges will review. T. Srabian explained for the 4th there will be an abbreviated parade/procession, similar to Memorial Day, at 10:00 a.m. from the Senior Center to Acotes Field. T. Srabian explained all events will be advertised.

Councilor W. Steere asked if the committee had checked the Saturday event with the Chief and T. Srabian stated in the affirmative.

Council thanked the Parade Committee Chair and the members for their creative approach.

T. Srabian explained the fireworks will be pushed back to the fall.

Motion by Councilor Forgue to approve the July 4th plans as presented by Parade Committee Chair, Tanya Srabian; seconded by Councilor Walter Steere

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye

Councilor Henry - Aye

Councilor Reichert - Aye

Councilor W. Steere - Aye

Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

K. Summer Town Council meeting schedule -For the last 5 years Council has held one meeting in the month of July.

After discussion, MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to AMEND the annual meeting calendar to call one Town Council Meeting in the month of July to be held on July 16; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Council Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated if something comes up, an emergency meeting can be held.

Councilor Reichert WITHDREW his second and Councilor Forgue WITHDREW his motion (to include August)

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to AMEND the annual meeting calendar to call one Town Council Meeting in the month of July to be held on July 16, 2020; and one Town Council meeting in the month of August to be held on August 20, 2020; seconded by Councilor Reichert. The Clerk will advertise and post on website

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye
Councilor Henry - Aye
Councilor Reichert - Aye
Councilor W. Steere - Aye
Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

L. Pavilion at Kent Field status and/or opening
Councilor indicated that a Black Lives Matter demonstration would occur on Saturday, June 20, 2020 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Councilor G. Steere stated the barriers are down and people are using the Pavilion. Councilor W. Steere questioned the Recreation Director if any group had requested use of the Pavilion as there is talk of a potential “gathering/protest”. Councilor W. Steere questioned if the group should get a permit as others have. The Recreation Director stated we do not typically permit this type of event, usually only town organized events. Councilor W. Steere questioned the process put in place to allow use of the pavilion. The Recreation Director again stated Town sponsored events would use that process but people just wanting to gather may do so, they just don’t get sole use of the property. Discussion followed on the possibility in light of Covid restrictions. The Chief stated there would be some police presence that day and they are monitoring the event. Councilor G. Steere questioned if there are bathrooms open. The Clerk stated the bathrooms are not open, at this time, because there is no electricity at that location due to an accident at that location. Councilor W. Steere stated if they are peaceful and safe that is their right.

M. Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Gloucester and the RI Laborers District Council, on behalf of the Local Union 1322, Dispatchers: Regarding use of overtime, compensatory time, vacation time and personal Discussion and/or Action

Chief DelPrete stated they have been shorthanded for three months and his staff haven’t been able to use vacation or personnel time. The Chief stated this amendment would allow the carry over of that time.

Councilor G. Steere stated that Atty. Kane has submitted proposed contract amendments relating to overtime/ compensatory time, vacation leave and personal days.

Atty. Bernstein stated this is just for one year due to the pandemic. Atty. Bernstein stated that is included in the amendment.

MOTION by Councilor Henry to AMEND the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Gloucester and Local Union 1322, Gloucester Police Dispatchers with amendments to Article VII. Salary Schedule, Payroll and Working Hours; Article X. Vacation Time; and Article

XIII. Miscellaneous; all amendments relating to overtime/compensatory time, vacation leave, and personal days, as outlined in the amendment document dated June 18, 2020 to be signed by both the Town and the Union; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Council Discussion: Diane Brennan thanked the dispatchers for their cooperation.

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye
Councilor Henry - Aye
Councilor Reichert - Aye
Councilor W. Steere - Aye
Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

N. Consideration of Award of Bid - IFB 2020-01 Repair of Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (Owts) at the Gloucester Police Department - Discussion and/or Action

The Finance Director has submitted a memo:

To: Honorary Town Council Members
From: Diane L. Brennan, Finance Director
Re: Award of IFB 2020-01 Repair of OWTS at the Gloucester Police Station
Date: June 17, 2020

The bid for IFB 2020-01 for Repair of OWTS at the Police Station was advertised on February 26, 2020 in the Bargain Buyer and on February 27, 2020 in the Valley Breeze. Seven vendors picked up plans. Two bids were received. The sealed bids were opened by the Board of Contracts via a zoom meeting on Monday June 15, 2020.

The bids were as follows:

P & R Construction
805 East Avenue
Harrisville, RI 02830
\$24,500.00

Fredrickson Construction LLC
1051 Chopmist Hill Road
No Scituate, RI 02857
\$25,995.00

Both vendors are licensed in RI. The Board of Contracts met via a zoom on June 16, 2020. The board recommended awarding the bid to the low bidder, P & R Construction, of Harrisville, RI for the amount of \$24,500. This award is contingent upon the vendor providing all insurances to the town prior to commencing the work. The Director of Public Works concurred with the recommendation to the low bidder.

I would ask for Council approval to award this bid as recommended by the Board of Contracts.
(End of memo)

Discussion:

MOTION was made Councilor Forgue to AWARD IFB 2020-01, Repair of OWTS, at the Gloucester Police Station to P & R Construction, of Harrisville, RI, for the bid amount of \$24,500; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye
Councilor Henry - Aye
Councilor Reichert - Aye
Councilor W. Steere - Aye
Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VIII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

A. Councilor G. Steere stated he received a phone call from a resident on Laurel Drive/Indian Trail regarding the rental of property in her neighbor for short terms and some of the problems that have occurred. Councilor G. Steere stated they are noticing out of state plates coming in and staying for short periods. Councilor G. Steere stated the residents are questioning if there is any law or ordinance regarding this issue.

Councilor J. Forgue stated he also received a call on this and he has discussed with the Planner and the Bldg/Zoning Official. Councilor J. Forgue stated this item will be discussed in Open Forum.

B. Councilor J. Forgue stated she has received correspondence form our Building/Zoning Official Ken Johnson regarding unregistered vehicles.

Ken Johnson stated there are many complaints of unregistered vehicles being stored on properties. Mr. Johnson stated he has sent out many reminders and violations over the years but feels we are not getting any where cleaning up these vehicles. K. Johnson stated it is not really a zoning issue, it is a police matter. K. Johnson stated at this point there are so many, and it is getting worse, but he does not have police power to go on someone's property and

tow vehicles. K. Johnson stated without cooperation he would like to bring in the police to assist. Councilor J. Forgue agreed, and stated he has called multiple times to complain about these vehicles. Councilor J. Forgue stated he agrees we need to start enforcing this ordinance on the books. K. Johnson stated these vehicles being left to rot on properties could have environmental issues, stressing that wells could be contaminated. Councilor J. Forgue questioned if anyone has removed any vehicles. K. Johnson answered that none have been removed. Councilor J. Forgue stated if we have the right to remove them, we should notify people if they don't move these vehicles within ten days we will remove them. Councilor J. Forgue stated enforcement needs to happen. Councilor P. Henry stated she agrees and feels people that keep their yards clear of unregistered vehicles should be rewarded. Discussion followed on the police removing these vehicles. Councilor J. Forgue and Councilor P. Henry agreed the Police should remove these vehicles.

Councilor W. Steere questioned if this was a zoning issue. K. Johnson stated it is not. Chief DelPrete stated he would have to seek the support of the Town Solicitor because he is not sure the statute supports removing vehicles.

Atty. Bernstein stated he will have to review the ordinance to determine how this issue can be addressed. K. Johnson stated the ordinance is clear the police have the authority to impound the vehicle but we haven't done that.

Councilor J. Forgue asked Atty. Bernstein to review. Atty. Bernstein stated an ordinance can say something but that may not make it constitutional.

David Laplante, resident, referred back to a similar problem where the court system was involved and it took two years to remove that vehicle. D. Laplante referred to the fourth amendment and the rights it carries. D. Laplante stated he feels it is a bad idea for the police department to go on property and remove a vehicle.

Councilor J. Forgue stated he would be upset if this was next door to his property and nothing was happening to fix it.

Chief DelPrete stated that repossession of vehicles can be very dangerous and he would want legal guidance and/or a court order before he would take this action.

C. Councilor G. Steere stated he received a late job application for DPW. D. Brennan stated she was re-posting and she will accept the application. Councilor W. Steere asked why we were re-posting. D. Brennan stated that due to Covid-19 we had held applications for a long period. D. Brennan stated there are two jobs being advertised.

D. Councilor G. Steere stated a Senior Center member forwarded correspondence praising the Senior Center Director and her staff for their efforts during the pandemic.

IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

A. K. Johnson brought up short term rental and stated as we do not have anything in our code regarding this use perhaps Council would want to consider adding an ordinance. K. Johnson stated he has reached out to the owner to try to determine his future plans. K. Johnson stated he has received some complaints.

B. The Clerk stated Council has had a first reading for the proposed HDC Ordinance amendments but due to the virus we have not had the public hearing. The Clerk will schedule the hearing for a future meeting.

C. The Clerk noted it was D. Brennan's (Finance Director) last meeting and thanked her for all her hard work. Council discussed the process to seek a new Finance Director.

X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion
None

XI. Open Forum

Councilor G. Steere stated those wishing to speak, raise your hand and Karen will recognize those that wish to speak in turn.

1. Councilor J. Forgue brought up the short term rental situation again and turned it over to K. Scott to explain the effort she is taking to assist.

K. Scott stated there are some communities with ordinances that regulate this use and she will put together some suggestion, in the form of an ordinance, for Council to review at the next Council meeting. Atty. Bernstein agreed we could look at a new ordinance to address this issue.

Councilor J. Forgue stated it appears to be a real problem for neighbors to these rental properties. G. Mosca stated they are required to quarantine for two weeks. Councilor J. Forgue stated there have been complaints of out of state vehicles. Councilor J. Forgue stated he is told they come for a few days, party, and then leave.

Tracie Kowal, 159 Indian Trail, stated they are renting on weekends as well as during the week. Ms. Kowal stated there are parties, dangerous driving, and described the issues on the street. Ms. Kowal stated there were approximately 14 vehicles parked there recently. Councilor P. Henry questioned if there could be a drug or human trafficking issue. Chief DelPrete asked the resident to contact the police department when these activities occur.

XII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor P. Henry to ADJOURN at 10:57 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere; W. Steere; Reichert; Forgue; Henry

NAYS- none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY