

**At the Organizational Meeting of the Town Council held in and
for the Town of Gloucester on January 5, 2015**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; William E. Reichert, Vice-President; George O. (Buster) Steere; Edward C. Burlingame.

Members Absent: Steven A. Sette.

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Assistant Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Judy Branch, Director of Human Services; Walter Steere, Jr., Cynthia Joyce, School Committee members

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. The Swearing in of Gloucester Elected officials

Council President W. Steere thanked all in attendance and stated the purpose of this meeting is to swear in Gloucester Officials elected at the November 2014 election.

Councilor W. Steere introduced Senator Paul Fogarty and Representative Michael Chippendale, present to swear in Gloucester's local elected officials.

Council President W. Steere asked all those being sworn in by Senator Fogarty to step forward and the oath of office will be administered. School Committeewoman elect Cynthia Joyce, Councils elect Walter Steere & William Reichert were sworn into office for the 2015-2016 term.

Council President W. Steere asked all those being sworn in by Representative Chippendale to step forward and the oath of office will be administered. Councils elect George Steere and Edward Burlingame; Director of Human Services, Judy Branch; Town Clerk elect Jean Fecteau; & School Committeeman Walter Steere were sworn into office for the 2015-2016 term.

Councilor W. Steere called for a motion to nominate a Town Council President for the 2015-2016 term of office.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to appoint Councilor W. Steere to the position of Town Council President for the 2015-2016 term of office; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Council President Steere called for a motion to nominate a Town Council Vice-President for the 2015-2016 term of office.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to appoint Councilor G. Steere to the position of Town Council Vice-President for the 2015-2016 term of office; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Steere thanked his fellow Councilmen for a successful previous term and expressed his confidence moving forward. Councilor W. Steere thanked all in attendance for attending this event.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 7:05 p.m. seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:05 P.M.

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the January 15, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

**At a meeting of the Town Council held in and
for the Town of Gloucester on January 15, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William E. Reichert; Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Also present:

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Assistant Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Tim Inacio, Town Planner; Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Anthony Parrillo, Recreation Director and Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - Agenda Items

None.

V. Resolution - Discussion and/or action

A. Opposition to Proposed 2015 Legislation Re: "Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes":
Builders/Developers Exemption - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received information that legislation similar to legislation proposed in 2013 & 2014 will be introduced at the next legislative session. Council has discussed and again want to oppose the legislation. Councilor G. Steere read the following Resolution into the record:

**Resolution #2015-01 Opposing 2015 Legislation
An Act Relating to Taxation – Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes**

WHEREAS, for the last two legislative sessions bills were introduced that would prevent a municipality from taxing new construction single-family dwellings and residential condominium units at its full and fair cash value for as long as said new construction dwellings or condominium units are not occupied, has never been occupied and are actively for sale to the open market; and

WHEREAS, this legislation, as previously written, would also prohibit assessment of these structures when partially completed, as is the standard and equitable practice throughout Rhode Island and our neighboring states; and

WHEREAS, we believe this legislation would allow for unfair taxation to a property owner who wishes to custom build their own single-family home or condominium; and favors the owners of development properties, thus giving for-profit developers an inequitable advantage in the residential market; and

WHEREAS, if introduced, this legislation would not be beneficial to the Town of Gloucester as it would cause a reduction of growth in assessed valuations and therefore a loss of revenue negatively affecting the budget process and forcing taxpayers to shoulder the burden to the benefit of a single group; and we have opposed similar legislation for the last two years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Council of the Town of Gloucester respectfully requests the Rhode Island General Assembly to “kill” any attempts to introduce similar legislation; and we ask all 39 R.I. cities & towns to support the opposition of this type of legislation.

ATTEST:

By order of the Town Council
Walter M. O. Steere, III, Town Council President
Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Seconded by Councilor Sette

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Michael Calenda

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council wants to recognize Ponaganset teacher, Michael Calenda, for his continued dedication and hard work to bring Wreaths Across America to Gloucester. The following Resolution was read into the record by Councilor Sette:

Resolution # 2015-02
Community Achievement Award
In recognition of:
Mr. Michael A. Calenda

WHEREAS; Gloucester School systems have shown outstanding success in surrounding our students with teachers and administrators that, in addition to teaching required curriculum, teach our students by their example the importance of community involvement and honoring the values that are important for our future; and

WHEREAS; Michael Calenda has worked diligently and with great commitment to his students and has successfully engaged these students in their lessons and their community; especially with their success in bringing Wreaths Across America to our Town; and

WHEREAS; Wreaths Across America at Ponaganset Middle School in 2014 was another great success fostering civic pride, respect, and bestowing lasting memories for our children, memories that will impact their lives always; and

WHEREAS; Mike Calenda's dedication and achievements reflect the ability of an educator to utilize their skills, resources, and drive to give our students the best opportunities possible; and

WHEREAS; We thank you for the hard work you did for Wreaths Across America and for teaching our children about the sacrifices made by our veterans and their families to preserve the freedoms we hold dear; and

The Town Council and the Town Clerk represent all Gloucester residents when we say we are proud of the spirit you bring, the example you set, and the leadership you show and we thank you for giving us **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** in Gloucester.

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC
Town Clerk

Walter M. O. Steere, III, President
Gloucester Town Council

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor Burlingame stated that, as a veteran, he particularly appreciates what Mike has done. After a round of applause, M. Calenda stated that it is an honor and a pleasure to teach at Ponaganset and that it is nice to be recognized. M. Calenda commented that the Wreaths Across America Program is an emotional event which could not take place without the support of teachers, administrators and students. M. Calenda stated that it is impressive to have something of this magnitude at Ponaganset Middle School.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Citation - Discussion and/or action

A. Appreciation:

Gloucester Police Department (for their assistance with Wreaths Across America)

Councilor W. Steere stated the Town Council, along with Mr. Calenda, want to express appreciation to the Gloucester Police Department for their hard work during the 2014 Wreaths Across America celebration. The following Citation was read into the record by Councilor Burlingame:

The Town of Gloucester
hereby presents
CITATION #2015-01 to:
The Gloucester Police Department
In recognition of your dedication and hard work to help bring
“Wreaths Across America” to our Town.

The Town Council is proud to recognize and thank the members of the Gloucester Police Department for their commitment to the “Wreaths Across America” program and its participants.

The honor, protection and respect you bestowed upon our Veterans and the Escorts on their way to Arlington only served to enhance the program and make us proud.

The Town Council and the Town Clerk represent all Gloucester residents when we say we thank you for the spirit you bring, the example you set, and the leadership you show in our Town and we honor you for your dedication to WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA in Gloucester.

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC
Town Clerk

Walter M. O. Steere, III, President
Gloucester Town Council

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion:

Mike Calenda explained that it is important to have safety for the escorts, which are two (2) miles long. M. Calenda stated that without the help of the Police, Wreaths Across America would not be able to come to Gloucester. M. Calenda expressed his appreciation to Chief DelPrete and the Gloucester Police Department.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Public Hearing - Discussion and/or action

- A. Proposed Amendment to Gloucester Code of Ordinance: Chapter 350, Article 11
Comp. Permit for Low and Moderate Income Housing
(To allow for corrections from amendments made in 2011)

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on December 24th, 31st, 2014 and January 7, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and stated that anyone wishing to speak this evening must come to the microphone and state their name for the record.

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

Discussion:

Councilor Sette noted that much of this proposed amendment is to change references from the Zoning Board to the Planning Board and other corrections to make the Ordinance consistent with the procedure by which these applications will be presented.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to GRANT the amendments to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 350 Article XI, Comprehensive Permit for Low and Moderate Income Housing, to correct by changing all references from Zoning Board to Planning Board as the Amendment passed on December 15, 2011 intended; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes of Dec. 18, 2014; and January 5th, 2015
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements
- C. Finance Director's Report

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE the Town Council Minutes of December 18, 2014 and January 5, 2015; to APPROVE the Tax Assessors additions to the 2014 Tax Roll in the amount of \$536.46 and the Abatements to the 2014 Tax Roll in the amount of \$842.50 and to APPROVE the Finance Director's Report for December 2014: seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor Sette noted that he was not in attendance at the Town Council meeting of January 5, 2015 and must abstain from the approval of the minutes.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette (abstained from approval of Town Council minutes of January 5, 2015.)

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Unfinished Business

- A. Bds. & Commissions

- 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Senior Center Board of Directors
One five year expired term to expire 11/2019

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Ann Glew to the Senior Center Board of Directors for the unexpired five year term to expire 11/2019; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

b. Parade Committee: Position #6 & #7

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the appointment to the Parade Committee Position #6; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the appointment to the Parade Committee Position #7; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

X. New Business

A. DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS- Terms Concurrent with Town Council

1. Chief of Police
2. Director of Finance
3. Director of Public Works
4. Tax Collector
5. Deputy Town Treasurer
6. Building/Zoning Inspector
7. Deputy Town Clerk
8. Town Planner
9. Director of Human Resources
10. Town Solicitor
11. Assistant Town Solicitor
12. Electrical Inspector
13. Plumbing Inspector
14. Mechanical Inspector
15. Animal Control Officer
16. Appraiser of Dog Damage
17. Asst. Animal Control Officers
18. Director of Emergency Management
19. Probate Judge

20. Recreation Director
21. Deputy Tree Warden
22. Sealer of Weights & Measures
23. Honorary Town Historian

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT the following for a two year term to run concurrent with the Town Council:

1. Chief of Police: **Joseph DelPrete**;
2. Director of Finance: **Diane Brennan**;
3. Director of Public Works: **Gary Treml**;
4. Tax Collector: **Jane Steere**;
5. Deputy Town Treasurer: **Jane Steere**;
6. Building/Zoning Inspector: **Ken Johnson**;
7. Deputy Town Clerk: **Susan Harris**;
8. Town Planner: **Tim Inacio**;
9. Director of Human Resources: **Diane Brennan**;
10. Town Solicitor: **Timothy Kane**;
11. Assistant Town Solicitor: **William Bernstein**;
12. Electrical Inspector: **James Clarke**;
13. Plumbing Inspector: **Gary Coyne**;
14. Mechanical Inspector: **Albert Danti**;
15. Animal Control Officer: **Michael Merchant**;
16. Appraiser of Dog Damage: **Michael Merchant**;
17. Assistant Animal Control Officers: **Penny Silvia and Vicky Kramer**;
18. Director of Emergency Management: **Jason Rhodes**;
19. Probate Judge: **Jane Gurzenda**;
20. Recreation Director: **Anthony Parrillo**;
21. Deputy Tree Warden: **Todd Anderson**;
22. Sealer of Weights & Measures: **Robert Salley**;
23. Honorary Town Historian: **Edna Kent**.

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- B. Town Council Liaisons for Boards, Comm. & Depts.- Discussion and/or Action
- Affordable Housing Advisory Board
 - Budget Board
 - Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission
 - Conservation Commission
 - Economic Development (when applicable)

Finance
Harmony Hill School
Historic District Commission
Honorary Town Historian
Housing Authority
Human Resources (Personnel
Human Services
Land Trust Trustees
Parade Committee
Planning Office & Planning Board
Public Safety: to include Police, Fire Safety Commission,
Animal Control and Emergency Management
Public Works
Recreation Director & Commission
School Department
Scituate Watershed Commission
Sealer of Weights & Measures
Senior Center
Town Clerk
Zoning Office & Zoning Board
Additional Bds., Comm., or Depts.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere noted that Gloucester Home Repair, formerly Western RI Home Repair, must be included. Councilor W. Steere stated that, after discussion, the Council has decided to stay status-quo with the Town Council liaison appointments.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT the following liaisons:

Councilor W. Steere:

Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission
Harmony Hill School
Honorary Town Historian
Public Safety
Recreation Director and Commission

Councilor G. Steere:

Economic Development
Housing Authority
Human Services
Parade Committee
Zoning Official/Zoning Board

Councilor Burlingame:

Affordable Housing Advisory Board
Historic District Commission

Human Resources (Personnel)
Senior Center
Glocester Home Repair Program

Councilor Reichert:
Conservation Commission
Public Works
Planning Office and Planning Board
Sealer of Weights and Measures
Scituate Watershed Commission

Councilor Sette:
Budget Board
Finance
Land Trust
School Department
Town Clerk/Town Hall

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Appointments - Boards & Commissions - Terms concurrent with Town Council
Discussion and/or Action

1. Board of Contracts & Purchases to 01/2017
Two (2) expired terms
One (1) expired Ad Hoc term

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPOINT: Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; and as ad hoc member a Town of Gloucester Department Head (not soliciting bid); to the Board of Contracts and Purchases for a two year term to expire 01/2017; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Personnel Board to 01/2017
Three (3) expired terms

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT David Piccirillo, Russell Gross and Steven St. Pierre to the Personnel Board for a two year term to expire 01/2017; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion:

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

3. Recreation Commission to 01/2017
Five (5) expired terms

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT 1. Stephen Alexander, 2. William Elderkin, 3. Kevin Leahy, 4. Martha Huston and to TABLE appointment #5 to the Recreation Commission for a two year term to expire 01/2017; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

4. Safety Commission to 01/2017
Seven (7) expired terms
Three (3) expired At Large Members

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Joseph DelPrete, Police Chief; Jason Rhodes, Emergency Management Director; Gary Treml, Public Works Director; Stuart Pearson, Harmony Fire Chief; Robert Dauphinais, Chepachet Fire Chief; Christopher Labutti, West Gloucester Fire Chief; Lisa Santamaria, School Bus Coordinator; Members at Large; 1. Earl Newman; 2. Russell Gross and to TABLE Alternate #3 for a term to expire 1/2017; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

5. Scituate Watershed Commission to 01/2017
Two (2) expired terms

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Tim Inacio and REAPPOINT Roy Najecki to the Scituate Watershed Commission for a term to expire 01/2017; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

6. Blackstone Valley Watershed Commission to 01/2017
One (1) expired term

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to REAPPOINT Elizabeth Tetreault to the Blackstone Valley Watershed Commission for a term to expire 01/2017; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

7. Woonasquatucket River Committee to 01/2017
One (1) expired term

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to APPOINT Tim Inacio to the Woonasquatucket River Committee for a term to expire 01/2017; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

8. Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission to 01/2017
Seven (7) expired terms
One (1) Alternate term

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Lauri Archambault; Linda Laliberte; Jena Degre; Linda Nichols; Roy Anderton; Stephanie Westgate; and Joel Niedel-Gresh and to

TABLE One Regular Position & One Alternate member position to the Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission for a term to expire 01/2017;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

9. Affordable Housing Advisory Board to 01/2017
Five (5) expired terms

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to REAPPOINT Daniel Nardelli; Michael Kopeski; Kevin Kitson; Cathleen Griffeth; Susan Monaghan to the Affordable Housing Advisory Board for a term to expire 01/2017;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

10. Kent Property Oversight Committee to 01/2017
Seven (7) expired terms

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to REAPPOINT Mike DeGrange; Charlie Wilson; Edna Kent; Tim Inacio; Doug Folcarelli; George Charette and Ken Johnson as ex-officio to the Kent Property Oversight Committee for a term to expire 01/2017;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

D. Boards & Commission- Discussion and/or Action

1. Appointments
 - a. Budget Board
 1. Two (2) expired Terms to 1/2018

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to REAPPOINT Greg Agnone and to APPOINT Pat Henry(formerly Pat Bowie) to the Budget Board for three year terms to expire 1/2018;
seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Lauren Niedel-Gresh stated that her son, Joel, was reappointed to the Community Resource Commission, however he is away at college and will not be back until the summer. L. Niedel-Gresh offered to fill his position on the Commission. Councilor W. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, if this must wait until the next meeting.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, commented that Joel Niedel-Gresh could send an email indicating that he wishes to give up the position. T. Kane stated that Lauren Niedel-Gresh could then be appointed at the next Town Council meeting.

- b. Conservation Commission
 - (3) Three year expired terms to expire 1/2018
 - (1) Three year term to expire 1/2016
 - (1) Alternate one year term to expire 2/2015

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to REAPPOINT Albert Aubin and Roy Najecki for three year terms to expire 1/2018; to TABLE the appointment for a three year term to expire 1/2018; to TABLE the appointment for a three year term to expire 1/2016; and to TABLE the appointment for an Alternate one year term to expire 2/2015; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- c. Zoning Board of Review
 - (2) Alternate One year terms to expire 1/2016

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to REAPPOINT Cyril Crawley & Tracey Donnelly to the Zoning Board of Review for alternate one terms to expire 01/2016; seconded by Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

E. Annual Appointment

1. Tree Warden - 2015

Councilor W. Steere explained that this is the annual appointment required by RI State Law. Sandra Shepard has expressed an interest in continuing in this position.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to REAPPOINT Sandra Shepard to the position of Gloucester Tree Warden for a term to expire January 2016; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

F. Solar Energy Projects- Taxation - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Tax Assessor has submitted information for the Council regarding the taxation of solar projects within the Town.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that this subject came up at the Department Head meeting and several options were discussed. Councilor Burlingame suggested coming up with some type of incentive for people to have solar projects without being taxed 100% as if it were purely commercial. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Tax Assessor has begun research to determine what other cities and towns are doing with regard to solar projects.

Councilor Sette stated that in some communities in Massachusetts, any energy which is being sold is subject to taxation; however if the solar project is used for the owner's personal use, it is exempt. Councilor Sette stated that he agrees with this concept.

Councilor G. Steere noted that he must recuse himself from voting on this matter because his brother has a solar project which is almost completed. Councilor G. Steere referred to the Tax Assessor's memo and stated that people do not understand that a large system cannot be run through a house meter and National Grid is only obligated to pay for 25% more than what is actually used.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the owner would not make enough money to offset the taxes. Secondly, Councilor G. Steere stated that many of these projects are for three-phase power, which we do not use and cannot be run through the meter. Councilor G. Steere stated that this type of system, whether it is a local business or a property owner, is different from a group of millionaire investors who come to town and put in a huge project on leased land.

Councilor Reichert stated that he must also recuse himself from voting on this matter because he is going to be renting his land for this purpose.

Councilor W. Steere commented that the Tax Assessor is looking for guidance and whatever decision the Council makes should be made fairly soon. Councilor Sette stated that he feels that more research should be done. Councilor G. Steere agreed and stated that there are many different categories of these projects and it is important to understand them before making a decision.

Scott Milnes of the Econox Group stated that he is a solar builder in Rhode Island. S. Milnes stated that each town has the right to tax these projects however they want. S. Milnes spoke about different scenarios, such as payment in lieu of taxes, where the developer does not pay the full amount but the town still makes money. S. Milnes stated that if tangible taxes are assessed on the systems, they will not be built in this town.

Councilor Burlingame asked how much acreage is needed for a large solar project. S. Milnes replied that five (5) acres per megawatt is required.

Councilor W. Steere asked if the revenue generated from a system would be taxed on the Federal level as regular income. S. Milnes replied in the affirmative. Councilor W. Steere asked how this would benefit the Town. S. Milnes stated that there are many large parcels of land and businesses and farmers would stay here if they could generate revenue from the sun and a piece of land.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he would like to see people within the community have an advantage to putting in these green systems as opposed to a developer coming in and putting in a large commercial operation.

Doug Folcarelli spoke but was inaudible.

Steve Kopeski stated that he is interested in how the Council feels about renewable energy because he owns a supermarket in Town which he would like to run partially on solar power. However, S. Kopeski added that if he were taxed on it, it would not be worthwhile.

Rose LaVoie stated that it would be nice if Gloucester was the first town to promote and try to induce people to bring in alternative energy.

There was Council consensus to direct the Tax Assessor and Town Solicitor to research the matter and bring their findings back to the Council.

G. Board of Contracts & Purchases -

1. Award of IFB 2015-03 Road Sand - Discussion and/or action

Council has received a recommendation from the Finance Director:

To: Town Council
From: Board of Contracts & Purchase
Re: Award of IFB 2015-03 Road Sand
Date: January 6, 2015

1. IFB 2015- 03 was advertised in the Providence Journal on December 14, 2014.
2. Five (5) bids were received. The bids were as follows:

	Price per ton Delivered	Price per ton Picked up
Greenville Concrete Products 79 Cedar Swamp Road, Smithfield RI	13.75	10.75
Barnes Concrete 873 Providence Pike, Putnam, CT 06260	12.95	9.45
Rawson Materials 205 Munyan Road, Putnam CT 06260	14.99	10.50
Material Sand & Stone Corp 618 Greenville Road, No Smithfield RI 02896	19.40	16.00
P J Keating Co. 875 Phenix Avenue, Cranston RI 02921	15.55	9.75

3. The board recommends the award to the lowest bidder Barnes Concrete at the amount of \$12.95 per ton delivered and \$9.45 per ton picked up. The contract period is from January 12, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk
 Jane A. Steere, Tax Collector
 Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance
 (end of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AWARD IFB 2015-03 Road Sand to Barnes Concrete at the bid award of \$12.95 per ton delivered and \$9.45 per ton picked up, said contract period is from January 12, 2015 to December 31, 2015;
 seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

H. Meeting Calendar - 2015 - Discussion and/or action

Discussion:

Councilor Sette stated that we are now in the process of formulating the Budget and suggested that the Council hold a workshop with the Budget Board. Councilor Sette stated that this would be an opportunity for the Council to make changes prior to the Public Hearing.

Councilor Sette noted that this will become even more important when we change from the Town Financial Meeting to an all-day referendum. Councilor Sette stated that the last scheduled meeting of the Budget Board is February 2nd and suggested that a workshop be scheduled after that date.

David Steere, Budget Board chair, stated that the Council and Budget Board used to have those meetings, but the last one was not very productive, therefore D. Steere stated that he has not scheduled any workshops with the Council. D. Steere stated that we can try again, but pointed out that it is the Budget Board's budget until it gets to the Town Council.

Councilor Sette stated that if the Council is going to make changes to the Budget, he would prefer to do it at a workshop as opposed to the Public Hearing. Councilor W. Steere stated that he is in favor of having a workshop. Councilor Burlingame agreed, adding that if the Council makes suggestions which the Budget Board does not agree with, the Council can exercise their prerogative to make the changes anyway.

Councilor W. Steere commented that if the Budget Board disagrees with the Council's suggestions, they would be able to give an explanation. Councilor W. Steere noted that the Budget Board has done a fantastic job over the years. Councilor Sette agreed and stated that a workshop would be a good opportunity to have discussion if there is any difference of opinion.

Councilor G. Steere asked D. Steere if the members would be willing to try again. D. Steere replied in the affirmative and stated that their last meeting is scheduled for February 2nd. There was Council consensus to hold a workshop on Wednesday, February 4th.

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, explained that the Budget Board meetings consist of each department presenting their proposed budget and the Board will need to meet to compile the information and arrive at a bottom line. Councilor Sette stated that the workshop should take place after the budget is compiled because there is plenty of time before the Town Financial Meeting in May. Councilor W. Steere directed D. Brennan to contact the Council when she and the Budget Board are ready to meet with the Council.

I. Personnel

1. Assistant Animal Control Officers: Vacancies - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received the following request from the Chief of Police:

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
Date: January 12, 2015
Subj: Assistant Animal Control Officer Position

I would respectfully request to advertise in local newspapers the current vacancy position including brief job description for a new Assistant Animal Control Officer. AACO Penny Silvia has a new full time position in the City of Cranston and will be unable to fulfill the hours and commitment required of the Assistant Animal Control position. However she will be retained on a part time basis as needed for the weekend scheduled pound maintenance hours or on call service when available.

This assistant animal control officer works between 8 and 12 hours a week and replaces Animal Control Officer Merchant up to 30 hours a week when he is on vacation and sick leave including call outs on weekends when needed.

Respectfully,
Joseph DelPrete

(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Personnel Director to advertise and begin the process to fill the position of Assistant Animal Control Officer; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

J. New England Grassroots Environmental Fund - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere explained that this item pertains to a grant which was applied for by the Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission. Councilor W. Steere stated that the grant was awarded and the Council must sign off. Councilor W. Steere commented that Linda Nichols and her group have been doing an excellent job in securing grant funding such as this.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Acceptance of Grant for the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund dated December 28, 2014;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XI. Council Correspondence/Discussion

A. Councilor Sette stated that a response was received from the Regional School District regarding the Council's request for a joint meeting. A date of January 20th was set for the meeting. Councilor Sette commented that it is important that the Foster Town Council also attend the meeting. Councilor G. Steere noted that Foster is not mentioned in the letter from the Region.

Dr. Michael Barnes, Superintendent, stated that a separate letter was sent to the Foster Town Council requesting a meeting on Thursday after their Town Council meeting. Councilor Sette stated that he does not understand why the Region does not want to meet with both Town Councils at the same time.

Councilor Sette stated his opinion that it is important that both Towns hear at the same time what the financial impact will be. Councilor Sette stated that he feels that if a 4% increase is approved, there will be issues within a year or two. Dr. Barnes stated that of the School District's 24 million dollar budget, the local appropriation is approximately 14 million dollars, which is what the 4% is based on.

Councilor G. Steere asked what is the big deal about having a joint meeting with Foster? Councilor G. Steere stated that we have been asking for this for six to eight months. Councilor G. Steere asked if there will be two different presentations, one for Gloucester and another for Foster. Councilor G. Steere stated that he would prefer to all sit in the same room and hear the same information at the same time. Dr. Barnes replied that the towns of Foster and Gloucester are different entities and have different needs.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he is disappointed that the Foster Town Council will not be in attendance. Councilor Burlingame stated that he is disappointed that the co-chair of the Regional School Committee would rather have discussions with the two towns individually instead of a joint meeting. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Gloucester Town Council members plan on attending on Tuesday.

Dr. Barnes stated that the numbers are the numbers and they have always been open and transparent in that regard. In response to the question of whether there will be two different presentations, Dr. Barnes stated that the answer is emphatically no.

Councilor G. Steere stated that it is disappointing because the Council has had conversations with Walt Steere and Anne Ejnes, members of the School Committee, and have requested a joint meeting. Councilor G. Steere stated that Ron Cervasio, co-chair of the Regional School Committee, was also aware that the Council wanted a joint meeting.

Councilor G. Steere further stated that after last year's Financial Meeting, R. Cervasio stated that the Committee would request a 4% increase each year going forward, whether they need it or not. Dr. Barnes pointed out that there are nine people on the committee and they build a budget which represents the needs of the students.

Dave Steere, Budget Board chair, asked where the meeting will take place on the 20th. Councilor W. Steere replied that it will be held in conjunction with the School Committee's regular meeting which takes place at the Ponaganset High School library.

- B. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from George Charette requesting a 3-month leave from his duties on boards and commissions due to health issues.
- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received regarding street light bills.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Department Head Meeting Report from January 12th was submitted.
- E. Councilor W. Steere stated that a memo was received from the Tax Assessor with regard to taxation of renewable energy projects.
- F. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received a letter of concern from a resident of Absalona Hill Road.
- G. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received concerning litter on Town roads, particularly Chestnut Hill Road and Brown School Road.
- H. Councilor W. Steere stated that a request for tax exemption was received. Councilor W. Steere stated that this will be addressed at the next meeting.
- I. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the Town of Smithfield with regard to the possibility of a regional EMA Director.

XII. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Councilor Burlingame commented that Anthony Parrillo, Recreation Director, has put together information regarding policies and procedures pertaining to Gloucester Memorial Park. Councilor Burlingame noted that everything seems to be good to go for the upcoming season.

XIII. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion

None.

XIV. Open Forum

- A. Rose LaVoie stated that she had a contract with the Land Trust regarding property on Elbow Rock Road, but the Land Trust reneged on the deal. R. LaVoie stated that she had received a \$5,000 deposit and after 2½ years of dispute, she paid back half of it under protest. R. LaVoie expressed her opinion that this was unfair as she entered into the contract in good faith.

R. LaVoie requested that lighting be installed in the small parking area in the Village.

R. LaVoie stated that she wishes somebody would step forth and clean up the river bank. Councilor Burlingame stated that a letter has been directed to Rep. Chippendale asking him to intervene with DEM to allow relief from the permitting process.

- B. Ericka Dauphinais spoke regarding her mother, a former resident of Gloucester who recently moved back to Town. E. Dauphinais stated that her mother is not eligible for the elderly tax exemption which is available to residents of five (5) years or longer, but pointed out that her mother was previously a resident for 23 years. Councilor W. Steere noted that the Council is unable to discuss this matter, as it is not on the agenda, and asked Ms. Dauphinais to attend the next Council meeting for further discussion.
- C. Marie Sweet of Chestnut Hill Road spoke about the conference which is scheduled to take place in Chepachet on April 25th. Marie Sweet stated that she was asked to extend an invitation to Council President W. Steere to make opening statements at the conference.
- D. Dr. Michael Barnes, Superintendent, stated that the School Department owns a large L-shaped piece of property across the street from the Middle School which would be suitable for recreational purposes.
- E. Lauren Niedel-Gresh spoke about the river clean-up and asked if we could take it upon ourselves to conduct a community clean-up for Earth Day. Councilor W. Steere stated that DEM will only allow us to do certain things and it would be costly to obtain the necessary permits. It was stated that Rep. Chippendale has been contacted and his assistance has been requested.

XV. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Convene to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5a5 Land Acquisition & R.I.G.L. 42-46-5a2 Potential Litigation Pension Suit; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Reconvene Open Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to SEAL the minutes of Executive Session and to Disclose that one (1) vote was taken on Pension Litigation; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XVII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 10:12 p.m.; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the February 5, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council held in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **February 5, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; William E. Reichert; Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Member Absent: George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; and Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - Agenda Items

None.

V. Resolution - Discussion and/or action

A. Ratification of Legislation re: Proposed Amendments to the Gloucester Town Charter

Councilor W. Steere explained that the Council needs to send a resolution requesting our local legislators to introduce legislation to ratify the Town Charter amendments approved at the November 4th General Election.

Councilor Burlingame read the following Resolution into the record:

**RESOLUTION
Town of Gloucester #2015-03**

WHEREAS, four (4) amendments to the Home Rule Charter were approved by the electors of the Town of Gloucester on November 4, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the four (4) amendments are as follows:

**8. AMENDMENT TO GLOUCESTER HOME RULE CHARTER -
FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to replace the annual Town Financial Meeting and Special Financial Town Meetings with all day voter “Financial Town Referendums(s)” and make other changes to

reflect a change from Financial Town Meeting(s) to all day voter Financial Town Referendum(s) including but not limited to the elimination of the position of Town Moderator.

**11. AMENDMENT TO THE GLOCESTER HOME RULE
CHARTER - PUBLIC SAFETY**

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to allow the Town Council to create an Emergency Medical Services Department if needed. (Amends Section 11)

**12. AMENDMENT TO THE GLOCESTER HOME RULE
CHARTER - PUBLIC SAFETY**

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to ADD “liaison to the State Health Department” to the Emergency Management Director’s duties. (Amends Section 11.4)

**13. AMENDMENT TO THE GLOCESTER HOME RULE
CHARTER - OPEN MEETINGS**

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to allow ~~voters~~ votes to be taken in executive Session as may be allowed by the state’s Open Meeting Act. (Amends Section 14.3)

WHEREAS, per the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, the Town Council of the Town of Gloucester is forwarding said amendments to the General Assembly; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Gloucester seeks ratification, validation and enactment by the General Assembly.

Walter M.O. Steere, III
Gloucester Town Council, President

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC
Town Clerk

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

Councilor Sette noted that there is a typographical error in the text of Amendment #13; the word “voters” should be “votes”. Councilor Burlingame withdrew his motion and Councilor Reichert withdrew his second. (*Correction shown above.*)

Councilor Burlingame restated the MOTION with Councilor Sette’s recommendation; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes of Special Meeting of Dec. 29, 2014; and January 15th, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting
- B. Pole Grant: Pole 66, Elbow Rock Road - Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council Minutes of the December 29, 2014 Special Meeting and the January 15, 2015 regular meeting; and to APPROVE the Pole Grant for Elbow Rock Road (Pole 66); seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Bds. & Commissions
 - 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Parade Committee: Position #6 & #7
 - 1. Move Alternate to Voting Position

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to APPOINT Mary Beth DeGrange to the Parade Committee, from an Alternate Position to position #6; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Appointment to position #7

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Kevin Westgate to the Parade Committee Position #7; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

3. Appointment to Alternate #10 position

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Kyle White to the Parade Committee Position Alternate #10;
seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission
 - (1) 2 year term to expire 1/2017
 - (1) Alternate term to expire 1/2017

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert. to TABLE the appointment to the Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission for a two year term to expire 1/2017;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to TABLE the appointment to the Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission for an Alternate term to expire 1/2017;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- c. Conservation Commission
 - (1) Three year term to expire 1/2018
 - (1) Three year term to expire 1/2016
 - (1) Alternate (one year term) to expire 2/2016

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to TABLE all three (3) appointments to the Conservation Commission for a three year term to expire 1/2018;

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Town Financial Referendum

1. Process & Procedures - Discussion and/or action

Discussion:

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she has been working with the Finance Director, Tax Collector and the Town Solicitor and has researched four (4) communities in Rhode Island that have this type of budget process. J. Fecteau noted that all four (4) have retained the Financial Meeting concept in one form or another.

J. Fecteau stated that at a Public Hearing, the budget is explained and discussed, and several days later, the adopted budget is voted on by the taxpayers. J. Fecteau stated that she has spoken with the Secretary of State's Office with regard to the ballot preparation. J. Fecteau stated that although we are changing the process, it is important that the taxpayers' rights are not taken away. J. Fecteau stated that she has reviewed the warrant to ensure that everything in it should be there, adding that some of the questions have been carried over for the last 30 years.

J. Fecteau stated that she has taken the current Charter and has stricken all references to a Financial Town Meeting and has replaced them with "Financial Town Referendum." J. Fecteau stated that she has also eliminated all references to Town Moderator. J. Fecteau stated that she tried to retain as much of the original language as possible and only changed what had to be changed.

J. Fecteau stated that all she needs to know at this point is how the Council would like to get the word out to the voters that this change is going to take place. J. Fecteau stated that she has prepared a proposal for the Council members which explains the different ways that the other communities proceed with their budgets. J. Fecteau asked the Council to review this information for discussion at the next meeting.

Councilor Sette stated that he agrees that there should be an opportunity for the taxpayers to discuss the budget in a public forum prior to the final referendum.

Jean Fecteau stated that she has contacted the company that would be printing the ballots and was told that the cost would be approximately \$800 for 2500 ballots. J. Fecteau noted that it would be difficult to know how many ballots to order but we will work with a percentage of voters that represents past voting.

J. Fecteau stated that the Council has to consider what the procedure would be if a budget is not passed by the voters at the referendum. J. Fecteau stated that the Finance Director will work on the questions to put them in the right order because a no vote could affect subsequent questions.

Councilor Burlingame commented that whatever the vote is at the Region stays put, therefore if the Regional budget is passed but the Town budget is voted down, we will have a real problem. J. Fecteau stated that she received a warning from the town of Hopkinton regarding this issue. Councilor Burlingame stated that he is worried about unintended consequences. J. Fecteau stated that the onus is now on the Town Council and Budget Board more than ever to make the taxpayers comfortable to avoid a catastrophe.

Councilor Sette expressed concern that voters may vote against the Town budget because they object to the Regional School budget. Councilor Burlingame stated that since the voters have decided to eliminate the Town meeting, perhaps the Town Council should be the appropriating authority because this would allow the Council to take into consideration the Regional budget.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that he shares Councilor Burlingame's concerns and he hopes that people follow the budget process and make an informed decision.

Dave Steere, Budget Board chair, stated that he does not see where there was a vote regarding Special Town Referenda. D. Steere asked if this means that if the budget is not passed, another referendum cannot be held.

Councilor Burlingame stated his interpretation is that we will have an annual referendum regarding the Town budget, but we reserve the right to have a Special Financial Town Referenda for emergencies. It was stated that if something is open to interpretation, the Council will defer to the Solicitor. There was Council consensus to continue this discussion at the next Town Council meeting.

B. Boards & Commissions

1. Resignations - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Board of Canvassers
One Six year term to expire 3/2018

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Deborah Charron from the Board of Canvassers.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ACCEPT the resignation of Deborah Charron from the Board of Canvassers for a six year term to expire 3/2018; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

Councilor Sette stated that Mrs. Charron served on the Board of Canvasses for 14 years. There was Council consensus to send a letter of thanks.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Conservation Commission
 - (1) Three year term to expire 1/2018

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Daniel Pearson from the Conservation Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ACCEPT the resignation of Daniel Pearson from the Conservation Commission for a three year term to expire 1/2018; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere thanked D. Pearson for his service.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Board of Canvassers
 - One Six year term to expire 3/2018

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Wayne Farrington to the Board of Canvassers for a six year term to expire 3/2018; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

It was stated that to serve on the Board of Canvassers, one must be either a registered Democrat or Republican, not Unaffiliated, per State Law. Councilor Burlingame stated that Mr. Farrington will take care of this matter. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that Mr. Farrington has worked at several elections and is familiar with the process.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Land Trust
 - (1) Five year term to expire 2/2020

Councilor W. Steere stated that the chair of the Land Trust has advised that Mr. Cavaliere would like to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to REAPPOINT Gene Cavaliere to the Land Trust for a five year term to expire 2/2020; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

(2) At- Large one year terms to expire 2/2016

1. Planning Board member
2. Conservation Board member

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Planning Board will put this on their next agenda.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to TABLE the appointment to the Land Trust as an At-Large member from the Planning Board for a one year term to expire 2/2016; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Conservation Commission has recommended Roy Najecki be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to appoint Roy Najecki to the Land Trust as an At-Large member from the Conservation Commission for a one year term to expire 2/2016; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Appointment

1. Town Sergeant - Term to expire 12/31/2016 - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere commented that nobody ran for Town Sergeant in the last election, therefore the Council must appoint. Councilor W. Steere stated that Kevin Kitson, who currently serves as Town Sergeant, would like to be appointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Kevin Kitson to the Position of Town Sergeant for a term to expire 12/31/2016;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

D. Use of Office Space (Town Hall): Request by Land Trust- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town Clerk has received a request from the chair of the Land Trust for office space at the Town Hall. Councilor Steere stated as this is a board or commission appointed by the Council and no other board has office space in the town hall the Clerk and Councilor Sette, as Town Hall liaison, felt the Council should discuss before a decision is made.

Discussion:

Councilor Sette explained that at first, there was concern that any space provided to the Land Trust would cause a potential problem concerning a quorum, this was addressed by their legal counsel and a policy has been adopted regarding this issue. Councilor Sette stated that the chair of the Land Trust has now indicated that they do not need a permanent space, but they must research and archive important information regarding their properties.

Councilor Sette also stated the chair estimates that this project will take several years to complete. Councilor Sette suggested that the space be provided through the end of 2015, at which time the Council can revisit the matter and decide whether to extend it further.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the original request was for an entire office, but has since been scaled back. Councilor Sette noted that the Land Trust will maintain their working files in this space. J. Fecteau noted that she has given them space in the vault as well as in the file room, but the accreditation process requires that they keep a certified copy of each management plan on file. Councilor Sette stated that he would like the Council to see the procedure that has been adopted by the Land Trust before granting the office space.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to CONTINUE to the next meeting discussion regarding Use of Office Space request by the Land Trust;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

E. Resident Request: To be granted Senior Exemption (relief from Code of Ordinance, Article III, Chapter 247-9 & 247-10)- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received a letter from Ericka Dauphinais requesting a Senior Exemption be granted to Sandra Smith, 142 Country Meadow Lane. Councilor W. Steere stated they are seeking relief from the stipulations outlined in the ordinance regulating senior exemptions.

Discussion:

Ericka Dauphinais explained that her mother, Sandra Smith, resided in Gloucester from 1977 until 2003, at which time she moved to North Providence. E. Dauphinais stated that her mother has since moved back to Gloucester and applied for the tax exemption for residents age 65 and over.

E. Dauphinais stated that her mother was told that she did not qualify because she has not been a resident for five (5) years prior to applying. E. Dauphinais asked the Council to consider the taxes paid during the 24 years that her mother was a resident, and allow her to get the exemption.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, replied that the Ordinance is clear that there is no provision for the Council to give relief. E. Dauphinais stated that we need to look at the spirit of the law at the time it was enacted. E. Dauphinais added that her mother now lives in a senior community where she pays an exorbitant amount of taxes as well as for services such as private plowing, on a senior income budget.

Councilor Sette asked if S. Smith registered to vote in North Providence when she moved there. E. Dauphinais replied that her mother does not recall doing so, but she was on the list of registered voters in North Providence until she moved back to Gloucester and registered here. E. Dauphinais noted that when her mother became eligible for the tax exemption in North Providence, her tax bill was automatically adjusted; she did not have to file an application.

Councilor W. Steere asked when S. Smith found out that she was not eligible. E. Dauphinais replied that she was told when she went to the Assessor's office to apply. E. Dauphinais noted that the tax bill does not indicate that five (5) years of residency is required, which is misleading. E. Dauphinais stated that her mother did not move to this Town to get the exemption; she moved here to be closer to her family. Councilor W. Steere stated that the taxes of a community support the community. Councilor W. Steere commented that he does not have children, but 70% of his taxes go toward the schools.

E. Dauphinais asked how we would go about updating the Ordinance. Tim Kane replied that he would not recommend that the Council change an Ordinance for one unfortunate circumstance. E. Dauphinais stated that she disagrees and will be seeking legal advice.

F. Kent Drive Maintenance Determination - Discussion and/or action

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that before the snowstorm last week, he received a call from FM Global regarding whether or not the Town was going to plow Kent Drive. Councilor Burlingame

advised the campus manager that there was an agreement that the Town would maintain the road from a construction aspect, but that FM Global was going to plow. Councilor Burlingame stated the manager replied that he had never received communication to that effect. Councilor Burlingame commented that Kent Drive was on an approved list of roads maintained by the Town and pointed out that FM Global is the highest taxpayer in Town.

Councilor Burlingame further stated that the company helps us with the community garden and is willing to assist with the proposed pavilion. Councilor Burlingame stated his opinion that we should take care of the plowing because FM Global is a good corporate neighbor.

Councilor Sette suggested that we ask them to deed the property to the Town. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, questioned whether we would really want the property, stating that it is part of FM Global's buffer area.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he suggested to the manager that while they are out plowing their property, they could also take care of Kent Drive and the manager had replied that the trucks that they use are not street registered.

Councilor Sette asked if after the last life tenant dies, does the Town no longer have any responsibility. T. Kane replied that the agreement states that when the last person passes, nobody has the right to live there. Gary Treml, Public Works Director, stated that one of the houses is empty and has been boarded up. G. Treml stated that there are still people living in the first house on the left.

Councilor W. Steere recommended that we finish up the winter, then have a discussion with FM Global regarding how this will be handled going forward.

Councilor Burlingame stated that it is important to note that the FM Global's attorney never got back to the campus manager regarding the Solicitor's proposal. Councilor Burlingame stated that we could speak to the manager to see how he feels about the situation, but he wonders if the Council should do that in light of the help that FM Global has offered to the Town regarding the garden and the proposed pavilion on the Kent Property.

Councilor W. Steere again suggested that we continue to plow for the rest of the season, and then get some finality of what will happen going forward. Councilor Burlingame stated that we have had a good relationship with FM Global and he would like that to continue.

Councilor Sette stated that he would prefer to set a definitive time period, such as two (2) years, adding that after that time, the Town will no longer plow the road. Councilor Burlingame stated that there are many private roads that are plowed by the Town.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to authorize the Department of Public Works to continue plowing Kent Drive for the remainder of the 2015 winter season, after which the Solicitor will re-address the issue; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

G. Personnel:

1. Salary Increase: Meal-Site Kitchen Aide - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received copies of letters from the Senior Center Director and employee Jackie Aellig which were sent to the Board of Directors.

Discussion:

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that the Senior Center Board of Directors made a motion to approve the request for a salary increase. D. Brennan stated that the request is now before the Council because they are the authority to grant increases. Councilor W. Steere asked if the request is for an annual increase. D. Brennan replied in the negative, stating that the request is due to an increase in the minimum wage.

Councilor Burlingame asked if this is to bring the employee up to minimum wage. D. Brennan replied that her salary is already over the minimum. Councilor Burlingame stated that he feels that when the State raises the minimum wage, it does not mean that all hourly workers should get a raise in that amount. Councilor Burlingame stated that this could set a precedent and he would not recommend it. Councilor Sette stated that normally a proposed increase is budgeted in the next Fiscal Year. Councilor Sette noted that he does not recall ever providing a mid-year increase. Councilor Burlingame stated that he is not in favor of this increase as it could cause problems.

Dave Steere, Budget Board chair, stated that if they are looking for a dollar an hour raise just because the minimum wage went up, it will be a hard sell. D. Steere stated that he also feels that this would cause other employees to request the same increase. D. Steere asked why this has not gone to the Personnel Board first. Councilor Burlingame pointed out that the Senior Center has a Board of Directors that makes recommendations.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to deny the salary increase for the Meal-Site Kitchen Aide and to recommend that a salary increase be included in the budget request for the next Fiscal Year with a positive recommendation from the Personnel Board; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Council Correspondence/Discussion

- A. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Gloucester Heritage Society requesting a special appropriation for matching grant funds.-Referred to Budget Board
- B. Councilor W. Steere stated that a request for financial support was received from the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. - Referred to Budget Board
- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that a well monitoring schedule was received from the Department of Health with regard to water at the Senior Center. Referred to Public Works.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the State regarding to the former State Police Barracks. - Executive Session
- E. Councilor W. Steere expressed appreciation to the Department of Public Works for their efforts during the recent snowstorms.

X. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, stated that he attended a meeting at Resource Recovery regarding mattress recycling. G. Treml commented that there is a shortage of road salt which has resulted in having to use less.
- B. Councilor Sette suggested that in the event of a big storm, the Code Red system be implemented to keep residents informed regarding road conditions and to ask for their patience. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, suggested that a message be recorded and sent out automatically for any type of severe weather situation. Councilor Sette stated that this may eliminate many of the phone calls that come in to the Public Works Department.
- C. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Department Head meeting will be postponed due to the weather forecast.
- D. Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that the Department has a Special Needs Registry of residents who have health issues and would need help in case of an emergency. Chief DelPrete commented that with the Police Department, Fire Departments and EMA Director working together, everything moves smoothly. Councilor Burlingame spoke about warming shelters and asked if the EMA Director has a list of volunteers to help. Chief DelPrete replied that there is no list at this time, but if there is a need, we can work quickly. Councilor Burlingame suggested that a list be put together for the future.

XI. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion

- A. Charlie Wilson, chair of the Historic District Commission, stated that he has forwarded to the Council some ideas from the Commission regarding proposed amendments to the Code of Ordinance and will work with Councilor Burlingame and schedule a workshop to discuss them.

- B. Dave Steere, Budget Board chair, stated that the meeting scheduled for February 18th with the Town Council to review the draft of the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget has been rescheduled until February 25th.

XII. Open Forum

- A. Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, stated that the Public Hearing for the Regional School Budget is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3rd at 8:00 p.m. at the High School library. It was noted that the Regional Financial Meeting will take place on March 17th in the auditorium. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she has placed an advertisement to encourage people to register to vote so that they can vote at the meeting. W. Steere, Jr. stated that if the Town budget is rejected at a referendum, we will have to find a half-million dollars to pay for the Region's increase. W. Steere, Jr. thanked the Town Clerk for the work she has done regarding the all-day referendum.

Councilor Sette asked how the meeting went with the Foster Town Council when they had the presentation regarding the Regional School Budget. W. Steere, Jr. stated that Foster has been saving money over the last two years and has put that money aside.

Walter Steere, Jr. commended the Public Works Department for their quick work in clearing the roads.

XIII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Convene to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(5) Land Acquisition;- Re: Right of first refusal, former State Police Barracks, Putnam Pike; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XIV. Reconvene Open Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session and to Disclose votes taken in Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

It was disclosed that the Town Council chooses not to exercise the right of first refusal to purchase the former State Trooper Barracks located at 1116 Putnam Pike.

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to ADJOURN at 9:39 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the March 5, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **February 19, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; and Steven A. Sette.

Members Absent: William E. Reichert and Edward C. Burlingame.

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; and Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - Agenda Items

None.

V. Public Hearing - Discussion and/or action

A. Proposed Special Events - CONTINUED FROM DECEMBER 4, 2014

Councilor W. Steere stated that these public hearings were advertised on November 26th 2014, the Public Hearings were opened on December 4th 2014, and these two before Council this evening were continued to this date as the applicants were unavailable.

1. Daniel Saad, RMZ, LLC, d/b/a Snows Clambox
2461 Putnam Pike, Gloucester, RI
Request for Car Shows Events with Outdoor Entertainment
April - September, 2015

Discussion:

Abby, representing the applicant, stated that the applicant has requested that this request be put on hold until he decides what is going on the property. Councilor W. Steere stated that it cannot be kept on the agenda indefinitely.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that this is a Public Hearing and must be continued to a date certain. T. Kane advised the Town Council to remove the matter from the table until such time that the applicant can resubmit his request. T. Kane asked Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, if the applicant has paid what was owed on a previous application. J. Fecteau replied in the negative, but stated that the applicant is aware of the outstanding bill.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone wished to be heard. There was no response.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to Remove from the Table the application for Special Event for Daniel Saad, RMZ, LLC, d/b/a Snow's Clambox; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Joseph Iacofano, Knight Farm, LLC, d/b/a Knight Farm
1 Snake Hill Road, Gloucester, RI
Request for Car/Antique Tractor Shows
June - August, 2015

Councilor W. Steere asked if the applicant is present. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, replied that she received an email from Mr. Iacofano stating that he was unable to attend, but that his request is the same as last year's.

This applicant is requesting:

4 Antique Auto & Farm Tractor shows
June, July, & August 2015
Dates not yet determined
Always on Saturdays, typically start at noon.
Same as previous years

Councilor W. Steere asked Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, if he had any public safety concerns. Chief DelPrete replied in the negative.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone wished to be heard regarding this application. Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to GRANT the request of: Joseph Iacofano, Knight Farm, LLC, d/b/a Knight Farm, location: 1 Snake Hill Road, for 4 Special events (antique auto & Farm Tractor shows) to be held between June 2015 and September 2015, subject to the Police Chief approval and applications to be filed for each event; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Proposed Amendment to EXPAND Entertainment License

1. Adriana Enterprises, LLC

d/b/a Sticks Tavern

LOCATION OF BUSINESS: 417 Putnam Pike

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised on January 29th 2015 and notice was sent by certified mail to abutters.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and stated that the applicant was present.

Councilor W. Steere read the following request submitted by the applicant:

Dear Town Council Members,

I am requesting a change to my entertainment license for the 2015 year. After doing research, I have found that Clam Box received approval for an extension on their entertainment license that includes a 2 piece band that is allowed every Saturday and Sunday from 12pm-7pm outside without having to file an application.

For the 2015 year, I would like to obtain a similar extension to my entertainment license.

I am requesting for an extension to my entertainment license that allows me a 3 piece band no bass every Saturday, Sunday and holiday Monday from 12pm-7pm.

I would greatly appreciate your consideration in this matter considering I have limited neighbors and have obtained an outdoor entertainment license for three years without any complaints.

Thank you for your time,

Adriana Iannuzzi

President

Adriana Enterprises LLC DBA Sticks Tavern

(end of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone wished to be heard. Councilor W. Steere asked Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, if he had any comments. Chief DelPrete replied that he has no public safety issues with this request but stated if the event becomes too big he reminds the applicant that no parking is allowed on Route 44 and that the occupancy indoors and outdoors cannot exceed the posted occupancy.

Councilor W. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, if he had any concerns from a legal standpoint. T. Kane replied in the negative.

Councilor Sette referred to the currently granted Special Event details and asked the applicant if the purpose of this is because the Special Events, previously granted, are not to be two consecutive weekend days and this would allow something on the second day of a weekend when an event is held.

The applicant replied in the affirmative.

Councilor W. Steere commented that each application and location is unique, adding that some locations have more neighbors than others. Councilor W. Steere stated that there are neighbors in this area and sound travels. Councilor W. Steere stated that there have been concerns in the past with regard to noise. Councilor W. Steere stated that he would be uncomfortable granting such a large expansion at this time.

Adriana Iannuzzi, applicant, noted that there have been no issues concerning past events and stated that the abutters were notified of this Public Hearing and would have attended if there were any complaints. A. Iannuzzi stated the neighbors were notified and are not present.

Councilor Sette suggested that no amplification be allowed. A. Iannuzzi stated that it was her understanding that “no bass” and “no amplification” mean the same thing. The Council members replied that there is a difference. Councilor W. Steere pointed out that this request is for a 3-piece band, where Clambox only had 2-piece bands. Councilor G. Steere stated that he has no objection provided that the music is acoustic.

T. Kane stated right now the applicant 3 piece band, no bass and with no amplification. There was discussion about “over-lapping” uses.

There was discussion regarding the difference between this expansion request and the applicant’s Special Event license. It was stated that the current license does not prohibit amplification; however this request does. Councilor Sette noted that the current license reads “not to exceed a 4-hour period between the hours of 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm.” A. Iannuzzi stated that she wishes to change that to any time between 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Councilor W. Steere suggested 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm, to give the neighbors some peace.

Councilor Sette stated the request, to clarify, is for a three piece band, no bass, no amplification. Councilor W. Steere recommended that this application be tabled until the next meeting. Councilor Sette agreed, stating that it would give the Council more time to formulate the motion for consistency. Councilor Sette commented that this would still give the applicant time to schedule events for the Spring. Councilor W. Steere noted that an event is different from regular weekend entertainment and would require that public safety be notified.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to CONTINUE until March 5, 2015 the Application for Expansion of Entertainment license for Adriana Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Sticks Tavern, Location of business: 417 Putnam Pike;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Sette.
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

- VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action
- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes February 5, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting
 - B. Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements - January, 2015
 - C. Finance Director's Report

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to TABLE the approval of Town Council minutes of February 5, 2015; to APPROVE the Tax Assessor's Addition to the 2014 Tax Roll in the amount of \$52.13; the Abatement to the 2014 Tax Roll in the amount of \$578.79; and to Accept the Finance Director's Report for January 2015;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Sette.
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

- VII. Unfinished Business
- A. Bds. & Commissions
 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission
 - (1) 2 year term to expire 1/2017
 - (1) Alternate term to expire 1/2017

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to TABLE the appointments to the Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission;
seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Sette.
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

- b. Conservation Commission
 - (1) Three year term to expire 1/2018
 - (1) Three year term to expire 1/2016
 - (1) Alternate (one year term) to expire 2/2016

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to TABLE the appointments to the Conservation Commission;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

c. Land Trust

(1) At- Large one year term to expire 2/2016

1. Planning Board member

Councilor W. Steere noted that due to the weather, the Planning Board has not met to vote on this recommendation. They will be ready for the next Council meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Land Trust of one at large member from the Planning Board;
seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Use of Office Space (Town Hall): Request by Land Trust- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that this item was tabled last meeting. Councilor Sette wanted to see the policy the Land Trust has devised to ensure no violation of open meetings act occurs.

Councilor Sette stated that he requested a copy of the policy from the chair of the Land Trust, but has not yet received it.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to TABLE Use of Office Space (Town Hall): Request by Land Trust until the next Town Council meeting;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Town Financial Referendum

1. Approval of amendments to Code of Ordinance - (Procedure, Dates, & implementation) Discussion and/or action

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she has forwarded to the Council a calendar that she prepared along with a copy of the Charter with the amendments. J. Fecteau stated that the amendments consist of replacing all references of “Financial Town Meeting” with “Financial Town Referendum.”

J. Fecteau stated that she has not inserted the date of the referendum because it has yet to be determined. J. Fecteau recommended that the Public Hearing be held on Saturday, May 2nd, because that is the day that the Town Financial Meeting would have been. J. Fecteau stated that she chose a Tuesday for the Financial Town Referendum date because Election Law states that elections take place on a Tuesday.

J. Fecteau commented that the Council must decide how to implement the advertising and public notice. J. Fecteau stated that she would like the Council to review the changes in the Charter and approve them with a vote to prevent somebody from questioning why the changes were made. J. Fecteau further stated that she would like to know what the dates will be as soon as possible because there are deadlines to consider.

Councilor Sette expressed thanks to those who spent time and effort putting this together. Councilor Sette stated that he agrees that the Public Hearing should be held on May 2nd, as it is consistent with what we have done in the past and because that would give the Council time to make any changes to the Budget before the Referendum and gives us time to advertise. However, Councilor Sette expressed concern that the proposed date of the Referendum, Tuesday May 26th, is the day after Memorial Day and may pose a problem for the Board of Canvassers regarding preparation.

J. Fecteau stated that only her office would be affected and they would come in on the holiday if necessary but that she believed, if May 26th was the date, her office could complete all the work before hand on the Friday before. Councilor Sette recommended considering the Public Hearing be moved to April 25th and the Referendum moved to May 19th.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, asked that the Council not approve this until the next meeting unless we have to for deadline purposes. T. Kane stated he would like to review section C.3.6 before the next meeting.

Dave Steere, Budget Board chair, stated that the proposed dates are fine, however he will be unable to attend on May 2nd, therefore somebody else from the Budget Board would have to present the Budget.

Councilor W. Steere asked if scheduling the meetings a week earlier (April 25th and May 19th) would cause a hardship for anyone. Discussion followed. Councilor W. Steere stated that he would prefer to stay away from May 26th because people may not be focused on a Referendum when they are just getting back to work after a holiday weekend.

It was noted that this would not lock us in for the future. J. Fecteau stated that she would like the Solicitor to propose wording which would set the meeting dates to some degree, but if the dates

don't work out this year, they can be changed in the future. J. Fecteau stated that she anticipates that there will be problems this year no matter how hard we plan.

Jean Fecteau stated that unless anything changes, the Public Hearing will be on April 25th, the Budget will be adopted by the Town Council on April 30th, and the Financial Town Referendum will take place on May 19th. It was noted that the Foster-Glocester Regional Financial Meeting is scheduled for March 17th.

There was Council consensus to approve the dates at the next Town Council meeting on March 5th.

B. Bid Award: IFB 2015-04 Geothermal Heating/Air Conditioning System Extension - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Finance Director has submitted the following recommendation:

To: Town Council
From: Board of Contracts & Purchase
Re: Award of IFB 2015-04 Geothermal Heating/Air Conditioning System Extension
Date: February 19, 2015

IFB 2015-04 was advertised in the Providence Journal on January 16, 2015.

There was a mandatory pre bid meeting on January 22, 2015.

One bid was received. The bid was as follows:

Richardson Wells & Pumps	Kitchen and Basement	\$45,801.00
314 Chestnut Street	Hallway	\$19,841.00
Uxbridge, Mass 01569		

The board recommended the award to Richardson Wells & Pumps for the Kitchen and Basement for the amount of \$45,801.00 and for the Hallway for the amount \$19,841.00. The bid is good for one year. The project is awarded based on funding availability.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance
Jane A. Steere, Tax Collector
Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to AWARD IFB 2015-04 Geothermal Heating/Air Conditioning System Extension to the sole bidder, Richardson Wells & Pumps for the bid amount of \$45,801 for Kitchen & Basement and the amount of \$19,841 for the hallway area, said award amount is guaranteed for one year and will be awarded based on funding availability;

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated that we put \$32,000 aside for this based on Cold Master's estimate, which turned out to be way off base.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Council Correspondence/Discussion

- A. Councilor Sette spoke regarding the response the Council received from the Department of Transportation concerning the High Risk Rural Roads Program. Councilor Sette stated that it is a concern that work was being done on State roads in Gloucester without our knowledge. Councilor Sette stated that in the letter, the Director of the DOT offered to attend a Council meeting to speak to us about it. Councilor Sette stated his opinion that the Council should take them up on the offer.
- B. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Foster-Gloucester School Department requesting the presence of the Gloucester Board of Canvassers on March 17th at 7:00 in the High School auditorium for the 57th Annual Regional School District Financial Meeting. Councilor W. Steere noted that the warrant for that meeting was also enclosed.
- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Planning Board agenda for February 23rd was received.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Rhode Island Mineral Hunters, a non-profit organization, send a request for a meeting place in the Town of Gloucester.
- E. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received regarding a right-of-way on Ventura Way. It was stated that the Building Inspector is addressing this matter.
- F. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from The Trust with regard to Skate Park Semi-Annual Self Inspections.
- G. Councilor W. Steere stated that he would like to commend the Department of Public Works for doing a fantastic job with the roads during the recent snow storms.

X. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the Department of Transportation would like to speak to the Council concerning a proposal they reviewed with several department heads recently. J. Fecteau distributed information from the Planner regarding the plans for 2 lanes vs. 4 lanes on Putnam Pike. J. Fecteau suggested that this visit be combined with the meeting regarding the High Risk Rural Roads Program.
- B. Councilor Sette thanked the Town Clerk for sending out the Code Red message

regarding snow issues. Councilor Sette stated that this eliminated many phone calls to the Town Clerk's Office, Public Works Department and Police Department.

- C. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, updated the Town Council with regard to plowing issues on Kent Drive. G. Treml stated he talked to a gentleman parked on Kent Drive, during the storm. G. Treml stated the person was sitting in a brand new 6 wheel flat bed with a new plow & sander registered and belonging to F.M. Global.

G. Treml stated when he talked to this person they indicated F.M. had a new loader also. G. Treml stated he brings this up because in the past the Town was told they needed the Town's help with plowing Kent Drive because they did not have a registered vehicle for plowing that road.

XI. Bds. and Commissions/Discussion
None.

XII. Open Forum

- A. Walter Steere, Jr. stated that somebody was working on the light poles in the Village and asked if it was the Town or the State. G. Treml replied that the Town has not yet taken over the responsibility of maintaining the lights. W. Steere, Jr. asked if the lights are on a timer, stating that when he was plowing at 3:00 in the morning, they were lit. Councilor W. Steere replied that when we take over the ownership of the lights, they will be on a timer. It was stated that the State is still paying for the electricity.

XIII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(5) Land Acquisition - Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to Convene to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(5) Land Acquisition - Discussion and/or action; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XIV. Reconvene Open Session
Disclose votes taken in Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to SEAL the minutes of Executive Session and to disclose that one (1) vote was taken;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to ADJOURN at 8:36 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Sette.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the March 5, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council held in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **March 5, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William E. Reichert (arrived at 7:37 p.m.); Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Dave Steere, Budget Board chair; and Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - Agenda Items

Janice Lowell, Putnam Pike, was present to speak with regard to the applications for J & D's Pub & Grille, but stated that she will wait until the Public Hearing.

V. Public Hearing - Discussion and/or action

A. CONTINUED FROM FEB. 19, 2015

Proposed application: EXPANSION of Entertainment License

1. Adriana Enterprises, LLC
d/b/a Sticks Tavern

LOCATION OF BUSINESS: 417 Putnam Pike

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised on January 29th 2015, notice was sent by certified mail to abutters, the Public Hearing was then opened on Feb. 19, 2015, and was tabled to this evening after discussion.

Councilor W. Steere noted that Ana Iannuzzi, Applicant, is present.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere read following additional request from the applicant:

Dear Town Council Members,

After much thought about our prior conversation at the last meeting, I would like to be granted the following for my entertainment license:

- To expand my entertainment license to an outdoor acoustical band every Saturday, Sunday and holiday Monday from 12pm-7pm. The band is not to exceed 3 pieces and plays without bass and amplification.

However, I would like amplification for the singer (not for the instruments).

Also after looking through paperwork, I realize that last year (summer 2014) I was granted 12 events for my special event license (May- October). This year I was only granted 8 (June- September). I would like this to be changed back to 12 events for the summer to include the months May- October.

In summary, I am looking to keep my Special Event license that allows me a 3 piece band/DJ (no bass) twice a month. I would like to add the expansion with the stipulations listed above.

Thank you for your consideration,
Adriana Iannuzzi
President
Adriana Enterprises LLC DBA Sticks Tavern
(end of memo)

Discussion:

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the Council cannot address the applicant's Special Event License because only the Entertainment License Public Hearing was advertised. Councilor W. Steere asked if anybody wished to be heard regarding the request for expansion of the Entertainment License.

1. David Piccirillo, abutting property owner, stated that he lives across the street from Sticks. As he has stated previously, he does not have a problem with outdoor entertainment and live music on holidays during the summer, however he can hear talking, car doors and motorcycles from the parking lot on the weekends. D. Piccirillo further stated that it does not make sense for a singer to have a microphone if the band has no amplification, as the singer will be ten times louder than the instruments. D. Piccirillo strongly suggested that the Council not grant entertainment every weekend, unless it is strictly acoustical and in the back of the building.

D. Piccirillo stated that he understands that the applicant must make a living, but feels that it would be unfair to him if he had to listen to it every weekend. Councilor G. Steere asked D. Piccirillo if he would even hear the music if it is acoustical with no amplification. D. Piccirillo replied that if the music is behind the building, it will face away from the road and he will not hear it. Regarding the noise caused by motorcycles, D. Piccirillo commented that the applicant cannot control this.

2. Adriana Iannuzzi, applicant, apologized for the motorcycles, but stated that there is nothing she can do about it. A. Iannuzzi stated that she currently is allowed to have bands two weekends a month and she constantly monitors the sound level because she is considerate

of her neighbors. A. Iannuzzi stated that if the Council grants what she is asking, she will continue to do so and if it gets too loud, the music will be stopped immediately. Regarding amplification for the singer, A. Iannuzzi stated that without a microphone, 100 people outdoors will not be able to hear the singer. A. Iannuzzi asked the Council to grant this, adding that if it doesn't work out, the Council is the Licensing Board and could take it away.

3. Councilor G. Steere noted that we cannot address Special Events tonight so we are just considering the weekends in between the events. Councilor G. Steere stated that he has no objection to the request for acoustical music, but is unsure about a microphone for the singer. Councilor G. Steere commented that the singer would drown out the band.
4. Councilor Burlingame expressed agreement with Councilor G. Steere concerning the acoustic music. However, regarding the microphone, Councilor Burlingame is concerned that other businesses in Town will come forward with the same request.
5. Councilor Reichert commented that sound travels across the street, which is a concern for the neighbors.
6. Ana Iannuzzi noted that although her request is for every weekend, in reality there would not be entertainment every weekend. A. Iannuzzi asked for the opportunity and if there are problems, the Council could take it away. A. Iannuzzi noted that she has never had issues in the past.
7. Councilor Sette stated that he has no objections to a 3-piece band with no amplification. Councilor Sette further stated that the Town has come a long way in the last 2 or 3 years with regard to what has been granted to establishments.
8. A. Iannuzzi asked David Piccirillo if he has had any problems with the Special Events which included amplification. D. Piccirillo replied that it has not been bad, however he does not want it to be every weekend all summer long.
9. Councilor G. Steere agreed that the Town has come a long way with these applications, adding that he is willing to go with the acoustic entertainment.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anybody else would like to be heard. Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

There was Council discussion concerning the hours of entertainment. It was stated that the request is for 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Councilor W. Steere commented that for Special Events, it is limited to 4 hours between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Councilor G. Steere pointed out that this is for events which are amplified.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the amplification pertains to a DJ making announcements, not the music. Councilor G. Steere stated that this will be acoustic with no amplification at all. Councilor Burlingame agreed, stating that Special Events are different and the acoustics will not

have an impact. It was noted that if there are issues, it will come back to the Council and they will have the opportunity to correct it.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to GRANT the Application for expansion of Entertainment license for Adriana Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Sticks Tavern, Location of Business: 417 Putnam Pike (with the **following stipulations:**)

- 1. Said permission shall be for Saturdays, Sundays and Monday holidays.**
- 2. The entertainment would be allowed between the hours of 12:00 and 7:00 p.m.**
- 3. The expanded use would allow for 1-3 people with acoustic instruments (no electronics or amplification allowed);**
- 4. The entertainment is allowed in the enclosed outdoor area of the facility.**

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere recommended that going forward, there be one application period annually, at the beginning of the year. Councilor W. Steere suggested that a policy be adopted to that effect.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- B. New License: Victualing License
1. J & D's Pub & Grille, 2400 Putnam Pike

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on February 12th, 19th & 26th, 2015 and abutters were notified.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if the applicant was present.

Discussion:

Justin Moseley, applicant, stated that he hopes to open a family-style restaurant at 2400 Putnam Pike, which was formerly Europa Restaurant at 2400 Putnam Pike. Mr. Moseley stated everything applied for is solely indoors.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone wished to be heard for or against the new license.

Discussion:

Janice Lowell, 2402 Putnam Pike, stated that she resides directly behind the location of the proposed restaurant. J. Lowell questioned whether entertainment will be limited to the inside of the building. If so, J. Lowell stated that she would be in favor of the license.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the Council has rec'd a letter from the Tax Collector there are outstanding tangible taxes owed for which the property owner is responsible. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that under R.I. law the ultimate responsibility for tangible taxes lies with

the property owner and stated that the motion should state that paid taxes are a condition of approval. T. Kane also stated that the applicant's attorney is aware as he had contacted W. Bernstein. J. Moseley, applicant, asked if he must start the application process again after the taxes are paid. Councilor W. Steere replied in the negative. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that Fire Department approval has not yet been received, however this is also a condition of the Motion.

Councilor W. Steere again asked if anyone wished to be heard on this application.

Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere declared the Public Hearing Closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to GRANT the application for a Victualing License to:

Applicant: Justin A. Moseley, d.b.a. J & D's Pub & Grille, Location of business: 2400 Putnam Pike

contingent upon: 1) payment of all Town taxes; 2) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 3) Fire Chief approval as needed; 4) Health Department approval; 5) Food Manager Certificate; 6) Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; 7) copy of current menu to remain on file in Clerk's Office; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid to November 30, 2015;

seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion:

Councilor Sette questioned why the name on this application differs from that of the liquor and entertainment licenses. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, replied that one name is the corporation and the other is the d/b/a, but the applicant is the same.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. New License: Liquor License

1. J@D Snows, LLC, Justin Moseley, President

d/b/a J & D's Pub & Grille

Location of Business: 2400 Putnam Pike

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Public Hearing was advertised in the Providence Journal on February 18th and 25th, 2015 and abutters were notified.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if anyone wished to be heard regarding the application for a new liquor license.

Discussion:

Councilor Sette noted that the first stipulation is the issuance of a victualing license, therefore the stipulations on that license will also apply to this one. Councilor W. Steere asked for clarification regarding why the victualing license is in the restaurant's name and the liquor and

entertainment licenses are in the corporate name. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, replied that they are one and the same.

Councilor W. Steere again asked if anyone wished to speak regarding this application. Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere Closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to GRANT the Class B-V Liquor License to :

Applicant: Justin A. Moseley on behalf of J@D Snows, LLC, d/b/a J & D's Pub & Grille,
Location of Business: 2400 Putnam Pike:

contingent upon 1) Issuance of a valid Victualing License; 2) payment of all Town taxes;
3) Building Inspector approval as needed; 4) Police Chief & Fire Chief approval as needed;
5) Rhode Island Certificate of Good Standing; 6) Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; 7)
Current diagram of the complete service area filed in the Town Clerk's Office; 8) copies of
certification cards for all employees with Alcohol Service Certification to be kept current
in the office of Town Clerk; 9) copy of current menu to remain on file in Town Clerk's
Office; 10) proof of Rhode Island B.C.I. check; this license shall be for the interior of the
premise only; and is valid to November 30, 2015; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

D. New License: Entertainment License

1. J@D Snows, LLC, d/b/a J & D's Pub & Grille
Location of Business: 2400 Putnam Pike

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze on February 19, 2015 and abutters were notified.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if anyone wished to be heard for or against the new license

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere noted that the applicant has clarified that all entertainment will be inside the building.

Councilor W. Steere declared the Public Hearing Closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to GRANT the Entertainment License to Applicant:

Justin A. Moseley on behalf of J@D Snows, LLC, d/b/a J & D's Pub & Grille
Location of business: 2400 Putnam Pike

contingent upon 1) Payment of all Town taxes; 2) Building Official approval as needed; 3) Fire Inspector approval as needed; 4) Police Chief approval as needed; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid to November 30, 2015 and is subject to the following stipulations:

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

seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion:

Justin Moseley, applicant, asked if he would be allowed to install a speaker to pipe music outside. Councilor W. Steere replied in the negative, stating that this would be considered amplification. Councilor W. Steere further stated that any outdoor events would require a Special Event license.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes February 5th (tabled February 19, 2015) & Regular Meeting Minutes of February 19th, 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to APPROVE the Town Council Minutes of February 5th and the minutes of February 19th.

Motion withdrawn.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to APPROVE the Town Council Minutes of February 5, 2015;

seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: G. Steere

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to APPROVE the Town Council Minutes of February 19, 2015; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Sette.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: Burlingame and Reichert

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Bds. & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action

a. Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission

(1) 2 year term to expire 1/2017

(1) Alternate term to expire 1/2017

Councilor Sette suggested that since the Clerk has not received any recommendations, the Council remove this from the table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to REMOVE FROM THE TABLE the appointments to the Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission until a candidate comes forward;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

b. Conservation Commission

(1) Three year term to expire 1/2018

(1) Three year term to expire 1/2016

(1) Alternate (one year term) to expire 2/2016

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointments to the Conservation Commission;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- c. Land Trust
 - (1) At- Large one year term to expire 2/2016
 - 1. Planning Board member

Councilor W. Steere stated that this is scheduled for the Planning Board meeting of March 16, 2015.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE until the next Town Council meeting the appointment of a Planning Board At-large member to the Land Trust; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- d. Safety Commission
 - 1. At Large Member (#3)

Councilor W. Steere stated that in January, when the terms of the Safety Commission were up, Ruth Cole chose not to be reappointed. That position has not been filled, however a Talent Bank Application has been submitted by Darlene Shields.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Darlene Shields to the Safety Commission for the position of At Large Member #3 for a term to expire 1/2017; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Use of Office Space (Town Hall) : Request by Land Trust- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that this item was continued from the previous Council meeting until more information was received.

Discussion:

Councilor Sette stated that he has spoken to the chair of the Land Trust and was told that an agreement was made among the members that no quorum would be present at the Town Hall at any given time. Councilor Sette stated that he was given a copy of the policy adopted by the Land Trust. Councilor Sette suggested that if the Council authorizes the Land Trust to use office space at Town Hall, the Council review the matter each January to determine if it is still needed.

There was discussion regarding which space would be available for the Land Trust. Councilor Sette noted that the Town may need alternate space when renovations are done in several of the offices. Councilor Sette recommended that the motion reflect that the Land Trust may have to vacate the space if the Town needs it. Councilor Sette made the suggestion that a partition be installed in Conference Room 9 to allow the Land Trust to occupy a portion of the room.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council must also consider the hours of use and whether they will be consistent with Town Hall hours. If not, Councilor W. Steere stated that there may be security issues. It was stated that this will not be an office, but a place for research to be conducted and files to be stored. Councilor W. Steere asked if we would supply a computer and/or phone.

Councilor Sette replied that this would be the responsibility of the Land Trust. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, noted that the Land Trust would only be allowed guest access to the Internet. J. Fecteau asked the Council to consider only allowing the use of this space during normal business hours, as there is no night janitor on duty to secure the building. Councilor Sette stated that he will again speak to the chair to let him know the Council's concerns.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to TABLE until the next Town Council meeting the request by the Land Trust to use Town Hall office space;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Town Financial Referendum

1. Approval of amendments to Code of Ordinance & Approval of Budget/Referendum Procedure, Dates, & implementation - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has asked the Council to approve the amendments to the Home Rule Charter relative to the Financial Town Referendum, per the voters at the General Election of 11/4/2014 as follows:

1. All references to Financial Town Meeting changed to Financial Town Referendum
2. Eliminate all references to "Town Moderator"
3. Change C3-1. Time and purpose to read:
The electors of the Town qualified to vote upon a proposition to impose a tax or for the expenditure of money shall assemble each year ***for Financial Town Referendum, at a date to be determined and advertised annually*** for the purpose of ordering any tax which lawfully may be ordered, making appropriations, and transacting any other business appertaining to the financial affairs of the Town which legally may come before such all day referendum.

4. Eliminate C3-6

The Solicitor has stated that this section references a right inherent with Financial Town Meeting.

Also, we need to set the date for the Referendum..at the last meeting it appeared the schedule may be best as follows:

March 19, 2015 - (Accept & Approve the budget (with or without amendments) to go to Public Hearing

April 25, 2015 - Public Hearing/ 2:00 p.m. High School - this should be the last Public Hearing, Council can decide if they want an additional public hearing prior to this one.

April 30, 2015 - Town Council has a Special Meeting to Adopt budget

May 19, 2015 - 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Financial Town Referendum @ Senior Center

Discussion:

Councilor Sette expressed his opinion that the Council should set the meeting dates as stated above, adding that the schedule could be adjusted in subsequent years, if necessary. Councilor Burlingame agreed and stated that this is a good start.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE the Charter Amendments as proposed as a result of November 4th, 2014 General Election referendum questions; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to SET the dates as previously stated as proposed for the process of adopting the Gloucester Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2015/2016; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion:

Dave Steere, Budget Board chair, stated that the above schedule states that the Council will accept and approve the Budget on March 19th, however they will not receive the Budget until that date. D. Steere explained that the Region's Budget will be adopted on March 17th and the Budget Board will meet on March 18th to incorporate the amount into the Town Budget.

Councilor Burlingame stated that the only thing the Council will not have seen is the Region's number. D. Steere replied that some changes have been made since the Budget Board met with the Council. Councilor Sette asked if the Council can adopt the Budget the first meeting of April

and still have time to advertise the Public Hearing. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, replied that she would have time to advertise. It was stated that the Budget could be accepted between March 19th and April 2nd.

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, explained she has to obtain the state's approval for the number to go to the public hearing and her advertising deadline was ten days before the Public Hearing.

D. Steere questioned whether the budget would be available to the public before the day of the Public Hearing. The Clerk stated budgets would be available before hand.

Councilor Sette stated the importance of the wording of the ad so the voters will understand the new process.

Councilor Sette withdrew his MOTION and Councilor G. Steere withdrew his SECOND.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to SET the dates as proposed for the process of adopting the Gloucester Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2015/2016 as follows:

Between March 19, 2015 and April 2, 2015 - Accept & Approve the budget (with or without amendments) to go to Public Hearing

April 25, 2015 - Public Hearing/ 2:00 p.m. High School

April 30, 2015 - Town Council has a Special Meeting to Adopt budget

May 19, 2015 - 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Financial Town Referendum @ Senior Center

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Authorization: Trust Member Equity Disbursement- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town has received a memo from the Trust regarding the Member Equity Disbursement of funds from the health pool.

Regarding this memo, Council received a recommendation from the Finance Director:

To: Town Council Members
From: Diane L. Brennan
Memo: OPEB Trust
Date: March 4, 2014

The Rhode Island Interlocal Trust has served notice to all shareholders of a favorable experience during the past year.

As a result of cost sharing, Gloucester is to receive funds allocated in a fashion approved by its members. The distribution method is defined in greater detail in the memo from Brian Lavallee. The use of the funds is further defined through the Trust procedures and policies. One option for the use of these funds is to deposit them in an Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) trust. This has been a direction the Town of Gloucester has wanted from the first indication the Trust would establish such a fund. Evidence has been disclosed in several audit notes as well as financial disclosures. The Trust indicated they are committed to establishing the OPEB fund by June 30, 2015.

It is my recommendation, the Town of Gloucester serve notice to the Rhode Island Interlocal Trust that the use of the funds described in the letter be set aside to establish an OPEB Trust.

(End of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor Sette stated that he attended a meeting today pertaining to OPEB trusts. Councilor Sette stated that eventually rating agencies will begin questioning how OPEB liabilities are addressed. Councilor Sette noted that once the fund is established, the Town must make annual contributions and if you miss more than two consecutive years contributing the rating agencies may downgrade the Town's rating. Councilor Sette stated that it is important to be disciplined if we decide to do this.

Councilor Burlingame stated that we already have an assignment of funds to OPEB. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, explained that the establishment of a formal OPEB trust was granted by the State of Rhode Island for the Trust and the Trust is now meeting the guidelines. Councilor Sette asked if money which has been put aside can go into the trust. D. Brennan replied that she believes so, but we will wait to see how the trust is established and what kind of rules and regulations they have. Councilor Burlingame asked if there is any downside to this. D. Brennan replied that she does not see one at this point.

Councilor G. Steere asked if our money goes into a pool with that of other municipalities and then could be used by other communities. D. Brennan replied that it will not be set up that way. Councilor Sette stated that it is just for Gloucester and becomes part of the annual audit statement.

Councilor Burlingame asked if we could wind up funding rate spikes for other communities. D. Brennan replied in the negative, stating that our fund would be isolated. Councilor Burlingame stated that he recalls several years ago, we said no to a similar request because we didn't want to have to fund unfortunate situations with other communities. Councilor G. Steere agreed there was something that came up where they wanted to take from all communities and only one community could benefit from it.

Councilor Sette stated that the Trust would manage the funds but our piece would always be our piece. Councilor Burlingame stated that he does not disagree with the concept, but feels that we

should understand what the rules and guidelines are regarding the distribution of the funds in the trust relative to each community involved. Councilor Burlingame stated he would be willing to go along with this fund, as long as the Town is able to withdraw if we do not agree with the rules once they are formulated.

Councilor Sette asked if we need to let them know by a certain date. D. Brennan replied that we have 15 days to respond, adding that the letter is dated February 23rd.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to AUTHORIZE the Finance Director to send a letter to the R. I. Interlocal Trust stating that the Town Council wishes to use these funds for this purpose, however if the rules are unfavorable to the Town of Gloucester, the Town reserves the right to withdraw;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Authorization: Public notices regarding Foster/Gloucester Regional Meeting- Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that it is important to place an ad regarding the Foster/Gloucester Regional Meeting to explain to voters how the School Budget will impact the Town of Gloucester's Budget. Councilor Sette stated that because the meeting is scheduled for St. Patrick's Day, some people who normally attend may not do so. However, Councilor Sette agrees that it is important to let people know when it is.

Councilor Sette stated that he feels that it is not inappropriate to advertise the meeting date and how the numbers will affect the Gloucester taxpayers. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, noted that the ad must be written soon as there are deadlines to meet. J. Fecteau further stated that she could send a Code Red message to the residents.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Clerk, working in conjunction with Councilor Burlingame, to draft an ad for publication regarding the Foster/Gloucester Regional Meeting, including the Budget amount and the impact on the Town Budget;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Council Correspondence/Discussion

- A. Councilor W. Steere stated that an invitation was received from the City of Newport regarding their St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- B. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from a resident complimenting the Public Works Department for the work they have done this winter with snow removal.
- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Clean Water Finance Agency concerning a waste water bond issue.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the Department of Health with regard to the Drinking Water Project Priority List for public water supplies.
- E. Councilor W. Steere stated that a Government Guide to the Salvation Army Disaster Services was received.
- G. Councilor W. Steere stated that notice was received from the Office of Housing and Community Development stating that Gloucester has been selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$2,000 from the RI Community Development Block Grant Program. The funds would be for the Gloucester Food Pantry.

X. Department Head Report/Discussion

None.

XI. Bds. and Commissions/Discussion

None.

XII. Open Forum

None.

XIII Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 8:55 p.m.; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the March 19, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **March 19, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William E. Reichert; Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Tim Inacio, Town Planner; Dave Steere, Budget Board chair; and Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - Agenda Items

Marie Sweet, Chestnut Hill Road, welcomed Sarah Zurier from the Preservation Society and stated that she looks forward to the Conference in April.

V. Resolution

A. Opposition of House Bill #5044 and Senate Bill #559- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere explained that in the current Legislative session bills are being considered that mirror bills Council has opposed for the 2013 & 2014 session. Councilor W. Steere stated that last year, these bills passed the General Assembly but were vetoed by the Governor, after Gloucester and other cities and towns expressed their concerns to the Governor.

Councilor W. Steere stated that Council again desires to oppose this type of bill, and the following was read into the record by Councilor Reichert:

Resolution #2015-04
Resolution Opposing of House Bill #5044 and Senate Bill #559
An Act Relating to Taxation – Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes

WHEREAS, for the last two legislative sessions, bills were introduced that would prevent a municipality from taxing new construction single-family dwellings and residential condominium units at its full and fair cash value for as long as said new construction dwellings or condominium units are not occupied, has never been occupied and are actively for sale to the open market; and

WHEREAS, S 559 and H 5044 would also prohibit assessment of these structures when partially completed, as is the standard and equitable practice throughout Rhode Island and our neighboring States; and

WHEREAS, S 559 and H 5044 allows for unfair taxation to a property owner who wishes to custom build their own single-family home or condominium; and

WHEREAS, S 559 and H 5044 favors the owners of development properties, thus giving for-profit developers an inequitable advantage in the residential market; and

WHEREAS, S 559 and H 5044 would not be beneficial to the Town of Gloucester as it would cause a reduction of growth in assessed valuations and therefore a loss of revenue negatively affecting the budget process and forcing taxpayers to shoulder the burden to the benefit of a single group.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Council of the Town of Gloucester respectfully requests the Rhode Island General Assembly to oppose S 559 and H 5044 as we have opposed similar legislation in previous years.

ATTEST: By order of the Town Council

Walter M.O. Steere, III

Jean M. Fecteau

Town Council President

CMC, Town Clerk

seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2015
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements
- C. Finance Director's Report

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of March 5, 2015; to APPROVE the Tax Assessor's Report of No Additions or Abatements for February, 2015; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for February, 2015; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Bds. & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - b. Conservation Commission
 - (1) Three year term to expire 1/2018
 - (1) Three year term to expire 1/2016
 - (1) Alternate (one year term) to expire 2/2016

Councilor W. Steere stated that there are no new recommendations or Talent Bank applications for these positions. The Clerk stated that she spoke to someone today who may be interested. Councilor Sette recommended that there be a table set up at the Budget Public Hearing with information regarding Boards and Commissions.

Councilor Sette noted that people in attendance may be motivated since they will be participating in Town government. Councilor W. Steere asked if this should be taken off the agenda until such time that we have candidates. Councilor Sette suggested that the Council table it until the next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to TABLE the Appointments to the Conservation Commission;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- c. Land Trust
 - (1) At- Large one year term to expire 2/2016
 1. Planning Board member

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town Clerk has been informed this appointment was tabled by the Planning Board to April 6, 2015.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to TABLE the appointment of an At-Large Planning Board member to the Land Trust; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Use of Office Space (Town Hall): Request by Land Trust- Discussion and/or action

Councilor Sette stated that the main issue is that if the Land Trust used the space during regular office hours, it would eliminate the need for concern regarding building security. Steve Mitchell, Land Trust chair, stated that this is acceptable and suggested that the Land Trust's need for space be reviewed on an annual basis. S. Mitchell commented that they need the space at this time to conduct research entailing countless hours, which is the basis for the request.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to AUTHORIZE the use of space at the Town Hall by the Gloucester Land Trust during regular working hours, to be reviewed annually by the Town Council;

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, noted that she may need to use the room for a week or so at some point when the floors in her office are being redone. All agreed this would not be an issue.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Authorization: Trust Member Equity Disbursement- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that this item was continued from the last meeting.

Discussion:

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, updated the Council regarding the offer from the Interlocal Trust to set up an OPEB trust, however there was concern that this trust is not formally set up at this time. D. Brennan presented another option, a Premium Offset Account (POA), which would rest with us and not with them. D. Brennan stated that we would take the credit which would be used for health care offset reserve.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the concern regarding the OPEB trust was whether we would be able to get the funds out if we wished and whether the funds would be used to help other communities. D. Brennan agreed and noted that the OPEB trust is still not established, therefore it would be in the Town's best interest to go with the Premium Offset Account. Councilor Burlingame stated that this would be his recommendation.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to AUTHORIZE the Finance Director to request a credit from the Premium Offset Account currently with the Interlocal Trust, those dollars to be used for future offset reserve;

seconded by Councilor Burlingame

Discussion: None.

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

VIII. New Business

A. The 30th Annual R.I. Statewide Historic Preservation Conference - Discussion and/or action

Sarah Zurier, of the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, spoke regarding the upcoming conference which will be held in Gloucester on Saturday, April 25th. S. Zurier explained that each year a community is chosen to host this conference and Ms. Zurier mentioned the efforts of Sam Shamoon to make this happen. S. Zurier stated the conference is a day long event, from 8:00 a.m to 6:00 p.m. with an opening ceremony at St. Eugenes that will include welcoming remarks by Governor Raimondo.

Councilor W. Steere, Father Varghase, and the Corridor Commission will award Senator Reed for his work with the development of the National Heritage Park in the Blackstone Valley, that there will be twelve (12) breakout sessions, eleven (11) tours, lunch, films and a closing reception at the Chepachet Union Church.

S. Zurier stated that people will be walking through the Village all day which will be an opportunity for local businesses to reach out to a statewide audience. S. Zurier noted that almost 300 people have signed up so far. S. Zurier invited all to participate. S. Zurier asked the Council members if they had any questions.

Councilor W. Steere stated that we are excited to be hosting such an event and look forward to showing everybody what Gloucester is all about. Councilor W. Steere thanked S. Zurier for her attendance this evening.

B. Land Trust- Strategic & Action Plans, Initiatives and accomplishments - Discussion and/or action

Steve Mitchell, Land Trust chair, presented a power-point presentation depicting the goals and accomplishments of the Land Trust. S. Mitchell commented that there was a period of time during which the Land Trust struggled, but is now comprised of a phenomenal group of individuals who are dedicated and committed to the goals of the Land Trust.

S. Mitchell acknowledged all members of the Trust. S. Mitchell stated that the mission of the GLT is as follows: "The Gloucester Land Trust is dedicated to the preservation of Gloucester's natural resources, rural heritage and scenic beauty as an environmental, educational, and recreational resource for all who live, work or visit the Town of Gloucester. Our members recognize the historical and cultural heritage of our community and endeavor to protect it for education and enjoyment of present and future generations."

S. Mitchell stated that all decisions made by the Land Trust are based upon this core belief. S. Mitchell stated that the Strategic Plan was developed by the trustees using a process of

consensus as opposed to majority vote over a long period of time with a lot of discussion. S. Mitchell stated that as of December 2014, the Land Trust oversees over 2,230 acres of woodland and open space properties throughout the Town, which is 6% of the Town's total acreage of approximately 35,000 acres spanning 54.8 square miles which comprises the Town of Gloucester.

S. Mitchell first reviewed short term programs as follows: S. Mitchell noted that the Land Trust properties' Management Plans have never been reviewed or revised prior to the current board. S. Mitchell stated that once the board reviews and updates the plans, they must be sent to the State for approval. S. Mitchell also stated that the Land Trust will develop trail inspection protocol and trails will be inspected at least once a year to ensure that there are no hazards to the public using those trails.

S. Mitchell stated the Land Trust will prioritize a maintenance time line and stewardship of our properties. S. Mitchell explained that another goal is to establish a Youth Leadership Council which will get our future generation involved in environmental activities. S. Mitchell stated a grant has been written and we are in the process of engaging these young people.

S. Mitchell gave an overview of long-term goals, such as completing baseline documentation for all GLT properties, a rather extensive process which is the reason for the request for office space. S. Mitchell discussed the plan to then store, in perpetuity , the files for each property. S. Mitchell noted that the Land Trust has a system in place by which no more than three (3) members will be in the Land Trust office at any one time, to avoid having a quorum.

S. Mitchell noted that an Action Plan has been developed and will be reviewed quarterly to ensure that the Land Trust is moving forward in a timely manner.

S. Mitchell stated that the Land Trust intends to pursue and achieve National Accreditation; however this is not an urgent goal because they realize that many of the systems which should have been in place have not been, and the Land Trust needs to "get their own house in order" first.

S. Mitchell noted that all boards in this community do their due diligence and have passion, commitment and the resolve to do the work on behalf of the citizens and future generations of the Town.

S. Mitchell showed photographs of several projects at GLT properties. S. Mitchell stated that the current GLT signs are deteriorating quickly and will be replaced with a different form of signs which will be consistent among all of the properties. S. Mitchell reviewed recent accomplishments of the Land Trust, both physical and organizational, and gave details regarding future plans.

Councilor Burlingame thanked S. Mitchell for his report and commended the Land Trust for bringing the Land Trust to a level which has not been seen before. S. Mitchell stated that the trustees are all dedicated individuals and he is honored to work with each of them.

Councilor Reichert reiterated that all of our Boards and Commissions help keep our town running and thanked them all.

Myles Beltram, Assistant Scoutmaster from Troop 44, thanked the Land Trust and the Town of Gloucester for supporting the troop's Eagle Scouts. S. Mitchell encouraged the Boy Scouts to attend the Land Trust meetings to present their requests for Eagle Scout projects.

C. Budget Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Receive & Approve for Public Hearing- Discussion and/or action

Dave Steere, Budget Board chair, presented the recommended budget to the Town Council. D. Steere commented that if anybody from the public would like a copy of the Town Budget and/or the Gloucester School Budget, they will be available in the Finance Office starting tomorrow.

D. Brennan, Finance Director, explained that the budget Council has accepted from the Budget Board is what will be advertised as the budget to go to Public Hearing.

Councilor Burlingame explained the budget set up and discussed the amount in surplus, suggesting bringing the surplus down to 12% may reduce the 2% increase a little and we would be returning surplus funds to the taxpayer. Councilor Burlingame asked Council how they would feel about moving the amount of surplus we picked up last June to reduce the percentage somewhat. Councilor Sette agreed but discussed the Region stating that approximately \$146,000 of capital expense should have been taken out of the Regions surplus. Councilor Sette questioned why tax people twice and explained as long as we keep the defined amount as required by the Charter.

Councilor Burlingame asked if we would be safe in adding an additional \$125,000 to the amount to be transferred from surplus. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, replied that we have the surplus to do it. Councilor Burlingame stated that would keep us around the 15% and still leave us with a couple of hundred thousand dollar appropriation increase which is totally attributed to the Regional School District.

Councilor Burlingame stated his concern regarding a \$418,000 tax increase which is 2%. Councilor Burlingame stated that he would like to reduce that to 1% or 1.5% by increasing the transfer to surplus. Councilor W. Steere asked if it would be easier for D. Brennan to call it a 1% tax increase. Councilor G. Steere stated that adding \$125,000 to the \$187,000 transfer from surplus would get us to about a 1.5% tax increase. Councilor Sette stated in doing what is suggested we would be below 15% but we would still be above the 12% required by charter.

Councilor Burlingame stated that this year there has been a spike in elderly exemptions, but we have \$40,000 in growth from FM Global as well as the new condominium complex which will generate tax revenue.

Councilor Sette suggested we set an amount, an additional transfer of \$125,00 from surplus, now and see what further we need to do after public hearing. Councilor G. Steere stated the additional transfer of \$125,000 suggested plus what the budget board is purposing (\$187,000) would bring

us to roughly what was put into surplus last year, so that would be giving it back to the taxpayers.

Councilor Burlingame stated that we don't know for sure how we are going to end up this year but that this amount would be safe. Councilor G. Steere stated this amount would cover the increases on the town side of the budget and the rest is attributed to the Region. D. Brennan stated the town has covered some of the Regions increase, not all.

Diane Brennan stated that this will be the budget that will be proposed at the Public Hearing, after it is approved by the State. Councilor Sette we could amend the budget further if necessary as a result of the Public Hearing. Councilor Burlingame stated that by that time, we will have a better idea of what the tax roll will be.

Councilor G. Steere noted that this will be a total of \$312,000 to be transferred from surplus, roughly the same amount that was put into surplus at the end of the last fiscal year. Councilor Burlingame stated that it will be important to provide an explanation to the taxpayers at the Public Hearing and the Referendum so they won't come after the budget blindly.

Councilor Sette stated that this would set the example of how to be fiscally appropriate and would put to rest any issues that have come up with the Region regarding our surplus. Councilor Sette commented that we are being responsible in how we apply the surplus vs. building it up to a large sum of money.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADD \$125,000 to the proposed amount of \$187,000 for transfer from Surplus for a total of \$312,000; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to APPROVE the 2015/2016 Budget as AMENDED for publication and further review at the Budget Public Hearing to be held on April 25, 2015; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion:

Dave Steere, Budget Board chair, stated that there will be a total of \$190,000 to offset operating expenses, therefore in future budgets, we will be putting at least that amount in from surplus. D. Steere stated that otherwise, there will be an increase somewhere along the line.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

D. Appointment:

1. Public Safety - Animal Control
Assistant Animal Control Officer Position - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere read the following request from the Chief:

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
Subj: Assistant Animal Control Officer Position
Date: March 5, 2015

I would respectfully request to appoint Amanda Cramer DeStefano of Chepachet to Assistant Animal Control Officer at an hourly rate of \$14.00 starting the week of Sunday March 22, 2015. Mrs. DeStefano has experience with all types of domestic animals and was selected from a field of nine applicants interviewed. She was also selected based on her availability to work weekends, holidays and replacement for ACO Merchant when utilizing sick and vacation time. Mrs. DeStefano successfully completed a criminal background investigation and will be on probationary status for six months from the date of her appointment.

Her schedule will never exceed 17 hours in **any one week** from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM when filling in for ACO Merchant.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph DelPrete

(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to appoint **Amanda Cramer DeStefano** to the position of Assistant Animal Control Officer, effective March 22, 2015, at an hourly rate of \$14.00. Said position not to exceed an annual average of 17 hours per week. This position is not eligible for benefits and is subject to successful satisfaction of background check and any other requirements necessary to the position as required by the Chief of Police; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

E. Retaining the services of a consultant to advise and consult with the Town regarding taxation of solar energy producing facilities - Discussion and/or action

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that at the request of Councilor Sette, he has begun seeking a consultant to assist the Town Council with regard to the taxation of solar generating facilities. T. Kane stated that some communities are implementing PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreements for this type of facility. T. Kane noted that property owners will not want to break ground on their projects until they know what the tax ramifications will be. T. Kane stated that the Town of North Providence hired a consultant who knows how these projects work and has been recommended by Mayor Lombardi.

Councilor Sette stated that we need to do this because we have had two (2) presentations by people with a financial interest in these projects. Councilor Sette stated that it would be beneficial to have a person with expertise looking at it from our perspective. Councilor Burlingame agreed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to hire Andy Law as a consultant in developing a Solar Energy Tax Policy;
seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion:

Tim Kane stated that the first project, which will be ready to break ground in April, will set a benchmark for future projects.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he cannot vote on certain matters because his brother has a solar facility, but he will vote on this because he agrees that we need to come up with a solution.

Councilor Reichert stated that he will recuse himself from the vote.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

RECUSAL:Reichert

MOTION PASSED

IX. Council Correspondence/Discussion

A. Councilor Sette stated that a letter was received from a resident who requested that it be read into the record. Councilor Sette advised the resident that the Council could not take action on the matter as it is not on the agenda, but the resident requested that it be put on a future agenda for formal action.

March 17, 2015

TO: Town of Gloucester
Town Council
RE: 256 Chopmist Hill Road
AP 14 Lot 199

Senior Exemption

I am requesting some relief on the above reference property from the deadline date of March 15th for a Senior Tax Exemption. I was not aware of the deadline date until I went online after 4:30 on Monday as I was looking for the start time for the Parade Fundraiser.

I was under the obviously wrong impression that the deadline was March 31st but that occurs when at the age for a Senior Exemption. Upon realizing this missed deadline of Monday the 16th due to the 15th being a Sunday, I filed on Tuesday, March 17th at around 12:00 and was told too late.

Please consider this request for relief which is a substantial savings after 35 years of paying and only being one day late.

Respectfully,
Tom D'Angelo

Councilor Sette stated that he forwarded some information to Mr. D'Angelo regarding action taken last year by the Town Council in a similar situation. Councilor Burlingame informed the Council that he also has a request coming in from an individual to be addressed at the next meeting.

- B. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the RI Emergency Management Agency regarding their 2015 Preparedness Conference.
- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that an invitation was received from Glad Tidings Church for their 25th Anniversary celebration.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from DEM regarding the Project Priority List for Fiscal Year 2016.
- E. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Town Solicitors regarding legal fees.
- F. Councilor W. Steere spoke about the vote which was taken at the Regional Financial Meeting, stating that the amount cannot be changed and the Council and the Budget Board must deal with it. Councilor W. Steere stated that fortunately this year, we have the opportunity to offset some of the increase, but going forward we may not be able to.

Councilor W. Steere further stated that the Region has added more Maintenance of Effort, (by adding \$146,000 capital expenses into their operating budget) meaning that they will have to fund at least that level every year going forward. Councilor W. Steere commented that this is why that meeting is so important, because if the budget is passed, there will be a tax increase as a result of the vote at the school. Councilor W. Steere commented on the number of people, voting & non-voting, present.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he is bothered by the level of increase in cost while there has been a continuous decline in enrollment for the past 8 or 9 years.

Councilor Sette questioned why there is \$445,000 worth of capital in the Region's budget. Councilor Sette stated that he understands that the buildings must be maintained, but \$375,000 of that amount is to redo a tennis court. Councilor Sette commented that whenever there is capital money in an operational budget, it usually gets siphoned off.

Councilor Burlingame stated that years ago, there would be three (3) separate votes; Operations, Debt Service and Capital. Councilor Burlingame noted that this way, money could be moved from surplus into Capital without having to put it back the next year for operations. Councilor Burlingame stated that it is not possible to make adjustments to the operations number on its own because it is lumped together with the other budgets. Councilor Burlingame stated his opinion that the Region's capital budget should be voted on separately as is done with the Town's budget.

X. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that the Police Department has established a drug collection program by which people can dispose of unwanted household medication at the Police Station. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, noted that this information is on the Town's website.

XI. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion

- A. Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, spoke regarding the Regional meeting, stating that the problem is that not enough people attend. W. Steere stated that if the Town budget is rejected, the Town employees will pay and services will be reduced. W. Steere stated that the Councilors could have stood up and asked for a ballot vote. Councilor Burlingame asked W. Steere why he did not do it.

W. Steere replied that he did not do it because he was sitting at the table up front. Councilor Burlingame stated that it defies logic that not one of the 150 people present asked for a paper ballot. Councilor Burlingame stated that 86% of the residents received a Code Red message urging them to attend the meeting. W. Steere commented that it is a game to see who can get the most people there.

Councilor G. Steere made the suggestion that the School be their own taxing authority. Councilor G. Steere stated that if there is a separate tax bill for the Region with a 4% increase each year, there won't be enough room in the auditorium. Councilor Burlingame stated that this is the only answer now that we have the Referendum. W. Steere stated that this would let the Town Council off the hook, but the budget will still pass and the taxpayers will still have to pay. Councilor G. Steere stated that people will wake up eventually.

Councilor Sette noted that there are five (5) other members from Gloucester, besides W. Steere, on the Regional School Committee. Councilor Sette asked why we could not get a majority vote to reduce the appropriation. W. Steere commented that at the last election, there were three (3) people from Gloucester and three (3) people from Foster who ran for re-election unopposed.

W. Steere, Jr. stated that if there is an increase in the budget, he will vote against it, and he hopes others will also. W. Steere stated that if the Town Hall and Transfer Station have to close one day a week, people may realize that they should go to these meetings. W. Steere commented that he likes the idea of putting money from surplus into the budget, but we must be prepared to do that every year.

Councilor Burlingame stated that it was a legitimate surplus that we want to return a portion of to the voters. Councilor Burlingame stated that we have run surpluses the last several years and there is no reason to believe that we won't this year. Councilor Burlingame pointed out that at the local level, we have not increased our expenses at the school or administrative level. W. Steere concurred that the Town has done a good job of keeping their budgets level-funded and commented that when the recession first hit, the Town made the necessary changes.

XII. Open Forum

A. George Charette stated that he attended the Regional Financial Meeting and expressed displeasure regarding the way it was conducted. G. Charette stated that the vote was taken before anybody had a chance to speak. G. Charette questioned the \$375,000 allocated for the tennis courts and wondered how they came up with that number. G. Charette spoke about the voice vote that was taken, stating that people in the non-voter section voted "yes". G. Charette commented that something has to be done.

G. Charette gave a progress report concerning the Kent Property project, stating that he will have more information for the Council by the end of the month.

B. Rose LaVoie spoke regarding the Regional Financial meeting, stating that if it was not held at night, many older people would attend. R. LaVoie suggested that the meeting be changed to a Saturday during the day. Regarding the Regional School District, R. LaVoie stated that we formed it and there must be a method to un-form it.

R. LaVoie commented that the Historic Preservation Conference is scheduled for April 25th, the same day as the Budget Public Hearing. R. LaVoie asked if the Public Hearing date could be changed. Councilor W. Steere replied that we are up against reporting deadlines and the meeting cannot be rescheduled.

R. LaVoie commended the Beltram family for their involvement with the Boy Scout program.

C. Walter Steere, Jr. spoke about the non-residents who attended the Regional Meeting. W. Steere stated that he was told by the Moderator that the people who were running

the balloting were asked to monitor those people to make sure they did not participate in the voice vote.

W. Steere, Jr. answered G. Charette's question regarding the tennis courts, stating that when the plans for the track were done, a plan for the tennis courts was also drawn up and an estimate was obtained.

Walter Steere, Jr. echoed R. LaVoie's comments regarding the Beltram family, stating that they have done so much for the Town.

XIII. MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5.a (5) Land Acquisition - Discussion and/or action
- B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5.a (2) Potential Litigation (PC-12-3169 Pension Litigation) - Discussion and/or action

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XIV. Reconvene Open Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to reconvene Open Session, seal the minutes of Executive Session and Disclose that one (1) vote was taken in Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 10:30 p.m.; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the April 2, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council held in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **April 2, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William Reichert (arrived at 7:30 p.m.); Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Tim Inacio, Town Planner; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Dave Steere, Budget Board chair; and Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

A. RIGL 42-46-5(6) Discussions relating to or concerning a prospective business or industry locating in the Town of Gloucester - Discussion and/or action;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

V. Reconvene Open Session

Disclose votes taken in Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Seal the minutes of Closed Executive Session;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

It was disclosed that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

VI. Open Forum - Agenda Items

Rose LaVoie asked when it would be announced what the vote was regarding Executive Session. Councilor W. Steere replied it was disclosed that no votes were taken.

VII. House Bill #5044 and Senate Bill #559

An Act Relating to Taxation – “Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes ”
Discussion and/or action

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere stated that there has been Council discussion in the past regarding this legislation which, in his opinion, gives favor to developers by not taxing property until it is sold or occupied. Councilor W. Steere commented that it is vague with regard to the definition of “occupied.” Councilor W. Steere expressed his opinion that it is a bad bill for the State and its citizens. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has sent wording as such to our legislators and stated that Representative Chippendale is present tonight.

Rep. Michael Chippendale stated that he received a Resolution from the Council asking him to vote against H-5044, however he voted in favor of the bill. Rep. Chippendale explained that this happened because during this time of the year, the House does not usually hear substantive bills, however this bill, which was vetoed by the Governor last year, was put in early. Rep. Chippendale stated that no one picked it up and it passed unanimously. Rep. Chippendale stated that it was his mistake and formally apologized to the Council.

Councilor W. Steere noted that a similar Bill, H-5173, has been introduced and commented that this type of legislation has been voted down in the past because it is not beneficial to the taxpayers, who would basically be subsidizing developers.

Councilor Burlingame asked if this legislation has been before the Senate yet. Rep. Chippendale stated that the Senate Bill passed two weeks prior to the House Bill. Councilor Burlingame asked if there was a chance that it will be vetoed by the Governor. Rep. Chippendale replied that he does not know, but stated that the dynamics are different this year because we now have a Governor and Legislature of the same party. Rep. Chippendale recommended that the Council petition the Governor to veto the Bill as her predecessor did. Rep. Chippendale again apologized for his mistake and stated that it will not happen again.

Councilor Sette stated the first bill had a sunset clause but the latest bill being proposed has no end date for the commercial development.

Councilor G. Steere expressed concern that the wording in the Bill is “sold and occupied.” Councilor G. Steere stated that it should read “sold OR occupied” because there is nothing to prevent a builder from renting out the building for a couple of years and not being taxed. Rep. Chippendale pointed out that if it is rented, it is occupied. Rep. Chippendale stated that he will research the matter and get an answer for the Council.

Councilor W. Steere commented that much of the legislation that is coming out of the State House is aimed at rural towns. Rep. Chippendale concurred, stating that the rural towns have a

more affluent population and the current budget proposed by the Governor is evidence that they are going wherever they can find money.

Councilor W. Steere mentioned the proposed “Taylor Swift Tax,” asking if this applies to property with a house on it or any property. Rep. Chippendale replied that if refers to anything that is considered an estate. Councilor Sette commented that the Towns’ charter rights would be taken away to tax property, taking tax dollars away from the community. Councilor Sette stated that the proposed Infrastructure Fund in the State Budget is also dangerous because it allows for non-voter approved projects to go forward. Rep. Chippendale stated that the general consensus among his colleagues is that this legislation is not being looked upon favorably.

VIII. Citations for Service

Chepachet Fire Department
Harmony Fire Department
West Gloucester Fire Department

Councilor W. Steere stated that the three fire companies that serve Gloucester will be having their annual Tri-District Banquet on April 11, 2015. At that banquet members are honored for their accomplishments. We are acknowledging the men and women that will receive a “time in years of service awards” which will be presented that evening.

Citations have been prepared for the following:

Harmony Fire Department

Lieutenant William A. Vota - 10 years

West Gloucester Fire Department

Chief Christopher Labutti - 30 years
Andrew Gaiewski - 5 years
Sheryl Nelligan - 5 years
Frankie Guillmette - 5 years

Chepachet Fire Department

Chief Robert G. Dauphinais - 30 years
Robert F. Shields - 30 years
Patricia Svannson - Fire Tax Collector for 25 years

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to Issue & Forward Citations to acknowledge “years of service awards” to the men and women of the Chepachet, Harmony, & West Gloucester Fire Departments;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere thanked these individuals and all members of the Fire Departments for their work in protecting the citizens of Gloucester.

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

IX. Public Hearing

A. **LIQUOR LICENSE- EXPANSION OF SALES TO OUTDOOR AREA**

Tyo-Ristaino Corp., d/b/a Cady's Tavern
Location of Business: 2168 Putnam Pike
Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on March 12th and March 19th and abutters were notified.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if the applicant was present to explain the request.

Discussion:

Robin Tyo, owner/applicant, stated that they would like to add a service bar in the outside area, which will be staffed by a certified server. R. Tyo stated that there would be an additional staff member outside monitoring the area when it is in use. R. Tyo stated that they would like to keep the hours to their busiest times, which are Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and Monday holidays. R. Tyo noted that there would be no music or additional lighting and would close at dusk. R. Tyo commented that people like to be outside in good weather and this would take some pressure off the indoor bar.

Councilor Sette asked if the proposed service hours are noon to 7:00 p.m. R. Tyo replied in the affirmative. Councilor Sette inquired if there would be any additional fencing installed around the outdoor service area. R. Tyo replied in the negative, stating that the existing 6-foot fence would remain.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anybody from the public would like to be heard regarding this application.

1. Paul Colardo, president of the Lake Washington Association, expressed several concerns regarding how this expansion would affect people who live on the lake. P. Colardo stated that the largest concern is that Cady's outdoor area has not been tested yet because the expansion was granted in the fall. P. Colardo stated that there are also concerns regarding noise and lights which may interfere with the neighbors.

P. Colardo questioned the hours of noon to 7:00 p.m., stating that the previous expansion allowed outdoor consumption until 10:00 p.m. P. Colardo reiterated that the previous petition has not been tested yet and suggested that a probationary period be set for that expansion. Regarding notification, P. Colardo asked how he or the Association could be notified as well as the residents of the area. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Ordinance requires notification to abutters within a 200 foot radius.

2. Bruce Payton, 26 Lake Washington Drive, stated that the Lake Washington Association owns the lake, therefore they should be on the abutters list for notification. B. Payton commented that Cady's is getting much better, however this past Saturday, they were conducting a sound check and it was noisy. B. Payton stated that he enjoys the quiet and moved to Lake Washington because motorboats are not allowed. B. Payton stated that when the doors and windows are open at Cady's, he can hear the music in his living room even when the television is on. B. Payton stated that he agrees with the idea of a probationary period.
3. David LaPlante, of Harmony, asked if any other bars in Town have outside drinking. Councilor W. Steere replied that outdoor alcohol is allowed but not outdoor service. D. LaPlante commented that it should not be exclusive to his neighborhood. D. LaPlante noted that the establishment in his neighborhood also has outside entertainment and welcomed the Council members to come to his yard and listen to the noise.
4. Eleanor Heuberger, 12 Cady Lane, echoed the concerns of the Lake Washington Association. E. Heuberger stated that there is some confusion regarding the times of service, asking if after the bar closes at 7:00, will drinking still be allowed outside until 10:00 p.m. E. Heuberger also asked if any kind of music or entertainment will be allowed. Councilor W. Steere replied that the application states noon to 7:00 p.m. for outside service of alcohol but patrons may remain outside until 10:00 p.m. It was further stated that outdoor entertainment is not allowed.
5. Elizabeth Yuill stated that she has been a patron of Cady's for several years, ever since the Tyo's took it over. E. Yuill stated that it does get crowded in the summer time and it can be difficult to get a drink at the bar. E. Yuill stated her opinion that it would be helpful to have an outdoor service area. E. Yuill commented that she can relate to the neighbors' concerns, but if the outdoor service stopped at 7:00 and there is no outdoor entertainment, she is in support of the expansion.
6. Rose LaVoie stated that she is in favor of helping businesses expand in order to stay in business. R. LaVoie stated that it is the coming thing to be able to eat and drink outside. R. LaVoie noted that she has heard that the Tyo's are running a wonderful place at Cady's and further stated that it has been there longer than any of the houses. R. LaVoie stated that anyone who purchased property on the lake was aware that there was a bar in the area. R. LaVoie stated that the Council should think about helping the businesses in Town because they need as much help as they can get.

Councilor W. Steere asked Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, for his input. Chief DelPrete stated that he has no issues with Cady's and there have been no calls for service. Chief DelPrete stated that if the applicant is compliant with regard to service hours, he has no objection.

Councilor Sette asked Chief DelPrete if he is concerned that with the outdoor service, the patrons will be exiting to the parking lot. Councilor Sette stated that he recalls when the Nutty Scotsman had outdoor volleyball, there was a gate which was monitored. Chief DelPrete commented that it could be an issue because we do not want people drinking in the parking lot.

Councilor Burlingame stated that they are already drinking outside at Cady's and asked if there is a way that they can get out into the parking lot. Robin Tyo replied that there is an emergency alarmed door leading to the parking area.

Eleanor Heuberger asked how many seats would be available outside and if there are any plans to install any noise-buffering barriers.

Robin Tyo stated that she will answer the concerns expressed by P. Colardo and E. Heuberger. R. Tyo stated that last October, there was a large event held there at which there no issues. R. Tyo noted that the outdoor area continued to be used until December with no extra noise or lighting. R. Tyo stated that the reason the windows were open last weekend is because they are in the process of replacing them. Regarding the outdoor seating, R. Tyo stated that there will be various stools, sofas and sectionals arranged for patrons to gather. Councilor W. Steere reminded the applicant that occupancy cannot exceed what is allowed inside the establishment. R. Tyo stated that as far as noise buffers, they have planted arborvitae around the patio area.

Bruce Payton stated that cars are sometimes parked on Route 44 which makes it difficult to see oncoming traffic when exiting Lake Washington Drive. Chief DelPrete stated that he has not received any complaints. B. Payton stated that he will provide pictures.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone else wished to be heard. Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

Discussion:

Councilor G. Steere stated that the applicant has addressed the concerns of the Association regarding occupancy, lighting and hours of service. Councilor G. Steere pointed out that this application is just to serve outside, not to allow entertainment. Councilor G. Steere expressed his opinion that nothing is going to change that much from what is already allowed.

Councilor Burlingame stated that this would allow them to better service their customers and if they only serve outdoors from noon to 7:00 p.m., he would be in agreement. Councilor Burlingame also noted that if there is a problem with regard to noise, the Council can address it right away.

Councilor G. Steere stated that a probationary period was suggested, but all of these applications are granted with the contingency that if there is a problem, the activity will end. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Tyo's have made a good-faith effort to change the image of Cady's over the years.

Councilor Sette stated that he does not object to the outdoor service, however it is important that noise must be contained to preserve the neighbors' quality of life. Councilor Sette stated that if it becomes a problem, the Council will revisit the matter.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town Council has grown leaps and bounds with regard to what is allowed at different establishments. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has a good track record of being business-friendly, but he questions where does it stop. Councilor W.

Steere stated that if we grant something here, other establishments will come forward to request the same thing. Councilor W. Steere noted that this applicant has a good track record and the Council has granted several expansions, but he does not feel comfortable at this time with outdoor service because it is another use to monitor.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to GRANT the request for an expansion of liquor sales to a designated outdoor area contingent upon:

1. Police Chief approval
2. The use be allowed only in the designated area previously approved for the consumption of alcohol
3. The same laws and rules regarding Alcohol Service Certification that apply to indoor alcohol servers are to be strictly enforced.
4. The indoor and outdoor capacity may not exceed the indoor posted capacity.
5. Any violations of use may result in all outdoor uses being revoked by the Town Council acting as the Licensing Board.
6. Outdoor exits must be closed and monitored at all times
7. There will be no additional lighting
8. Outdoor sales will be allowed during the hours of 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and Monday holidays.

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: W. Steere

MOTION PASSED

X. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2015
- B. Tax Collectors: 2004 Receivable Tax Roll & 2003 and 2004 Tax Sale Fees

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council minutes for March 19, 2015 and to APPROVE the Abatements to the 2004 Receivable Tax Roll in the amount of \$22,565.68 the 2003 Tax Sale fees in the amount of \$189.25 and the 2004 Tax Sale fees in the amount of in the amount of \$215.35; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XI. Unfinished Business

A. Bds. & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - b. Conservation Commission
 - (1) Three year term to expire 1/2018
 - (1) Three year term to expire 1/2016
 - (1) Alternate (one year term) to expire 2/2016

Councilor W. Steere stated that the chair of the Committee stopped in today to tell the Clerk his plans for “recruitment” of new members and will be giving out talent bank applications at the Conservation Commissions tree give away.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to remove from the table the appointments to the Conservation Commission until volunteers come forward for appointment; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES

NAYS

MOTION PASSED/FAILED

XII. New Business

A. Gloucester Community Septic Loan Program

Exception for increased cost & debt to income ratio- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere explained that the Council previously approved the debt to income ratio for this resident in June 2014.

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

To: Town Council Members
From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance
Memo: Exception to Debt to Loan Ratio
Date: April 1, 2015

The Town of Gloucester has been advised that a resident is seeking a loan from the Gloucester Community Septic Loan Program. The debt to income ratio has exceeded the town's criteria of 45%. The loan has come to the council and an exception was granted in June 2014. The debt to income ratio at that time was 76%. Subsequently the project costs have been estimated higher.

The revised amount of the loan is for \$23,851 and the loan is for a ten year period. The monthly payment is for \$229.90. The revised income to debt ratio is 81% based on the increased cost. DEM has received a copy of his permit and the estimate from his installer to complete the work. The Gloucester resident requesting the loan is John Florio of 44 Lake View Drive.

Your approval is required for the loan to be granted. Rhode Island Housing community lending processor Lee-Ann Gagnon has indicated Mr. Florio maintains good credit.
(End of memo)

Discussion:

John Florio explained that his monthly payment on the loan will increase by \$100 per month, but he recently refinanced his mortgage resulting in a lower monthly payment and has received cost of living increases on his Social Security and Army pension. Councilor Burlingame stated that the new mortgage amount of \$211,000 is a factor in increasing the debt ratio. J. Florio noted that by installing the new septic system, his house will be valued higher than with the existing cesspool.

Councilor Burlingame stated that the property is assessed at \$204,000. Councilor Burlingame stated that the total of the cost of the septic system and what is already owed on the property is close to \$235,000. J. Florio stated that \$204,000 is only a Town assessment; he feels that the could get \$250,000 for his property. Councilor Burlingame pointed out that the Town is second in line to get repaid if anything goes wrong. J. Florio stated that within five (5) years, it will be a DEM requirement that properties on the water will have to have cesspools replaced with septic systems.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, asked Mr. Florio if he obtained an appraisal when he refinanced. J. Florio replied that he did not get a copy of one, but if they lent him \$211,000, there must have been an appraisal. T. Kane expressed concern that there is not enough equity to satisfy the Town's liability if the bank ever foreclosed on the property. J. Florio reminded the Council members that he has an excellent credit rating.

Councilor Sette stated that there is a risk on our end, but pointed out that this program is in place for the purpose of installing septic systems where they are needed, especially for properties on the water. J. Florio explained that the reason he has to put in a more expensive system is because he is less than 100 feet from the water.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to Grant the second Exception of Debt to Income ratio required for a loan through the Gloucester Community Septic Loan Program for property located at 44 Lake View Dr. Said applicant now carries an income to debt ratio of 81% due to increased cost of the system to be installed;
seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere stated that there are certain situations which warrant the Council to grant exceptions, adding that one of the downfalls of the Western RI Home Repair Program were situations where we had very high income to debt ratios.

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

B. Award Bid: RFP 2015-01 Design/Build - New Transfer Station Building - Discussion and/or action

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

To: Town Council Members

From: Diane L. Brennan

Memo: **Award of RFP 2015-01 Design/Build Transfer Station**

Date: March 30, 2015

The town solicited bids for RFP 2015-01 Design/Build Transfer Station in an advertisement in the Providence Journal on Tuesday November 25, 2014.

There was a mandatory pre-bid meeting held on December 10, 2014. There were eleven individuals representing thirteen companies that signed in on the attendance log. The Board of Contracts opened bids on March 2, 2015. There were two bids received. The bids and amounts were **Adler Brothers Construction, Incorporated** of Greenville, RI for a bid price of **\$797,115** and **The Bailey Group** of Cranston, RI for a bid price of **\$343,146**.

The recommendation for award was done at a Board of Contracts meeting held on March 27, 2015. The recommended vendor is **The Bailey Group** of Cranston, RI for a bid price of **\$343,146**. The director of public works, Gary Treml, had reviewed the bids and has recommended the award to **The Bailey Group**. The price is within the capital budget allocation set aside for this purpose.

(End of memo)

Discussion:

Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, mentioned the huge difference in price between these two (2) bids. G. Treml stated that he met with the president of the Bailey Group on March 20th to discuss the proposal. Present at the meeting were G. Treml, Director of Public Works, Mark Hashway, president of Bailey Group, Jonathan Reid, Project Manager, Bob Dauphinais, Director of Maintenance and Councilor Buster Steere. G. Treml stated that they went over all aspects of the project to ensure that nothing was missed or overlooked by the Bailey Group.

G. Treml stated some of the items discussed were the use of steel beams or railroad tracks in the container pads for the containers to roll on; prevailing wage; will concrete be tested; will someone from Bailey Group be on the project at all times. G. Treml stated we were assured all these items were accounted for in the bid. G. Treml stated they also discussed lien releases from all subs and suppliers.

G. Treml stated two items in the RFP were brought to the attention of Mr. Hashway; the Town requested a 2 year warranty on all workmanship and their (Bailey) proposal referenced a one year warranty to which Mr. Hashway replied if his group was the awarded the project this would be referenced in his contract; and the retainage in the RFP stated 10% when it should only be 5%. G. Treml also stated he questioned Mr. Hashway on pricing for an Owners & Contractors Protective Liability Policy which would cover actions of subcontractors hired by the contractor.

G. Treml stated he believes this to be in the best interest of the Town due to the location of the site and continued traffic through the construction area. G. Treml stated that after review of all scopes of services, and a candid conversation as to how the Town needs this project to run, we were assured by Mr. Hashway that the Bailey Group was up for the task. G. Treml recommended that the project be awarded to the Bailey Group.

G. Treml noted that this is a base price and as the design moves forward, changes may be requested. G. Treml stated that prior to any changes being authorized that may effect pricing he will bring them to the Council for discussion and or approval. Councilor Steere asked if it was "open-ended." G. Treml stated not to go over the budgeted amount. Councilor Burlingame asked how much is allotted in the budget. G. Treml replied approximately \$498,000. Councilor W. Steere asked if the Baily Group is aware of that. G. Treml replied in the negative. G. Treml stated the Town will be purchasing the compactors for around \$30,000.

There was Council discussion regarding the difference in price between the two (2) bidders. Councilor W. Steere stated that it sends up a red flag. Councilor Sette noted that since only two (2) companies submitted proposals, you could get a spread like that in the pricing. Councilor G. Steere spoke regarding the "open-ended" comment that they went over everything at the meeting step by step and everything is in the specs.

G. Steere stated there may be an additional charge pertaining to the concrete pad on which the containers will sit in regards to the grade. G. Treml stated the design people will shoot some grades and advise as to any additional costs, if necessary, which G. Treml will bring back to Council. G. Treml stated he held this meeting to be sure all issues were addressed and he was assured they were on track with what the town wanted.

Dave Steere, Budget Board chair, inquired whether payment performance bonds were required in the bid specs. The response was yes. D. Steere also asked if the bonding company is on the Treasury List, but it was not known. D. Steere asked if the contractor provided references. The response was in the affirmative.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AWARD RFP 2015-01 Design/Build Transfer Station to The Bailey Group of Cranston, RI for the bid price of \$343,146; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, to get an answer regarding the bonding company.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Gloucester Home Repair Program (CDBG) - Discussion and/or action
1. Authorization: Environmental Review

Councilor W. Steere stated that this form is required before CDBG funds can be utilized. In this case, the grant award is for the food pantry and this is considered an activity that is exempt or not subject to the review.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Environmental Review for CDBG Grant # 14/13/28 (\$2,000 for Gloucester Food Pantry); seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Authorization: Contract 2015-2016 Agreement
TOG & R.I. Div. of Planning, Housing and Community Development

Councilor W. Steere explained that this is the contract agreement for the above grant:

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Contract 2015-2016 Agreement between the Town of Gloucester and the R.I. Division of Planning, Housing & Community Development for \$2,000 to be used for the Gloucester Food Pantry;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

D. Gloucester Residents: Tax Exemption Filing Deadlines Exceptions - Discussion and/or action

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that he was contacted by a resident who has previously received the elderly tax exemption, but did not get his application filed before the deadline. Councilor Burlingame read the following into the record:

March 19, 2015
Dear Ted C. Burlingame,

My name is Kenneth M. Lantini, 248 Cranberry Ridge Road, Plat 15-21. It has been over 8

years since I have been receiving elderly tax exemption. It started when I was 65 years old and I am now going on 74. I never received the first letter the Tax Assessor sent out. What was the date the letter was sent out? I was in Florida over 5 weeks. The plane kept on getting cancelled. On February 10, 2015, I got back from Florida. I faced a bushel of mail of all different types.

Also, because I have open fields, I had snowdrifts up to 6 feet deep. The snow was so deep you could not plow with a regular truck. I had to get a backhoe loader to get to my house. I kept on having snow and ice problems on my roof with water backing up in my house which created a mess. Whenever I received important mail in the past, it was certified mail.

When I opened this letter on March 18, 2015, I immediately went to see a notary public on the same day. I also went to the Tax Assessor's office and talked to Jennifer Mooney. I was 2 days late. March 15, 2015 was on a Sunday and I was denied. I always thought there was a law that when you sent a final notice, it must be by certified mail and someone must sign for it.

I am hoping the Town Council will approve the elderly tax exemption.

Thank you very much for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Lantini

(end of letter)

Councilor Burlingame stated that he checked and Mr. Lantini has been receiving the exemption. Councilor Burlingame felt that this is different than somebody who has not had the exemption. Councilor Burlingame stated his opinion that the Council should consider these on an individual basis and recommended that the Council grant the exemption to Mr. Lantini because he did have it before.

Councilor Sette disagreed, stating that last year there were several cases like this before the Council. Councilor Sette stated that the Council established a policy that the date to apply would appear on the back of the tax bill which goes out in August. Councilor Sette further stated that advertisements appeared in both the Bargain Buyer and the Observer.

Councilor Sette stated that a Code Red call also went out regarding the deadline and a notice was posted at the Senior Center. Councilor Sette stated that we did everything we could to get that information out. Councillor Sette stated if someone has had the tax exemption for eight years they know there is a letter coming. Councilor Sette stated the other person hadn't received the exemption in the past and had to go to the Assessor's office to get the form. Councilor Sette stated that he feels that if we approve one, we must approve them all.

Councilor Burlingame stated that last year, a resident came before the Council and stated that he was unaware of the deadline because his tax bill goes to the bank and he never saw it. Councilor Burlingame stated that it is an entirely different situation when it is someone who has already

had the exemption. Councilor Burlingame stated that establishing a deadline for taxpayers who already have the exemption does not make sense in the first place.

Councilor Sette pointed out that a woman came before the Council recently who had the exemption, moved away, then moved back to Town and felt she should get it again, but was denied because of the residency requirement. Councilor Burlingame stated that this is a different story because she never had it. It was stated that she owned the property for 8 years before moving, but did not receive the exemption.

Councilor G. Steere agreed that deadlines must be adhered to, stating that if he were to file late with the Public Utilities Commission, there is a \$500 fine. Councilor G. Steere felt that the property owner who was in Florida should be granted the exemption because he already was receiving it. Councilor G. Steere stated that if somebody who has had it for 8 years doesn't respond, it may warrant a phone call to find out why.

Councilor Burlingame stated that if someone has not responded, their final notice should be sent by certified mail. Councilor W. Steere stated that this is how the Farm, Forest and Open Space notices are sent out. The first one goes by regular mail but if no response is received, a second notice goes out by certified mail. Councilor Reichert asked why taxpayers must apply every year instead of automatically receiving the exemption. Councilor Sette replied that if their income changes, they may no longer be eligible.

Councilor Sette read the back of a tax bill where all the information needed is listed.

Dave Steere commented that the person who has had the exemption for 8 years has less of a case than the person who has not received it at all and may not be aware of the deadline. D. Steere asked if the Council grants this tonight and he comes before them next year with a similar request, how can they turn him down?

Councilor W. Steere stated that there are arguments both ways, but he tends to lean towards Councilor Sette's point of consistency. Councilor W. Steere commented that if we don't stick to deadlines, there is no sense in having them.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he asked the Assessor how many people did not respond and she replied that approximately 20 applications were not returned. Councilor Burlingame stated that he feels that this is a legitimate case for an exception and he recommends approval. Councilor Sette asked if 10 of the other taxpayers come in with a request, will the Council grant all of them? Councilor Burlingame replied that the Council will take them on a case-by-case basis.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the former Tax Assessor had come to the Council with a list of 6 or 8 people who had not responded and asked the Council members if they knew them or whether they had died, moved out of Town, etc.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to GRANT an extension for the application for Senior Tax Exemption for Ken Lantini; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - 3 (Reichert, Burlingame and G. Steere)

NAYS - 2 (W. Steere and Sette)

MOTION PASSED

It was stated that the person who requested an extension at the last meeting has asked for a Council vote.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to DENY the request from T. D'Angelo for the late application for Senior Tax Exemption;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

E. F/G Regional School District

1. Response to Co-Chair Advertising - Discussion and/or action

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that he received an email from a citizen regarding the article which was published by Mr. Cervasio, co-chair of the Foster-Glocester Regional School Committee. Councilor Burlingame stated the citizen is looking for a response from the Town Council regarding statements made by Mr. Cervasio, which in Councilor Burlingame's opinion, were totally political and false.

Councilor Burlingame commented that the surplus figures quoted by Mr. Cervasio are incorrect. Councilor Burlingame stated that we must respond to the article so that people will not think we are "sitting on a 10 million dollar surplus" and reject the budget at the Financial Town Referendum. Councilor Burlingame stated that he would like the School Committee to remove Mr. Cervasio as co-chair due to his conduct and disinformation. Councilor Burlingame stated that we need to put a response in the Bargain Buyer.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Finance Director put together some actual facts and forwarded the following memo to the Town Council:

To: Town Council Members
From: Diane L. Brennan
Memo: Fund Balance Analysis
Date: April 2, 2015

I have prepared some information to review as you consider a response to the open letter to the voters of Gloucester and Foster. I have included the analysis with this correspondence.

In response to the no tax increase in five of the last seven years, I have provided a revenue history of the changes in the three revenue sources. The change in the Town of Foster appropriation, the Town of Gloucester appropriation, and the other revenue sources during the period of 2009- 2016. The last column is the change from one year to the previous year. There was only one year, 2011, that the general fund revenue decreased. In 2011, a year there were many grant opportunities available the revenue was less than the previous year.

In response to the information on the Gloucester surplus, I have provided an analysis to allow you to see how the surplus listed in the advertisement compares to the budget. The reference is a bit of a apples to oranges comparison. The most relevant comparison in the Gloucester case would be to review the current year budget and the current year surplus. Of significance is the statutory requirement in Gloucester to maintain a 12% unreserved fund balance as compared to the **next year budget** amount. The comparison listed is only available after the year has closed.

I have provided a similar comparison for the Town of Foster and the Foster/Gloucester Regional school district. I have also included an average for all three for the same time period. As you evaluate the results, note the size of the budgets for each entity. Gloucester is close to the sum of the two other entities.

While this information is provided to allow you some similar comparisons to data that was presented in the form of an advertisement to the taxpayers, it demonstrates the inappropriate way the analysis was viewed. I have provided the information to give you a sense of what the numbers being quoted and how the lack of full disclosure in analyzing them in this fashion confuse the issue.

The best example would be to look to the last number presented in the Region chart. The fund balance that includes all funds is 112% of the region's budget for the 2008 fiscal year. The number is clearly not all of the picture. The "other funds" includes the funds for capital that were available for capital projects. Certainly not available as a surplus funds for use for general operations.

(End of memo)

Councilor W. Steere stated that this is somebody who clearly has an agenda and is doing this to "get our goat." Councilor W. Steere commented that unfortunately, people will see this disinformation and question what is going on.

Councilor Sette stated that Mr. Cervasio's statements were made to defend his actions at the Regional Financial Meeting. Councilor Sette spoke regarding the fact that Mr. Cervasio went to Dunkin Donuts in Gloucester the next day with the intention of "picking a fight." Councilor Sette stated that the issue at the meeting was why didn't the School Committee take action to reduce the appropriation, adding that they have a \$600,000 capital reserve account, yet still asked for \$146,000 from the people of the two Towns.

Councilor Sette pointed out that we do not collect taxes for a quarter after the bills go out but still have to pay the Region on a monthly basis. Councilor Sette stated that years ago, we took

out Tax Anticipation Notes to pay the bills. Councilor Burlingame stated that we had to pay interest on those notes. Councilor Sette stated that now that we have a surplus, we can pay our bills and save that money.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he is worried that some voters will vote the budget down because they believe we have a 13 million dollar surplus. Councilor Sette stated that we have the opportunity to address it at the Public Hearing which hopefully will be well-attended.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he had two (2) issues with the Regional Meeting; the way the vote was conducted, he feels that it should have been a ballot vote, and that they took \$146,000 from Capital and put it into the Operating Budget, which automatically increases the Maintenance of Effort.

Councilor Sette stated that when it came time to vote, everything happened so fast and there was no opportunity to do anything. Councilor Sette suggested that next year, the first person who gets up to speak should ask for a ballot vote.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the unfortunate part of this is that Mr. Cervasio doesn't care what the Council's response is. Councilor Sette stated that Mr. Cervasio said in an email that he doesn't care about reducing the appropriation for Foster, the town he lives in.

Councilor G. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, if he could publish Mr. Cervasio's email in the Valley Breeze. T. Kane replied that Mr. Cervasio sent the email to numerous people and they are his words, so it would not be slander or libel. Councilor W. Steere stated that he does not want to get into a back and forth with Mr. Cervasio, but he would like to clarify the issue for the taxpayers. Councilor G. Steere concurred that we need to get the truth out.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the open letter from Mr. Cervasio claimed that "a capital lease was paid off early, saving thousand of dollars of interest, however neither town has passed on the savings to the taxpayers." Councilor G. Steere commented that we never saw those savings from the Region.

There was Council consensus that a response must be made. Councilor Sette recommended placing an ad in the Foster Home Journal. Councilor Burlingame stated that he will draft a response and forward it to the Council for review.

Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, spoke regarding the capital lease which was paid off early, stating that the money saved was not taken out of the budget but placed in a technology account. Councilor G. Steere asked where were the savings that we were supposed to pass on to the taxpayers.

W. Steere, Jr. replied that there were none and if Mr. Cervasio said that, he was wrong. W. Steere, Jr. stated that if the Council responds, Mr. Cervasio will respond back. Councilor Burlingame asked why they do not remove him as co-chair. W. Steere, Jr. stated that Mr. Cervasio does this to take attention off the problem, the increase at the Region. W. Steere, Jr. commented that he does the same thing during negotiations to take the heat off the

Superintendent.

Councilor Burlingame expressed his opinion that some parts of the technology expenses are very good, but it seems like the efforts are being duplicated, while at the same time, we are terribly deficient in our language courses. Councilor Burlingame stated that these issues should be explored more deeply at the Financial Meetings, but they are not when there is somebody like Mr. Cervasio moderating the meeting. Councilor Burlingame stated that he is embarrassed that the six Gloucester School Committee members have voted for him to represent the Committee.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to authorize Councilor Burlingame to draft a response to the recent ad placed by the co-chair of the Foster-Gloucester Regional District; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XIII. Council Correspondence/Discussion

- A. Councilor Sette stated that he has been informed that there has been a complaint regarding the new transportation van which was recently purchased. Councilor Sette stated this resident stated that he is wheelchair-bound and could not be transported in the vehicle because it does not have handicap access. Councilor Sette questioned how we could have used federal CDBG money to purchase a vehicle that is not ADA compliant.

Councilor Sette stated that he spoke with Judy Branch, Human Services Director, who commented that the stair used to enter the van was too high and had to be replaced. Councilor Sette expressed concern that it may be unsafe for older residents to be stepping on an unstable surface to step into the van and asked if these things were considered when purchasing the vehicle.

G. Treml stated that the stair used is the one which was used on the previous van. Councilor Sette asked if any consideration was given to making the van handicap accessible. G. Treml replied that we didn't have the funds to do that at the time. Councilor G. Steere noted that there are options available through other agencies that offer handicap transportation.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he wants to make sure that we are not in violation of the terms of the grant. It was stated that ADA compliance was not stipulated. Councilor W. Steere stated that if there are other services available, maybe we shouldn't even have the van. Councilor W. Steere noted that we were told we needed a new van because the two vehicles we have were not safe, however those vehicles are still being used.

Dave LaPlante stated that he was a driver for senior citizens at Waterman Lake. D. LaPlante stated that a van for seniors and a handicap van are two different things. D. LaPlante expressed agreement with Councilor W. Steere that the Town does not have to supply rides for its residents; there are many other inexpensive options such as RIDE. D. LaPlante stated that any equipment you provide increases your liability if somebody gets injured.

Councilor G. Steere commented that when there was discussion concerning replacing the old van, it was stated that we would not have wheelchair accessibility in the new one.

- B. Councilor W. Steere read the following letter from the chair of the Senior Center Board of Directors:

To: Gloucester Town Council
Thru: Ted Burlingame
From: Gloucester Senior Center Board of Directors
Re: Recommendations

After appearing before the Gloucester Budget Board where we had to defend/explain our annual budget requests for 2016, we got to talking about some issues that our board of directors have been questioning for months. The Budget Board recommended that we send a letter to the Town Council recommending two separate issues:

1. All building repairs at the Senior Center be removed from our budget. We believe our building should be treated just like the Town Hall or Police Station.
2. Daily maintenance is imperative at our Senior Center. Sick days or vacation days by the regular DPW maintenance staff leaves our building in an uncomfortable (and sometimes unhealthy) condition. The Board of Directors seeks to have a professional cleaning service come in daily (after hours) to do its daily required maintenance. We believe the cost factor will not have an impact on our existing budget and the steady/regular service will be much appreciated by the board and staff here at the center.

(End of memo)

Councilor Burlingame stated that the Board of Directors has asked him to attend their next meeting to discuss these matters. Councilor Burlingame stated that they wish to hire a subcontractor for the cleaning services which would be a pure increase in cost. Councilor W. Steere commented that the current maintenance employee does a good job and typically, janitorial companies do not give the same level of service. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, pointed out that if a contractor comes in after hours, there won't be anyone to call if something happens during the day. Councilor Burlingame stated that he will get together with G. Treml before the Board of Directors' meeting.

- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from a resident with regard to

litter along the back roads in Town. The resident suggests that groups and individuals be encouraged to adopt a road. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council should respond in some way to the letter. Councilor Sette stated that Earth Day would be a good opportunity to arrange a clean-up.

- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that a Resolution was received from the Smithfield School Committee declaring the month of March "Women's History Month."

XIV. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that there was an effort from the Governor to reach out to the cities and towns with regard to an infrastructure bank which will expand the authority of the Clean Water Finance Agency to allow energy projects for cities and towns as well as roads and bridges.
- B. Chief DelPrete thanked the Council for their concern regarding Sgt. Bertholic who was injured in a serious motor vehicle accident. Chief DelPrete stated that she is doing well and hopes to return to work this week.

XV. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion

None.

XVI. Open Forum

- A. Rose LaVoie mentioned Earth Day and asked if a clean-up could be done before the Preservation Conference on April 25th.

R. LaVoie spoke about the senior tax exemption, stating that she wishes the Council would have compassion for elderly residents who lose track of things.

R. LaVoie pointed out that there are three (3) wreaths remaining on the lamp posts in the Village and asked that they be taken down before Easter Sunday. Councilor W. Steere stated that we can get that done.

R. LaVoie stated that there is an editorial in the Observer this week regarding the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. R. LaVoie stated that the Governor wants to take money from the Council and give it to the Department of Commerce in Providence. R. LaVoie urged the Council to send a Resolution in opposition because Blackstone Valley Tourism has done a lot for Glocester.

R. LaVoie stated that there was another article in the Observer about the Sticks and Stones Conference which will take place in Glocester.

R. LaVoie stated that it should be a rule that the Legislators must read all proposed Bills before they vote on them.

- B. George Charette spoke regarding Mr. Cervasio's open letter, stating that the Council must respond. G. Charette feels that people who wish to live in a rural setting are

getting pushed out of town. G. Charette asked when the Region was established and what is its purpose. G. Charette commented that other cities and towns have their own individual school departments.

G. Charette stated that it is time that the taxpayers get transparency and accountability from people who hold positions on this board. G. Charette objected to having a voice vote at the Regional Financial Meeting and wants to see a ballot vote next year. G. Charette stated that he heard that people who were ineligible to vote screamed "yes." G. Charette stated that if this continues, there will be no taxpayers left in Gloucester to support the schools.

XVII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 10:01p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the May 7, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in
and for the Town of Gloucester on **April 16, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William Reichert and Edward C. Burlingame.

Member Absent: Steven A. Sette

Also present: Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Dave Steere, Budget Board chair; and Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - Agenda Items

A. Rose LaVoie, Wilmarth Road, asked if she would be allowed to speak about Tourism Funding when it comes up on the agenda. Councilor W. Steere replied in the affirmative.

B. Marie Sweet, of Chestnut Hill Road, stated that she received a call from Sarah Zurier of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission. S. Zurier stated that a walking tour which will take place during the Preservation Conference will require the participants to walk on Town property and the Commission is seeking the Council's permission to do so. M. Sweet relayed that the Fire Department and a private landowner have already given permission regarding their property. Councilor W. Steere stated that this will be addressed later in the meeting.

V. Proclamations

A. Earth Day - April 22, 2015

Councilor Reichert read the following Proclamation in observation of Earth Day:

**Proclamation of the Town of Gloucester
#2015-1 Earth Day**

WHEREAS, the Town of Gloucester recognizes that the First Earth Day in 1970 was the beginning of the modern environmental movement which helped shape the values and priorities of an entire generation. As a result of citizen demand, Congress passed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered

Species Act, as well as superfund legislation thereby putting a lasting framework for our future in place; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders, and Gloucester residents in particular, have demonstrated leadership in environmental action and awareness, and have also expected sound environmental action from their leaders; and

WHEREAS, in observation of Earth Day, April 22nd, the Conservation Commission has planned many activities, that include: a trail walk and litter clean-up at Heritage Park in conjunction with the non-profit group, Northwest Rhode Island Supporters of Open Space, the clean-up and maintenance of the historic Gloucester Pound located near the Gloucester Police Station; roadside clean-ups at several local neighborhood areas; maintenance and expansion of the Shady Oak Brook Tree Orchard/Community Garden on Reynolds Road; and the distribution of over 1000 free tree seedlings to Gloucester residents; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day is being recognized in Rhode Island by activities that will take place statewide all month and beyond. The Town Council supports the activities of the 45th year of Earth Day in Gloucester, statewide, nationally, and on a global level, and we encourage our youth and adults alike to take a pledge to keep Rhode Island "Clean and Green"; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town Council and Town Clerk encourage Gloucester residents to participate in neighborhood clean-ups, as well as our Conservation Commission's efforts and celebrations of Earth Day.

Walter M.O. Steere, III, President

Jean M Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Dated this 16th day of April 2015
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Arbor Day - April 24, 2015

Councilor G. Steere read the following Proclamation for Arbor Day:

**Proclamation of the Town of Gloucester
#2015-2 Arbor Day**

WHEREAS, in 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. This holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska and is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, clean the air, produce oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife. Trees are also a renewable resource of wood for our homes and fuel for our fires. Trees in our Town enhance our property, beautify our community, and are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and

WHEREAS, in observation of Arbor Day, April 24th, the Conservation Commission will hold its 41st Annual Tree Giveaway on Saturday, May 2nd where over 1000 tree seedlings, including White Flowering Dogwood, Eastern Redbud, and Colorado Blue Spruce, will be distributed free of charge to Gloucester residents; and

WHEREAS, there are many events planned statewide for the celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day that will help promote and teach our families the value of preserving our environment while providing a fun family experience; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council and Town Clerk of the Town of Gloucester do hereby proclaim April 24th as "Arbor Day" in the Town of Gloucester, and urge all citizens to celebrate by supporting efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and we encourage all to go to www.whatgrowsonri.com to view a listing of statewide events.

Further, we urge all citizens to plant trees and promote this celebration of nature for future generations.

Walter M.O. Steere III, President

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Dated this 16th day of April 2015
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Resolutions

A. Glad Tidings Community Church 25th Anniversary

Councilor Burlingame read the following Resolution:

Resolution #2015-05
Glad Tidings Community Church 25th Anniversary Resolution

- WHEREAS**, Glad Tidings began as a home prayer meeting in 1989 in Chepachet whose members prayed for a new church to boldly proclaim the full gospel message to the community; and
- WHEREAS**, In answer to this prayer, Pastor John Teeter, his wife Trish and family came to Rhode Island from the state of Washington in 1989 to pioneer a new Assembly of God church in the Gloucester area; and
- WHEREAS**, on May 6, 1990 the first service was led by Pastor John Teeter in a rented storefront on Terry Lane with a congregation of 55 in attendance; and
- WHEREAS**, the name Glad Tidings Community Church was chosen based on the theme scripture of Isaiah 40:9 “You who bring good tidings...Lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid”; and
- WHEREAS**, since that time the Assembly grew and met for several years at the Burrillville Middle School; and
- WHEREAS**, in April, 2003 the Assembly broke ground at 111 Victory Highway in Chepachet for a church building which was designed and built in great part by Pastor Teeter and many skilled church members, and was completed in September, 2005; and
- WHEREAS**, Pastor Teeter led Glad Tidings in meeting the Spiritual needs of seniors, adults, youth, and young children in our community and the surrounding communities for the past 25 years, gave food baskets at holidays and as needed to the community, gave use of the building to local organizations such as Girl Scouts and the Carillon Women’s Chorus and other organizations; and
- WHEREAS**, Pastor Teeter formed ecumenical relationships with other pastors in the community, provided work for people requiring community service hours, organized the renovation of a community building at the Villages on Chopmist Hill, and has faithfully served Glad Tidings for 25 years; and
- WHEREAS**, following an accident that caused Pastor Teeter’s retirement in August, 2014, he was succeeded by Pastor Timothy Dzindzio and his wife, Christina;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council and Town Clerk of the Town of Gloucester recognize the contributions made to Gloucester by the Glad Tidings Community Church over their 25 years of faithful service, and hereby encourage our friends and neighbors to join in the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of Glad Tidings Community Church.

ATTEST: By Order of the Town Council

Walter M.O. Steere, III Town Council President	Jean M. Fecteau CMC, Town Clerk
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Dated this 16th day of April 2015
Seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2015
- B. Tax Assessors: Additions & Abatements for March 2015
- C. Finance Director's Report for March 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the Town Council minutes of April 2, 2015; to APPROVE the Tax Assessors Abatements to the 2013 Tax Roll in the amount of \$65.92, the 2014 Tax Roll in the amount of \$707.46; No Additions for March; and to Accept the Finance Director's Report for March 2015; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Bds. & Commissions
 - 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Land Trust
 - (1) At- Large one year term to expire 2/2016
 - Planning Board member

Councilor W. Steere stated that at the Planning Board meeting of April 6, 2015, the Planning Board voted to recommend George Charette to the at-large position on the Land Trust.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to RE-APPOINT George Charette to the Land Trust for the at-large position to expire 2/2016;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to MOVE Agenda Item H. under New Business to this point of the meeting;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

H. Gloucester Community Septic Loan Program

Exception for increased cost & debt to income ration - Discussion and/or action

John Florio stated that he has appeared before the Town Council twice and both times the Council has approved the financing for a septic system on his property. J. Florio stated that at the last meeting, the loan amount had increased and there seemed to be some reluctance on the part of the Town Council.

J. Florio stated that he has a copy of his 2014 appraisal which the bank used when he applied for his mortgage. J. Florio noted that the value could have increased several thousand dollars since then. J. Florio further stated that this appraisal was based on the property having a cesspool, therefore when the septic system is installed, it will further add to the value of the property. J. Florio stated that he hopes this will ease any doubts the Council may have.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to receive and file the report from John Florio regarding property located at 44 Lake View Drive;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

A. Gloucester Code of Ordinance - 1st Reading

Proposed Ordinance Addition: Chapter 247, Section 43, Article XI
Renewable Energy - Tax Exemption - Discussion and/or action.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received a request from the Solicitor regarding the proposed ordinance.

Councilor W. Steere asked if the Council would like to read the ordinance or waive reading and have the proposed ordinance explained by the Solicitor.

(The reading was waived & explained)

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

The Town of Gloucester hereby ordains:

That the Gloucester Ordinances, Code/Chapter of 247, Taxation shall be amended by adding the following section regarding the exemption of taxes for renewable energy systems.

ARTICLE XI

§ 247-43: Pursuant to RI General Law §44-3-21 all renewable energy systems or resources as defined at RI Gen. Laws §44-3-21 and §39-26-5 shall be exempt from taxation as follows:

- A. The additional cost or value of any renewable energy resource or system that is designed and operated to produce the same amount of energy that is consumed at the property where the renewable energy system or resource is located.
- B. The additional cost or value of any renewable energy resource or system designed and operated to produce energy exceeding the amount of energy that is consumed at the property where the renewable energy system or resource is located only after the contractual agreement providing for the exemption of any or all taxes is approved by the Town Council.
- C. This article shall take effect upon passage by the Town Council.

(End of proposed amendment)

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, explained that, per this Ordinance, homeowners who install solar panels on their house would be tax-exempt. T. Kane further stated that if a business, such as a supermarket, installs a solar facility for the purpose of selling the energy back to the grid to offset their energy bill, they would not be taxed. However, T. Kane stated that if someone has a solar farm and totally sells the energy back to the grid, they would be taxed, adding that the current market rate is approximately \$5,000 per megawatt.

Councilor G. Steere asked what would happen if the supermarket used \$50,000 worth of electricity, but the solar facility generated \$75,000. T. Kane replied that the extra \$25,000 would be taxed unless a host agreement is approved by the Town Council. G. Steere stated they would be taxed for the equipment installed for this use, with the first \$50,000 of valuation exempt. T. Kane agreed that is the intent of the proposed ordinance.

Councilor Burlingame stated that it makes sense that a property owner who uses solar for his own power should not be taxed and he also agreed that a business owner should be exempt, provided that an agreement is reached with the Council. T. Kane stated that if energy is not consumed on the property and it is just being sold back to the grid, the whole system would be taxable.

Tim Kane recommended adding a sentence indicating that the Tax Assessor is authorized to adopt a certification process to implement the Ordinance. T. Kane stated that this is the first step in the process and once the Ordinance is adopted, the Council will have the authority to negotiate host agreements. G. Steere questioned what language needs to be added.

T. Kane stated a general sentence allowing the Assessor to adopt a certification process. T. Kane stated that he will work with the Assessor with regard to the wording and will forward the revised Ordinance to the Town Clerk. Councilor W. Steere stated that it would be fine with him to add the sentence.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated for the record that Council Reichert will recuse himself from this matter.

Councilor Burlingame asked for further clarification. It was stated that if a property owner sets up a solar field and is not net-metering, a host agreement would be required. In the case of the supermarket owner who is spending \$50,000 per year for electricity, if his facility gathers \$75,000 worth of power, he does not need to be net-metering to get the benefit of the \$50,000, and the extra \$25,000 would be subject to a host agreement.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to WAIVE the 1st reading and to SET a Public Hearing for the proposed addition to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Renewable Energy - Tax Exemption, Chapter 247, Section 43, Article XI for May 7, 2015; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Burlingame.

NAYS: 0

RECUSAL:Reichert

MOTION PASSED

B. Survey: Voluntary sharing of services by Cities and Towns
Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Lt. Governor is conducting a survey regarding shared services by municipalities. Councilor W. Steere asked if the Council had any input on the subject. Councilor W. Steere stated that there are opportunities with the suggested areas, however there are also challenges and things to be careful of if services are merged.

Councilor Burlingame reviewed the list of suggestions and stated that other than equipment sharing, there is no need to share services with other cities and towns. Councilor Burlingame expressed his opinion that instead of coming down to the cities and towns, the State should take the lead and consolidate some of their departments to save money.

Councilor W. Steere agreed and stated that the State could have one school district with a master contract. Councilor Burlingame stated that many years ago, there was a Northwest Regional Dispatch Center in Johnston that serviced five (5) towns. Councilor Burlingame commented that this is an area that could work but would take a lot of effort to coordinate.

Councilor G. Steere stated that we have a shared services agreement with several other municipalities with regard to Public Works. G. Treml, Director of Public Works, stated that we used to trade sweeping and grading services with Foster, but have not done so in several years. Councilor G. Steere noted that we had an Animal Control agreement with Foster, but they terminated the agreement. G. Steere stated we have had discussion regarding dispatch and other police jobs but it seems everyone wants their own in their station.

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that a cost analysis was done regarding the concept of sharing Police services, but it was deemed unfeasible.

Councilor Burlingame stated there are a few ideas that work, purchasing, energy, etc. but none of the ideas on the survey were for our town.

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that the Lt. Governor's survey was an introduction to several bills which will be introduced to the General Assembly, such as Senate Bill S-0812, which addresses shared services. D. Brennan advised the Council to watch our legislators as bills may be introduced that the Town may or may not agree with.

C. Ancients & Horribles Parade: 2015 plan of events - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that Mike DeGrange requested this item to review his plan for the holiday this year, and to get Council approval.

Discussion:

Mike DeGrange, Parade Committee chair, stated that he has submitted a plan prepared by the Parade Committee for this year's 4th of July festivities. M. DeGrange noted that the Committee is requesting the use of Gloucester Memorial Park and Leja Field for the events. Councilor W. Steere asked if the carnival will be a Kiddie Carnival as it was last year. M. DeGrange replied

that it will be the same as last year's carnival. Councilor G. Steere asked if M. DeGrange had reviewed the property to ensure it is large enough, to which M. DeGrange stated in the affirmative.

Councilor W. Steere asked if the carnival is proposed for four (4) days. M. DeGrange replied that Thursday is not definite, but Friday, Saturday and Sunday are certain. Councilor W. Steere asked if the Committee has spoken with the Police and Fire Chief. M. DeGrange replied that this plan is just to get the ball rolling. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that four (4) days on a holiday weekend would be a strain on Public Safety. Regarding the closing time for the carnival, Councilor W. Steere stated that 11:00 is rather late, and he would prefer 9:00 or 10:00.

There was discussion regarding parking. M. DeGrange stated that there is more off-street parking at this location than at the BGYSA athletic field, last year's venue. Councilor W. Steere suggested that M. DeGrange meet with the Police and Fire Chiefs to discuss traffic, hours and manpower issues. Councilor W. Steere questioned the responsibility for damage. M. DeGrange stated there was no damage or problems with last years site (BGYSA field) but the carnival owners have some liability.

Councilor Burlingame asked M. DeGrange to get the opinion of Public Works and the Police and report back to the Council at their next meeting. M. DeGrange stated that he wanted to present the plan to the Council first so they would not receive the information second-hand.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he has nothing against the carnival on Thursday night, but the Police detail may be cost-prohibitive. M. DeGrange agreed but also stated the Chief was very helpful last year. Councilor W. Steere added that a four-day event would stretch a limited number of officers who still have to monitor the rest of the Town. Councilor Burlingame also felt that having the carnival on Thursday would not be necessary.

Councilor Reichert asked M. DeGrange if he has many volunteers. M. DeGrange replied that there is excellent attendance at Parade Committee meetings and everybody is contributing. M. DeGrange expressed his appreciation of the Committee members.

D. Authorization for sale of assets: Police Department Boat - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere read the following memo from Chief DelPrete:

TO: Honorable Town Council
FROM: Joseph S. DelPrete, Chief of Police
DATE: April 6, 2015
RE: Sale of Police Department Boat

I am requesting to sell the Gloucester Police Department 16 foot 1987 EBBTIDE water craft and trailer with outboard 70 horse power Yamaha engine. This police department asset has not been utilized in over seven years. The boat and engine have been stored during this time at the West Gloucester Fire Department garage and requires yearly maintenance and registration expenditures.

Since this boat is not being utilized for any law enforcement purpose, nor has any money been appropriated for boat patrols, I am requesting authorization by the town council to place *a for sale* advertisement on the Municipal Bids Public Web Site. In the event of any water emergency, police officers can access lakes and waterways through local fire departments, DEM and other police agencies.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph DelPrete
(end of memo)

Discussion:

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, explained that he sees no need to keep this boat as it has not been used in seven (7) years. Councilor Burlingame stated that the boat was acquired as a result of a boating fatality many years ago on Keach Pond, but he agreed that it is no longer needed as the Fire Departments have emergency water craft. Chief DelPrete also noted that there are many lake residents who own boats which the Police could commandeer if necessary.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the sale of the Gloucester Police Department 16 foot, 1987 Ebbtide Water craft with 70 horse power Yamaha outboard engine and trailer through the Municipal Bids Public Web Site;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

Councilor G. Steere asked if the Municipal Bids website is the best place to advertise. Chief DelPrete replied that he has used it before with good results, but stated that he is open to suggestions. Councilor G. Steere noted that other sites such as Craigslist and E-Bay seem to have a wider following. Councilor Burlingame recommended that the Council approve the Chief's request to sell the boat on whatever media the Chief chooses.

Councilor Burlingame withdrew his motion and Councilor Reichert withdrew his second.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the sale of the Gloucester Police Department 16 foot, 1987 Ebbtide Water craft with 70 horse power Yamaha outboard engine and trailer through whatever media/website the Chief deems appropriate;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

E. Authorization: RI Historic Preservation Conference Walking Tour on Town Owned Property - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere read the following into the record:

April 7, 2015
Dear Ms. Fecteau,

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission is preparing for "Sticks and Stones," the 30th Annual Rhode Island Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, to be held in Gloucester on Saturday, April 25. The day-long conference convenes citizens from around the state and region to learn about the latest initiatives in historic preservation and to explore historic places in Gloucester and surrounding communities.

Tour leader Ned Connors has been in contact with you about logistics for the Chepachet River Industry Walking Tour. There are forty people signed up for the tour. We are seeking permission to walk along Lots 3, 46, and 46A on Map 10B. An insurance policy has been taken out for the day's events, including walking tours. If necessary, we could also have participants sign a waiver.

You have offered to bring this request before the Town Council at their meeting on April 16, 2015. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact RIHPHC Special Projects Coordinator Sarah Zurier at 222-4142 or tour leader Ned Connors at 595-0699.

I am very grateful for the Town's cooperation in hosting this event.

(End of memo)

Discussion:

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that requiring waivers would be "overkill" because we have insurance as does the RIHPHC. Councilor G. Steere suggested asking for a copy of their policy. T. Kane agreed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the RI Historic Preservation Conference Walking Tour on Town-owned property, Assessor's Plat 10B, Lots 3 and 46; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

F. Fuel Oil Bid/ Discussion and/or action

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that the current bid will expire on May 31st and she is looking for direction from the Council. D. Brennan stated that there is a cooperative purchasing agreement for participating municipalities which services our area as District 1.

Councilor Burlingame asked what we have done in the past. D. Brennan replied that we have extended a bid which was in place. D. Brennan stated that a third option would be to go out to bid on our own. D. Brennan noted that the price for the cooperative is lower than that of the existing vendor if we choose to extend the bid.

Councilor G. Steere asked if the cooperative is part of the State Purchasing Agreement. D. Brennan replied in the negative, Gloucester is part of a cooperative of communities. Councilor G. Steere stated that the State charges their vendors for diesel fuel and in the past have always been \$1.50 over pump price.

There was discussion concerning the different types of fuel and the prices of each. D. Brennan explained that fuel prices cannot be locked in as the price changes daily.

Councilor G. Steere stated his opinion that we should give our current vendor the opportunity to bid.

D. Brennan stated that in the collaborative the communities take turns being the “lead” community to go out to bid.

Councilor Burlingame suggested that this matter be continued until the first meeting in May to allow the Council to review the options.

Councilor Reichert stated that he will recuse himself from this matter.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to add Fuel Oil Bid Discussion and/or Action to the agenda for May 7, 2015;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere and Burlingame.

NAYS: 0

RECUSAL:Reichert

MOTION PASSED

G. Tourism Funding: Blackstone Valley Tourism - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Burlingame referred to a recent newspaper article regarding Rhode Island tourism which is an example of our Governor giving suburban communities “short shrift.” Councilor Burlingame explained that the Governor wants to increase taxes on hotel rooms and services

which are purchased on the Internet. Beyond that, Councilor Burlingame stated that the State Budget would reduce the amount of money received by the five (5) regional districts and increase funding to the Providence and Newport tourism councils.

Councilor Burlingame commented that this cut would result in the loss of eight (8) jobs on the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, but they would probably add twice that number of new jobs in Providence and Newport. Councilor Burlingame suggested that the Council send correspondence to Senator Fogarty and our representatives expressing our disagreement and stating that we wish to retain our regional tourism council.

Rose LaVoie echoed Councilor Burlingame's sentiments. R. LaVoie stated that Bob Billington has been chair of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council for the past 30 years and she has always supported his efforts. R. LaVoie agreed that letters should be sent to our legislators as well as to the Governor. Councilor Burlingame agreed, stating that the letter should note that the Blackstone Valley was recently designated as a National Park, which is very rare.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to send correspondence to our Senator, Representatives and the Governor outlining our disapproval regarding the proposal concerning the item of Tourism in the State Budget, specifically with the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

H. Gloucester Community Septic Loan Program
Exception for increased cost & debt to income ratio - Discussion and/or action

Moved to earlier in the agenda.

X. Council Correspondence/Discussion

- A. Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk, stated that she has spoken to the publisher of the Foster Home Journal regarding an ad that the Council wished to run. S. Harris stated the publisher has a new policy by which the ad must state who paid for it. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Gloucester Town Council is paying for the ad and it should read as such.
- B. Councilor Reichert spoke about a house fire on Old Snake Hill Road, stating that there was damage to the road caused by the emergency vehicles. G. Treml, Director of Public Works, stated that approximately 1000 feet of shoulder edge was broken up by the trucks. There was discussion regarding who is responsible for the damage. Councilor Reichert stated that Narragansett Electric also had trucks on the scene to disconnect the

power. Councilor Reichert asked if the homeowner's insurance policy would cover the cost of repairs. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that he will look into the matter.

- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Department of Revenue stating that they received our Notice of Proposed Property Tax Rate Change.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that we received a letter from the RI DOT with regard to the period lighting in the Village. Councilor W. Steere stated that they repaired the damage caused by severe winter weather and have now transferred ownership of the lights to the Town.
- E. There was discussion regarding the Council's response to Mr. Cervasio's open letter to Gloucester and Foster voters. Councilor Burlingame stated that he received a phone call from Mr. Cervasio during which Councilor Burlingame pointed out that Mr. Cervasio's numbers were not right and it may cause problems at our first Financial Town Referendum if voters have disinformation.

Councilor G. Steere commented that he places some of the blame on Dr. Barnes, Superintendent, stating that Dr. Barnes started the conversation regarding Gloucester's surplus. For those who had not seen the letter, Councilor Burlingame explained that Mr. Cervasio accused the Town of Gloucester of having a 13 million dollar surplus which is not true. Councilor Burlingame stated that our surplus is approximately 15%, 12% of which is required by Charter to avoid having to pay tax anticipation notes to cover cash flow during the summer months.

Councilor Burlingame noted that the remainder is designated for future expenditures such as post-employment benefits for retirees, revaluation reserve, snow removal accounts, etc. Councilor Burlingame stated all those things are designated for future specific expenses, which is why we have an AA+ credit rating.

Councilor Burlingame spoke regarding the Regional Financial Meeting, stating that next year, the first vote on the floor will be to have a paper ballot as opposed to a voice vote. Councilor Burlingame stated he received many telephone calls from people stating the meeting was outrageous and that non residents were yelling out their votes.

XI. Department Head Report/Discussion
None.

XII. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion

- A. Mike Ahnrud, Conservation Commission chair, thanked the Council for their support regarding the Proclamations for Arbor Day and Earth Day. M. Ahnrud mentioned that the tree seedling giveaway is scheduled for May 2nd, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in front of Town Hall.

M. Ahnrud reported that there are two (2) potential candidates to fill the vacant positions on the Conservation Commission. M. Ahnrud expressed hope that the names will be brought before the Council for appointment in May.

XIII. Open Forum

- A. Rose LaVoie thanked Gary Treml for removing the Christmas wreaths from the light poles in the Village. R. LaVoie also complimented the staff at the Transfer Station, stating that they are very helpful.

R. LaVoie stated that on Monday night, the Gloucester Heritage Society will have Bessie Lindenbaum's biography read by Stacy Swift. R. LaVoie extended the invitation to anyone who is interested.

R. LaVoie complimented the Town Council for the letter which appeared in the Bargain Buyer.

R. LaVoie asked if the senior transportation policy is only for medical appointments and shopping. Councilor Burlingame replied in the affirmative.

- B. Regarding the Transfer Station, Councilor Burlingame reported that our recycling has gone up to 34.8%, which is close to our goal of 35%. Councilor Reichert stated that he appreciates R. LaVoie's comments regarding the Transfer Station employees because there were some nasty things on Gloucester's Facebook page concerning the staff.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he was told that in Massachusetts, they are prohibiting food service establishments and schools from putting food waste in the trash to keep it out of the landfill. G. Treml stated that he hasn't heard anything from the State, but this would be a huge undertaking.

G. Treml spoke regarding two of the options Resource Recovery is considering to keep them viable, probably in July: Pay as You Throw (which would eliminate our tipping fees) or increased tipping fees.

- C. There was discussion regarding trash along the side of the roads in Town. Councilor W. Steere stated last weekend he did a clean-up from the bridge on Chestnut Hill up to Pine Orchard. Councilor W. Steere stated they ended up with two recycling bins and one trash can filled. Councilor Reichert stated that he spoke with Chris Hebert about having the Boy Scouts help in cleaning up the litter.
- D. Walter Steere, Jr. spoke about the fuel oil bid, stating that we have been lucky with our current vendor. W. Steere, Jr. stated that unless there is a significant saving, he would recommend continuing with the current supplier whom we know and trust.

Walter Steere, Jr. spoke about the Town's surplus, stating that Councilor Burlingame is correct that money is assigned for certain purposes; however, the Council recently voted to transfer funds from the snow plowing account to the paving account. W.

Steere, Jr. commented that the funds are not permanently assigned as the Council can change it whenever they wish. Councilor G. Steere asked if that was what they did at the Region to make up for a deficit budget. W. Steere, Jr. replied that it is the same at the Region.

XIV. MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5.a (2) Potential Litigation- Discussion and/or action
 - B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5.a (2) Potential Litigation - Pension - Discussion and/or action
 - C. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5.a (5) Land Acquisition - Discussion and/or action;
- seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XV. Reconvene Open Session

Disclose votes taken in Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to SEAL the minutes of Executive Session and to disclose that two (2) votes were taken in Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

XVI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 9:58 p.m.; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the May 7, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council held in and
for the Town of Gloucester at Ponaganset High School on **April 25, 2015**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William Reichert; Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; and David Steere, Budget Board chair.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Budget 2015/2016

A. Operating & Capital Improvement Budgets
Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere declared the Public Hearing OPEN and explained that the Public Hearing is to review and discuss the budget, as recommended by the Budget Board, for fiscal year 2015/2016.

Councilor W. Steere stated that David Steere, Budget Board Chair, will review the Town budget as proposed & Diane Brennan will review the local school budget.

Councilor W. Steere also stated there will be time for all questions after the budget is explained.

Dave Steere, Budget Board Chair, stated that this year the process is different from past years as the voters have approved changing the process to an all day referendum instead of a Town Financial Meeting. Dave Steere explained the differences between the new process and the old process of adopting a budget.

Dave Steere reviewed the budget as presented and stated he would only touch on areas where there may be changes.

Highlights:

Salaries & Fringe Benefits (which includes FICA, pension, health care, workers comp. & longevity.)

Salary increases for police, clerical staff, police and dispatcher as agreed upon in union contracts and therefore are non-negotiable:

Police: 2.75 % increase based on classification (all classification increase by \$1553.00)

Dispatchers: 2.3% increase

Clerical: 2.1%-2.5% increase based on job class

Non-union management staff: 2.75% increase

Non-union staff: 2.5 % increase

Health care increase of 9% and Dental an increase of 15%

D. Steere asked if there were any questions on salary and benefits: none

Town Council expenses: Contingency increased by \$1,000 for a total of \$11,000. Dave Steere explained what that account is typically used for.

D. Steere explained within that budget there is a proposed new line item for filming Council meetings for \$750.

Board of Canvassers: Dave Steere explained that this budget fluctuates up and down between years as it reflects an election season.

This budget reflects a total budget for \$14,203 which is a decrease this year of \$7,148.

Probate Court: same as previous year

Building/Zoning:

Decrease of \$12,093 shown due to change in hours for (new) Building/Zoning official & a health care coverage change from the last person to hold this position.

Fees: Building/Zoning reviews are done by a neighboring Building Official until state certification is rec'd by the Town's employee so funds have been added to cover these fees.

Operating expenses: There is a \$400. increase to pay for a cell phone requested by that office. Overall there is a decrease to that departments budget of \$10,148.

Planning Department:

Also, reflects a decrease in hours (started with new Planner) which is reflected as a salary of \$46,238, a reduction of \$19,905, with no longevity, and with fringe benefits of \$25,688. Overall this budget shows a decrease of \$17,080. This position currently includes a single health care plan.

The Comprehensive Plan is adequately funded so this item is reduced down to \$1,500 for a savings of \$3,500

Boards & Commissions:

Community Resource & Planning Board: no increase

Zoning Board: additional \$471.00 (12 mtg. from 9 mtg..)

W. Steere, School Committeeman, questioned longevity for employees.

D. Steere explained this benefit had been eliminated for new hires some time ago. The benefit was explained and discussed.

There was a question regarding the Police line item for longevity being doubled.

D. Steere stated the reason for that increase is a result of negotiations and supported by binding arbitration.

D. Steere stated that Conservation Commission, Land Trust, Legal Services, & Town Sargent all level funded.

W. Steere, School Committeeman, questioned why Land Trust is projected to overspend their budget.

D. Steere stated a percentage of Realty Tax Stamp income goes to the Land Trust and they maintain their own budget.

Finance Office:

There are a few small additions and deductions, overall an increase of \$2,254

Treasurers Office

A change to Payroll services, increased by \$2,000

Audit services increased by \$4,000

Personnel: Advertising is up by \$1,300 due to cost of advertising.

Tax Collector:

Tax Collections fee increase is an addition of \$1,000.

Tax Assessor:

Revaluation funds have been previously placed in a Reserve Account, (it is felt that said account is adequately funded, therefore that line item is proposed to be reduced to \$5,000 for a \$20,000 savings in the budget.)

Public Safety:

Propane costs are increased by \$1,000 due to the cost of propane per gallon.

Cost for supplies for a copy machine & office supplies are included (not previously funded)
\$1,500

Other Purchased Service: an increase of \$5,000 to move a propane tank next to the Police Station (underground) and is funded for a one time expense.

Service Contracts: An increase of \$3,000 to cover equipment that has service contracts.

Police Equipment, Non-office: An increase of \$12,000 due to cost of digital recorder.

Discussion followed on a new proposal: Portable Radio/Mobile Replacement Program: estimated costs are approx. \$100,00. The Chief had indicated that he wants to start putting funds aside to

offset expenses. The Chief is also trying to obtain grants which would decrease this line item if grants were obtained.. (\$66,000 put away this year)

L. Neidel-Gresh questioned grant funding for the digital recorder.

D. Steere explained if a grant is sought and rec'd that line item would be decreased.

Animal Control: Several items reduced based on past usage.
Reduction of \$2,100

Public Works:

Directors Office: Increase of \$110 for Travel.dues
Overall an increase of \$4,802.

Highway: Propane increase shown of \$4,800 (cost increase times # of gallons)

Safety Equipment: Other Purchased Services; Road Signs; & Misc. Expense
reduced due to past usage last few fiscal years.

Snow Removal: D. Steere explained past practice of Snow Removal Account.

Expense for past winter \$232,000, will reduce the reserve by \$182,000.

D. Steere stated we are hoping to add \$150,000 into Storm Account for 2015.

W. Steere questioned how much is in the snow reserve account now and did we receive federal funds for any of those storms.

D. Steere stated some reimbursements were received and there is an application due by May 1st for federal funds.

D. Steere stated the balance in the Reserve Account is \$358,404.

Maintenance Division: Other Purchased Services has a decrease of \$9,100 which was for a one time expense.

J. DiPietro questioned what the one time expense was.

D. Steere stated it was to fix Winsor Park tennis courts, but D. Steere stated he did not know if those repairs were made yet.

Repair/Maintenance/Construction there is a one time expense of \$21,200 which is a \$6,200 increase for a one time expense to fix the bulk head at town hall.

Tools: There is also a one time expense of \$3,000 for a portable generator.

Maintenance: Overall there is a proposed budget of \$50,100 which is an increase of \$1,100

Maintenance: Vehicle & Equipment

Other Purchased Services: \$17,500 which is a \$4,000 increase for a flat bed.

Gasoline: \$80,000 which is a reduction of \$10,500

Lubricant Oil: \$9,000 which is an increase of \$1,000

Diesel: Budgeted at \$72,223 which is a decrease of \$6,000

Repair Parts: \$110,000 an increase \$17,500

Tires & Tubes: \$13,000 Decrease of \$11,200 for a one time purchase of tires

Operations: Total budgeted \$315,373 which is a \$5,000 decrease from current fiscal year

Waste Disposal: \$6,000 Propane which is an increase of \$1,200

Diesel: \$ 27,700 which is an increase of \$7,923

Other Purchased Services: decrease of \$1,000 for the monitoring of the land fill/soil testing

Recreation

Wages slight increase (which reflect minimum wage) bringing them to \$61,159

Operating shows two small increases

Senior Center:

Wages: \$4,500 for interim Director in anticipation of the Senior Center Managers sick time coming up for a decrease of \$4,000 for an overall decrease in salaries of \$1,703.

Operations

Purchased Services: \$9000, increase of \$1,000 to cover a one time expense of resurfacing pool tables.

Slight decrease in Nutrition program

Total \$168,323 which is a decrease of \$1,524.

Human Services: no change

Town Hall

Other operational: Increase of \$3,000 for electricity (period lighting & town hall)

Increases for Security measures result in an increase of \$2,300 for the installation of security cameras interior and exterior

Advertising cost is increased by \$2,500 due to rising costs.

Negotiations: Budget in an extra \$10,000 for a Personnel study & evaluation.

Transfer to health care \$17,850 for a \$18,100 decrease

IT: Last three items in budget: Server Replacement Program , work station/laptop replacement, & software conversion. D. Steere discussed a proposal from IT for funding over a five year period. The project is expected to cost approx \$190,000 to fund and to putting \$7,500 aside in a Reserve will allow the funding of \$62,500 this year.

Aide Requests were discussed at this time: Gloucester Manton requested an additional \$9,005.

Cultural Services: no change

Social Services: Down by \$1,000 (Gloucester Seniors did not apply for funding)

There was discussion (question by R. Lavoie) regarding the request made by the Heritage Society for matching grant funds in the amount of \$15,000 and a request to support the Blackstone Valley Tourism Heritage Corridor. R. Lavoie stated \$1,000 will not “break the bank”.

D. Steere stated there is a total of \$6,930,733 for municipal expense which is a \$153,945 increase. Under Education: Gloucester School total for Operation is \$9,570,627, with Revenue at \$3,198,592, for an amount to be funded by the town of \$6,372,035 which is the same level since fify 2009. D. Steere explained the maintenance of effort, therefore, \$6,372,035 would be the base number and spending is at the discretion of the school comm.

W. Steere spoke about the schools surplus.

Changing surplus and student population were discussed

D. Steere asked if there were any questions on the Gloucester School budget. none

D. Steere stated the Regional Budget works out as follows: Gloucester's share of Operating Cost is \$8,783,302 which is an increase over last year of \$308,494. Gloucester's share of Debt Service \$1,249,059 which is an increase of \$31,078.

D. Steere stated this budget represents a total for education of \$16,404,396 which is an increase of \$339,572. which overall is 70% of entire budget.

R. Lavoie asked how many children we are educating, and how much the cost was per student.

J. DiPietro stated it is approx. \$14,000 per pupil.

(Someone, asked about bench marking information. That individual was referred to the R.I.D.E. website for further information)

D. Steere explained the two Special Appropriations

The first being the reserve for student proration, fluctuating. D. Steere stated the Town saved \$ 72,000 this year ,but to allow for those spikes, proposing \$75,000 should it be needed if future years.

Secondly, the Town purposes putting \$80,000 in a Reserve Account for purchase/maintenance of recreation fields.

R. Lavoie questioned the amount of recreation funds.

Councilor Sette questioned the funding of fluctuation of students in a set aside only because he doesn't want to put \$75,000 more for the school to spend.

Discussion followed on the special appropriation and school spending.

Discussion also followed on the spending of special appropriations and how commitments will be made for certain uses. Councilor Sette and J. DiPietro discussed and stressed the need to follow procedure when funds are Reserved for a specific use.

D. Steere explained the Capital Reserve Fund which is a 2% set aside (by Charter) at \$508,794. D. Steere outlined the Capital Budget Expenditure program totaling this amount: Highlights: Town Hall includes items for renovations & Geo Thermal supplemental expenses; & Public Works includes Road work, Hot Box for patching, and maintain & refurbish new/used trucks and equipment.

W. Steere questioned Geo-Thermal and questioned how much the system is going to cost and if it is cost efficient. W. Steere questioned if this is a winning proposition. Councilor G. Steere explained why more funds are needed. D. Steere explained the budgeting up to this time.

Discussion followed on the original company that did the work on the Geo-Thermal and the overall project.

T. Kane is still working to recoup losses from the original geo-thermal company.

W. Steere asked where the funding is coming from for the transfer station. D. Steere explained that money has been reserved over time.

Discussion followed, again, on the different ways the budget is adopted and participation of the residents.

D. Steere reviewed the Debt Service: Gloucester Schools: \$60,488 and Non-School: \$508,052 for a total of \$568,540.

D. Steere summarized as follows: All items included: Total Expenditure are at \$27,766,055. Total Revenues include: Municipal \$437,000; Gloucester School \$3,198,592; Other \$2,724,433 for a total of \$6,360,025.

D. Steere explained the Adjustments in the Amount to be raised by Taxes and the Amount to be raised by taxes total is proposed at \$21,204,030. The proposed tax rate for residential property would be 22.12% which represents a 0.35% increase.

Councilor W. Steere stated the next step is for Council to adopt the budget which will be done before May 1st and once adopted the ballots will be prepared for the all day Financial Town Referendum, May 19th, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Gloucester Senior Center.

Discussion followed, again, on the process.

W. Steere explained the process on Thursday, again, and everyone gave their opinions.

Councilor W. Steere declared the Public Hearing CLOSED

VI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 3:45 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the May 21, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a Special meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **April 30, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; Steven A. Sette and Edward C. Burlingame.

Member Late: William Reichert (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

Also present: David Steere, Budget Board Chair; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Gary Tremel, Director of Public Works; and Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

IV. Budget 2015/2016 - Discussion and/or Actions

1. Amendments to Budget Board recommended budget - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Steere stated we are hear to discuss the budget of 2015/2016 that was proposed to the public by the Council at the Financial Public Hearing last Saturday, April 25, 2015.

Councilor Steere questioned if any Councils had any proposed amendments.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame questioned if any of the other Council members wanted to discuss allocating the Heritage Society funds in the budget. Councilor Burlingame stated they had asked for \$15,000. Councilor G. Steere stated he had considered allocating \$5,000 in the budget to the Heritage Society for matching grant use by the Society.

D. Steere, Budget Board stated they did make a request to the Budget Board.

Councilor W. Steere stated he wasn't sure about giving "seed money" to a non town organization but that he had thought about adding an allocation for the Blackstone Valley Heritage Society.

Councilor W. Steere stated later on the agenda Council needs to consider what to do with a donation made by the State Preservation Society.

D. Steere, Budget Board Chair, stated that when they came before the budget board there were several concerns, using tax dollars to fix up a privately owned building was not a justifiable use of tax dollars. D. Steere explained the entries under Aid Requests, Social Services.

Councilor Sette stated he knows there was discussions about funds for matching grants, but that the town wouldn't be able to match grants for the Society either, so they may need to do fundraisers.

Discussion followed on past practices.

All agreed not to amend that section.

Councilor W. Steere asked if there were any other proposals. None.

2. ADOPT 2015/2016 Budget for Financial Town Referendum - Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADOPT the 2015/2016 Budget to be presented to the voters at Financial Town Referendum, May 19, 2015, as follows: Total Appropriations \$27,766,055 for an amount to be raised by taxes of \$21,204,03; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: none

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

V. Financial Town Referendum - Discussion and/or Action

1. Ballot questions

A. Discussion

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk, Finance Director, & Solicitor have been working on the ballot questions and asked for them to give an over view.

T. Kane stated there has been a lot of ideas and drafts and review of state law.

T. Kane stated Questions 1, 2, & 3 are all he recommends for the ballot.

Councilor Burlingame stated he agrees that all other questions were rights the tax payers obtained through Financial Town Meeting, which is no longer in effect. Councilor Burlingame stated "We can now go into Charter and clean up the items that are now by acts of Council Resolutions."

Councilor Sette questioned if the budget is approved and special appropriations are not, do we make adjustments.

Councilor Burlingame stated even though questions 3 & 4 are out of the expenditure side that could be addressed with an adjustment to the transfer from surplus.

Councilor W. Steere read the ballot questions for the record:

Question #1

Shall the Town Budget for fiscal year 2015/16 appropriate a sum of \$27,766,055 which includes Municipal Services; Capital Expenses of \$508,794; Gloucester School Dept. Operating & Capital Expenses; Gloucester's share of the Foster/Gloucester Regional Operating & Capital Expenses; and includes a Levy to Property Tax not less than \$21,204,030 nor more than \$21,254,030

The next two questions are the result of special appropriations:

Question #2

Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of a \$75,000 Reserve for future student population proration from the Foster/Gloucester region?

Question #3

Shall the Town Budget include a \$80,000 Reserve for the purchase/maintenance of Town recreational fields?

Councilor W. Steere asked if everyone was comfortable with this decision.

D. Brennan questioned, for the record, if by law, Council can authorize the purchase of Tax Anticipation Notes. T. Kane stated law allows for this authorization by Council.

Councilor Sette questioned if any of the language restricts the Town from operating as it currently does. T. Kane stated that only the over all budget amount is being approved.

Councilor Sette questioned , in regards to the two referendum questions, if those funds would be restricted for the stated purpose only and could not be used for any other purpose. T. Kane agreed.

D. Brennan stated the Fund Balance Policy calls for that level of restricting funds, once committed by the voters it can only be undone by the voters.

Consensus was the questions were straight forward as is.

B. Adopt language for ballot questions

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to ADOPT the following language for May 19, 2015 ballot placement:

Question #1

Shall the Town Budget for fiscal year 2015/16 appropriate a sum of \$27,766,055 which includes Municipal Services; Capital Expenses of \$508,794; Gloucester School Dept. Operating & Capital Expenses; Gloucester's share of the Foster/Gloucester Regional Operating & Capital Expenses; and includes a Levy to Property Tax not less than \$21,204,030 nor more than \$21,254,030,

Question #2

Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of a \$75,000 Reserve for future student population proration from the Foster/Gloucester region?

Question #3

Shall the Town Budget include a \$80,000 Reserve for the purchase/maintenance of Town recreational fields?

Seconded by Councilor Burlingame

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere asked if the first question had to have all those categories broken down. T. Kane stated he was not so sure we do. Councilor Sette stated we are just telling our voters what is included in that budget.

Discussion followed on whether the Capital Expense amount was necessary, as it is included in the total sum of \$27,766,055.

J. DiPietro stated the voters are voting on a capital program not the dollar amount and questioned if that has now changed.

T. Kane suggested taking the Capital Expense amount out of the question.

Councilor Burlingame WITHDREW SECOND

Councilor Sette WITHDREW MOTION

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to ADOPT the following language for May 19, 2015 ballot placement:

Question #1

Shall the Town Budget for fiscal year 2015/16 appropriate a sum of \$27,766,055 which includes Municipal Services; Capital Expenses; Gloucester School Dept. Operating & Capital Expenses; Gloucester's share of the Foster/Gloucester Regional Operating & Capital Expenses; and includes a Levy to Property Tax not less than \$21,204,030 nor more than \$21,254,030,

Question #2

Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of a \$75,000 Reserve for future student population proration from the Foster/Gloucester region?

Question #3

Shall the Town Budget include a \$80,000 Reserve for the purchase/maintenance of Town recreational fields?

Seconded by Councilor Burlingame

Discussion:

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Donation to Town - R.I. Preservation Society - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated the R.I. Historical Preservation Society gave the Town a donation, in the amount of \$1,000, for the help they received having their conference in Gloucester last week. The Clerk has forwarded to Council.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere recommended giving the donation to the Heritage Society. All agreed this would be a good use of the donation.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to donate the \$1,000 donation, given to the Town by the R.I. Preservation Society, to the Gloucester Heritage Society; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: none

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Open Forum

1. R. Lavoie, Wilmarth Road, expresses her disappointment that council didn't propose an appropriation for the Heritage Society in the budget.
2. Dave Steere questioned if questions 2 and 3 get rejected does that amount come off the total appropriation of question 1. Councilor Sette stated that amount goes back to the reserve account. Councilor Burlingame stated what should happen is the surplus transfer should be reduced by that amount as that money should not be spent if the voters vote no to the appropriation.

Councilor Burlingame stated that is why residents should attend meetings where these expenses are explained. Councilor Burlingame stated that from a Council view point as a policy we would go forward and reduce the transfer from surplus. Councilor Sette agreed.

J. Dipietro asked if the voters vote yes on question one (but then vote no to question 2 & 3) would the transfer still be 2%. Discussion followed on procedures. Councilor Sette stated at the end of the year that money would go back in the surplus if not agreed upon by the voters.

Education of the voters before the referendum was also discussed.

VIII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the May 21, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council held in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **May 7, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William Reichert; and Edward C. Burlingame

Member Absent: Steven A. Sette

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Tim Inacio, Town Planner; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; and Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - Agenda Items

None.

V. Resolution - Discussion and/or action

A. #2015-06: Rhode Island Ethics Commission's Authority to Prosecute Alleged Conflicts of Interest by Members of the Rhode Island General Assembly

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received two Resolutions from East Greenwich requesting support of their efforts to support legislation and their requests were followed by requests from other communities.

Councilor W. Steere stated the first one is legislation that would give the General Assembly the same oversight by the R.I. Ethics Commission that all elected officials in R.I. have. Councilor Burlingame read the following into the record:

RESOLUTION #2015-06

Regarding Restoration of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission's Authority to Prosecute Alleged Conflicts of Interest by Members of the Rhode Island General Assembly

WHEREAS; Rhode Island's economic well-being depends on the perception within the State and beyond our borders that government decisions are being made without conflicts-of-interest, and

WHEREAS; the people of Rhode Island approved an Ethics in Government Amendment (Article III, Sections 7 and 8) recommended by the 1986 Constitutional

Convention. That amendment declared that “**All elected and appointed officials of the State and local government of boards, commissions and agencies shall be subject to the code of ethics,**” and

WHEREAS; the amendment required the establishment of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission “with authority to investigate all violations of the code of ethics, and to impose penalties, as provided by law,” and

WHEREAS; three justices of the Rhode Island Supreme Court declared in 2009 that the “speech in debate” clause (Article VI, Section 5) made members of the General Assembly immune to prosecution by the Ethics Commission for their “core legislative duties,” and

WHEREAS; despite several recent guilty pleadings by powerful senators and representatives, only members of the General Assembly, among all public officials in Rhode Island, remain immune to prosecution by the Ethics Commission for conflicts of interest, and

WHEREAS; in more than five full legislative sessions since the Supreme Court decision, the General Assembly has not passed any amendment that would allow the people to resolve the question of legislators’ accountability before the Ethics Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gloucester Town Council hereby urges the General Assembly to pass S0056 and H5374, and we request they place on the November 2016 statewide ballot, an amendment to the Constitution of the State that will create an exception to the “speech in debate” clause under which the Rhode Island Ethics Commission will again be authorized to investigate and adjudicate complaints involving alleged conflicts of interest within the General Assembly.

Glocester Town Council
Walter M. O. Steere, III, President
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Town Clerk
Jean M. Fecteau, CMC

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. #2015-07 RhodeMap RI

Councilor W. Steere explained that this legislation would eliminate the RhodeMap RI jurisdiction from the State Guide Plan and Statewide Planning Program. Councilor G. Steere read the following into the record:

RESOLUTION #2015-07

In Support of H 6040, H 6041, H 6042, H 6043, S 816, S 818 and S 820 Regarding the State Guide Plan and Statewide Planning Program and Providing for Municipal Choice as to RhodeMap RI

WHEREAS; the Town of Gloucester, while affirming its support of affordable housing is concerned with new pre-emptions of local zoning and planning authority; and

WHEREAS; RhodeMap RI, through the State Guide Plan, in conjunction with commitments made in certifications to the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), would result in new pre-emption of local zoning and planning authority, and

WHEREAS; H 6051, H 6042 and S 820 would provide municipalities with the choice to opt out of provisions contained in the new state guide plan that exceed the current affordable housing requirements and any related land use provisions, and

WHEREAS; H 6040 and S 816 would prohibit the state guide plan from including provisions that exceed the current affordable housing requirements and related land use in the state guide plan, and

WHEREAS, H 6043 AND S 818 would repeal references to compliance with the state guide plan relative to local comprehensive plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gloucester Town Council hereby strongly urges the General Assembly to pass House Bills 6040, 6041, 6042, and 6043, and Senate Bills 816, 818 and 820 as these bills will allow cities and towns to maintain some degree of land use authority in their own communities.

Glocester Town Council
Walter M. O. Steere, III, President
seconded by Councilor Burlingame

Town Clerk
Jean M. Fecteau, CMC

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Public Hearings

A. Gloucester Code of Ordinance - Discussion and/or action

Proposed Ordinance Addition: Article XI; Chapter 247, Section 43
Renewable Energy - Tax Exemption

Councilor W. Steere stated that this ordinance amendment was introduced with a first reading on April 16, 2015 and the Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on April 23, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if anyone wished to be heard.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that he would like to wait until the next meeting when Councilor Sette will be present. Councilor G. Steere noted that he will recuse himself from this matter.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to CONTINUE to the meeting of May 21, 2015 the Public Hearing regarding the proposed ordinance addition: Article XI; Chapter 247, Section 43 Renewable Energy - Tax Exemption; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Gloucester Licensing Board

1. Proposed New Victualing License - Discussion and/or action

a. Applicant: David Dualan d.b.a. Fusion Catering
Owner: Gloucester Country Club
Location of Business: 121 Wentworth Avenue

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on April 16, 23, & 30th, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if anyone wished to be heard. The applicant was not present.

Discussion: None.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to GRANT the application of: Applicant: David Dualan d.b.a. Fusion Catering, Location of Business: Gloucester Country Club at 121 Wentworth Avenue contingent upon: 1) payment of all Town taxes; 2) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 3) Police and or Fire inspection approval as needed; 4) Health Department approval; 5) Food

Manager Certificate; 6) Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; 7) copy of current menu to remain on file in Clerk's Office; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid to November 30, 2015;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere asked Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, if he had any issues with regard to this application. Chief DelPrete replied in the negative.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Regular Meeting minutes of April 2, & 16th, 2015; & Town Council Special Meeting minutes of April 25th, & 30th, 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council Regular Meeting minutes of April 2nd, & 16th and the Town Council Special Meeting minutes of April 25th & 30th, 2015;

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

It was noted that the Special Meeting minutes are not ready for approval. Councilor Reichert withdrew his motion and Councilor G. Steere withdrew his second.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council Regular Meeting minutes of April 2nd and 16th and to TABLE the APPROVAL of the Town Council Special Meeting minutes of April 25th and April 30, 2015; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Bds. & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action

- a. Conservation Commission

- (1) Three year term to expire 1/2018

- (1) Three year term to expire 1/2016

- (1) Alternate (one year term) to expire 2/2016

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Chair of the Conservation Commission has brought two names forward and Talent Bank applications have been submitted to the Clerk's Office.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPOINT Tom Yanni to the Conservation Commission for a three year term to expire 1/2018;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPOINT Kyle Swanton to the Conservation Commission for a three year term to expire 1/2016;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the appointment of a one year alternate on the Conservation Commission until volunteers have applied; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Ancients & Horribles Parade: 2015 plan of events - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Chair of the Parade Commission was to come back to Council after this plan was reviewed by police & fire chiefs.

Discussion:

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that the plan was submitted to him for his review and comment. Chief DelPrete stated that he has spoken with Fire Chief Dauphinais who has indicated that he will issue the necessary permits for the fireworks on Friday night at Gloucester Memorial Park.

Councilor W. Steere stated that there had been questions concerning Thursday's activities and the hours of the events. Councilor W. Steere expressed his opinion that 11:00 PM is too late for a "kiddie carnival." Chief DelPrete stated that on the night of the fireworks, he is okay with 11:00 PM because it would keep people at the venue and avoid everybody leaving at once, causing traffic congestion.

Councilor W. Steere asked if parking has been addressed yet. Chief DelPrete replied that they are working on it. Councilor W. Steere asked if private property owners need insurance to allow parking on their property. T. Kane replied that it is up to the property owner. There was discussion concerning parking on Adelaide Road, which is a right-of-way. Chief DelPrete stated that this will also be addressed.

Councilor G. Steere asked Chief DelPrete if he has discussed Police details with the Chair of the Parade Committee. Chief DelPrete replied that the Police Department may be maxed out that weekend and may have to get an outside source for assistance. Councilor W. Steere stated that he feels that Thursday is not a good idea as it would be a strain on Public Safety because there are other parts of Town to monitor, such as the campgrounds.

Chief DelPrete commented that the Committee may decide to have a bigger fireworks display than last year because Gloucester Memorial Park is a better location. Chief DelPrete noted that this would have to be approved by the State Fire Marshal. Councilor W. Steere expressed concern about where people will sit to view the display because much of the area will be taken up by the carnival.

Chief DelPrete stated that he will have answers to the Council's questions at the next Town Council meeting.

IX. New Business

A. Bid Award: RFP 2015-02 Audit - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere read the following memo to the Town Council from the Town Clerk:

Town Council,
The Board of Contracts and Purchases received 4 bids for the 2015 Audit following the advertising and RFP process.

The Board, consisting of Diane Brennan-Finance Director; Jean Fecteau-Town Clerk & Jane Steere-Tax Collector, met after the bids were reviewed as follows:

(From the minutes of the meeting of May 6, 2015):

The State of Rhode Island recommended the town use a committee of three and the method to review the bids submitted for the Town of Gloucester Audit. The committee included Diane Brennan-Finance Director; Jacky DiPietro-Finance Administrative Aide; and Kathy Haines-Director of Finance, Foster/Gloucester Regional School District. They used a scoring representing overall qualifications and experience of the firm and the specific personnel to be assigned to do the audit. It also looked at audit approach/strategy and firm capacity.

The following bid was the highest scorer:

Baxter, Dansereau & Assoc LLP
207 Quaker Lane, Suite 203
West Warwick RI 02893

2015	2016	2017
\$29,690	\$30,320	\$30,320

J. Fecteau made a motion to recommend award of the bid to Baxter, Dansereau & Associates LLP contingent upon State of Rhode Island approval. J. Steere seconded.

Approved by all.

(End of insert from minutes)

The Board of Contract and Purchases recommends the award go to Baxter, Dansereau & Associates, LLP.

Discussion:

It was stated that the recommended firm provided audit services last year and they did a good job.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AWARD RFP 2015-02 Audit to Baxter, Dansereau & Associates LLP for the bid price of \$29,690 for 2015 Audit; \$30,320 for 2016 Audit ; and \$30,320 for 2017 Audit, pending State approval; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- B. Proposed Policy Amendment (Finance) - Discussion and/or action:
1. Fund Balance Policy

Councilor W. Steere stated that the amendment recommended by the Finance Director is an amendment to reflect the change to Financial Town Referendum (May 19th).

Discussion:

Councilor G. Steere asked if this is just to change the wording from Financial Town Meeting to Financial Town Referendum. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, explained that part of the audit requirement for GASB is to determine how funds are committed.

D. Brennan further stated that now that there is no Financial Town Meeting, the voters are the highest authority to make the commitments of the \$75,000 and \$80,000 appropriations on the ballot.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to AMEND the Fund Balance Policy to reflect the changes created by the change of a Financial Town Meeting to a Financial Town Referendum; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Discussion/Action RE:

1. Fuel Oil Bid

Councilor W. Steere read the following memo from the Finance Director:

To: Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan
Subject: Gasoline/Diesel Fuel
Date: May 6, 2015

The bid for gasoline/diesel fuel is to expire May 31, 2015.

The state of RI purchasing agent group went to bid collectively for the purchase of fuel. The bid was awarded by the Smithfield Town council to the vendors listed on the bid tabulation sheet. Smithfield was the town that tabulated and received the bids on behalf of the cities and towns throughout the state. The prices are based on the geographical regions throughout the state. The incremental charges are as listed for each type of fuel on the bid tabulation form.

The low bidder for the Town of Glocester for **Unleaded, Unleaded Plus, Super Unleaded, and New Ultra Diesel** fuel is **Peterson Oil** of Worcester, MA. The incremental cost for **New Ultra Diesel** is **\$.0400**. The price for all other fuel types from **Peterson Oil** is **\$.0650**. The low vendor on the **Winter Diesel** and **#1 Premium Diesel** is **Superior Plus Energy Srvs** of Providence, RI for an incremental price of **\$.0421**.

The current award for fuel is to **Reichert and Sons Fuel Oil, Inc. Oil** of Chepachet, RI for a incremental price over the posted price of **\$.085** per gallon. The award was for a term of June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015.

The Town of Glocester usage for the current fiscal year is approximately 25,000 gallons for gasoline and 30,000 for diesel. The number will fluctuate annually, but these estimates are based on the past winter usage of the current fleet of vehicles.

(End of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that he understands that Peterson mixes other products, such as

used cooking oil, with their diesel fuel. Councilor Burlingame asked Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, if this affects the performance of the trucks. G. Treml replied that it may negatively affect the trucks. G. Treml stated that he has no problems with the diesel fuel that he receives right now.

Councilor G. Steere noted that Peterson is from out of State and there are stories about bigger companies that are allowed to add 10% vegetable oil to their fuel and are paid a premium by the government for doing so. Councilor G. Steere stated that he works with trucks and equipment and knows what a supply of good diesel fuel is worth.

Councilor G. Steere stated that we have to be careful in this case and suggested that the Council wait a couple of weeks until the matter can be researched. Councilor G. Steere further stated that the current vendor provides personal service and we have never run out of diesel or gas.

Councilor Burlingame stated that the \$.02 per gallon difference amounts to only \$600, and noted that we get good service from our current supplier, to whom he is inclined to award the bid. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the Council would be extending the current contract if that is what they chose to do.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated for the record that Councilor Reichert did not participate in the previous discussion and will recuse himself from the vote.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to EXTEND the present bid with Reichert and Sons Fuel Oil, Inc. to May 31, 2016;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame commented that his reason for the motion is because he is leery about getting diesel fuel with additives and the difference in price is not significant to the overall budget. Councilor G. Steere agreed, stating that you could get into big trouble with bad fuel.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, and Burlingame.

NAYS: 0

RECUSAL:Reichert

MOTION PASSED

2. Heating Oil Bid

Councilor W. Steere read the following memo from the Finance Director:

To: Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan
Subject: Heating Oil Award
Date: May 6, 2015

The Foster/Glocester regional school district went to bid for heating fuel. The bids were returned on May 1, 2015 and the award was made at the May 4, 2015 meeting of the regional school committee.

Two bids were received and the region's recommendation was to the low bidder Reichert and Sons Fuel Oil, Inc. Oil of Chepachet, RI for a incremental price over the posted price of \$.0147 per gallon. The award was for a term of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The recommendation is to piggy-back the award made by the Foster/ Glocester regional district for heating fuel for the Town of Gloucester.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to piggy-back off the bid awarded by the Foster/Glocester Regional School District for heating oil to Reichert & Sons Fuel Oil, Inc. at the price of \$.0147 per gallon over the posted price, term from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, and Burlingame.

NAYS: 0

RECUSAL:Reichert

MOTION PASSED

T. Kane stated for the record that Councilor Reichert recused from the above matter.

D. Gloucester Home Repair - Discussion and/or action

1. Authorization:

CDBG Notice of Intent to Request the Release of Funds / Contract 12/13/26

Councilor W. Steere stated that this is a typical form to be signed by Council President each time there is a request to draw down funds from the state from CDBG funds.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the CDBG Notice of Intent to Request the Release of Funds for CDBG Contract 12/13/26; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

E. Glocester Historic District Commission - Discussion and/or action

1. Authorization: Certified Local Government Annual Report
October 2013- September 2014

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has received a request from Charlie Wilson, HDC Chair, asking the Council President to sign a certified annual report. This report lists the status of the Historic District and the Commission and is reviewed in the event a federal grant is applied for.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the Council authorized this report for HDC last year.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, Certified Local Government Annual Report for October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

F. R.I. Dept. of Transportation

1. Discussion/Action RE: Presentation by D.O.T.

Councilor W. Steere explained that this item is to plan a time at a future meeting for D.O.T. representatives to come and speak to the Council about the proposed two lane/four lane work on Putnam Pike.

Discussion:

Tim Inacio, Town Planner, stated that in April, the DOT had requested two (2) months to prepare the concept plans and will be ready to present to the Council in June. Councilor W. Steere asked if other issues, such as chatter strips on future projects, can be addressed at that time.

T. Inacio replied that the DOT will send representatives to answer those questions. Councilor Burlingame stated that he would like to know if they intend to use chatter strips, because of the havoc it has created on Snake Hill Road. There was Council consensus to schedule the presentation for the meeting of June 4th and to have the Planner convey to DOT which subjects will be addressed.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to invite DOT representatives to the first Council meeting in June to talk about multiple subjects, such as: areas of Putnam Pike which DOT is planning on revamping, Snake Hill Road chatter strips and projects in the Village; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Discussion/Action RE: Snake Hill Road (chatter strips)

Lauren Niedel-Gresh stated that she goes bike-riding on Snake Hill Road and commented that if she did not have heavy hybrid tires, it could be very serious. Councilor W. Steere agreed that whether a person is biking, running or walking, they must be careful of the chatter strips.

G. Public Works

1. Authorization: Purchase of new/used equipment - Discussion and/or action

Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, requested authorization for \$20,000 from his new/used equipment account to purchase a used grader. G. Treml commented that the present grader is 44 years old and he can no longer buy parts for it. Councilor G. Steere asked if \$20,000 would be enough because the ones he has seen are closer to \$30,000.

G. Treml stated that he just needs the authority to bid on something, and if he can't pay for it, he won't buy it. Councilor G. Steere noted that we have purchased several used vehicles at auction and saved money by doing so.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to give authority to Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, to purchase equipment (used grader) for up to \$30,000; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Mail Box Replacement Policy: Proposed Amendment - Discussion and/or action

Per Public Works Director:

Our current Mail Box Replacement Policy is as follows:

In the event a mailbox is damaged as a result of the actions of employees of the Town in the performance of their duties, the Town will either:

- 1) Replace the mailbox with a generic mailbox and post, or
- 2) Provide restitution to the owner in the form of a check up to \$15.00

All claims must be made within a period of seven (7) days from the date on which the damage was sustained by filing a written report in a manner prescribed by the Town.

The Public Works Director would like to amend as follows:

from: "replace the mailbox with a generic mailbox and post or provide restitution to the owner in the form of a check up to \$15.00."

to: "provide restitution to the owner in the form of a check up to \$20.00. only, with no replacement option.

(End of policy)

Discussion:

Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, explained that this amendment would take the Public Works Department out of replacing mailboxes. Councilor Reichert stated that this is what we used to do. Councilor G. Steere commented that it is a normal hazard and the plow drivers are not aiming for the mailboxes. Councilor Burlingame stated that this is a reasonable alternative. Councilor W. Steere agreed, but stated that there are people who are physically unable to do it themselves.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AMEND the Town of Gloucester Mail Box Replacement Policy as follows: to provide restitution to the owner in the form of a check up to \$20.00 only, with no replacement option;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert and Burlingame.

NAYS: W. Steere

MOTION PASSED

H. Town Council/Town Hall July schedule - Discussion and/or action
1. Town Council Meetings in July 2015

Councilor W. Steere had questioned if a Town Council meeting on the regular first meeting of the month in July which would be on the 2nd, was too close to the holiday.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere asked if the Council wished to postpone or eliminate the first meeting of July. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council could have one (1) meeting in July and call a special meeting if necessary to address anything that may come up. Councilor Burlingame stated that years ago, the Council would have one (1) meeting in July and one (1) meeting in August.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to CANCEL the first meeting of the Town Council in July, 2015 and instruct the Clerk to advertise accordingly; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Town Hall recognition of Holiday

Councilor W. Steere stated that Diane Brennan, Finance Director, was questioning if the Council wanted to close the Town Hall on the Friday (which is day before the 4th of July) or follow the State's observance, which is Monday the 6th of July.

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that the Employee Handbook states that we will follow the State's holiday schedule. Councilor W. Steere pointed out that the DPW will be working on the 3rd to prepare for the Parade and asked if they would be entitled to overtime if the holiday was celebrated that day.

Gary Treml stated that his workers can set up on Thursday if necessary. There was Council consensus to stay consistent with the State's schedule and observe the 4th of July holiday on Monday, July 6th.

No action necessary.

I. Appointment(s)

1. Gloucester Senior Center
 - a. Kitchen Aides (as needed) - Discussion and/or action

We have a memo from the Personnel Director:

To: Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan
Subject: Per Diem Kitchen Help
Date: May 6, 2015

The Town of Gloucester advertised for Senior Center per-diem kitchen help. The advertisement appeared in the Bargain Buyer on March 17, 2015. There were six applications submitted.

The Director of Senior Services and the current kitchen aide interviewed the applicants. Based on the recommendation of the director and concurrence with the senior center board chairman the following people are to be considered for the position of kitchen aide.

Stephanie Kain and Patricia Gonyea
330 Saw Mill Road 42 Casino Avenue
Harmony, RI 02857 Mapleville, RI 02839

The appointment would be for at an hourly rate of \$9.00. This position is not eligible for benefits and is to be less than an annual average of nineteen hour a week position. The position will be on an as needed basis in the absence of the director or current kitchen aide employee(s) needed to run the facility. The recommended employees must possess a valid RI Food Safety License.

This recommendation is for consideration at the meeting on Thursday May 7, 2015. The position if approved will be effective immediately to provide coverage for an anticipated upcoming medical absence.

(End of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that he has spoken with the Finance Director and the Senior Center Board of Directors, adding that we are ready to move on this as somebody will be going out on medical leave.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Stephanie Kain and Patricia Gonyea to the position of per diem Kitchen Aide for the Gloucester Senior Center. Said position is at an hourly rate of \$9.00, is not eligible for benefits, is to be less than an annual average of nineteen hours per week on an as needed basis, effective immediately, and is contingent upon the applicant possessing a valid RI Food Safety License; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

J. Street Light Management - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere read the following memo from PRISM (Partnership for R.I. Streetlight Management) re: maintenance of streetlights:

Greetings Rhode Island Municipal Leaders:

We hope to engage you in an important effort aimed at helping cities and towns to provide safe and effective public streetlighting while achieving significant cost savings. If your community is already working with PRISM, this mailing is an update on progress. If we aren't yet working together, we will be contacting you to inform you about PRISM, a RI program that, through its statewide buying power, enables each participating municipality to reduce street lighting expenses by 40 percent – a startling statewide total of \$8 --- \$12 million each year.

PRISM is a statewide nonprofit municipal collaboration to manage municipal streetlights, including ongoing maintenance, service changes, emergency repairs, LED upgrades, and controls installation. The Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) created PRISM as a statewide non---profit partnership after successfully engaging the Rhode Island legislature to pass the Municipal Streetlights Investment Act (now RIGL 39--30) in 2013.

The milestone Act offers municipalities a new way to save money on public streetlight maintenance and upgrades: secure PRISM membership and benefit from lower bid prices through the combined buying power of multiple communities. This is critical, as the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission documents that National Grid has, for instance, charged municipalities \$10.2 million for streetlight services while the related expenses were only \$2.1 million.

In fact, our analysis shows that no private streetlight company can match PRISM's pricing once Rhode Island's municipalities band together. There's a lot more to it than changing bulbs! We have much more information to share with you – a few pages follow for your consideration – and invite any questions you may have. Again, we will be contacting your community within a month with the intent of scheduling a convenient presentation or meeting time.

Many thanks for your time and attention; public streetlights are a major aspect of community safety, use lots of energy, and are expensive, so enabling municipalities to work in concert on achieving savings presents a worthy endeavor.

Sincerely,
Jeff Broadhead Thomas B. Gentz

Executive Director WCRPC Board President
Charlestown Town Council President
(end of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere stated that prior to the installation of the period lighting in the village, we were responsible for one streetlight because the Fire Districts maintained the others. Councilor W. Steere noted that we now have almost 30. Councilor Burlingame stated that our estimated cost for electricity for the lights is approximately \$4,000 per year.

Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, noted that the street lamps are new but sooner or later, they will need to be washed, painted and the bulbs will need to be replaced. Councilor Burlingame suggested that we ask PRISM to look at our specifics before making their presentation. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that they may wish to contact the Fire Districts also.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to contact PRISM regarding Street Light Management; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

K. Financial Town Referendum - Advertising - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that we want to inform the voters about the Financial Town Referendum on May 19th as well as the three (3) questions they will be considering. Councilor W. Steere stated that he feels that the Council should provide an explanation of each question so that the voters understand what each question means.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the questions consist of 1) the actual budget; 2) appropriation for student proration from the School District; and 3) appropriation for future purchase and maintenance of recreation fields.

Councilor W. Steere stressed the importance of informing the voters that the money referenced in questions 2 and 3 is already there and will not be added to the budget. Councilor Burlingame agreed that a statement should be added that these two appropriations will not affect the amount to be raised by taxes.

Councilor Burlingame noted that we must be careful not to complicate it. Councilor Burlingame stated that by setting aside these funds now instead of when they are needed, the baseline of the operations budget will not increase the following year. Councilor W. Steere pointed out that we have been doing this for several years now for each of these situations. Councilor Burlingame

stated that these are very specific questions that cannot be undone unless the voters choose to.

Councilor W. Steere stated that there will be more than one communication between now and May 19th, and suggested that the first communication go over each question with a short description. Councilor W. Steere stated that the next communication could explain what each question really means. Councilor W. Steere also recommended that the Code Red notification system be used for this as well as the Town's website. Councilor G. Steere stated that a signboard could be placed on the Town Hall lawn.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to advertise the Questions proposed by the Town Clerk, with the suggested changes; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

X. Council Correspondence/Discussion

- A. Councilor W. Steere stated that last week's State Preservation Conference, held in Gloucester, was a success and he has received positive feedback from people who attended.
- B. Councilor Burlingame spoke regarding a Channel 10 report where a Gloucester resident complained about their motor vehicle tax and the valuation of their vehicle. Councilor Burlingame noted that valuations are determined by the State and there is nothing we can do about it. Councilor Burlingame stated that we must continue to "make noise" by contacting our representatives.
- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that a report was received from the Budget Board which states that our revenues and expenses through March 31, 2015 are within normal parameters.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received a request from the Budget Board for a legal opinion with regard to funding for non-town entities, such as Little League, non-profit libraries, etc.
- E. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from a citizen concerning his request for tax relief. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that he will send a response.
- F. Councilor W. Steere stated that a memo was received from DOT regarding recent sweeping work to get the Village cleaned up for last weekend's convention. The memo was to acknowledge the Town Clerk's letter of appreciation.
- G. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from a resident regarding the fuel oil bid. The resident expressed support for the current vendor.

- H. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received an invitation from the Gloucester Light Infantry to their Memorial Day Parade to be held on May 25th at 10:00 a.m.
 - I. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Governor's Office asking for the Council's support with regard to her Budget for FY16.
- XI. Department Head Report/Discussion**
- A. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, spoke regarding Resource Recovery. G. Treml stated that the tipping fee will be increasing from \$32 per ton to \$65 per ton. G. Treml further stated that technical assistance is being offered to any city or town that wishes to establish a pay-as-you-throw program for waste collection. G. Treml commented that we must begin thinking about what we are going to do.
- G. Treml stated that the increased tipping fees would total \$102,000 per year. G. Treml stated that they are cracking down at the Recycling Center with regard to contaminated loads. G. Treml stated that he will place a bin at the Transfer Station which will show the items that cannot be recycled.
- Councilor W. Steere noted that tipping fees had not increased since 1992 and now they want to double it at once instead of doing it gradually. Councilor W. Steere also stated that in cities such as Boston, everything is thrown together, so why does Resource Recovery have to be so particular. G. Treml replied that in Boston, they probably burn their trash.
- Councilor G. Steere commented that there is a sign at Resource Recovery that states a \$2,000 fine will be imposed for out-of-state trash, however he often sees trucks from Massachusetts and Connecticut.
- XII. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion**
None.
- XIII. Open Forum**
- A. Marie Sweet, Chestnut Hill Road, spoke regarding the Preservation Conference, noting that there were 519 participants. M. Sweet expressed appreciation to Town Officials and residents who opened up their homes to some of the attendees. M. Sweet stated that several members of the Heritage Society also helped by conducting tours, etc.
- Marie Sweet spoke about the signs at the Land Trust's Steere Farm, stating that it looks like a "war zone." M. Sweet stated that a coyote was sighted on the property and suggested that the signs and bulletin board indicate that.
- B. Councilor W. Steere stated that he also wished to thank all those involved with the Preservation Conference.

C. David Wright, of 95 Pound Road, owner of Mulberry Vineyard, stated that he had a sign in front of the Dog Pound which was damaged this winter and asked if he could put a sign on the rock wall instead. It was stated that this is Town-owned property. Councilor W. Steere instructed D. Wright to submit a proposal to the Town Clerk to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

D. Lauren Niedel-Gresh stated that on April 22nd, Ponaganset was named a Green Ribbon School for their environmental efforts. L. Niedel-Gresh suggested that the Council give recognition for this award in the form of a certificate or proclamation.

L. Niedel-Gresh spoke about the Providence Stadium proposal and asked if the residents of Gloucester will have an opportunity to weigh in. Councilor W. Steere voiced his personal opinion that no taxpayer money should be used for funding the project. Councilor Burlingame agreed, stating that the principals are only interested in a parking garage because they would make money.

L. Niedel-Gresh suggested that it be conveyed to the Governor's office that the Town Council and the Town of Gloucester are opposed to the proposal. Councilor Burlingame stated that he will draft something for the next meeting.

Councilor Burlingame stated that Ponaganset won all categories in their music program. Councilor Burlingame stated that this is a huge accomplishment for which they should be commended.

E. George Charette, of Chopmist Hill Road, spoke concerning speeding cars, trucks and motorcycles on Route 102. G. Charette asked that an unmarked Police cruiser be placed to monitor the situation.

XIV Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5.a (5) Land Acquisition - Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Convene to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5a(5) Land Acquisition;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XV. Reconvene Open Session

Disclose votes taken in Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to reconvene Open Session and to disclose that no votes were taken in Executive Session;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 9:40 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the May 21, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **May 21, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William Reichert and Edward C. Burlingame.

Member Absent: Steven A. Sette

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Dave Steere, Budget Board chair; and Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - Agenda Items

None.

V. PRISM (Partnership for Rhode Island Streetlight Management)- Discussion and/or action

Councilor Sette stated that we have representatives from PRISM here to give the town information on available services.

Tom Gentz, from PRISM (Partnership for Rhode Island Streetlight Management) stated that he is the president of the Charlestown Town Council as well as the president of PRISM in Washington County Regional Planning. T. Gentz explained that the State overspends 7 million dollars annually on their streetlights.

T. Gentz stated that research was conducted and it was found that the State of Massachusetts had passed a law allowing municipalities and fire districts to purchase their streetlights. T. Gentz noted that so far, about 100 municipalities in Massachusetts have done so.

T. Gentz stated that PRISM is a not-for-profit collaboration of municipalities and fire districts throughout the State and is only here to help the taxpayers of Rhode Island. T. Gentz stated that he has looked at the numbers and Gloucester has a payback of 3 months to purchase their streetlights.

T. Gentz explained that after the streetlights are purchased through PRISM, they can be converted to LED's which save about 60 percent on power and provide better light. T. Gentz

stated that the average cost of a streetlight in the State of Rhode Island is \$150, \$95 of which is for maintenance. T. Gentz noted that maintenance through PRISM drops down to \$25.

T. Gentz commented that there are 100,000 streetlights in Rhode Island and PRISM is under agreement for 38,000. T. Gentz stated that if the Town and Fire Districts would give PRISM a dollar per streetlight, \$157 in this case, they would come back with a recommended plan for lighting and maintenance. T. Gentz stated that the projected amount is \$2,200 and the annual savings is approximately \$8,800, which would go back to the taxpayers. T. Gentz stated that he is open to any questions that the Council may have.

Councilor G. Steere questioned the savings of \$8,800 per year, stating that the total electric bill for our streetlights isn't that much. T. Gentz replied that the information he has is from National Grid and the inventory is not accurate. T. Gentz stated that the only way to find out is to ask National Grid for the purchase price and PRISM will help with that. T. Gentz stated that the Town is under no obligation to move forward if they are not interested.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he can't speak for the Fire Districts, but he thinks the Town owns the 27 ornamental streetlights in the Village because they were handed to us by the State. Councilor W. Steere concurred and stated that there is only one (1) other streetlight for which the Town is responsible.

Earl Newman from the Chepachet Fire District asked how much it would cost to purchase the lights from National Grid. T. Gentz replied that the number we have from National Grid is \$2,200 for 157 streetlights. E. Newman stated that the Fire District has 132 streetlights. E. Newman asked what it costs for maintenance after they are purchased and retrofitted. T. Gentz replied that the preliminary streetlight plan will provide more information.

Councilor W. Steere asked if any other communities are involved. T. Gentz listed Providence, West Warwick, Cranston, North Smithfield, Charlestown, and several fire districts and stated that PRISM is in negotiations with almost everybody within the State. Councilor W. Steere asked about maintenance of the period lighting in the Village.

T. Gentz stated that if a streetlight bulb is out, there is a four or five day turnaround to fix it, adding that PRISM will take care of everything. If a pole is knocked down, there is a 2 hour turnaround to de-energize and wait for the power company to put the pole back up. T. Gentz noted that there will be an escrow account to handle knock-downs.

Councilor Burlingame expressed his opinion that this is like an insurance policy for streetlights, which is an extra level of cost over what we would pay if we were to maintain them ourselves. T. Gentz noted that if we were going to maintain them ourselves, we would have to calculate the hourly rate of the DPW crew.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he would like to see a cost analysis before making a decision. T. Gentz stated that if the Town elects to move forward, he will send a participation agreement to the Town Council president.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to authorize PRISM to conduct a study on cost savings regarding the maintenance of our streetlights at a cost not to exceed \$28.00; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Resolution - Discussion and/or action

A. # 2015-08 - Green Ribbon School Award - Ponaganset High School

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council would like to acknowledge the achievements of our students. Councilor Reichert read the following into the record:

**RESOLUTION #2015-08
2015 GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD**

WHEREAS, the Town Council and Town Clerk of the Town of Gloucester would like to congratulate the Ponaganset High School as an honoree of the “**2015 Green Ribbon Schools” Award** given by the US Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, Ponaganset High School was one of the first schools to participate in the Rhode Island Solar on Schools Program, and the twenty (20) photovoltaic panels at the school have been generating electricity for more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, Ponaganset High School has established an indoor air-quality plan and uses natural day lighting installations and energy-efficient windows and lighting; and

WHEREAS, The US Department of Education has honored Ponaganset High School not only as a shining example of energy efficiency but also as a place where students learn to be stewards of our environment. These investments will pay many dividends; such as saving funds for our local community through greater energy efficiencies, and creating an attractive, healthy, and welcoming environment for learning; and

WHEREAS, Ponaganset students have demonstrated renewable energy technologies through innovative projects, such as a fuel-cell powered rock band, an electric fuel-cell vehicle, a vehicle that completed a 7,000 mile road trip using bio-diesel, and a street legal, zero-emission EV-fuel cell Model T; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council and Town Clerk of Gloucester commend the Ponaganset High School students, teachers and school leaders who are an inspiration and deserve the spotlight for embodying strong examples of innovative learning and civic engagement.

Glocester Town Council
Walter M. O. Steere, III, President
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Town Clerk
Jean M. Fecteau, CMC

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. # 2015-09 - Ponaganset High School -World Strides Heritage Music Festival

Councilor G. Steere read the following into the record:

**RESOLUTION #2015-09
PONAGANSET HIGH SCHOOL
WORLD STRIDES HERITAGE MUSIC FESTIVAL**

WHEREAS, the Town Council and Town Clerk of the Town of Gloucester would like to congratulate the Ponaganset High School for winning the overall competition in the World Strides Heritage Music Festival held in Maryland in April 2015; and

WHEREAS, Ponaganset High School High School students competed against 26 other performing groups from seven states ranging from Rhode Island to South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Ponaganset High School's Concert Band, Wind Ensemble and Chamber Chorus took first place in their divisions, earning an invitation to play at a World Strides concert at New York City's Carnegie Hall in 2017 and our Concert Chorus won second place in their entire division; and

WHEREAS, The Ponaganset Music Program has performed remarkably at regional and national competitions over the years. Our students have shown incredible focus, discipline and dedication in creating a musical experience both for themselves and their audience. For this we are extremely proud; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council and Town Clerk of Gloucester commend the Ponaganset High School Music Program and congratulate them on winning "top honors" at the Maryland Music Festival in April, 2015, and we wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Glocester Town Council
Walter M. O. Steere, III, President
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Town Clerk
Jean M. Fecteau, CMC

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Public Hearings

A. **Continued from May 7, 2015**

Glocester Code of Ordinance - Discussion and/or action
Proposed Ordinance Addition: Article XI; Chapter 247, Section 43
Renewable Energy - Tax Exemption

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that Councilor Sette is absent and Councilors Reichert and G. Steere have recused themselves from this matter, therefore this Public Hearing must be continued to a later date. It was recommended that it be removed from the agenda until such time that Councilor Sette is present.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to REMOVE FROM THE TABLE Glocester Code of Ordinance, Addition of Article XI, Chapter 247, Section 43, Renewal Energy- Tax Exemption;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Special Event License - Discussion and/or action

Applicant: Adriana Iannuzzi, Adriana Enterprises, LLC
d/b/a Sticks Tavern

Location: 417 Putnam Pike, Glocester, RI
Proposed Amendment of current Special Events License
(Additional days)

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised on May 7, 2015 in the Valley Breeze/Observer and abutters (300 foot radius) were mailed notice for both items on agenda for Sticks Tavern.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and stated that the Applicant will explain her request, after which the public will be given the opportunity to speak.

Adriana Iannuzzi, applicant/owner, stated that she is asking to add two (2) events in May and two (2) in October, for a total twelve (12) instead of the eight (8) that she originally requested. Councilor G. Steere pointed out that May is almost over. A. Iannuzzi agreed and stated that she will only have one (1) event in May because she is not allowed to have events on consecutive weekends. A. Iannuzzi stated for the record that she always has twelve (12) events per year and will ask for the same next year.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he would be hesitant to allow an event in May since the month is almost over, but he is okay with October. A. Iannuzzi stated that there are still two (2) weekends left in May and she would definitely want to have an event. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that the request for May was brought forward at the last minute.

A. Iannuzzi stated that she has paid for abutters notices and advertising fees, adding that there is no reason why she should not be able to have this event in May. A. Iannuzzi noted that the event would benefit the Town as it is a canned good drive for the Food Pantry.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he has no objection to one (1) event in May as there are two (2) weekends left. Councilor G. Steere stated that there were twelve (12) events last year with no problems.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he would go along with making an exception this time, but going forward, the applicant should come to the Council sooner.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anybody in the audience wished to be heard. Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere pointed out that there is a stipulation that an application must be filed for each event 10 days prior, which would not allow enough time for an event in May. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the Council could waive the stipulation or amend it to 5 days prior.

There was Council discussion concerning the number of events per month and whether to stipulate no consecutive weekends. A. Iannuzzi stated that currently she cannot have events on consecutive days but there is no stipulation regarding consecutive weekends. A. Iannuzzi stated that she would like it to remain that way. Councilor G. Steere stated that in the past, the applicant was allowed 2 events per month over a 6-month period, for a total of 12 events.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to GRANT the request for an amendment to a Grant made for this establishment on December 4, 2014, with the following stipulations: Eleven (11) Bike Runs/Charity Events from May through October for Adriana Iannuzzi, Adriana Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Sticks Tavern, not to exceed a four hour period between 1:00 p.m and 6:00 p.m., no consecutive days in the same weekend and no more than two (2) events per month, including volleyball competitions, subject to conditions approved on December 4, 2015, unless otherwise amended by this motion, and the applicant is limited to one (1) event in May and must file an application at least five (5) days in advance of the May event and ten (10) days in advance of the remaining events;

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert and Burlingame.

NAYS: W. Steere

MOTION PASSED

C. Class B-V Liquor License - Discussion and/or action

Request for: Expansion of Sale of alcohol to Outdoor Area

Applicant: Adriana Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Sticks Tavern

Location of Business: 417 Putnam Pike

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised on May 7th and May 14th, 2015 and abutters notices have been sent.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN.

Discussion:

Adriana Iannuzzi stated that she is asking to serve alcohol outside between the hours of 12:00 and 7:00 on Saturdays, Sundays and holiday Mondays. Councilor W. Steere asked what type of alcohol would be served and if there would be a full bar outside. A. Iannuzzi replied that she would like a moveable bar to be used anywhere on the premises.

Councilor W. Steere asked if the applicant has a map of the proposed service area. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that it would be the same area currently allowed for alcohol consumption, adding that a diagram is on file in the Town Clerk's Office. A. Iannuzzi noted that no alcohol will be left outside; it will be brought in at 7:00 p.m.

Councilor W. Steere asked the applicant how this would help her business. A. Iannuzzi replied that when bike runs or other outdoor events take place, the front bar becomes jammed. A. Iannuzzi added that people enjoy being outside in the summer. Councilor W. Steere asked if glass would be used outside. A. Iannuzzi replied that drinks would be served in plastic.

Councilor W. Steere asked the Council for their thoughts. Councilor G. Steere stated that he feels that nothing will change except that people won't have to go back inside to the main bar to get a drink. Councilor G. Steere noted that the capacity limit would not change. Councilor Burlingame agreed and stated that if there is a problem, the Council will hear about it and can revoke the expansion.

Councilor Reichert expressed disagreement, stating that many of the neighbors feel that more alcohol will be served to a different clientele. Councilor Reichert suggested that the applicant try it for a while with what she already has been granted. Councilor W. Steere stated that it would also lead to less supervision because people will be going back and forth. A. Iannuzzi stated that supervision is not an issue because she has ten (10) cameras outside and she has employees at the door every weekend.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone wished to be heard.

1. Julie Bonoyer, resident of Gloucester, spoke in favor of the application.
2. Rose LaVoie, of Wilmarth Rd., expressed her opinion that she does not see a problem with this request.
3. Aaron Dupuis, of 817 Durfee Hill Road, spoke in support of the expansion.
4. David LaPlante, of Absalona Hill Road ,spoke regarding an incident in the past involving this establishment.

After an argument ensued in the audience, Councilor W. Steere CLOSED the Public Hearing.

Council Discussion:

Councilor G. Steere stated that at this establishment people are already allowed to drink outside; this application would only mean that it could be served outside. Councilor G. Steere stated that it does not really change the scope of the operation and he does not have a problem with it.

Councilor W. Steere pointed out that most of the people who spoke tonight do not live near these establishments. Councilor W. Steere stated that people may believe that he is anti-business, but that is not the case as the Town Council has approved just about everything that is brought before them.

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that both bars attract a different clientele than that of Crystal Lake or other nice restaurants. Chief DelPrete stated that there was a complaint last week regarding Cady's, which was addressed by the Police Department. Chief DelPrete commented that with bikers, there is the potential for problems concerning club activity.

Chief DelPrete noted that there have already been several serious motorcycle accidents in the area. Chief DelPrete stated that Sticks has not been a problem over the last several months, but there is always the potential of serious problems due to the clientele.

Councilor Reichert reiterated his opinion that the applicant can request an expansion next year, but for this year things should be slowed down. Councilor Reichert stated that drinking outside is already allowed at this establishment, and it is not a big inconvenience if people have to go inside to get it. Councilor Reichert noted that the residents in the area have asked him to speak on their behalf.

Councilor Burlingame expressed his view that since Cady's was granted this request, the Council should level the playing field and approve the application for Sticks. Councilor Burlingame stated that if we do it for one and not the other, with no valid reason, it will come back to haunt us.

Councilor G. Steere stated that under the circumstances, the matter should be continued until a full Council is present. Councilor G. Steere noted that it doesn't look like it's going anywhere tonight.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the Public Hearing is closed and we don't know when Councilor Sette will be back. It was stated that all testimony may not have been heard, therefore the Public Hearing should be reopened, then continued to a later date.

It was determined that only one person had left the room but had returned and was then informed of the continuation.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to REOPEN the Public Hearing; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to CONTINUE until July 16th the Public Hearing for the request for an expansion of liquor sales to a designated outdoor area to Applicant: Adriana Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Sticks Tavern, Location of Business: 417 Putnam Pike; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Regular Meeting minutes of May 7, 2015 & Special Meeting minutes of April 25th, & 30th, 2015
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements - April 2015
- C. Finance Director's Report - April, 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPROVE the Town Council Regular meeting minutes of May 7, 2015; the Special meeting minutes of April 25th & April 30th, 2015; to APPROVE the Abatements to the 2007 Tax Roll in the amount of \$58.87, the 2014 Tax Roll in the amount of \$106.89; and to APPROVE the Finance Director's Report of April 2015; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Unfinished Business

- A. Ancients & Horribles Parade: 2015 plan of events - Discussion and/or action

Discussion: Mike DeGrange, chair of the Parade Committee, stated that he has met with the Police Chief regarding concerns which were brought up with respect to 4th of July activities. M. DeGrange stated that Thursday has been eliminated from the carnival schedule and there will be

no parking on Adelaide Road. M. DeGrange noted that the only night which will be open until 11:00 PM will be the night of the fireworks. There was discussion regarding obtaining an insurance rider for the event. Councilor Burlingame stated that it is important that the Town is covered. M. DeGrange noted that the fireworks bids will be submitted soon and will need Council approval.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPROVE the schedule submitted by the 4th of July Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

X. New Business

A. Recreation Department

1. Summer Programs 2015 Employment - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Arts & Crafts Instructor
 - b. Tennis Aide
 - c. Tennis Instructor
 - d. Water Safety Instructor
 - e. Lifeguard
 - f. Water Safety Aide
 - g. Parks & Grounds
 - h. Lottery for Parking Lot Attendants

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received a request from the Recreation Director to fill the positions for the 2015 summer recreation positions.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT:

Arts & Crafts Instructor: Lisa Santamaria at the hourly rate of \$10.50;

Tennis Aides: Jacob Lawrence, Sadie Campanella, Olivia Campanella, Caitlin Coleman, Jonathan Wahl , and Aidan Burke at the hourly rate of \$9.00;

Tennis Instructor: Richard Lawrence at the hourly rate of \$20.00;

Water Safety Instructors: Emma Nadeau and Elizabeth Coburn at the hourly rate of \$14.50;

Lifeguards: Fiona Beltram, Krista Shuckerow, David Glasberg & Elizabeth Coburn (sub) at the hourly rate of \$11.50;

Lifeguards: Faith Belleavoine, Anna Nardelli, Joseph Tammaro & Lee Langshaw at the hourly rate of \$10.75;

Water Safety Aides: Katharynne Hebert, Lucy Contrino, Declan Beltram, Daniel Richardson, Koehl Drexler, & Faith Nadeau at the hourly rate of \$9.00;

Parks & Grounds: Tyler Noury & Joshua Noury at the hourly rate of \$10.00;

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Parking Lot Attendants (by lottery):

Rachael Baker (2)	Marisa Harding (12)
Matthew Plouffe (11)	Jennifer Lawson (1)
Colby Ferretti (5)	Cheyenne McGuire (6)
Mackenzie Ferretti (3)	Andrew San Bento (4)
Tobin Ferretti (10)	Alexi Mangili (9)
Kyle Forgetta (13)	Steve Cunningham Non-Resident (15)
Carlo Gareau (7)	Allan Low Non-Resident (14)
Laura Garvin (8)	

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame asked Anthony Parrillo, Recreation Director, if the facilities are being inspected regularly to avoid the problem which occurred last year. A. Parrillo replied that there are very few people using the facilities because there are only a few keys which cannot be reproduced. A. Parrillo noted that there is a Porta-John on the side of the building. Councilor Burlingame asked A. Parrillo to check on the facilities and to inform the Council of his findings.

Councilor G. Steere asked what is the hourly rate for the parking lot attendants. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, replied \$9.00 per hour. Councilor W. Steere stated that the first six (6) applicants named in the lottery will be hired and the remaining names will be alternates.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to appoint:

1) Jennifer Lawson; 2) Rachael Baker; 3) Mackenzie Ferretti; 4) Andrew San Bento; 5) Colby Ferretti; and 6) Cheyenne McGuire as Parking Lot Attendants, and 7) Carlo Gareau; 8) Laura Garvin; 9) Alexi Mangili; 10) Tobin Ferretti; 11) Matthew Plouffe; 12) Marisa Harding; 13) Kyle Forgetta; 14) Allan Low; and 15) Steve Cunningham as Alternate Parking Lot Attendants;

seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Public Works

1. Authorization: Additional cost to the Transfer Station Rebuild Project - Discussion and/or action

Discussion:

Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, stated that he will be meeting with the Bailey Group tomorrow regarding the electric job. G. Treml stated that he would like to have the pile design and foundation design reviewed by GZA, the company that performed the soil test, at a cost of \$1,500.

G. Treml further stated that he would like to have someone on site when the helical piles are installed, which would be an additional \$4,500 for a total of approximately \$6,000. G. Treml noted that this is the most important part of the project.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$6,000 for review of the pile and foundation design and for supervision during the installation of the piles; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere asked Diane Brennan, Finance Director, where the money would come from. D. Brennan replied the Transfer Station Fund.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Budget 2015/2016

1. Financial Town Referendum Results - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that on Tuesday we had our first Financial Referendum with a turnout of 263 voters, which is five to six times the number of voters we normally had at Financial Town Meetings. Councilor W. Steere read the results as follows:

Question 1

Shall the Town Budget for fiscal year 2015/16 appropriate a sum of \$27,766,055 which includes Municipal Services; Capital Expenses; Gloucester School Dept. Operating & Capital Expenses; Gloucester's share of the Foster/Gloucester Regional Operating & Capital Expenses; and includes a Levy to Property Tax not less than \$21,204,030 nor more than \$21,254,030?

YES - 170 NO - 93

Question 2

Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of a \$75,000 Reserve for future student population proration from the Foster/Gloucester region?

YES - 144 NO - 119

Question 3

Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of a \$80,000 Reserve for the purchase/maintenance of Town recreational fields?

YES - 130 NO 133

2. Process going forward: Budget fiscal year 2015/16- Discussion and/or action

Discussion:

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that in the absence of a Financial Town Meeting, the Council has the authority to set the dates for collection of taxes and the penalty for late payments, which will be done by Resolution at the next Town Council meeting.

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that there are a number of other questions that would have been part of a Financial Town Meeting which will have to be addressed for “housekeeping.”

Dave Steere, Budget Board chair, asked if the defeat of the \$80,000 appropriation will affect the 2% concerning the Capital Budget. D. Steere stated that he believes that something in the Capital Budget will have to be reduced by that 2%. D. Brennan replied that the contribution from Surplus included the \$80,000. Councilor Burlingame noted that the total expenditure number, including Capital, was approved and the total appropriation was approved, therefore we are all set.

Councilor Burlingame commented that the vote was close - only 60% voted in favor of the Budget. Councilor Burlingame stated that there are things that need to be cleaned up in the Charter and we must figure out how to avoid getting “mouse trapped” regarding the Regional Budget. Councilor Burlingame noted that if this Budget had not passed, we would have had to take money out of Town Government because we cannot take it out of the School Budget.

Councilor G. Steere commented that if we took the Town employees and their families, who supported the Budget, out of the equation, the Budget may not have passed.

Councilor Burlingame again stated that with only 61% support of a Budget, we must come up with something to get the message out.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the bigger issue is that people need to understand the impact of the Regional Budget on us and that is the meeting that the taxpayers should attend. Councilor Burlingame agreed and stated that we must think of ways to get the message out between now and next March.

D. Gloucester Home Repair Program - Form Authorizations - Discussion and/or action
1. Environmental Reviews - 2012

Councilor W. Steere explained that each year, projects submitted must have an environmental review form completed. Diane Wrona, Gloucester Home Repair, has requested the forms for 2012 be signed by Council. Councilor W. Steere stated this ensures all projects have completed all required paperwork.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the CDBG Environmental Review 2012 documents;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Request for Release of Funds and Certification - 2012

Councilor W. Steere stated that each year when funds are drawn down from the State's CDBG funds this document is needed to complete the file. Diane Wrona, Gloucester Home Repair, has requested this form be signed by Council President for the 2012 file.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the CDBG Request for Release of Funds & Certification for 2012;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XI. Council Correspondence/Discussion

- A. Councilor Burlingame noted the passing of Sonny Colburn, whose father was a former Council president. Councilor Burlingame stated that the funeral will be held tomorrow.
- B. Councilor G. Steere stated that Ken Johnson, Building Inspector, has taken the ICC Certification Test and missed it by 4 points. K. Johnson would like to take the test again and is requesting that the Town pay the fee of \$168.00. Councilor G. Steere stated that he does not have a problem with authorizing this, adding that K. Johnson is confident that he will pass the test this time. There was Council consensus to authorize the expenditure at the next Town Council meeting.

- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that there was a letter of thanks from the Conservation Commission chair with regard to the appointment of two (2) new members.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that a Resolution was received from the Exeter-West Greenwich School Committee concerning gun-free schools.
- E. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from a resident regarding car tax, asking that Gloucester be the first municipality to get rid of it altogether. Councilor W. Steere stated that unfortunately we would have to find the money elsewhere. Councilor Burlingame stated that he spoke to the resident, who thought the amount was only \$100,000, however the revenue from car taxes is actually \$2 million. There was discussion regarding how the State goes about evaluating vehicles.
- F. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received a proposed diagram for a sign at Mulberry Vineyards.
- G. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received regarding a resident who has abandoned his mobile home. It was stated that this may be on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting. (For info needed)
- H. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from RIEMA regarding emergency response.
- I. Councilor W. Steere brought up the subject of vehicles which are parked on property and are used to advertise businesses. Councilor W. Steere commented that people are trying to get around our sign ordinance. Councilor W. Steere further stated that he saw a tanker truck with nobody in it parked on Town property at the Transfer Station. Councilor W. Steere stated that these issues must be addressed. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the Building Official is aware of one of the vehicles with advertising and is working on the situation.

XII. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, stated that he attended a meeting at Resource Recovery where there was discussion regarding three (3) proposals: the rate increase to \$65 per ton; a Statewide pay-as-you throw program; or a town or city run program. G. Treml commented that the profit share will be way down this year because the price of oil is down.

XIII. Bds. and Commissions/Discussion

None.

XIV. Open Forum

- A. Rose LaVoie commented that she preferred the Financial Town Meeting over the new format, stating that she feels it is more open. R. LaVoie noted that the Budget Public Hearing did not have a good turnout.

R. LaVoie stated the Heritage Society received a grant in the amount of \$25,000 from the Greggson Foundation for the purpose of finishing the museum.

R. LaVoie stated that she received a package of historical photos and documents from Bob Huckins in California. R. LaVoie stated that she is working with the Town Clerk to find a place to display the items.

R. LaVoie spoke regarding Resource Recovery, suggesting that all the cities and towns get together to ask their legislators to conduct a study on the way they do business.

R. LaVoie stated that the Woonsocket call has a Community Calendar and recommended that the Town Council list their meetings and Heritage Society meetings, as well as all Boards and Commissions, on the calendar.

- B. Tom Sanzi extended an invitation to the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25th.
- C. Roy Najecki spoke regarding the Referendum, stating that he was there all day and was surprised how many people said they voted because they or a family member work for the Town. R. Najecki suggested social media as a way to reach people regarding upcoming meetings and referendums.
- D. Walter Steere, Jr. spoke regarding the Recreation Bond, stating that there are not as many kids playing baseball at Acotes as in the past. W. Steere. Jr. commented that most of the time, only one or two fields are being used. W. Steere, Jr. stated that the Council should look into what the Town will need in the future.

W. Steere, Jr. recommended that the Council meet with the Cemetery Association to see if we can get a long-term agreement to continue to use the fields. Councilor Burlingame stated that we are not involved; the negotiations are between the Cemetery Association and the Little League. W. Steere, Jr. stated that if we are going to buy land for recreation, we should get involved as a third party.

W. Steere, Jr. stated that at their last meeting, the Region spent a lot of money on Capital projects. W. Steere, Jr. stated that, as a result, they will be asking for more money for Capital projects in the next budget.

XV. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN to Closed Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5.a (5) Land Acquisition - Discussion and/or action; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Reconvene Open Session

Disclose votes taken in Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor to Reconvene Open Session, seal the minutes of Executive Session and to disclose that votes were taken;
seconded by Councilor

XVII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor to ADJOURN at p.m.;
seconded by Councilor

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the June 18, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **June 4, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William Reichert and Edward C. Burlingame.

Member Absent: Steven A. Sette

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Jane Steere, Tax Collector; and Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - Agenda Items

None.

V. R.I. Dept. of Transportation - Discussion and/or action

A. Presentation & Discussion on projects (past, present, & future) in Gloucester

Councilor W. Steere stated that representatives from D.O.T. are present this evening to discuss projects in Gloucester; specifically the two lane concept with passing and center left turning lanes for the Improvements to Route 44 from the State Highway Garage to Waterman Lake and to discuss the round about project.

Discussion:

Gee Mariam, of the Department of Transportation, stated that they are here tonight to talk about the portion of Route 44 from the State Maintenance Garage to West Greenville Road. G. Mariam noted that the travel lanes are very narrow (10 feet) which is unsafe. G. Mariam stated that the new design concept would be one travel lane in each direction with a left turning lane in the center.

Sean Raymond, Traffic Engineer, stated that his job at the DOT is to incorporate safety to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes. S. Raymond explained "road diets" which involves narrowing or eliminating travel lanes through striping. S. Raymond showed a plan of a road in Portsmouth which is similar to the section of Route 44 previously mentioned. S. Raymond discussed the existing condition of Route 44 and stated that the average daily traffic is 13,000 vehicles, which is less than the 20,000 threshold for installing a road diet.

S. Raymond noted that the speed limit is currently a combination of 45 miles per hour and 35 miles per hour, however a speed study indicated that the majority of drivers are traveling between 50 and 55 miles per hour.

S. Raymond explained the crash history from 2008 to 2014, stating that there were 182 total crashes, 30% of which resulted in injury, with 3 fatalities. S. Raymond noted that the majority of the crashes occurred during clear conditions and a quarter of them happened at night. S. Raymond commented that the highest number of intersection-related collisions occurred at Absalona Hill Road and Saw Mill Road.

S. Raymond went on to explain the benefits of a road diet. S. Raymond stated that this is just a conceptual design and any comments or suggestions by the Council could be incorporated.

Tom Cunningham, Project Consultant, explained the design concept, stating that there will be passing opportunities, center turn lanes and exclusive left-turn lanes wherever possible. T. Cunningham noted that this is a conceptual design and certain aspects need to be finalized. T. Cunningham stated that other factors to be considered are utility easements, land acquisition and environmental permitting for the project.

Gee Mariam stated that the whole concept of the project is the priority of safety. G. Mariam stated that there are two (2) phases in the highway design process. The first phase is the study phase during which input is welcomed, and the second phase is the final design phase. G. Mariam asked the Council members if they had any questions or comments. G. Mariam also stated that he will leave the plans with the Council for their review.

Councilor G. Steere asked if there would be any raised islands in the middle of the road. G. Mariam replied in the negative, stating that there will be painted "flush medians," which are not raised. Councilor G. Steere inquired if there would be chatter strips installed. G. Mariam replied that this project does not include chatter strips.

Councilor Burlingame spoke regarding the chatter strips on Snake Hill Road, stating that they have destroyed the quality of life for the residents of the area. Councilor G. Steere pointed out that chatter strips were included in the Broncos Highway project in Burrillville. S. Raymond stated that they are not proposed for the Route 44 project.

Councilor Reichert stated that he drives a large truck and agrees that the road is not wide enough in Harmony near Cooper Road, therefore he agrees with the new design. Councilor Reichert asked if there is a way to lower Route 44 in the area of Absalona Hill Road to improve the line of sight.

Tom Cunningham replied that the new design will create a more level area and improve the sight distance. G. Mariam noted that lowering the profile of a roadway creates more problems for the abutting property owners. Councilor G. Steere stated that there are only two (2) driveways in that area.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he likes the concept because it addresses the problem in Harmony without putting in four (4) lanes and taking a lot of property. Councilor Burlingame stated that this was an issue twenty years ago. Councilor Burlingame expressed his concern regarding turning left from Chestnut Oak Road onto Route 44 heading west.

Councilor Burlingame also stated that something should be done at Absalona Hill Road so the hill is not so steep. Councilor Burlingame also expressed concern regarding Cooper Road and Saw Mill Road. G. Mariam stated that these concerns will be addressed.

Councilor W. Steere asked when the Department will need the Council's comments. G. Mariam replied that this should not be rushed and he will leave the plans for the Council to review. G. Mariam stated that the Council could take a month to submit their comments. G. Mariam stated that at that point the final design phase would begin. Councilor W. Steere asked when the project would start. G. Mariam replied that the 3.5 mile project design will take at least 1½ years due to permitting approvals and his expectation is sometime in the summer of 2017.

Councilor Reichert asked what the cost estimate is. G. Mariam replied that a very rough estimate is 3.5 to 4 million dollars.

Councilor G. Steere asked where is the actual limit of the project. G. Mariam replied that it is where two (2) lanes change to one (1) lane, before West Greenville Road. Councilor G. Steere commented that the Department did a good job working within the existing road widths.

Councilor W. Steere stated that if anyone in the audience had any questions, they could address the Council who would then ask the representatives from DOT.

Walter Steere, Jr. commented that there is very little pedestrian or bicycle traffic on Route 44 and suggested that the 4-foot shoulder be cut in half and use that for the road itself. W. Steere, Jr. asked if there would be double center lines like on Broncos Highway in Burrillville. W. Steere, Jr. further stated that there are drainage problems on Putnam Pike that have not been rectified with any prior road projects. W. Steere, Jr. stated that there is the same issue at Saw Mill Road. W. Steere, Jr. stated that it would cost more money to fix these problems, but the water ruins the road.

Gee Mariam responded to W. Steere, Jr.'s concerns, stating that 4 feet is the minimum shoulder width to allow for bikers. Regarding the drainage issue, G. Mariam stated that this is a major portion of the final design and he feels that the problems will be corrected.

Councilor G. Steere asked why the proposed sidewalks are five (5) feet wide. G. Mariam replied that the sidewalks must be ADA compatible.

Casey Richards, of Saw Mill Road, stated that it is difficult to turn onto Route 44 from Saw Mill Road. C. Richards asked if the State will have to acquire any land on either side of the road in order to install the turning lane. Tom Cunningham replied that a small segment of Cooper Road will be acquired to widen the road for the exclusive left turn lane. Regarding Saw Mill Road, T.

Cunningham stated that he feels that should improve when a single lane is created, allowing for better sight.

Councilor W. Steere noted that if anyone has any questions within the next three weeks, they can be dropped off at the Town Clerk's office or submitted on the Town's website.

Don Simpson, 150 Lakeview Drive, stated that if you are heading east on Route 44 and turn onto Route 102, there is a curb which sticks out about two (2) feet, causing drivers to hit it. D. Simpson stated his opinion that the intersection of Routes 102 and 44 is a mess and does not even seem to be painted correctly.

Councilor W. Steere thanked the representatives for their attendance at the meeting and their explanation of the project. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council will forward any further questions to the Department of Transportation within the next month, at the latest. Gee Mariam noted that the Council's endorsement will start the final design phase of the project.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to have a five-minute recess; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

A. Approval of Town Council Regular Meeting minutes of May 21, 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the approval of the minutes of the Town Council meeting of May 21, 2015; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. New Business

A. Financial Resolutions for Fiscal Year 2015/2016 - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has prepared resolutions needed to implement the budget for fiscal year 2015/2016. Councilor W. Steere stated these resolutions are necessary because we have changed to Financial Town Referendum and in the absence of Financial Town Meeting these processes, per R.I.G.L., can be authorized by the Town Council.

Councilor Burlingame read the following Resolution to authorize installments for payment and the interest rate for non-payment.

RESOLUTION #2015-10

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ASSESSMENT OF TAXES & THE PAYMENT OF TAXES TO THE TOWN OF GLOCESTER IN INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS

Pursuant to the authority granted by R.I.G.L. 44-5-7, 44-5-8, & 44-5-9 it is

HEREBY RESOLVED:

The Town Council hereby orders the assessment of taxes and said taxes assessed and apportioned on the 31st day of December, 2014 shall be due and payable on the first day of August, 2015. Said tax levy may be paid in four installments. The first to be paid on or before the first day of September, 2015, (the said day or last named day above affixed) and the remaining installments as follows:

Twenty-five (25) per centum on the first day of December, 2015

Twenty-five (25) per centum on the first day of March, 2016

Twenty-five (25) per centum on the first day of June, 2016

Any installment remaining unpaid after the date on which the first installment becomes due and payable shall carry, until collected, a penalty at the rate of 8% (eight) per centum per annum. All taxes not paid on or before the fourth day of January, 2016, other than those who have elected to pay quarterly and are not in default in such payments, shall be collected by said Tax Collector according to law.

By Order of the Gloucester Town Council

ATTEST: Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Walter M. O. Steere III, President
Town Clerk Town Council

Adopted this 4th day of June, 2015

Seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Reichert read the following Resolution that would authorize the Finance Director to borrow in anticipation of taxes:

RESOLUTION #2015-11

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO BORROW ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF GLOCESTER

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2014 the electors of the Town of Gloucester voted to eliminate the Town Financial Meeting process of adopting and implementing a budget; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2015 the Town of Gloucester held its first Financial Town Referendum and the voters of said town, by a ballot vote, passed the budget in total for fiscal year 2015-2016; and

WHEREAS, § 45-12-4 entitled “Borrowing in anticipation of taxes” states “Any city or town by resolution of its city or town council may borrow money in each financial year in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of the annual tax due”; and

WHEREAS, the Gloucester Town Council, in its authority as the governing body for the Town of Gloucester hereby authorizes the Finance Director, Acting as the Town Treasurer, as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town Treasurer be and hereby is authorized during the ensuing period ending June 30, 2016, to borrow from time to time, with the consent and approval of the Town Council, upon such terms as he or she may be able to negotiate, such sum or sums of money as shall be necessary for the payment of the current expenses and maturing obligations of the Town, but not to exceed the sum of \$20,000,000.00 outstanding at any one time, and give the negotiable promissory note or notes of the Town therefor. Such note or notes shall be executed on behalf of the President of the Town Council, and the countersignature of such evidence to all holders of such note or notes, of the consent and approval of the Town Council to the loan or loans evidenced thereby.

By Order of the Gloucester Town Council

ATTEST: Jean M. Fecteau, CMC,
Town Clerk

Walter M. O. Steere III, President
Town Council

Adopted this 4th day of June, 2015
Seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

Councilor G. Steere read the following Resolution which would give the Finance Director the ability to reserve funds or transfer balances according to accounting standards. This authority will become part of the Charter under C7-2. Director of Finance, Sect. 3. Powers and Duties when adopted by Council:

RESOLUTION #2015-12
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FINANCIAL PROCEDURES ON BEHALF
OF THE TOWN OF GLOCESTER

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2014 the electors of the Town of Gloucester voted to eliminate the Town Financial Meeting process of adopting a budget; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2015 the Town of Gloucester held its first Financial Town Referendum and the voters of said town, by a ballot vote, passed the budget in total for fiscal year 2015-2016; and

WHEREAS, certain financial processes may become necessary to ensure the budget passed by the electors is effectively and responsibly implemented and in accordance with G.A.S.B. standards; and

WHEREAS, the Gloucester Town Council, in its authority as the governing body for the Town of Gloucester hereby authorizes the Town Treasurer, on its behalf, as follows:

The Town Treasurer be and hereby is authorized during fiscal year 2014-15 and the ensuing period ending June 30, 2016 to transfer funds/resources from Restricted, Committed, and Assigned Fund Balances to the General Fund in an amount necessary to cover expenditures incurred/related to the purposes pursuant to the constraints imposed on the use of those fund balances, and

A portion of the General Fund Balance shall be reserved for encumbrances outstanding on June 30, 2015; said list of encumbrances (if any) to be submitted by the Finance Director for approval by the Town Council to be re-authorized for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

By Order of the Gloucester Town Council

ATTEST: Jean M. Fecteau, CMC,
Town Clerk

Walter M. O. Steere III, President
Town Council

Adopted this 4th day of June, 2015
Seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

B. Award Bids- Discussion and/or action

1. RFP 2015-03 Fireworks

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received a recommendation for the award of this bid:

To: Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan, Finance Director
Re: **Award of RFP 2015-03 Fireworks for July 3, 2015**
Date: June 2, 2015

The sealed bid for RFP 2015-03 for Fireworks was advertised in the Providence Journal on May 21, 2015. The bids were opened by the Board of Contracts on Monday June 1, 2015. One bid was received. The Board of Contracts met on June 2, 2015 to award the bid to **Ocean State Pyrotechnics, Incorporated of Hope Valley, RI**. The amount of the bid was for \$15,000.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AWARD RFP 2015-03 Fireworks (2015) to Ocean State Pyrotechnics Inc for the bid price of \$15,000.00; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

2. IFB 2015-05 Phone System Replacement (Police Station)

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received a recommendation for the award of this bid:

To: Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan, Finance Director
Re: **Award of IFP 2015-05 Police Station Phone System Replacement**
Date: June 2, 2015

The sealed bid for IFB 2015-05 **Police Station Phone System Replacement** for was advertised in the Providence Journal on May 21, 2015. The bids were opened by the Board of Contracts on Monday June 1, 2015. One bid was received. The Board of Contracts met on June 2, 2015 to award the bid to **Rhode Island Telephone of Warwick, RI**. The amount of the bid was for **\$13,525**. The recommendation was supported by the police department. The price was within the expected cost. The vendor has previously installed

phone systems throughout Town and School facilities. The bid has satisfied all requirements listed in the bid specifications.

(End of memo)

We also have a memo from Matt Floor, IT dept:

To: Diane Brennan, Finance Director
From: Matthew Floor
Date: June 2, 2015
RE: Bid recommendation/Phone system

I would like to recommend Rhode Island Telephone be awarded the contract for IFB 2015-05 *Police Station Phone System Replacement* for a price of \$13,525.50. A variety of solutions were explored to replace the existing water-damaged phone system, including hosted phone solutions and the Avaya IP Office solution was determined to be the most practical and cost-beneficial solution.

Rhode Island Telephone was the sole bidder for this IFB. Their bid response correctly identified all of the components required by the IFB and their pricing was within range of what was anticipated. Their bid response satisfied all requirements of the invitation for bid.

Rhode Island Telephone has previously installed phone systems in the Town Hall, Police Department, Fogarty Elementary School and West Gloucester Elementary School and has provided service to the Town of Gloucester for more than 10 years.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AWARD IFB 3025-05 Phone System Replacement (Police Station) to Rhode Island Telephone for the bid price of \$13,525.50; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere noted that the motion states the bid price of \$13,525.50 but the Finance Director's recommendation states \$13,525. It was stated that the amount in the motion is correct.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Authorization: Payment of Testing for Building/Zoning Official - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that at the last Town Council meeting there was a consensus of the Council to authorize paying for the Building/Zoning Official's second certification test.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the expenditure, not to exceed \$200.00, for the State of Rhode Island Building Official certification test; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

D. Commercial Signage Request for Town Property- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received a request from a resident who would like to post a sign on Town owned property.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that granting this request would detract from the property and further stated that if the Council does it for one business, others would come forward with similar requests.

Councilor G. Steere stated that in some towns in Connecticut, the street signs have smaller brown signs on them with the names of the businesses located on that road. Councilor G. Steere stated that he feels this is a good idea because it helps people find what they are looking for. Councilor G. Steere stated that the signs do not take up any space because they are on the same street sign. Councilor W. Steere suggested that the Council get back to the business owner and propose this type of sign.

There was discussion concerning State jurisdiction. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, agreed that the Council wants to be fair and consistent and if they grant this request, somebody else may ask.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to DENY the proposed sign on the Town Pound property as submitted;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

E. Gloucester Code of Ordinance: Taxation

Discussion and/or action on proposed amendment to: Chapter 247-11, Termination of Exemptions

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that he brought this up because he was asked if someone is already qualified for the elderly tax exemption and they wish to move to another home in Town, will they still be entitled to the exemption. Councilor Burlingame noted that the Ordinance currently states that the taxpayer must live at the property for five years to be eligible and when the property is sold, the exemption ceases.

Councilor Burlingame also mentioned a situation where a resident lived in Gloucester for 25 years, moved out of Town for a year or two, then came back to Gloucester and wanted to become qualified for the exemption. Councilor Burlingame stated that this would not be possible because the person actually changed their residence. Councilor Burlingame stated that he has spoken with the Legal Department regarding adding some wording to the Ordinance which would allow a taxpayer to maintain their exemption if they sell their home and move to another address in Gloucester.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he agrees that this is something that should be spelled out. Councilor Burlingame stated that he would like to schedule a first reading of the proposed ordinance amendment.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the amendment would also allow a two-year window for a property owner to re-establish residency in Gloucester. Councilor W. Steere stated that he is concerned with regard to the two-year window, but there will be an opportunity for discussion at the first reading.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to SET a first reading for June 18, 2015 for the proposed amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance: Taxation, Chapter 247-11

Termination of Exemptions:

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

F. Commuter Parking - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere explained that the former State Police Barracks has been sold to a private party and commuters who park there to use RIPTA bus service will no longer be allowed to do so. Councilor W. Steere stated that he is willing to help out but in his opinion, this is not the Town's responsibility. Councilor W. Steere stated that the commuters could park behind Town

Hall near Dorr Drive, but we must keep spaces available for Town Hall employees and people doing business at Town Hall.

It was stated that the parking spaces in front of the Town Hall have signs that read "Town Hall Business Only" so the commuters would have to park in back of the building, which is designated as "Municipal Parking."

Councilor Burlingame pointed out that these people will not be here in the event that the cars have to be moved, such as to allow plowing. Councilor Burlingame stated that he spoke to the Director of Public Works who stated that a strip along Douglas Hook Road could be paved for commuter parking.

Councilor W. Steere asked what that would cost. G. Treml, Director of Public Works, replied approximately \$5,000. Councilor G. Steere stated that he does not want to spend \$5,000 on this. Councilor W. Steere pointed out that people will complain about other things such as "it is too far away from the bus stop, it is not plowed", etc.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, noted that some of the commuters are already parking behind the Town Hall. J. Fecteau stated that the person who drives the white commuter van to Electric Boat stated that there are four (4) people who ride with him, as well as approximately six (6) commuters who take the bus. J. Fecteau commented that the parking lot is getting crowded, particularly on Wednesdays for the Food Pantry.

There was discussion regarding the liability issues of parking on Town property. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, noted that if someone falls and gets injured in the parking lot, they will go after the property owner.

It was suggested that the Council write to RIPTA regarding the situation. Dave LaPlante also recommended that we consult the Trust, the Town's insurance carrier, regarding the liability issues.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to AUTHORIZE the Town Solicitor to send correspondence to RIPTA regarding commuter parking;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Council Correspondence/Discussion

- A. Councilor W. Steere stated that we received correspondence from the Mayor of Providence regarding proposed legislation concerning overtime for Police and Fire Unions.

- B. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received a letter from Girl Scout Troop 392 asking to appear before the Council on June 18th to discuss ECigs and Vapor Cigarettes being included as smoking in public places. There was Council consensus to add this to the agenda.
- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from Dan Beardsley with regard to the afore-mentioned proposed legislation.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from DOT regarding improvements to the existing crossing at St. Eugene's Church. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the letter states that the Town received the 90% design plans in May but did not respond; however, J. Fecteau noted that she never received the plans. J. Fecteau stated that she now has the plan if anyone wishes to see it, adding that the State should be notified by June 15th if there are any questions or concerns.
- E. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the League of Cities and Towns regarding Legislative Intervention in Local Government Affairs.
- F. Councilor W. Steere stated that an Annual Report was received from The Trust.

IX. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, spoke regarding liquor licenses, stating that some of the establishments now have many types of licenses, each with stipulations. J. Fecteau stated that she is compiling a list for each establishment which will indicate what they are allowed to do and will eliminate any stipulations that no longer apply. J. Fecteau expressed concern that some of the license holders are not aware of their license stipulations. J. Fecteau stated that her office will implement a system to keep track of the licenses and will notify each establishment regarding what they are allowed to do.

Councilor W. Steere stated that when one establishment applies for something, another one comes forward asking for the same thing. Councilor W. Steere expressed his opinion that the Council should do these special licenses once a year and asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, if this would have to be done by Ordinance. T. Kane replied that the Council could either do it by Ordinance or adopt a Resolution. J. Fecteau agreed with Councilor W. Steere and stated that these applications cause a lot of work and the applicants require much assistance with abutters lists, etc. J. Fecteau asked the Council to consider Councilor W. Steere's suggestion.

X. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion

- A. Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, spoke regarding the bid awards on the agenda tonight. W. Steere, Jr. commented that there were only one or two bidders for each item and noted that the same thing happens with school projects. W. Steere Jr. wondered if there is a Statewide publication where RFP's could be advertised to generate more bids.

W. Steere, Jr. spoke about a new program at the Region called "Pathways," where

students take courses designed for a certain career. W. Steere, Jr. stated that eleven (11) applications have been sent in by out-of-town students, which would generate approximately \$160,000 in tuition income for the Region. W. Steere, Jr. stated that an Administrator was hired to oversee the program at a salary of \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Councilor G. Steere asked if the taxpayers will see the savings. W. Steere, Jr. replied "hopefully in the next budget." Councilor G. Steere asked what else the Administrator will do since there are only eleven (11) students interested in the program. W. Steere, Jr. replied that there will be more students enrolled because some of our own students will take advantage of these programs.

Councilor G. Steere stated that it would have been prudent to wait to see what is actually going to happen before hiring an Administrator. Councilor Burlingame stated that the High School has a Principal and two (2) Assistant Principals and asked why doesn't one of the assistants oversee the program.

XI. Open Forum

- A. Marie Sweet, of Chestnut Hill Road, announced that the URI Master Gardeners will conduct a Statewide garden tour on June 20th and 21st which will include the Senior Center Garden and the Medicinal Garden at the Ruben Mason House.

Regarding the RIPTA commuters, M. Sweet suggested that they park on the street in the public parking spaces.

- B. David LaPlante, Absalona Hill Road, stated that two (2) weeks ago, he received a call from a neighbor informing him that there were runaways from Harmony Hill School hiding in his yard. D. LaPlante stated this has been a chronic problem and he has asked the people at the school to notify the neighbors when it occurs, but they have not cooperated.

D. LaPlante commented that this is not a school, it is a detention center for gang members who have committed crimes. D. LaPlante stated that when these people escape from the facility, they break into homes and cars and they start fires. D. LaPlante stated that when he was on the Gloucester Police Dept., they were not notified when there was a runaway; Harmony Hill would call the State Police. D. LaPlante commented that it is only a matter of time before something bad happens.

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that the facility is run by the State DCYF and the Gloucester Police Department is backed up by the State Police, as it is their jurisdiction. Chief DelPrete stated that if he had a list of the neighbors who wished to be notified when there is an incident, the dispatcher can call them or they can be put on the Code Red system.

Councilor W. Steere asked Chief DelPrete if he is always notified of a runaway. Chief DelPrete replied that in most instances, the Police Department is notified. Councilor Reichert suggested that the Town send a letter requesting that the Police Department be

notified of all incidents at the school. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town Solicitor can draft something to that effect. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

- C. Russell Gross stated that Harmony Hill School should have a time limit of no more than 15 minutes to notify the neighbors. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Police Chief should make the calls so the school does not have the neighbors' phone numbers. Russell Gross stated in that case, the Chief should be notified within 10 to 15 minutes.
- D. George Charette spoke regarding the road project and stated that the signs in the Village are mounted on posts with a 45 degree angle brace on the backside. G. Charette stated that he wonders if the State will use the same posts when the signs are replaced. G. Charette expressed his opinion that Gloucester gets the remnants. Regarding the street lamps in the Village, G. Charette stated that when the State said they couldn't be moved, they were not telling the truth. G. Charette noted that five (5) of the lights were knocked down by snow plows because they were too close to the street.
- E. Tom Sanzi thanked those who attended the Memorial Day Parade. T. Sanzi stated that the Gloucester Light Infantry will be performing the Dorr Rebellion and asked the Council for a donation for the purchase of gun powder. Councilor W. Steere commented that several groups have asked the Light Infantry to perform, however they are not willing to contribute. Councilor W. Steere asked how much is needed. T. Sanzi replied the cost is \$325.

Councilor G. Steere recalled giving \$200 for gun powder several years ago. Councilor Burlingame asked if the Gloucester Light Infantry has a budget. T. Sanzi replied in the affirmative, but noted that it was a tough winter and they needed to buy more oil than was expected. Councilor W. Steere suggested funding a portion of T. Sanzi's request from the Council Contingency Fund. There was Council consensus to put the request on the agenda for the next meeting.

- F. Don Simpson read a newspaper article regarding the Ponaganset Music Department and the awards they won at a recent competition. D. Simpson asked if the Council could recognize this achievement. Councilor W. Steere replied that a Resolution was adopted at the last Town Council meeting and forwarded to the School.

XII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5.a (2) Collective Bargaining - Police - Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to convene to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L 42-46.5.a (2) Collective Bargaining - Police; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

XIII. Reconvene Open Session

Disclose votes taken in Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to reconvene Open Session, to seal the minutes of Executive Session and to disclose that two (2) votes were taken in Executive Session; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 10:18 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

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

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the June 18, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **June 18, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William Reichert and Edward C. Burlingame.

Member Absent: Steven A. Sette

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; William Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Jane Steere, Tax Collector; and Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - Agenda Items

None.

V. Presentation: Foster/Glocester Girl Scouts Troop #392

RE: ECigs and Vapor Cigarettes to be included in smoking in public places laws
Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Troop leader has notified the Town Clerk that they need to postpone their presentation due to lack of availability of their members.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to CONTINUE the Presentation by the Foster/Glocester Girl Scouts Troop #392 to a date to be announced;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Reg. Meeting minutes of May 21st & June 4th, 2015
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements, May 2015
- C. Finance Directors Report, May 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPROVE the Town Council Regular Meeting minutes of May 21 & June 4th 2015; No Additions or Abatements to the 2014 Tax Roll; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for May 2015;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

VII. New Business

- A. Authorization: Painting GMP concession building
Parade Committee & volunteers - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the chair of the Parade Committee has offered the services of the Committee members regarding painting the concession building at Gloucester Memorial Park. Councilor W. Steere asked if they would supply their own materials. Councilor G. Steere replied that they would prefer that the Town purchase several gallons of paint but they would be willing to chip in if necessary.

There was discussion regarding whether insurance waivers would be required from the volunteers. William Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor, stated that he will look into the matter. Councilor Burlingame pointed out that there is not much time before the 4th of July and suggested that the Council authorize the request contingent upon approval from the Town's insurance carrier.

Councilor G. Steere commented that the shingles are in disrepair, but since the Committee members are willing to donate their time to paint the building, the Town should supply 3 or 4 gallons of paint. It was agreed the Town would provide the paint.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to give approval, subject to an approval from the Trust and the signing off on waivers by the volunteers;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

B. Gloucester Code of Ordinance:

1st Reading of Proposed Amendment to:

Chapter 247-11, Taxation, Termination of Exemptions - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere explained that this is a first reading for a proposed amendment as follows:

§247-11. Termination of exemptions.

All exemptions shall terminate upon the conveyance of the subject property, death of the person or persons exempted or the moving of such person or persons from the Town of Gloucester, or in the case of a disability exemption when the physical or mental illness is terminated, or when said exempted person (s) otherwise fail to qualify.

Proposed new paragraph: However, notwithstanding any other provision contained herein to the contrary, any owner of real property who at one time was a resident of the Town but has since transferred ownership of said property shall, after reacquiring ownership of real property, be granted a tax exemption upon proof, in addition to that required as set forth above, of the following: ownership and occupancy of said residential property following non-ownership for a period not to exceed two years, provided said non-ownership period followed five years of continuous ownership and occupancy in order to qualify for the tax exemption.

(End of proposed amendment)

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that this amendment takes care of Chapter 247-11, but the wording of Chapter 247-9 will also have to be amended to be consistent. Councilor Burlingame recommended removing Chapter 247-9.C - 2 from that chapter as it may conflict with the change proposed to 247-11.

W. Bernstein expressed agreement that there needs to be clarification as the two sections may conflict. Councilor W. Steere asked if the proposed amendment will have to be re-advertised. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, replied that it has not yet been advertised, however the 1st reading of the amendment of Chapter 247-11 was posted.

J. Fecteau recommended that the Council schedule a 1st reading for the new amendment to Chapter 247-9, then set a Public Hearing for both proposed amendments. Councilor Burlingame pointed out that there is no rush and added that Councilor Sette will be back by that time. J. Fecteau suggested checking for any other sections that may need to be amended as a result of these amendments. It was stated that the new 1st reading will be on July 16th.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to REMOVE the 1st Reading of an amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance; Chapter 247-11 Taxation, Termination of Exemptions; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

C. Gloucester Light Infantry
Request for donation - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received a verbal request for a donation to the Gloucester Light Infantry to be used to purchase powder for an event which will be held in Town.

Discussion: It was stated that the representative from the Light Infantry is not present.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to move this item to the end of the agenda; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

D. Appointments:
1. Litter Crew 2015 Supervisor - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere read the following request from the Public Works Director:

June 18, 2015

To: Town Council
From: Gary Tremel
Public Works Director
Re: Appointment Litter Crew Supervisor

I am requesting that Aaron Dupuis be appointed to the position of Litter Crew Supervisor. He worked on the litter crew last year is familiar with the job and the responsibilities. Aaron will be working 16 hours per week at a rate of \$11.00/hour starting June 29, 2015. The program will run from 6/29/15 - 8/7/15.

Gary
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Aaron Dupuis to the position of Litter Crew Supervisor for the period June 29, 2015 to August 7, 2015 at a rate of \$11.00 per hour for 16 hours per week;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

2. Litter Crew Lottery & Appointment- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that we are holding a lottery for the 2015 litter crew. Councilor W. Steere noted that the first two names will be the offered the positions and the remaining applicants will be alternates. It was noted that one of the candidates is not a Gloucester resident and will be the last alternate.

A lottery was held with all applicants names (Gloucester residents). It was agreed the non-resident name would be placed in the last alternate position.

The motion will represent the order in which the names were drawn:

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Jessamine Phillips and Gregory Jason to the 2015 Litter Crew as regular crew members; and Stephanie Laythe, Cory Green and Jillian Cash as Alternate Litter Crew members; all at an hourly wage of \$9.00 for 16 hours per week from June 29, 2015 to August 7, 2015; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

At this time, the Council addressed item VII. C., Gloucester Light Infantry request for donation.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to give the Gloucester Light Infantry \$200 for the purchase of powder for an upcoming event; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

VIII. Council Correspondence/Discussion

A. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the Department of Transportation regarding the rumble strips on Snake Hill Road. Councilor W. Steere noted that the State installed the strips without notifying the Town. Councilor Burlingame commented that the guidelines used by DOT were those of high-speed highways such as Routes 102, 95 and 295.

IX. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that preparations are underway for the 4th of July festivities.

X. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion

None.

XI. Open Forum

- A. Rose LaVoie, on behalf of the Heritage Society, thanked the Town Council for their donation of \$1,000.

R. LaVoie commented that some of the doors at the Town Hall are kept locked, causing an inconvenience for the elderly as they have to work further to get to certain offices. Councilor G. Steere agreed.

R. LaVoie mentioned that on Saturday and Sunday, there will be a tour of gardens across the state, including the garden at the Reuben Mason House.

XII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to ADJOURN to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5.a (5) Land Acquisition (2 separate parcels for consideration) Discussion and/or action and R.I.G.L. 42-46-5.a (2) Potential Litigation - Pension - Discussion and/or action; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

XIII. Reconvene Open Session

Disclose votes taken in Executive Session: Three votes were taken in Executive Session.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: none

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

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ADJOURN at 8:38 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

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

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the July 16, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Glocester on **July 7, 2015**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; Steven A. Sette and Edward C. Burlingame.

Member Absent: William Reichert

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk & Diane Brennan, Finance Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Appointments

A. Temporary Appointment
Public Works Office Staff

Councilor W. Steere asked the Finance Director to explain this item on the agenda.

D. Brennan, Finance Director, stated the person, Beth DeCorte, in the administration position in the Public Works Department will be going out on medical leave during the month of July for initially a six week period. D. Brennan further explained the need for the appointment of temporary help in that department. D. Brennan stated that a former Town employee has expressed an interest in being appointed for that position. (Viviane Valentine)

There was Council discussion regarding the hourly rate of salary to be offered in that position as well as the number of hours to be authorized.

Councilor Burlingame, Council liaison to Human Resources, stated he has discussed this issue with Diane Brennan and he feels concerns have been addressed. D. Brennan discussed length of time and asked that Council authorize a start date that would allow the person appointed time to work with Beth DeCorte before she goes out on sick leave.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to appoint Viviane Valentine to work, temporarily, in the Public Works, Administrative Aide office, for a period of 6 "or so" weeks, depending on need; seconded by Councilor Sette

Discussion:

D. Brennan stated she had left the time frame open in her discussion previously but reiterated to Council that she was not sure of the time frame but that it could be anywhere from five to eight weeks.

Councilor Sette withdrew his second.

Councilor Burlingame withdrew his motion.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to appoint Viviane Valentine to work, temporarily, in the Public Works, Administrative Aide office, at an hourly wage of \$18.50, not to exceed 37.5 hours per week, for a period of up to eight weeks beginning the week of July 13, 2015; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: none

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

V. Adjourn

MOTION to ADJOURN was made by Councilor Burlingame at 5:57 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: none

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the July 16, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **July 16, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William Reichert; Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Member Absent: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Kenneth Johnson, Building Inspector.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - Agenda Items

None.

V. Public Hearing

A. **Continuation of Hearing opened on May 21, 2015**

Class B-V Liquor License - Discussion and/or action

Request for: Expansion of Sale of alcohol to Outdoor Area

Applicant: Adriana Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Sticks Tavern

Location of Business: 417 Putnam Pike

Councilor G. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was originally opened and heard on May 21, 2015 and the hearing was continued at that time.

Discussion:

Attorney David D'Agostino, with the firm Gorham & Gorham, was present on behalf of the applicant. Atty. D'Agostino explained that the applicant is seeking an expansion to serve alcohol in an outdoor area which is already part of the licensed premises of the establishment. Atty. D'Agostino stated that the applicant is requesting service from noon to 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and Monday holidays. Atty. D'Agostino noted that there would be no glassware in the outdoor area and there would be surveillance cameras as well as staff members monitoring the area.

Atty. D'Agostino referred to concerns expressed regarding the nature of the clientele and stated that there is always the risk of problems which could be addressed by the Town Council acting as the Licensing Board. Atty. D'Agostino mentioned that a similar request has been granted to Cady's Tavern and suggested that the Council approve this request as a fundamental fairness issue.

Atty. D'Agostino pointed out that RI General Law references that the "licensed premises" is the entire interior and exterior of the licensed establishment. Atty. D'Agostino expressed his opinion that the applicant is not asking to serve alcohol in more places than she is already licensed to do so.

Councilor G. Steere asked if anyone wished to speak for or against this application.

Walter Steere, Jr., of Putnam Pike, asked why the applicant is here if what the attorney said is true and if this is the case, the applicant can do whatever she wishes as long as she has a license already. Mr. Steere asked why the Council gets involved in these "things" if they don't have to.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that he respectfully disagrees, noting that although the parking lot is considered part of the licensed premises, a bar is not allowed without the permission of the licensing authority.

Councilor Burlingame clarified that the total of the outside and inside occupancy cannot exceed the posted occupancy.

Atty. D'Agostino agreed and stated for the record that he is not suggesting that the Council does not have the right to address this request.

Aaron Dupuis, of Durfee Hill Road, spoke in favor of the application.

Councilor Burlingame reiterated his opinion that this is a fairness issue and as long as the occupancy is not increased, he is in favor of the application.

Councilor G. Steere stated that this expansion would not really change anything except that patrons would not have to walk back inside to get a drink. Councilor G. Steere noted that it does not change the capacity and the hours are only until 7:00 p.m.

Councilor Sette agreed that it is a fairness issue and noted that a movable bar would make it easier when there are outdoor events. Councilor Sette further stated that he does not think the outdoor bar would contribute to the noise issue, but if there is a problem, the Licensing Board can remove anything that has been granted. Councilor Sette stated that from a policy point of view, the Council may want to hear these requests in November in conjunction with the annual liquor license renewals.

Councilor Reichert expressed agreement and stated that the reason he was opposed to the request was due to an incident in the past involving a previous owner of the establishment. Councilor Reichert also agreed that these requests should be made at the same time on an annual basis.

Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to GRANT the request for an Expansion of a Class B-V Liquor License to include liquor sales to a designated outdoor area to: Applicant: Adriana Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Sticks Tavern; Location of Business: 417 Putnam Pike, contingent upon:

- 1. Police Chief approval**
- 2. The use be allowed only in the designated area previously approved for the consumption of alcohol**
- 3. The same laws and rules regarding Alcohol Service Certification that apply to indoor alcohol servers are to be strictly enforced.**
- 4. The indoor and outdoor capacity may not exceed the indoor posted capacity.**
- 5. Any violations of use may result in all outdoor uses being revoked by the Town Council acting as the Licensing Board.**
- 6. Outdoor exits must be closed and monitored at all times**
- 7. There will be no additional lighting**
- 8. Outdoor sales will be allowed during the hours of 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and Monday holidays.**

Seconded by Councilor Burlingame

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Reg. Meeting minutes of June 18, 2015 & Special Meeting of July 7th, 2015
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements, June 2015
- C. Finance Directors Report, June 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council Reg. meeting minutes of June 18th, 2015 and July 7, 2015 Special Meeting; there are no Additions or Abatements to the 2014 Tax Roll for June, 2015; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Preliminary Report for June 2015; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion:

Councilor Sette noted that he was not present at the June 18th Council meeting and will abstain from that vote.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette (abstained from approval of Town Council minutes of 6/18/15)

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 1 (approval of Town Council minutes of 6/18/15)

MOTION PASSED

VII. New Business

- A. Gloucester Code of Ordinance:
1st Reading & Set Public Hearing for Proposed Amendment to:
Chapter 247, Taxation: Section 9, C-2 & Section 11
Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that Councilor Burlingame has requested a 1st reading of proposed amendments to the Code of Ordinance regarding exemptions. Councilor G. Steere also stated for the record that a first reading was held, after Council discussion, at the last regular Council Meeting for an amendment to Section 11, Councilor G. Steere stated it was agreed, at that time, that other sections may be affected. Councilor G. Steere stated that after review Councilor Burlingame is proposing adding a second amendment to Section 9, C-2, to reflect the proposed change to Section 11.

Councilor G. Steere stated that there are copies available to the public.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the proposal is as follows:

**Glocester Code of Ordinance
First Reading**

§247-9. Exemption granted; amount.

C. (2) Ownership and occupancy of said resident's property for a period of five continuous years, of the prior seven, next to the filing of an application for the exemption.
(Proposed new text is "of the prior seven")

§247-11. Termination of exemptions.

All exemptions shall terminate upon the conveyance of the subject property, death of the person or persons exempted or the moving of such person or persons from the Town of Glocester, or in the case of a disability exemption when the physical or mental illness is terminated, or when said exempted person(s) otherwise fail to qualify. **However, notwithstanding any other provision contained herein to the contrary, any owner of real property who at one time was a resident of the Town but has since transferred ownership of said property shall, after reacquiring ownership of real property, be granted a tax exemption upon proof, in addition to that required as set forth above, of the following: ownership and occupancy of said residential property following non-ownership for a period not to exceed two years, provided said non-ownership period followed five years of continuous ownership and occupancy in order to qualify for the tax exemption.**
(If the non-ownership period exceeds two years the exemption will terminate.)

(Proposed new text is from: However, notwithstanding to end of 247-11)
(end of proposal)

Discussion:

Councilor G. Steere explained that if somebody lived in town and was eligible for the elderly exemption, then did not own property for up to a two-year window, but subsequently bought property within that period, they would still be eligible for the exemption. Councilor G. Steere stated they basically would have a "two-year" window to come back and still be eligible.

Councilor Burlingame concurred and stated this amendment would address the portability of the exemption. Councilor Burlingame stated that the way the language was written, if someone sold their property and bought another property in Town, their exemption would be terminated and

they would have to start their five-year period all over again. Councilor Burlingame stated that this amendment would address both of these situations.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to Set a Public Hearing for August 20th, 2015, for hearing on proposed amendments to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance: Chapter 247, Taxation: Section 9, C-2 & Section 11 as read in first reading; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Authorization: PRISM- Participation Agreement - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere explained that the Council has agreed to authorize PRISM to research the saving opportunities for the Town of Gloucester regarding street lights. Councilor G. Steere stated we have paid the \$28 fee and now Council needs to authorize the signing of a participation agreement. Councilor G. Steere stated this agreement states that there is no obligation to participate until Council accepts Phase 2, with no further costs until Phase 3 is implemented.

Discussion:

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the agreement is a step-by-step thing with no obligation or cost until the Council authorizes Step 3. Councilor Sette pointed out that the savings will be more for the Fire Districts rather than the Town. T. Kane agreed, but stated that the Town owns 28 lights, so there is some interest. Councilor G. Steere stated he is interested in what they come back with because we already own those lights. Councilors Burlingame and G. Steere stated for \$28, it is worth pursuing.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council Vice-President to sign the Participation Agreement between Partnership for Rhode Island Streetlight Management (PRISM), As Project Administrator, and the Town of Gloucester, a Rhode Island Municipality, As Participant; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Gloucester Code of Ordinance: Town Charter Updates
Approval of changes to facilitate vote of November 4, 2014- Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Town Clerk has submitted the final draft of the Town Charter that shows each amendment to be made due to the vote of electors at our last general election. Councilor G. Steere stated the document has been reviewed extensively by the Clerk with the assistance of the Solicitor, Tax Collector, and the Finance Director. Councilor G. Steere stated once Council approves, the document will be reprinted by General Code and updated on line.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated that this pertains to the change from a Town Meeting to a Referendum, and all of the changes that went along with that, administrative updates as follows:

**1. AMENDMENT TO GLOUCESTER HOME RULE CHARTER
FINANCIAL PROCEDURES**

(Resolution of the Town Council adopted July 17, 2014)

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to replace Town Financial Meeting with an “all day voter referendum”?

APPROVED ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014

**4. AMENDMENT TO GLOUCESTER HOME RULE CHARTER
PUBLIC SAFETY**

(Resolution of the Town Council adopted July 17, 2014)

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to allow the Town Council to create an Emergency Medical Services Department if needed.

APPROVED

**6. AMENDMENT TO GLOUCESTER HOME RULE CHARTER
PUBLIC SAFETY**

(Resolution of the Town Council adopted July 17, 2014)

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to ADD “liaison to the State Health Department” to the Emergency Management Directors duties?

APPROVED

7. AMENDMENT TO GLOUCESTER HOME RULE CHARTER

(Resolution of the Town Council adopted July 17, 2014)

Shall the Gloucester Town Charter be amended to include “to reflect the state’s open-meetings laws” in sections referring to voting in executive session?

APPROVED

Councilor Burlingame expressed appreciation to Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk and others at the Town Hall for getting that job done, stating that it was a lot of work.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE the administrative updates to the Town Charter, said changes due to passage of ballot questions in the General Election of 11/4/2014;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

D. Town Owned Property: Parking restrictions - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Councilor President had requested this item due to a tanker truck repeatedly parking overnight in front of the Transfer Station.

Discussion:

It was noted that because Councilor W. Steere is absent, this item will be tabled until a future meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE Town Owned Property: Parking restrictions;

seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

E. Personnel:

1. Tax Assessors Office (Clerk II)

a. Resignation - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Personnel Director has received the resignation of Brenda LaFazia, a clerk in the Tax Assessor's Office, effective July 31, 2015. Councilor G. Steere stated that Brenda has worked for the Town since 2002.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ACCEPT the resignation of Brenda LaFazia, Tax Assessor's Office, effective July 31, 2015;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

b. Actions necessary to fill position - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Personnel Director has posted the position of Clerk internally, and now is seeking permission to advertise the available position.

Discussion:

There was discussion concerning whether the position should be advertised as a Clerk I. Councilor Sette noted that when Brenda LaFazia was first hired, the position was Clerk I and added that there may be potential issues with the Union if the Council does anything different. Councilor Sette stated that the new employee should be brought in as Clerk I and have the opportunity to progress to Clerk II if they perform to standard. There was agreement among the Council members.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to AUTHORIZE the advertising of a Clerk I position to begin the process of filling a vacant position in the Tax Assessor's Office; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Salary Adjustments (Personnel Director request)
a. Tax Collector - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere read the following request:

To: Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance
Date: July 10, 2015
Re: Salary Adjustment

I have been reviewing some key positions in the finance area. The review is based on level of responsibility and job performance by the current individuals performing the financial function.

I am recommending a \$3,000 increase in base salary for the position of Deputy Treasurer/Tax Collector for the Town of Gloucester. Jane Steere has performed her job in an exceptional level during my time as Director of Finance. Her position as tax collector is one of much responsibility handling the collection of taxes for the town.

Jane's work ethic continues to be at a high level of integrity. She is often the first employee at her desk and is always ready to assist others when time allows. Jane has stepped in as interim Finance Director in the absence of a director. Her job performance throughout the year assures the collection rate is constantly monitored. The handling of the tax sales is

another area Jane spearheads to meet the collection rate. Although the actual collection of taxes depends on many economic factors, I am confident all allowable measures are done to assure taxes are collected in a timely fashion.

The current salary level for this position of collector will be in line with similar positions in the town with similar duties. I ask for your approval to increase the salary of the Deputy Treasurer/Tax Collector.

I am recommending the increase become effective as of July 1, 2015.
(End of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that he has spoken with the Finance Director and is in favor of this increase. Councilor Burlingame further stated that the Finance Office recently received an achievement award and the Tax Collection Department is clearly part of that.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Salary Adjustment for Tax Collector, Jane Steere, with an increase of \$3,000 to said employee's base salary, effective July 1, 2015;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

b. Senior Center, Kitchen Aide - Discussion and/or action
Council has received the following request from the Personnel Director:

To: Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance
Date: July 10, 2015
Re: Salary Adjustment

The position of kitchen aide at the Senior Center is currently at the hourly rate of \$10.92. Jackie Aelig, the current kitchen aide, has been a dependable employee at the center. Her attitude in the workplace and ability to perform additional functions make Jackie a valuable employee. The request for an hourly increase is for a \$1.00 per hour rate. Her new rate of pay will be \$11.92.

This request is before you with the concurrence of the Senior Board members. The request has been reviewed for similar work and the increase is reasonable for the work performed.

I am recommending the increase become effective as of July 1, 2015.
(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Salary Adjustment for Kitchen Aide, Senior Center, Jackie Aelig, with an increase of \$1.00 per hour for a total hourly wage of \$11.92, effective July 1, 2015;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- F. R.I. Dept. of Transportation - Discussion and/or action regarding:
1. Approval of plan for Putnam Pike, lane project

Councilor G. Steere stated that last month, representatives from D.O.T. came to explain their proposed improvements to Route 44 from the State Highway Garage to Waterman Lake. Councilor G. Steere explained the proposal was for a two lane concept with passing and center left turning lanes. Councilor G. Steere stated, after discussion, that Gee Mariam has stated the Council's endorsement will start the final design phase of the project.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Councilors need to now put together any issues we may have or have been brought to our attention so we can inform D.O.T., in writing, of these issues and then give Council endorsement.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that this subject came up at the monthly Department Directors' meeting. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Department of Transportation has requested the Council's communication by August, therefore we need to be ready with our concerns.

Councilor Burlingame listed specific areas of concern such as Absalona Hill Road and Saw Mill Road. Other issues include problems with drainage and the sidewalks in Harmony. Councilor Burlingame stated the sidewalks in Harmony was the cause for much discussion regarding the proposed five-foot width. It was stated that a turning lane is more important than five-foot sidewalks on both sides of the road.

Councilor Sette stated that another issue with the sidewalks proposed in Harmony is that the sidewalks are never cleared. Councilor Sette stated there often is a lot of sand on the existing sidewalk that people cannot walk.

Walter Steere, Jr. expressed concern regarding drainage, stating that D.O.T. just paves over the road without correcting the problem.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he, Councilor G. Steere and Tim Inacio, Town Planner will meet next week to draft correspondence to D.O.T. which will indicate the Council's concerns.

2. Snake Hill Rd.-High Risk Rural Roads Program

Councilor G. Steere stated that on July 10th the Town Planner met with D.O.T. to further discuss Snake Hill Road work and get clarification on D.O.T.'s previous correspondence. The Planner is waiting for information from D.O.T.

Discussion:

Councilor G. Steere explained that this pertains to the rumble strips which were installed on Snake Hill Road, adding that there have been many resident complaints regarding noise.

John Pitocco, Tourtellot Hill Rd., stated that he had sent a letter to the D.O.T. and the Town Council stating that due to the rumble strips, bicyclists are forced to ride in the road, causing a more dangerous situation.

Councilor Burlingame asked J. Pitocco to reiterate his concerns in a letter to the Town Council, which would give the Council more of a basis to have the rumble strips removed.

G. Signage: Historic District (commercial) - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere explained that this item is to address the signage in the district which was to be updated by July 1, 2015.

Discussion:

Charlie Wilson, chair of the Historic District Commission, stated that he will go to each business owner to discuss their options regarding signs and will hold a workshop, if necessary. Councilor Burlingame asked if we have received any input from the State which would provide guidance. C. Wilson replied in the negative. C. Wilson noted that some businesses are already working on updating their signs, adding that he will try to give a boost to those who seem to need it.

Councilor Reichert asked about Christy's Liquors, stating that its location is going to change. C. Wilson stated that his suggestion would be to shut off the lighting on the sign and when the time comes, to move the post sign to the new location.

For those unfamiliar with the subject, Councilor G. Steere explained that the deadline for compliance regarding signs in the Historic District has been extended for years due to the Main Street project. Councilor G. Steere stated that now that the project is done, the business owners were notified that they had one year to bring their signs up to date. C. Wilson stated that he will keep the Council informed.

H. Boards & Commissions

1. Resignation - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Community Resource & Wastewater Advisory Commission
One unexpired term to expire 1/2017, (Position #7)

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Stephanie Westgate from the Community Resource Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to Accept the Resignation of Stephanie Westgate from the Community Resource & Wastewater Advisory Commission, effective immediately, for an unexpired term to expire 1/2017;
seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Councilor G. Steere thanked Stephanie for her work on the Commission. It was stated that the Clerk will work with the Chair to clearly define what positions are to be filled, possibly for next meeting.

2. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Gloucester Housing Authority
One expired five year term to expire 7/2020

Councilor G. Steere stated that this position is for the expired term of Leanna Poirier. The Clerk has contacted the member and she would like to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to REAPPOINT Leanna Poirier to the Gloucester Housing Authority for one five year term to expire 7/2020;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

I. Gloucester Home Repair

1. Authorization: Environmental Review for activities/projects which are exempt:
Community Housing Land Trust & Food Pantry- Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere explained that this item is for the authorization of routine forms to be submitted to the state with CDBG filings. Councilor G. Steere also stated the form states that an environmental review isn't necessary for the projects listed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Town Council Vice-President to sign the "Environmental Review for Activity that is Exempt or Categorically Excluded" to be submitted by Gloucester Home Repair Program for the following projects: Gloucester Food Pantry & Community Housing Land Trust; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

J. Public Works

1. Authorization for purchase (Pick up truck) - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere read the following request from Public Works:

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Gary Tremel
Public Works Director
Re: Purchase of Used Pick up

I am requesting approval to purchase a used 2011 Chevrolet 4WD Silverado pick up. Over the past several years we lost 3 trucks due to inspection problems, ex: rotten cabs, holes in the chassis. These trucks were used for recreation director, summer recreation help, maintenance personnel at the PD and Town Hall.

The truck will be purchased from Rt. 44 Auto Sales 675 Putnam Pike Greenville, RI. The purchase price is \$16,995.00. Funds in the new/used equipment account will be utilized.

I had this purchase reviewed by the Finance Director to comply with all purchase policies.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Tremel
(end of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Public Works purchase of a used 2011 Chevrolet 4WD Silverado pick up at the purchase price of \$16,995; said funds to be expended from the new/used equipment Public Works account; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

K. Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island

1. Resolution of Intention re: Amortization Schedule - Discussion and/or action

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, explained that now that the Retirement System has reached a settlement, the Council has the option to continue with the same funding plan which has 21 years left of the original 25 years. D. Brennan noted that the State has provided another option to re-amortize and start with year one for 25 years. There was Council consensus that the 21 years would be the best option for Gloucester.

Councilor Burlingame read the following into the record:

RESOLUTION #2015-13

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL SELECTING AMORTIZATION
SCHEDULE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF GLOUCESTER MERS EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, cities and towns are required to elect to remain on a 21 year amortization schedule or choose a 25 year re-amortization schedule for employer contributions to the unfunded actuarial accrued liability by August 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, in regards to MERS General Employer Reserve 3013 (Reporting Unit #1212, 1213) & MERS Police/Fire Employer Reserve 4088 (Reporting Unit #1214) (as referenced in correspondence of June 26, 2015 from ERSRI) the Town of Gloucester **elects to remain under the current 21 year amortization schedule.**

By Order of the Gloucester Town Council

ATTEST: Jean M. Fecteau, CMC
Town Clerk

George O. Steere, Jr., Vice-President
Gloucester Town Council

Adopted this 16th day of July, 2015
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that Anthony Parrillo, Recreation Director, is having difficulty with staffing at the Town beaches and has asked for authorization to hire two (2) lifeguards. There was Council consensus to approve the request and to ratify at the next Town Council meeting.
- B. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, stated that he has sold several items of surplus equipment over the last few months through Munici-bid. G. Treml stated the items include the Senior Van, a generator, used tires, an auto lift, a fiberglass water tank and a boat, motor and trailer for a total of \$16,440.
- G. Treml stated that we receive a large number of appliances which contain freon. G. Treml suggested that a fee be charged for their disposal. G. Treml noted that since we began charging for tire disposal, the number of tires brought in has decreased dramatically. It was stated that this will be addressed at the next Town Council meeting.
- C. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that the RI Interlocal Trust has established an OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Trust Fund. S. Brennan noted that we already have some funds available due to the efforts that the Town has made. D. Brennan stated that the Trust has offered to come to the Council to explain this fund. Councilor Sette stated that would be good opportunity to ask questions because the Council had concerns about how much control we would have. There was Council consensus to schedule a presentation with the RI Interlocal Trust.

Councilor G. Steere mentioned that Diane Brennan has received an achievement award for excellence in financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. The Council expressed their congratulations. D. Brennan noted that it is a joint effort with her staff and all of the departments of the Town of Gloucester.

IX. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion

- A. Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, spoke in reference to an email sent to the Town Council by Dr. Barnes, School Superintendent. W. Steere, Jr. stated that he hopes the Superintendent continues to keep the Council informed regarding new programs and other issues at the schools.

Councilor G. Steere asked if the person who was hired is the new administrator that W. Steere, Jr. told the Council about. W. Steere, Jr. stated that the School Department has lost several people this summer, including the Business Manager. Councilor Burlingame asked if these resignations raise any “red flags” with the School Committee. Councilor Burlingame expressed his opinion that coincidences don’t happen. W. Steere, Jr. replied that he has his own opinions.

X. Open Forum

- A. Marie Sweet, of the Gloucester Heritage Society, spoke regarding a \$25,000 grant from the Gregson family. M. Sweet stated that PBS has requested information from the Heritage Society with regard to Thomas Dorr. M. Sweet reported that the Heritage Society will not be holding their annual Gala this year, but hopes to come up with other fund-raising activities.

M. Sweet spoke about Steere Farm, stating that the trails were closed because a coyote had given birth to pups. M. Sweet noted that Roy Najecki of the Land Trust had stated that the coyote is ready to move on and the trails would be reopened in July. M. Sweet asked if the signs have been removed. The Council members replied that they have no information. Councilor Sette stated that he will speak to the chair of the Land Trust.

- B. Rose LaVoie stated that she is glad that the Council approved the salary increase for the Tax Collector. R. LaVoie commented that all of the employees in the Town Offices are very nice and helpful.

R. LaVoie cautioned the Council to keep an eye on the Department of Transportation when they are working in Town. Councilor Reichert commented that on these jobs, there are sometimes more State inspectors than workers. Councilor G. Steere stated that the inspectors were there when the crosswalk was installed in front of Town Hall and it was still done incorrectly.

R. LaVoie spoke regarding the signage in the Village, stating that she hopes the Council will pursue the transition from neon signs to signs made of wood.

R. LaVoie referred to an article in the paper regarding her niece who will attempt to sail around the world by herself in a 27-foot boat for the second time.

XI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 8:53 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the August 6, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council held in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **July 27, 2015**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; and Edward C. Burlingame.

Member Absent: William Reichert & Steven A. Sette

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk & Diane Brennan, Finance Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Appointments

A. Finance Department

A. Authorization: Hiring of temporary staffing

Councilor W. Steere asked the Finance Director to explain this item on the agenda.

D. Brennan stated an employee in her office has expressed their desire to no longer be an employee of the Town. D. Brennan stated there would then be two vacancies in the Finance Department. D. Brennan also stated this is a very busy time for the Finance Office and she is looking for authorization to hire temporary help, if in fact, if she is able to find, qualified, available help.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he agrees with two vacancies at the same time temporary help may be necessary. Councilor Burlingame also agreed with the Finance Director regarding the elimination of separation between the two offices that comprise the Finance Office.

Councilor G. Steere asked if this position would also be a Clerk I position.

D. Brennan stated she is considering all avenues, including a restructure of the Finance Department, to include a potential salary increase, but will come back to Council when she has a plan to that suggest. D. Brennan will review all apps submitted for the first vacancy and see what help is available.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Authorize the Finance Director to hire temporary staff for the Finance Department, as needed;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

B. Authorization: Proceed with processes necessary to fill vacated positions in Finance Office & Assessor's Office

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Authorize the Finance Director to proceed with processes necessary to fill vacated positions in the Finance Office & Assessor's Office at the discretion of the Finance Director;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES
NAYS
MOTION PASSED/FAILED

V. Adjourn

MOTION to ADJOURN was made by Councilor Burlingame at 6:20 p.m.; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: none

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the August 6, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council held in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **August 6, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Member Absent: William E. Reichert

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; and Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A “moment of silence” was observed in memory of “Jiggs” Chase, longtime resident and contributor to the welfare of the Town.

IV. Open Forum - Agenda Items

None.

V. Interlocal Trust Presentation - Discussion and/or action

O.P.E.B. (Other Post Employment Benefits)

Councilor W. Steere stated that representatives from the Trust are present to discuss the Trust OPEB Funding Program.

Discussion:

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, introduced Maureen Toal and Kathryn Cannie of PARS (Public Agency Retirement Services) and also present from the RI Interlocal Trust were Ian Ridlon, Executive Director and Colleen Bodziony, Director of Operations and Member Services.

Maureen Toal stated that she is Sr. Vice-President of PARS and will be assisting the RI Interlocal Trust (sponsor) with regard to the administration of the OPEB program. Ms. Toal explained the other parties would be U.S. Bank, which would serve as the trustee custodian, and Vanguard, which would serve as the investment management company. M. Toal distributed informational packets to the Council members. M. Toal explained that the program is an alternative to the Town establishing its own trust.

Ian Ridlon gave an overview of the OPEB Trust program and noted that the RI Interlocal Trust has partnered with PARS to create a program that is self governing and the “best of both

worlds.” Mr. Ridlon explained that this proposal has already been approved by the IRS and vetted by the State. I. Ridlon explained the advantages of the Trust, stating that once established, we will see a dramatic decrease in the Town’s obligations. There was discussion regarding administration fees which would decrease as the accounts grow.

Mr. Ridlon explained there are basically three fees involved: administration fees (PARS); custodial fees (U.S. Bank fees), and investment management fees (Vanguard fees). Mr. Ridlon explained the handout that gives hypothetical fees for examples of initial investments the town may make. I. Ridlon noted that the Town would bear no start-up costs and encouraged the Town Council to adopt a Resolution to join the OPEB Trust.

Councilor Burlingame stated that Gloucester has a certain level of post-employment benefits based on a percentage in our contracts and asked if we go into a pool with other municipalities that have more expensive OPEB arrangements, would we have to share some of those costs. Ian Ridlon replied that Gloucester would not share any of the liabilities of other cities and towns, and further explained the “pooling” gives you better investment returns.

Councilor Burlingame explained that previously the Council chose not to “jump in” because we were concerned about exposure. Ian Ridlon explained a discreet sub account would be set up for Gloucester and that there are three different investment options, of which, no other communities drive your decision, the Town may choose its own of the three options. Councilor Burlingame asked how the Town would know which to choose.

I. Ridlon explained the plan administrator has a fiduciary obligation to ensure funds are appropriately invested and the Town would have met its responsibility simply by authorizing the investment of funds. I. Ridlon further stated the only time the Town would be concerned with the investment is if internal policies need to be met.

Councilor Sette asked if Vanguard, the Investment Manager of the OPEB Trust, would be appearing before the Council and if there would be access by telephone. Colleen Bodziony, of the RI Interlocal Trust, replied in the negative, but stated that there would be a seminar available to members. C. Bodziony noted that Vanguard would also be available by phone to answer members’ questions. C. Bodziony further stated that an annual review would be conducted for each member and the Town would receive reports on a quarterly basis.

Councilor Burlingame asked if the Town would be required to establish a position regarding what type of fund it wishes to invest in. C. Bodziony replied that the Town would need to establish its position prior to signing the documents. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council will have to decide whether to invest in the conservative, balanced or growth option.

C. Bodziony noted that this can be changed later if the Council wishes. Councilor Sette suggested that perhaps an investment committee be formed to work with the Finance Director periodically. Councilor Burlingame agreed.

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, spoke about the advantages of becoming part of a larger group and reiterated that our assets would only be ours and we would not be mixed in with anybody

else's liability. D. Brennan further stated that the Schools could be included in the program, as a sub fund, but their funds would be separate from the Town's.

Councilor G. Steere asked about "fiduciary protections" and asked if the protection was just from funds being protected from other towns. Ian Ridlon stated that D. Brennan was referring to the plan administrator having the responsibility to protect the funds by investing in one of the three plans. I. Ridlon stated when he referred to fiduciary protections he was referring to Vanguard which is recognized as prudent and has been vetted as such.

Colleen Bodziony pointed out that if the Town joins the Trust but later changes its mind, there are no penalties to withdraw; however because it is an irrevocable trust, the funds would have to be transferred to another existing trust.

Ian Ridlon explained that since this is an irrevocable trust, if there is money left at the end when there are no more retiree obligations, the Trust would be terminated and the Town would get that money back.

Councilor Burlingame stated that one of the reasons the Council wanted to consider this is that our current OPEB accounts are subject to being used for other purposes and the auditors would give us a better rating if we moved the money into this type of a Trust revocable account. Councilor Sette concurred, stating that rating agencies will not move our rating up if we do not have something in place.

The Town Council thanked the representatives for their presentation.

VI. Public Hearings- Discussion and/or action

- A. Expansion of Entertainment License to Outdoor area
 - Applicant: The Purple Cat Vineyard & Winery, Inc.
 - Location of Business: 11 Money Hill Road

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on July 16, 2015 and abutters letters (300 foot radius) were mailed out.

Councilor W Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and asked the applicant to step forward to explain his request, after which the members of the public will have the opportunity to present their questions and comments.

Discussion:

Daniel Ribeiro, applicant, stated that the mission statement of the Purple Cat Vineyard & Winery is become a tourist destination and to carry on the reputation of the former Purple Cat Restaurant. D. Ribeiro stated that the intent is to have different types of outdoor events, such as harvest festivals and art festivals with entertainment. D. Ribeiro also mentioned having outdoor movie nights like those at Rocky Point. D. Ribeiro pointed out that this is a family friendly venue with an in-house restaurant as well as a theater. D. Ribeiro commented that this type of entertainment will bring people into the Town from all over Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Councilor W. Steere read the following recommendations from the Fire Department and the Building/Zoning Official regarding the events proposed:

Chepachet Fire informed the Clerk they see no problem with the application and the only stipulations they have are:

1. Before any tents are used the applicant **must** call for an inspection.

2. If a large crowd, over 100, is expected Chepachet Fire must be notified.

(End of recommendation)

Councilor W. Steere stated the Building/Zoning Official has submitted the following memo:

To: Gloucester Town Council
From: Ken Johnson
Re: The Purple Cat Vineyard and Winery
Date: August 6, 2015

The Building and Zoning office has been in contact with the applicant and owner of this establishment regarding their outdoor activities and entertainment. After speaking with the owner of the building, he informed me that both he and the applicant were aware of the limitations of the current septic design and will make arrangements for portable sanitary disposal system (ie. Porto-Johns) be made available during any outdoor events.

(End of memo)

Councilor W. Steere asked if the Council members had any questions for the applicant.

Councilor Sette stated that these are all good ideas, but expressed concern that the proposed license expansion would tax the Public Safety Department. Councilor Sette stated that depending upon the number of people in attendance, a Police detail may be required. Councilor Sette also stated that it is important to keep noise at a respectable level.

D. Ribeiro commented that they wish to be a good neighbor and would design the field in a way that would project music away from the neighborhood. D. Ribeiro also stated that outdoor events would conclude in the early evening.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the establishment has limited parking and asked the applicant if this has been addressed. D. Ribeiro replied that there are currently 68 spots and upon development of the field, there is more space available to expand the parking area if needed. D. Ribeiro commented that if the Chepachet River Park comes to fruition, this would be a good addition to the community.

Councilor W. Steere expressed concern regarding access and egress on Oil Mill Lane because it is a small street and it can be difficult to go in and out from Route 44. Councilor W. Steere suggested that access to the venue be located at the main entrance.

Councilor W. Steere asked if the events would be taking place in the field. Mr. Ribeiro stated yes that would be the main area.

Councilor Burlingame asked what would be the latest time of any of the proposed events. D. Ribeiro replied that events would be over by 9:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Councilor Burlingame stated we need to have something specific for that issue. Councilor G. Steere stated that noise will be a big factor and noted that the Council has given approval for other establishments to have live music until 7:00 p.m. It was stated that an outdoor movie may be different from a live band because it would not start until after dark.

Councilor Sette asked the applicant if he would be responsible for anybody who uses the venue to ensure that proper State licenses are obtained. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that any events which include vendors would require a Promoter's License from the State. It was stated that this would be the responsibility of the applicant to contact the State.

Councilor W. Steere noted that we have not had this type of application before and the Council must think about it in depth. Councilor W. Steere stated that it would be open-ended since the license would not be for a certain number of events, such as other establishments. D. Ribeiro spoke about the Village Overlay District, stating that if Cady's and Sticks moved into the district, the rules would be applied differently. D. Ribeiro noted that he has complied with all regulations regarding their hand-carved wood sign and has tried to fit in with the true intention of the Village Overlay District.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town Council is also the Licensing Board and has jurisdiction regarding what is allowed in the Overlay District.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, asked how food will be made available at the proposed events. D. Ribeiro replied that a wedding would be catered either in-house or with an outside caterer. J. Fecteau stated that she will review the license for the restaurant to determine if catering is allowed from that facility. Regarding the smaller events such as movie night, D. Ribeiro stated that patrons could go into the restaurant to purchase food.

Councilor W. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, how specific do we need to be, especially with different events. T. Kane replied that general parameters such as frequency of events, hours, etc. could be stated. Councilor Burlingame asked the applicant what he anticipates with regard to frequency. D. Ribeiro replied that he does not expect to have events every night, just on weekends and perhaps one weeknight for movie night.

Councilor W. Steere stated that there will be alterations to the property and asked if it should go to the Planning Board for Development Plan Review. T. Kane replied that it would depend on the extent of the alterations. T. Kane stated he cannot say, at this point, if Development Plan Review is needed or not.

Councilor Sette stated that a limit on the number of events could be stated, as a trial, since the other establishments have a certain number. Councilor Burlingame noted that the Overlay District has different allowances however he suggested that events be limited to weekends plus

one (1) day during the week. Regarding amplification, Councilor Burlingame commented that we do not have a sound ordinance, but the neighbors will let the Council know if it is too loud. Councilor Burlingame also stated we need to specify times. Councilor Burlingame stated that the only thing which needs to be added to the proposed stipulations is the number of patrons which will require a Police Detail Officer.

Councilor W. Steere stated that since the venue is a winery, the Council must decide if alcohol will be allowed outside and if so, will plastic containers be used. Councilor W. Steere asked if coolers will be allowed at the events. Dan Ribeiro replied "Absolutely not", adding that there will be picnic tables where patrons can have a bottle or glass of wine, purchased from the winery. D. Ribeiro noted that there will be no hard liquor.

Mr. Riberio again stated his family friendly theme.

Councilor W. Steere again expressed his concern for the neighbors, stating that he would not want there to be events every weekend.

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that if there are more than 100 patrons at an event, he would require a Police Detail. Chief DelPrete expressed concern that an event such as a "festival" would generate excessive traffic coming from Route 102, an area which is already congested and those types of events may have to have traffic details.

Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, stated that he spoke with Kevin LaVoie, owner of the property, concerning the use of Porta-Johns at the larger events. K. Johnson noted that a large number of people using the restrooms could be an issue.

George Charette, Planning Board chair, urged the Town Council to give consideration to this request, stating that it is time to allow the businesses in Town to move forward, especially in the Overlay District.

Kevin LaVoie, owner of the property, stated that they will voluntarily have Porta-Johns at events with a large attendance. K. LaVoie pointed out that this will be a slow-moving project which will not happen overnight. K. LaVoie stated we will all grow together and handle issues as we go along.

Councilor W. Steere noted that the events will be limited due to parking, stating that parking will not be allowed on the street.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the applicant has presented many good ideas, however his only concern is the noise. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council can grant the request and if there is a problem, it will come back to the Council.

Dan Ribeiro stated that they wish to be a good neighbor and will take every precaution to keep the noise level acceptable. D. Ribeiro reiterated that the events will be family friendly and he plans to have charity events as well.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council members have positive thoughts regarding this application, but it would be prudent to wait until the next meeting to make the motion. Councilor W. Steere stated that this would allow the Solicitor to review the proposed motion and incorporate changes based on the thoughts expressed tonight.

Councilor Burlingame stated some of his ideas for the proposed stipulations so far:

Frequency of events (one day per week and weekends)
Hours: maybe 8:00 p.m. (unless a movie night)

Outdoor Entertainment/Events where the expected occupancy may exceed
will require portable sanitary facilities. Number? Councilor G. Steere
stated the applicants will take care of that as they don't want their system to fail.

Police detail and parking considerations. Councilor Sette stated it needs to be worked out
with the Chief prior to the event.

Atty. Kane suggested possibly 10:00 p.m. on movie night might work. Councilor Burlingame
asked Atty. Kane to check out other communities.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the Public Hearing should remain open to allow the
Councilor who is absent to read the minutes from tonight's meeting and to provide input.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to CONTINUE until August 20, 2015 the Public
Hearing regarding the Expansion of Entertainment License to the Outdoor area for Applicant:
The Purple Cat Vineyard & Winery, Inc.; Location of Business: 11 Money Hill Road;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. **Continued from May 21, 2015**

Glocester Code of Ordinance - Discussion and/or action

Proposed Ordinance Addition: Article XI; Chapter 247, Section 43

Renewable Energy - Tax Exemption

Councilor W. Steere explained that this proposed addition to the Code of Ordinance is to address the issue of taxation regarding renewable energy systems or resources. Councilor W. Steere stated a First Reading was held on 4/16/2015 and a Public Hearing was opened on May 7th, 2015 after being advertised. Councilor W. Steere stated that Public Hearing was continued to May 21st and at that time it was voted to remove the proposed amendment from the table until Councilor Sette was present as there were two councilors have stated they will recuse themselves.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and read into the record the following letter dated May 7, 2015 from a resident:

May 7, 2015
TO: Town of Gloucester
Town Council
RE: Ordinance Amendment

I have prior commitments regarding some legislative issues regarding my industry and am unable to attend tonight's meeting.

I have some questions that should be considered regarding the Tax Exemption ordinance being presented regarding "Renewable Energy Systems" in the Town.

Renewable energy is generally defined as energy that comes from resources which are naturally replenished on a human timescale such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves and geothermal heat. Renewable energy replaces conventional fuels in four distinct areas: electricity generation, hot water/space heating, motor fuels, and rural (offgrid) energy services.

I agree that tax exemption considerations should be applied to any individual who is willing to go to the additional expense of improving their awareness of "GreenBuilding" by using modern technology. I as a Director of the RI Commercial and Appraisal Board of Realtors and also a Director for the RI Builders Association have argued that these improvements should be included on appraised values for building and/or resale purpose.

That does not mean they should be taxable. These exemptions however should only be applied to the additional costs incurred for personal use above what conventional energy would be and not applied to additional personal gain or property improvements. I believe that is the intent of RIGL 44-3-21, not to exempt "utility companies".

You recently allowed land for "Solar Fields" to be a permitted use in most if not all zoning categories. I do not know if that included other renewable energy uses ie: wind farms or just solar. This has allowed outside companies to easily lease from or joint venture with local larger parcel land owners. These projects are for obvious monetary gain for all parties involved and should not be exempted.

I am aware of one solar field in Town and know there are several others in the works. Is an exemption going to lower our electric bills as consumers? Communication Towers are presently taxed and create additional income for our Town? I believe there are approximately 30 properties in Town owned by Narragansett Electric and Algonquin Gas, will they be exempt next? Beware of opening the door to future issues after what may have started as good intentions.

Once again it appears to be that select individuals are the only ones to gain from this proposal while we remain to have one of the highest property taxes in the State. As small

business owners in Town we get taxed on computers and office equipment yet you'll consider giving big business a tax break over us.

Respectfully,

Tom D'Angelo

(end of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere stated for the record that at the 1st reading on 4/16/2015 Councilor Reichert recused himself from this matter.

Councilor Sette stated that he agrees with some of the statements in the resident's letter regarding properties which will be leased for monetary gain. Councilor Sette stated that those who use solar power to offset their electric costs should receive an exemption, however if some of the power is sold back to the grid at monetary gain, it should be taxed.

Councilor Sette noted that whatever the Council grants now may affect other forms of renewable energy as technology advances and expressed his concerns with possibly boxing ourselves in down the line. Councilor Sette stated properties could be purchased solely for the use of producing electricity for sale.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that under this Ordinance, instead of taxing the property owner, a host agreement would be made. T. Kane stated that according to our consultant, the going rate is \$5,000 per megawatt. T. Kane commented that a host agreement would give us flexibility.

Atty. Kane stated our proposed ordinance recognizes that if you sell power back to the grid, you are only exempt from taxes once you enter into a host agreement. T. Kane stated that he understands what the resident is saying in his letter, but he doesn't feel that the resident understands the Ordinance.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he feels that we have covered all the bases and are ready to go forward. Councilor Sette agreed.

Councilor Sette stated as long as it is clear. Atty. Kane stated if you sell more than you use you will pay taxes. Councilor Sette in favor of green energy and moving forward with it, and allowing people to use their property for their own personal use or as a revenue source. Councilor Sette stated if they do they will have to file an agreement with the town to become exempt. Councilor Sette stated he is comfortable with Atty. Kane's explanations.

Lauren Niedel stated that she is in favor of the Ordinance but suggested that it be limited to solar and wind power and if anything else comes up, it would have to be readdressed. T. Kane stated that the idea is to be consistent with all renewable energy sources.

Councilor W. Steere asked if he cut 10 cords of wood on his property and sold 5 of them, would he get taxed on it. T. Kane replied that this is not a renewable energy system therefore the Ordinance would not apply.

L. Niedel again stated her opinion that the type of energy should be limited in the Ordinance and if somebody comes forward with something new in the future, a hearing could be held to determine if it should be added.

T. Kane stated that we are talking about taxation of renewable energy systems and this Ordinance allows the Town to exempt them from taxation by entering into a host agreement called Payment in Lieu of Taxes. T. Kane stated that this is a general ordinance which would work for any type of renewable energy system.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he does not want to redefine the word “renewable” and if we find ourselves with a problem, the Council will deal with it.

Councilor W. Steere pointed out that the way the Ordinance is written, there is a reference to RI General Law, which defines renewable energy systems and resources, therefore we are not creating a definition.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he will recuse from the vote, but commented that his brother has a solar project and he is more than willing to sign a host agreement and pay his share of taxes on the system. Regarding the tone of the resident’s letter, Councilor G. Steere stated that there is nothing stopping the writer, who is a friend of Councilor G. Steere’s, from buying land and spending the quarter-million dollars to install a solar field.

Councilor G. Steere noted that this is not a tax exemption per se, but a host agreement like the one that the Town has with FM Global. Councilor G. Steere expressed his opinion that the writer of the letter has “sour grapes” because he missed the deadline for the senior exemption. Councilor G. Steere stated that the resident misunderstands the Council’s intent with regard to this Ordinance.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone else wished to speak. Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere declared the Public Hearing closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to ADOPT the amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, the Addition of: Article XI; Chapter 247, Section 43- Renewable Energy - Tax Exemption;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

RECUSED: G. Steere

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Reg. meeting minutes of July 16th & Special meeting minutes of July 27th, 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE the Town Council regular meeting minutes of July 16th, and the Special meeting minutes of July 27, 2015; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Town Owned Property: Parking restrictions - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that he asked for this agenda item to address a tanker truck which, for the past year, has been parking at the Transfer Station overnight and on weekends. Councilor W. Steere stated that people use this parking area when they fish or swim at Sand Dam. Councilor W. Steere expressed concern that parking on Town property puts us in a situation of liability. Councilor W. Steere noted a precedent has been set by the Town Council because people who go on bus trips are not allowed to park at Gloucester Memorial Park. Councilor W. Steere suggested that signs be placed which indicate that overnight parking is not allowed.

Discussion:

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, agreed that a tanker truck parking on Town property does cause potential liability for the Town. Councilor Sette asked if an Ordinance would be necessary to prohibit parking on Town property. T. Kane replied in the affirmative and stated that he will draft a sample Ordinance for the Council to review at the next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to direct the Town Solicitor to draft an Ordinance prohibiting overnight parking on Town property without permission; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

- A. R.I. D.O.T.

1. Re: Approval of plan for Putnam Pike, lane project - Discussion and/or Action & Authorization of Correspondence

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town Planner has put together a draft letter for D.O.T. and asked if the Council members would like to make any changes to the request. Councilor Burlingame stated that this came up at the Department Head meeting on Monday and Tim Inacio, Town Planner, was asked to put together a list of the Council's concerns.

Councilor Burlingame read the following sample letter into the record:

Director Peter Alviti, Jr. P.E.

The Town of Glocester respectfully submits an endorsement letter for the "Study Phase" of the following project:

Route 44 Contract B., locally known as the Route 44 (2) Lane Concept

This correspondence will serve as an official endorsement letter between the Town of Glocester and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation after a Conceptual Design Presentation by RIDOT Officials on June 4, 2015 was considered by the Glocester Town Council.

Although the Town of Glocester was assured that local comments would be considered up through the "Final Design Stages," below are our immediate concerns following a (2) month period after the June 4th presentation in which members of the general public were considered for comment:

- Saw Mill Road & Putnam Pike, for an unknown reason there is no turning lane for Saw Mill. We believe that is a huge mistake. You could potentially have people backing up for a long time and waiting on someone to turn. There have been many accidents there in recent years.
- Within the Harmony Village corridor, we won't need sidewalks on both sides of a road that never gets walked on. If you eliminate one side, you'll have the proper space for a turning lane.
- Within the Harmony Village corridor, we won't need 5' sidewalk space for a wheelchair unless RIDOT just doesn't want to move a telephone pole.
- General concern regarding drainage in that RIDOT has historically just paved over the road without correcting the problem, specifically, the stretch on Route 44 between Farnum Road and Phillips Lane where subsurface water repeatedly spouts from voids in the westbound lane.
- With regard to the Absalona intersection and the possibility of taking a foot or 2 off the top of the existing grade. There are only (2) driveways in that area and we believe it would create a huge safety improvement and RIDOT could very easily complete the task.

Thank you for your consideration,
Walter M.O. Steere, Town Council President
Tim Inacio, Town Planner

(end of letter)

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to forward correspondence to the R.I.D.O.T. expressing the Town's approval of D.O.T.'s proposal for Putnam Pike, lane project, from State Highway Garage to Waterman Lake to include the following additional items the Town Council would like D.O.T. to consider in their plan;

- Saw Mill Road & Putnam Pike, for an unknown reason there is no turning lane for Saw Mill. We believe that is a huge mistake. You could potentially have people backing up for a long time and waiting on someone to turn. There have been many accidents there in recent years.
- Within the Harmony Village corridor, we won't need sidewalks on both sides of a road that never gets walked on. If you eliminate one side, you'll have the proper space for a turning lane.
- Within the Harmony Village corridor, we won't need 5' sidewalk space for a wheelchair unless RIDOT just doesn't want to move a telephone pole.
- General concern regarding drainage in that RIDOT has historically just paved over the road without correcting the problem, specifically, the stretch on Route 44 between Farnum Road and Phillips Lane where subsurface water repeatedly spouts from voids in the westbound lane.
- With regard to the Absalona intersection and the possibility of taking a foot or 2 off the top of the existing grade. There are only (2) driveways in that area and we believe it would create a huge safety improvement and RIDOT could very easily complete the task.
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion:

Regarding the intersection of Saw Mill Road and Putnam Pike, it was suggested that it be clarified that the turning lane is needed in the westbound lane.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Snake Hill Rd.-High Risk Rural Roads Program - Discussion and/or Action & Authorization of Correspondence

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received a proposal from D.O.T. in regards to the Town's request that rumble strips on Snake Hill Rd. be removed:

Councilor W. Steere read the following excerpt from an email to Tim Inacio from Jeffry Martins, DOT, dated August 4, 2015:

I have passed your comments and questions by others in the Department and came to the following conclusion:

We are willing to remove all roadside rumble stripes (installed within or near edge lines) and leave the middle rumble stripes in place (installed within the yellow lines). We feel this a good compromise, which will put many of the homes shown within the 100' revised specifications limit out of this range. Furthermore the remaining middle rumble stripes will provide some safety aspects to lane departure vehicles and hopefully reduce the number of potential head on collisions as intended.

Please let me know the town's take on this.

Thank you,
(end of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere stated that it makes sense to leave the strips in the middle and to remove the ones on the side of the road, which were the cause of the noise issues. Councilor Burlingame agreed, stating that the letter from the bicyclist was the tipping point. Councilor Sette commented that the strips in the center will help to avoid head-on collisions, especially on winding sections of the road.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ACCEPT R.I.D.O.T.'s offer to have them remove all roadside rumble stripes (installed within or near edge lines) and leave middle rumble stripes (installed within the yellow lines) and to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign a letter of acceptance on behalf of the Town of Gloucester;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- B. Personnel
 - 1. Finance Director's Office
 - a. Financial Clerk Resignation - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received the resignation of Kim Montie, Financial Clerk, effective July 31, 2015.

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that she is in the process of obtaining temporary help for this position for a short period of time. D. Brennan stated that she is in the process of filling another position in the Assessor's Office for which she has received many applications. D. Brennan stated that she hopes to have a candidate for appointment at the next Town Council meeting.

D. Brennan stated that the Council has asked her to fill the Financial Clerk position as a Clerk 1, however D. Brennan stated that the level of responsibility would require somebody with more than the qualifications of a Clerk 1.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to ACCEPT the resignation of Kim Montie, Financial Clerk, effective July 31, 2015, with regrets and to wish her well; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Recreation Dept.
 - a. Appointments
 1. Two Lifeguard positions - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere explained that the Recreation Director has requested that two more lifeguards be appointed for the 2015 summer season. Councilor W. Steere also stated that both recommendations have certifications on file. Councilor W. Steere stated that after an earlier Council consensus to let the individuals work prior to this meeting (out of necessity) Council now needs to ratify the appointments.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to RATIFY the appointment of Alexander Cerullo and Jillian Cerullo as lifeguards, for the summer of 2015, at a rate of \$10.75 per hour, effective July 22; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- C. Eagle Scout Achievement
 1. Ratification of Citation - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated there was a ceremony last Saturday to present this Citation and Council now needs to ratify:

Councilor Burlingame read the following Citation for a young man that made Eagle Scout:

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Town of Gloucester**

Citation

Be it hereby known to all that:

The Town of Gloucester

hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to:

Harrison DeCotis

in recognition of achieving the highest ranking honor of
Eagle Scout
in the
Boys Scouts of America

To achieve this honor Harrison did work diligently and consistently for several years, has been a leader of other young men and a follower of good examples set forth in Scouting. For his Eagle Project, Harrison spent over six months planning, obtaining donations, & executing the replacement of the signs for his school, Ponaganset High.

The Town Council, Town Clerk and citizens of Gloucester are proud to have Harrison DeCotis, of Boy Scout Troop 1 North Scituate, as a member of our community.

Proposed this 1st Day of August, 2015

Walter M.O. Steere, III. President
Gloucester Town Council

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC
Town Clerk

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor Burlingame commented that it was a good ceremony and added that Harrison DeCotis is an amazing Scout, having volunteered over 500 hours of community service with the TOPS program.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- D. Kent Property (located on Putnam Pike) - Discussion and/or action
 - 1. Status of Property, Discussion of Future Plans, & Actions necessary

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council recently had our solicitor negotiate with the other interest holders in the Kent Property on Putnam Pike. Councilor W. Steere stated that deeds were recorded that releases the Town from fulfilling the stipulation of building an administrative building and perfects the Town's interest.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere explained that this means the Town is no longer in a rush to meet a time deadline to do what we wish to do with the property. However, Councilor W. Steere stated that we still have a time limit with regard to the grant.

2. Amendment of Charge for Kent Property Oversight Comm.

Councilor W. Steere read the current charge is as follows:

1. To review site plans, consider possibilities & report to Town Council with a proposal for a use for the Kent Property (AP 10C, Lot 12) , per the deed stipulations for the Town's interest in said property.
2. After use is adopted by Council, the Committee will prepare a plan which includes: a time frame; and a description of each phase of project.
3. For each phase:
A plan will be formulated, which shall include work to be done & resources needed.

The Committee shall solicit donations, to include: materials, labor, donations and any other resources needed to complete that phase.

Once sources are identified the Committee shall determine any additional needs, not provided for, and report to Council.

Councilor W. Steere asked if there are any changes the Council wishes to make.

Discussion:

Councilor G. Steere stated that we should remove the reference to the deed stipulations since they no longer exist. Councilor W. Steere stated that the charge should have set times for the Committee to report to the Council, especially with regard to the grant. Councilor Sette asked if the grant could be used to construct a pavilion as was previously proposed.

Councilor Sette expressed his opinion that this would be perfect for the center of Town. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Committee should provide some immediate feedback to the Council and the chair of the Committee should work with the Planner to communicate with the State to ensure that we meet the time frame for the grant.

Councilor Sette recommended that the Committee attend the first Council meeting in September, which would give the Committee an opportunity to meet and discuss their plans now that their charge is amended.

Councilor Burlingame agreed that the concept of a pavilion is the way to go and recommended that we look at similar structures in other communities. Councilor Sette stated that now is the time to put together actual costs so we can budget for it and pursue other grants. Councilor G. Steere noted that FM Global has offered to contribute toward the cost.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AMEND the Charge of the Kent Property Oversight Committee to remove the following: "per the deed stipulations for the Town's interest in said property."

seconded by Councilor G. Steere

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

E. Public Works

1. Authorization for purchase (Pick up truck) - Discussion and/or action

Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, spoke regarding his request, and stated they were currently down two trucks at the Public Works Department. G. Treml stated he has purchased one and further stated he has now found a 2002 vehicle and would like to be able to purchase.

Gary Treml stated it was in good shape with no rust and 18,000 miles (mileage is not an issue as vehicles rot out before the mileage is an issue). Gary Treml stated there is a vehicle short at the Town Hall and this could be used by Assessor and/or Building/Zoning Official. G. Treml asked to use funds from the New/used equipment account.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to AUTHORIZE the Public Works Director to purchase a 2002 GMC Sierra 2 wheel-drive pickup truck from Rick's Tire and Auto in Slatersville for the price of \$5,800 to be taken from the Used Equipment Account; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

X. Department Head Report/Discussion

None.

XI. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion

None.

XII. Open Forum

A. Fred Naylor, of Blackinton Drive, spoke regarding a neighbor who calls the Police whenever there is a party at the Naylor residence. Chief DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that his department responded to a call on a recent Saturday night and found no issue.

Councilor G. Steere asked Chief DelPrete if the neighbor has been told that the calls are unwarranted. Chief DelPrete replied in the affirmative but stated this may be a civil matter. Chief DelPrete also stated there had been a call from a second neighbor. It was stated that the Solicitor's office will look into the matter and give the Council some ideas for Mr. Naylor.

- B. Rose LaVoie commented that the flowers in front of Town Hall are well taken care of and thanked whomever is responsible. Regarding the winery, R. LaVoie stated that 8:00 is rather early and suggested that the Council allow entertainment until 9:00 p.m. R. LaVoie spoke about Eagle Scouts, stating that this Town has had many young men with this achievement. R. LaVoie asked how much is the grant for the Kent Property. Councilor W. Steere replied up to \$100,000, with a 10% match.
- C. Lauren Niedel spoke regarding the proposed Algonquin power plant in Burrillville and stated that it is important to stay informed. L. Niedel suggested that a meeting be held so that people in the community know that it is a concern for everybody, not just Burrillville.

Councilor W. Steere replied that we could do that once more information is available. L. Niedel stated that she could arrange for a presentation by People Against Natural Gas. Councilor Burlingame commented that Senator Whitehouse, who has always been concerned about global warming, has stated that he has no issues with this proposal. L. Niedel noted that Gov. Raimondo is in favor of the power plant because it will create 300 jobs.

XIII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to Convene to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5.a (5) Land Acquisition;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.
NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XIV. Reconvene Open Session

Disclose votes taken in Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to reconvene Open Session; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Seal the minutes of Executive Session and to disclose that no votes were taken;
seconded by Councilor Sette.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 10:24 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Sette.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the August 20, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **August 20, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; William Reichert; Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Member Absent: George O. Steere, Jr., Vice-President

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Kenneth Johnson, Building Inspector.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - Agenda Items

None.

V. Citation - Eagle Scout

Councilor Burlingame requested a citation for Alex Bergemann upon achieving his Eagle Scout designation:

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Town of Gloucester
Citation

Be it hereby known to all that:

The Town of Gloucester

hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to:

ALEX BERGEMANN

in recognition of achieving the highest ranking honor of

Eagle Scout

in the

Boys Scouts of America

To achieve this honor Alex did work diligently and consistently for several years, has been a leader of other young men and a follower of good example in Scouting. For his Eagle Project, Alex constructed a building for Seagraves Observatory, where he has done many hours of community service over the years. The tasks included moving brush, helping with the scopes on public viewing nights, and working as the Librarian.

The Town Council, Town Clerk and Citizens of Gloucester are proud to have Alex Bergemann, of Boy Scout Troop 11, Harmony, as a member of our community.

Proposed this 20th Day of August, 2015

Walter M. O. Steere, III, President
Gloucester Town Council

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC
Town Clerk

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame noted that Alex Bergemann is a well-rounded individual who has received 40 merit badges as a Boy Scout and is deserving of this recognition.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Public Hearings- Discussion and/or action

Continuation of Public Hearing from July 16, 2015

Expansion of Entertainment License to Outdoor area

Applicant: The Purple Cat Vineyard & Winery, Inc.

Location of Business: 11 Money Hill Road - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was opened on August 6, 2015, discussed and continued until tonight.

Discussion:

William Dupuis, of Durfee Hill Road, stated that the applicant has a good idea regarding an outdoor movie theater, adding that this has been successful in other cities and towns.

Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council agreed that 10:00 p.m. would be the ending time for movies in the summer, but questioned the time for other types of events. Councilor W. Steere replied that the stipulations for one of the other establishments requires that outdoor entertainment must end when it gets dark because they had no outdoor lighting at that location.

However, Councilor W. Steere stated that each venue is different. Councilor Burlingame stated that he would be willing to allow events until 9:00 p.m. at the Purple Cat Vineyard, with the exception of movies which was already discussed. Councilor W. Steere stated that it would be worth trying, and if there are any complaints from neighbors, the Council could revisit the matter as the Licensing Board. Councilor Burlingame agreed and stated that he would like to give the applicant the opportunity.

Councilor Sette stated that potentially there may be catered food at some of the events and asked if a copy of the caterer's food license should be required. Tin Kane, Town Solicitor, replied that we are entitled to a copy of the caterer's license from the Department of Health, which is covered in proposed condition #10 of the stipulations. Dan Ribeiro, Managing Partner of the Purple Cat Vineyard and Winery, stated that any caterer would have to be licensed by the State. Councilor Sette stated that we would need to have a copy of the license on file in case there is an issue.

Councilor W. Steere asked the Applicant if he had any comments to add. D. Ribeiro stated that he is in agreement with the time of 9:00 and added that in the summer months they would be showing movies which are an hour and 10 minutes versus those that last two hours. Councilor W. Steere stated that the movies would have an end time of 10:00, but other entertainment would cease at 9:00.

Councilor W. Steere asked Chief DelPrete if he had anything to add regarding Public Safety. Chief DelPrete replied that his only concern is that events with more than 100 attendees may cause traffic issues and should have a Police Detail. Councilor Burlingame noted that this is addressed in proposed stipulation #5.

Councilor W. Steere asked Ken Johnson, Building Inspector, if he has been working with the applicant with regard to concerns about the septic system. K. Johnson replied that he was waiting for the Council to put forward their stipulations. K. Johnson noted that both the property owner and the applicant are aware of the limitations and will use portable facilities when necessary.

Councilor W. Steere stated that available parking is limited and asked the applicant if there are plans to expand. D. Ribeiro replied that there is space available for expansion if necessary. Councilor W. Steere asked T. Kane if this expansion would have to go before Zoning or Planning. T. Kane replied that they may need to go before the Planning Board for a Development Plan Review, depending on the size of the project.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone else wished to be heard. Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere CLOSED the Public Hearing.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to GRANT the Expansion of Entertainment License to the Outdoor area for Applicant: The Purple Cat Vineyard & Winery, Inc.; Location of Business: 11 Money Hill Road contingent upon the following stipulations:

1. A diagram, to include: outdoor area to be utilized; parking areas (including overflow parking area) and existing structures shall be on file in Clerk's Office. Any changes to outdoor configurations as property is developed shall be noted on plan.
2. Frequency of events: one day per week and weekends.
3. Hours: Events will cease at 9:00 p.m. (10:00 p.m. for "movie night").

4. The occupancy (to include the total of indoor & outdoor guests at any one time) will not exceed the posted “indoor” occupancy of 554.
5. Police and/or traffic details may be necessary when occupancy for an outdoor event is expected to exceed more than 100 patrons.
6. A parking plan should be filed with the Police Chief when occupancy for an event is expected to exceed more than 100 patrons.
7. A Special Event license should be obtained in the Town Clerk’s Office for events expected to exceed more than 100 patrons.
8. Amplification of sound must be monitored for “excessive” sound levels. If complaints are received the applicant may be asked to return to the Licensing Board for reconsideration of uses allowed.
9. Use of a tent requires prior Fire Department notification.
10. Applicant will be responsible for procuring all State permits necessary(if any) when vendors are present on property.
11. There shall be no parking on or access/egress from Oil Mill or Tanyard Lanes, except in emergency situations.
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

Councilor Sette asked if wording should be added to Stipulation #10 regarding outside food vendors. Tim Kane replied that this is covered in the stipulation.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- B. Exception to the Ordinance Regulating the Issuance of Bldg. Permits
Owner & Applicant: Bonnie L. Clark, Trustee
Location: Assessors Plat 17, Lot 7
To obtain a Building Permit on an unnamed right of way, off Putnam Pike - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk received a request from the Applicant’s attorney to continue this Public Hearing until September 17, 2015. The attorney has a scheduling conflict and cannot attend the meeting tonight.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the Public Hearing until September 17, 2015 for application # 15-01, Exception to the Ordinance Regulating the Issuance of Bldg. Permits: Owner & Applicant: Bonnie L. Clark, Trustee, Location: Assessors Plat 17, Lot 7;

seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Gloucester Code of Ordinance

Proposed Amendment Chapter 247 Exemption for Elderly & Disabled Persons

Section 9, Exemption granted; amount, Subsection C.

Section 11, Termination of exemptions - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that a first reading was held for this proposed amendment on July 16th, 2015 and this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on July 30, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if anyone wished to speak regarding the proposed amendment.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere read the following excerpt from the first reading on July 16, 2015:

“Councilor G. Steere explained that if somebody lived in town and was eligible for the elderly exemption, then did not own property for up to a two-year window, but subsequently bought property within that period, they would still be eligible for the exemption. Councilor G. Steere stated they basically would have a “two-year” window to come back and still be eligible.

Councilor Burlingame concurred and stated this amendment would address the portability of the exemption. Councilor Burlingame stated that the way the language was written, if someone sold their property and bought another property in Town, their exemption would be terminated and they would have to start their five-year period all over again. Councilor Burlingame stated that this amendment would address both of these situations.”

(End of excerpt)

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that this came up when Attorney Bernstein pointed out that there is a conflict in the way the Ordinance is written. Councilor Burlingame stated that there was no provision for the exemption to be portable in the event that the taxpayer sold property and bought another property in Town. Councilor Burlingame also gave an example of somebody who moves to Florida but doesn't like it and moves back to Gloucester within two (2) years, stating that this amendment would address that situation as well.

There was discussion regarding residents who live in Gloucester and receive the tax exemption on their homes, but register their vehicles out of state where there are no taxes. Councilor

Burlingame noted that some communities require that the vehicles are registered in Rhode Island in order to qualify for the elderly tax exemption. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that State Law requires that vehicles must be registered in the state of residence, but some people want to be both Florida and Rhode Island residents.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he is in favor of granting the exemption to a property owner who moves from one residence to another within Gloucester. Regarding the other provision for a two-year period to move back to Gloucester, Councilor W. Steere stated that he is uncomfortable with it because it would be difficult to determine when the two-year window begins. Councilor Burlingame explained the “look back” period of seven (7) years, stating that ownership is a matter of record.

Councilor Burlingame added that an affidavit must be signed stating that the property is owner-occupied. Councilor Burlingame stated that the cutoff is very clear; it is two (2) years and if they are over by a day, they do not get the exemption. Councilor W. Steere stated that he wants the Ordinance to clearly state that there will be no exceptions to the two-year time frame. Councilor W. Steere commented that he understands the concept behind this, but feels that it would create more administrative work.

Jim Houghton, of 120 Jackson Schoolhouse Road, asked if property is owned by a husband and wife, do they both have to be 65 to get the tax exemption. Councilor W. Steere replied in the negative.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone else wished to speak. Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

Councilor W. Steere stated that this amendment protects against somebody living in Town for a couple of years, moving away for a while, then coming back expecting to get the exemption. Councilor W. Steere stated that there must be five (5) continuous years out of the last seven (7) to be eligible for the exemption.

Councilor Burlingame expressed his opinion that the proposed wording is very specific and from a legal point of view, if the Council tried to do something different than what is stated, the Solicitor would tell them they could not. Tim Kane agreed, stating that unlike the administrative deadline for filing the application, this is an Ordinance from which the Council cannot grant relief. There was Council consensus to add a statement that no exceptions shall be made.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADOPT the Gloucester Code of Ordinance Proposed Amendment of **Chapter 247. Exemption for Elderly & Disabled Persons, Section 9, Exemption granted; amount, Subsection C and Section 11, Termination of exemptions;**

§247-9. Exemption granted; amount.

C. (2) Ownership and occupancy of said resident's property for a period of five continuous years, *of the prior seven*, next to the filing of an application for the exemption.

§247-11. Termination of exemptions.

All exemptions shall terminate upon the conveyance of the subject property, death of the person or persons exempted or the moving of such person or persons from the Town of Gloucester, or in the case of a disability exemption when the physical or mental illness is terminated, or when said exempted person(s) otherwise fail to qualify. **However, notwithstanding any other provision contained herein to the contrary, any owner of real property who at one time was a resident of the Town but has since transferred ownership of said property shall, after reacquiring ownership of real property, be granted a tax exemption upon proof, in addition to that required as set forth above, of the following: ownership and occupancy of said residential property following non-ownership for a period not to exceed two years, provided said non-ownership period followed five years of continuous ownership and occupancy in order to qualify for the tax exemption. (If the non-ownership period exceeds two years the exemption will terminate.) No exceptions shall be made regarding the time frame set forth above.**

seconded by Councilor Sette.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, questioned if the amendment would be effective upon passage. Councilor Burlingame replied in the affirmative and withdrew his motion. Councilor Sette withdrew his second.

Councilor Burlingame restated his motion above and included “**effective upon passage;**” seconded by Councilor Sette.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Reg. meeting minutes of August 6, 2015
- B. Finance Directors Monthly Report for July 2015
- C. Tax Assessor’s July Additions and Abatements to the Tax Roll

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE Town Council Regular Meeting minutes of August 6, 2015, to ACCEPT the Finance Director’s Monthly Report for July, 2015, and to ACCEPT the Tax Assessor’s Additions for July 2015 in the amount of \$162.45 to the 2014 Tax Roll; & \$3,622.26 to the 2015 Tax Roll and Abatements for July 2015 in the amount of \$36.38 to the 2014 Tax Roll and \$3,622.26 to the 2015 Tax Roll;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

- A. Public Records Officer Certification for 2015-2016 - Town Clerk - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere explained that the Town Clerk has been maintaining certification for Public Records Officer and has attended one seminar and video trained using a second seminar in the last six months. Council must now sign the certification to be forwarded to the state.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the form entitled “State of Rhode Island , Atty. General, Certificate of Compliance, Access to Public Records Act, Compliance by Agencies and Public Bodies” for the 2015/2016 certification of Public Records Officer, Jean Fecteau; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- B. Personnel

- 1. Resignation: Janitorial staff (Police Station) - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Russell Sawyer from the janitorial staff in charge of cleaning the Police Department.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ACCEPT the resignation of Russell Sawyer from the Town of Gloucester, Janitorial staff, effective August 13, 2015; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Janitorial staff reassignment- Discussion and/or action

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that prior to Russell Sawyer's resignation, there was one full-time person who provided maintenance at the Town Hall and the Senior Center, and a part-time maintenance person at the Police Station. D. Brennan noted that at the Budget hearing, there was a request from the Senior Center to consider hiring an outside service to provide maintenance.

D. Brennan suggested that the full-time employee take over the duties at the Police Station in addition to his regular duties at the Town Hall, and the Senior Center solicit bids for cleaning services or hire a part-time employee.

Dave Chace, Chair of the Senior Center Board of Directors, explained that they have no problem with the current employee's work, but want to ensure that the Senior Center is taken care of when he is on vacation or out sick. D. Chace stated that having an outside agency would solve that problem.

Councilor W. Steere questioned how this will be handled until the Senior Center is able to get help. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, replied that between the current employee and Bob Dauphinais, the work is getting done. G. Treml suggested that the Senior Center hire a service as opposed to an individual because with a cleaning service, somebody would be there every day.

Councilor Burlingame stated that it is important to get the bid specifications and job requirements clearly defined as soon as possible. Councilor Burlingame added that we don't want a cleaning service to do work that the Senior Center staff should be doing.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Finance Director to proceed with the Senior Center Board of Directors and the Director of Public Works to define the job requirements and to go out to bid for a cleaning service for the Senior Center, and to AUTHORIZE Janitorial staff reassignment; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion:

It was stated that regular maintenance at the Senior Center will still be performed by the Public Works Department.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

3. Appointment:

- a. Tax Assessor's Office: Clerk 1- Discussion and/or action

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

To: Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance/ HR
Date: August 17, 2015
Re: Tax Assessor Clerk I Position

On Tuesday July 7, 2015, the position of Clerk I in the Tax Assessor's office was posted for consideration of employees of the bargaining unit. The application period was until July 16, 2015. Subsequently the position was posted on the town website and an advertisement was placed in the local newspaper. The application period was until July 30, 2015. There were

over fifty applications received. Eight individuals were selected for interviews. Interviews were conducted by Jennifer Mooney, tax assessor; Jane Steere, tax collector; and myself.

The choice, although difficult, was to recommend Susan LaPlante of Chepachet, RI for the position. The decision was unanimous.

The appointment would be for a Clerk I with a salary of \$32,506.50. This is an hourly rate of \$16.67 for a weekly total of 37.5 hours. This is part of the Rhode Island Laborers' District Council, local 1322 bargaining unit. This position is eligible for full time benefits as described in the contract effective through June 30, 2016.

The starting salary is 10% lower than the current listed rate as described in the contract for the first year, with incremental step increases occurring every six months from hire. Upon the completion of two years of continuous employment the employee shall be paid the listed contract rate.

This recommendation is for consideration at the meeting on Thursday August 20, 2015.
(End of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor Reichert stated that the Personnel Board has questioned why they were not involved in the hiring process. Councilor Reichert expressed his opinion that the members of the Personnel Board may resign. D. Brennan apologized and stated that she will call the members.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Susan LaPlante to the position of Clerk I, Tax Assessor's Office, at an hourly rate of \$16.67 for 37.5 hours weekly per the Clerk's Bargaining Unit, Local 1322, effective September 8, 2015;
seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

b. Public Works: Temporary Clerk - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that on July 7, 2015 the Council appointed temporary employee, Viviane Valentine, to fill in at the Public Works office due to the sick leave of staff. Viviane's last day of work was August 5, 2015 due to personal reasons.

Councilor W. Steere read the following request from the Personnel Director:

To: Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan
Subject: Temporary Employment
Date: August 18, 2015

There is need to temporarily staff an administration position at Department of Public Works. The expectation is the position will be needed to complete a request due to a medical leave for the current employee.

In conjunction with the department director, and discussion with council liaison for human resources a recommendation to fill the position is being made.

Former town employee, Barbara Poole is recommended to be appointed for the temporary position. The hourly rate is requested to be \$18.50. This is to cover the department in the absence of the current employee. The position is to begin on August 24, 2015.

This recommendation is for consideration at the next meeting Thursday, August 20, 2015. If appointed, the recommended start date would be Monday August 24, 2015. At this time, the request is open ended as an absolute end date is not yet known.

(End of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that he approves of this appointment, adding that we are lucky that Ms. Poole came forward to fill the position.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Barbara Poole to the position of temporary employee, in the Public Works, Administrative Office, at an hourly rate of \$18.50, effective August 24, 2015 and continuing as needed; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

4. Finance Office Appointment (status report & clarification)
Discussion and/or action

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that there is a Finance Clerk position open in her office. D. Brennan noted that she had considered reorganizing the staff and creating a non-union position, but has decided to keep the configuration the way it is.

D. Brennan stated that there was discussion about hiring a Clerk 1, but expressed her opinion that a strong accounting background is necessary for this position and asked for authorization to hire a Finance Clerk. Councilors Burlingame and W. Steere agreed. D. Brennan stated that the first step would be to go to the bargaining unit, followed by advertising.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Finance Director to advertise for a Financial Clerk to fill the position of the person who retired;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: none

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Interlocal Trust - O.P.E.B. (Other Post Employment Benefits)

1. Adopt Resolution (creating an irrevocable Trust for OPEB funding) - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that in order to go forward with the acceptance of creating our OPEB trust with the Interlocal Trust the Finance Director has requested this resolution:

RESOLUTION 2015-14

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL,
OF THE TOWN OF GLOCESTER RI,
"AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF
THE TRUST'S OPEB FUNDING PROGRAM"**

WHEREAS, the Town of Glocester (the "Town") desires to establish an OPEB trust fund pursuant to the relevant provisions of the General Laws of Rhode Island § 45-21-65, as amended; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 45-5-20.2 the Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust has established an OPEB Funding Program (the "Program") designed to fund post-employment benefits for the Town's employees as specified in the Town's policies and/or applicable collective bargaining agreements; and

WHEREAS, the Town is eligible to participate in the Program; and

WHEREAS, it is determined to be in the best interest of the Town to adopt the Public Agencies Post-Retirement Health Care Plan Trust, a multiple employer tax-exempt trust performing an essential governmental function within the meaning of Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and the relevant statutory provisions of the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, the Town's adoption and operation of the Program has no effect on any current or former employee's entitlement to other post-employment benefits; and

WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of post-employment benefit entitlement, if any, are governed by contracts separate from and independent of the Program; and

WHEREAS, the Town's funding of the Program does not, and is not intended to, create any new vested right to any benefit nor strengthen any existing vested right; and

WHEREAS, the Town reserves all rights to make contributions, if any, to the Program; and

WHEREAS, although state law permits public entities to establish trusts and this Program for the purposes of funding post-employment benefits, any employer participating in the Program or participant in such Program shall hold harmless the State of Rhode Island and/or its agents, employees, and servants from any cause of action arising from the administration of or participation in the Program, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Town Council hereby approves participating in the OPEB Funding Program established by the Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust; and
2. The Town Council hereby adopts the Public Agencies Post-Retirement Health Care Plan Trust, including the Public Agencies Post-Retirement Health Care Plan, effective upon passage (the "Trust"); and
3. The Town Council hereby appoints the *Director of Finance* or his/her successor or his/her designee as the Town's Plan Administrator for the Trust. The Plan Administrator shall act on behalf of the Town in all matters relating to the Town's participation in the Trust, including, but not limited to, authorizing the investment of assets in the Trust, providing directions to the Trustee and/or the Trust Administrator, and authorizing disbursements from the Town's trust assets, and the Town shall, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §45-15-6, indemnify said Plan Administrator; and
4. The Town Council hereby delegates the oversight of the investment management of the Town's funds placed into the Program to the Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust's Board of Trustees; and
5. The Town's Plan Administrator is hereby authorized to execute the legal and administrative documents on behalf of the Town and to take whatever additional actions are necessary to maintain the Town's participation in the Trust and to maintain compliance of any relevant regulations issued or as may be issued.

This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption by the Town Council.
Seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame explained that if the Town has its own account, technically some of the

money could be used for other purposes, and the auditors have suggested that an irrevocable trust would be better. Councilor Burlingame further explained that there are three (3) levels of risk and the Council must decide which option to designate.

Councilor Sette clarified that this covers not only Town employees, but also Gloucester School Department employees. Councilor Sette noted that a large percentage of participants will be School employees and suggested that a portion of the surplus from the School Budget be applied toward this trust at the end of each year.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Designate investment strategy type - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere asked Diane Brennan, Finance Director, to explain the investment choice the Council needs to make.

D. Brennan stated that there are three (3) portfolios from which to choose: conservative, balanced, and growth. D. Brennan stated that the Council must elect one of these options at the time of the establishment of the Trust but noted that the designation can be changed later on. D. Brennan stated that she looked at the reports which indicate that over a longer period of time, the returns equal out among the three (3) options.

Councilor W. Steere stated that since we are just starting out, it would be better to go conservative and reassess later. D. Brennan noted that we will be part of a much larger pool.

Councilor Sette suggested that we go with the balanced portfolio at first and review after six (6) months. D. Brennan commented that if we're in it for the long haul, we don't want to be switching every six (6) months.

Kevin LaVoie asked if it could be split between two (2) portfolios. D. Brennan replied that we have been asked to choose one.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he would feel more comfortable starting off with conservative initially, then see how it goes.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to DESIGNATE "Conservative" as the investment option for Town of Gloucester funds deposited in the Trust "Other Post Employment Benefits" Funding Program; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Council Correspondence

- A. Councilor Burlingame spoke about a letter received from a resident regarding his motor vehicle tax. Councilor Burlingame stated that there is a schedule provided by the Department of Revenue which shows a decline over a 17-year period, after which it jumps to 100% of the Yellow Book value and as a result, the taxpayer's vehicle tax went from \$40 to \$80 for an old vehicle.

Councilor Burlingame questioned the RI Tax Department and was told that it is a long, complicated process, but the bottom line is that local sales are taken into consideration, therefore if prices are up, the percentage will increase. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council must decide whether to keep the percentage at 30%, which would amount to \$17,000 on a 20 million dollar budget. There was Council consensus to send a letter to our legislators asking them to address this issue.

- B. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Planning Board has invited the Town Council to attend a joint workshop on October 19th regarding the Comprehensive Plan.
- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the Burrillville Town Manager concerning the proposed power plant in that town.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the Planning Board regarding a Private Well Workshop on October 26th.
- E. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from District 31 Representative, Doreen Costa, asking for the Council's support to save the Quonset Air Museum. Councilor W. Steere expressed his opinion that the Council should support this cause.
- F. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from Statewide Planning with regard to HUD and RhodeMapRI. There was lengthy Council discussion regarding this planning process and Councilor Burlingame commented that the Council has taken the position that we want no part of it in our Comp Plan update. Councilor Sette pointed out that since Glocester does not have water or sewers, lot size cannot be reduced. Councilor Burlingame stated that this matter comes up at the Department Head meeting each month and is being watched carefully.
- G. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the RI Clean Water Finance Agency regarding the recently passed law effective in 2016 which will require the deactivation of a cesspool within 12 months of the sale of a property. Councilor Steere stated the letter explains funding opportunities for people to finance those costs. Councilor Sette noted that this is something which could affect many residents of Glocester.
- H. Councilor W. Steere stated that a response was received from RIPTA regarding the parking situation for commuters who ride the bus.
- I. Councilor W. Steere stated that a notice was received from Statewide Planning

regarding Public Hearings concerning the draft plan entitled "Energy 2035".

- J. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received some information from HUD regarding the Community Development Block Grant.
- K. Councilor W. Steere stated that an Advisory Opinion was received from the Planning Board with regard to a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance which pertains to slopes not being excluded from the lot area of a buildable lot.

X. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Councilor Sette asked Ken Johnson, Building Inspector, the status of his certification. K. Johnson replied that he will be going to Amherst in October at which time his certification will be almost complete.
- B. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that there had been a moratorium on Housing Aid for schools for several years. D. Brennan stated that the local school departments had to provide information to the Department of Education regarding what needed to be done to keep the schools in good shape. D. Brennan stated that the School Department went out to bid for a consultant to identify our schools' needs. D. Brennan stated that a Letter of Intent must be submitted to the State by October 1st to be considered for funding and the Letter of Intent must be approved by the School Committee as well as the Town Council.

XI. Bds. and Commissions/Discussion

None.

XII. Open Forum

- A. Harry Sayles, of Snake Hill Road, spoke regarding the chatter strips which were installed by DOT, stating that they cause excessive noise when cars hit them, especially when they are speeding. Councilor W. Steere informed Mr. Sayles that the strips in the middle will remain but those on the outside will be removed.

Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council had been communicating their concerns to DOT since the project started. Councilor Burlingame noted that a resident also pointed out that the chatter strips were posing a danger to bicyclists. Councilor Burlingame commented that the DOT's draft rules stated that there would be no chatter strips within a certain distance from homes.

Councilor Reichert noted that it was Mr. Sayles who first brought this issue to the Council's attention.

H. Sayles stated that the posted speed limit is 25 MPH near his residence but cars typically travel at much higher speeds. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Chief of Police will be asked to monitor the area.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the State will work on removing the strips on the sides

and we will see if the situation improves. Councilor Burlingame stated that we sent a letter indicating that we agreed with their initial proposal. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, noted that in the letter, she asked for a schedule of when the work would begin and that the Council be kept informed of the progress.

- B. Tom Sanzi, of Dorr Drive, spoke regarding speeding and littering on Douglas Hook Road.

XIII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 9:18 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the September 3, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **September 3, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Member Absent: William E. Reichert

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Tim Inacio, Town Planner; Judy Branch, Director of Human Services; and Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Resolution - Discussion and/or action

A. #2015-15 In Support of Quonset Air Museum

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has been asked by numerous communities to support an initiative to save the Quonset Air Museum. Councilor G. Steere read the following Resolution into the record:

RESOLUTION 2015-15

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL, OF GLOUCESTER, RI,
IN SUPPORT OF THE QUONSET AIR MUSEUM**

WHEREAS; The Quonset Air Museum has been a catalyst in keeping the legacy and the history of military aviation for our town, state and nation alive; and

WHEREAS; The Museum functions as a research, education and exhibit facility to preserve Rhode Island's rich aviation history; and

WHEREAS; Since 1992, the air museum has educated the public from all over the world in our State's aviation legacies and displays collections that document the contributions of Rhode Islanders to the growth and development of aviation and space exploration; and

WHEREAS; There is a present need for a museum focused on the history of North Kingstown and the State of Rhode Island's place in our nation's rich aviation history; and

WHEREAS; The Quonset Air Museum fills this need while bringing added tourism, and complementing our extremely successful Rhode Island National Guard Open House and Air Show;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Town Council fully supports the endeavors of the Quonset Air Museum to remain at its current location, to work on a plan to remediate its building maintenance issues, and return stronger than ever to bring Rhode Island and North Kingstown's rich military aviation heritage and important events to life;

The Town Council would not endorse any plans for the Rhode Island Airport Corporation to evict, remove or place the Quonset Air Museum and its artifacts in jeopardy of destruction, deterioration, repossession or private purchase for personal gain; and

The Town Council respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Airport Corporation work with the Quonset Air Museum and the Town Council, on a plan to keep the museum in its rightful place and retract its eviction notice for September 2015, since the museum still has six years on its lease with the corporation; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Gina Raimondo; Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed; Speaker of the House Nicolas A. Mattiello; State Senator Paul W. Fogarty; State Representative Michael W. Chippendale; State Representative Thomas J. Winfield; & State Representative Cale P. Keable, the Quonset Corporation Board of Directors, The RI Airport Corporation and all cities and towns seeking their support in opposing same.

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC
Glocester Town Clerk

Walter M.O. Steere, III, President
Glocester Town Council

Adopted this 3rd day of September, 2015
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

V. Public Hearings - Discussion and/or action

- A. Glocester Home Repair - Small Cities Community Development Block Grant
 - 1st Public Hearing (of two)
 - Proposed Application 2015/2016

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on August 20, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and read the following correspondence from the Planner:

8/20/15

Re: Community Development Block Grant 2015-181 Public Hearing
Program Performance/Letter of Intent

Dear Council Members:

We are in the process of preparing the 2015 Community Development Block Grant Application for submittal to the State Office of Housing and Community Development. In order to submit we are required to conduct two (2) public hearings on the application. The first is an informational meeting where potential applicants can discuss their activity and funding request. The second meeting is where the Town Council reviews and prioritizes applications for submittal to the State.

The Town is eligible for \$150,000.00 in grant funds but normally receives half that amount.

In the past year (FY 2014) the Town of Gloucester received \$2,000 in CDBG funding for the Gloucester Food Pantry. This was low due to the fact that the program was shut down for 15 months and we had accumulated funds from previous years.

As you know the program was re-established in August of 2013 as the Gloucester Home Repair Program. Since that time the program has received 27 applications for assistance. Eighteen clients have been funded. The projects included: roofs, oil tanks, means of egress, onsite wastewater treatment systems and designs, electrical, plumbing, windows, doors, baseboard heat, well pumps and tanks, vinyl siding, chimney's, wood stove and a well line. These projects represent typical needs in our community.

The Program is concentrating on spending down money from prior years. The approximate balances are as follows:

Year	Balance to be Drawn
2010	\$ 12,977.31
2011	\$169,300.00
2012	\$102,000.00
2013	\$ 6,250.00
2014	\$ 2,000.00
TOTALS	\$292,527.31

Since the Home Repair Program has come under the Planning Office, we have drawn down **\$192,972.69**

The Community Development Block Grant has provided employment opportunities for local residents and local tradesmen. The grant has provided the Town of Gloucester's low and moderate income residents with a safe home and has helped keep up the value of Gloucester's housing stock. The grant has also provided funding to support the Gloucester Food Pantry located at Town Hall.

The Town of Gloucester filed its initial application for CDBG funding in 1986. Over the past 29 years the grant has provided over 2.7 million dollars in grant funds that have gone back into the Town of Gloucester's local economy.

The proposed activities for FY 2015 CDBG will be presented to the Gloucester Planning Board on September 14, 2015. At that time the Planning Board will provide a recommendation of consistency with the Gloucester Comprehensive Community Plan on the proposed activities.

The 2nd Public Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2015 with the Town Council. At that time the Grant Application will be complete and available for review, and prioritized. The Town Council President will then sign the application at that meeting.

Once this is done, the application will be delivered to the State of Rhode Island, Office of Housing and Community Development before October 9, 2015.

Sincerely

Timothy Inacio, Town Planner
(end of memo)

Discussion: None.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame asked if the balance to be drawn of \$292,527 is net of the \$192,972 which has already been drawn down. The response was yes.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the next Public Hearing will be on October 1, 2015, at which time requests will be prioritized for the application and the Council President will sign the application to be considered for Community Development Block Grant funds by the State Office of Housing and Community Development.

- B. Amendment of Special Events Approval (granted on 12/04/2014)
 - Applicant: Cady's Tavern
 - Location of Business: 2168 Putnam Pike
 - Applicant seeks to add to previous grant - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on August 20, 2015 and abutters were notified.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN.

Councilor W. Steere explained that this hearing is to consider an additional Special Event to the motion made by Town Council on 12/4/2014. Councilor W. Steere explained that grant was for 3 special events, all car/bike washes and now the applicant wishes to hold a Steak Fry fund raiser.

Robin Tyo, applicant, stated that she did not realize that a Special Event license was necessary as she thought this fell within the realm of what she is allowed to do at her establishment. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she informed the applicant that the Council considers anything for her business a Special Event if it is advertised as such.

The Council members stated that they have no issue with the request. Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone else wished to be heard.

Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere declared the Public Hearing CLOSED.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere expressed his opinion that the Council should have something uniform and Town wide with regard to this type of license to avoid confusion for the business owners. J. Fecteau stated that she believes there is a uniform practice.

J. Fecteau stated she has sent a letter to the establishments asking them to start thinking about it so they can have a more complete plan for next year. Councilor G. Steere stated that it has been suggested that these requests be included with license renewals to avoid applicants coming before the Council for each event, however, there should be a provision for things that come up during the year.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to GRANT the request for Applicant: Cady's Tavern; Location of Business: 2168 Putnam Pike; to hold a fundraiser (steak fry) on September 19, 2015, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with the following stipulations:

1. The area previously designated for outdoor use for food and beverage is the area to be utilized.
2. Outdoor sale of alcohol will cease at 7:00 p.m. (As granted on 4/2/2015)
3. Approvals for raffle tickets is not the responsibility of the Town and approvals, if necessary, will be obtained by the applicant and/or fund-raising group.
4. All entertainment will be indoors pursuant to current entertainment license.

Seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Reg. meeting minutes of August 20, 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to APPROVE the Town Council Regular meeting minutes of August 20, 2015;
Seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion:

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

RECUSAL: G. Steere

MOTION PASSED

VII. New Business

A. Resignation

1. Senior Center Board of Directors - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Rose LaVoie from the Senior Center Board of Directors, effective immediately.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ACCEPT, with thanks, a resignation from the Senior Center Board of Directors, for Rose Lavoie, effective August 31, 2015; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Appointment

1. Senior Center Board of Directors - Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Senior Center Board of Directors for one 5-year term to expire 1/1/2019; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Personnel

1. Finance Office

- a. Current Employee/Position Reclassification Approval
Finance Clerk to Financial Analyst - Discussion and/or action

- b. Authorization to Change employee classification (position currently vacant) -
Discussion and/or action
 - 1. Financial Clerk to Clerk

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE item VII. C. Personnel until further notice;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that since we are dealing with a bargaining unit, the Council wants to make sure all legal aspects are reviewed.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

D. Ordinance proposals

- 1. Parking on Town Property – Discussion and/or Action

The Council members reviewed the proposed amendment to the Code of Ordinance and in Chapter 258-5 C. the word “shall” was changed to “may” to allow more flexibility. It was noted that the Police Department always has discretion regarding the towing of vehicles. There was consensus to schedule the 1st Reading for the next Town Council meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to set a 1st reading for September 17, 2015 for the proposed amendment to the Code of Ordinance, Chapter 258, Article 2, Sections 4 & new section 5 Overnight Parking on Town Owned Property;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Agricultural/Business Signage on Town Owned Property – Discussion and/Action

Councilor W. Steere stated that this matter came up previously when a business owner requested permission to place a sign on Town property. At that time, Councilor G. Steere had stated that other towns have signs for different businesses which resemble street signs. Councilor W. Steere stated that he would like to do something like that for our Town businesses.

It was discussed that the signs would be placed on the same posts as the street sign. Councilor Sette noted that this is common in many towns in Connecticut. Councilor W. Steere commented that Foster has such signs for businesses such as; the Foster Country Club, a campground and a veterinary clinic. There was Council consensus to ask the Planner to research this matter to

determine how the Council can go forward. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that he will also look into it to see if an Ordinance would be required.

E. Boards & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Foster/Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board
One 3-year term to expire 9/30/2018
One 1-year Alternate term to expire 9/30/2016

Councilor W. Steere explained that this item is to fill the expired terms on the Foster/Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board for the expired term of Kevin Kitson and Alternate, Christopher Van Pelt. The Clerk stated that both people have indicated they would like to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Kevin Kitson to the Foster/Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board for one 3-year term to expire 9/30/2018; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Foster/Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board for one 1-year term to expire 9/30/2016; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Council Correspondence

- A. Councilor Sette referred to a letter from a resident regarding the condition of Aldrich Road. There was Council consensus to refer the matter to the Director of Public Works.
- B. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received a permit from the Department of Transportation for a 5K road race. It was stated that this will be referred to the Chief of Police.

IX. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, noted that the Korean War Vets held their annual picnic at the Senior Center and left the place spotless. J. Fecteau added that the group made a \$200 donation to the Senior Center.

J. Fecteau stated that Girl Scout Troop 392 had asked to speak at a Council meeting several months ago regarding vapor cigarettes, but had to cancel. J. Fecteau stated the Scouts have indicated that they wish to reschedule for September 17th.

- B. Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, gave the Council an update concerning the Bella Vista project. K. Johnson stated that currently there are four (4) buildings under construction. K. Johnson noted that an Affordable Housing Monitor has been named. K. Johnson further stated that a 10,000 gallon cistern has been installed, however the road construction has been delayed due to problems with Verizon and National Grid. K. Johnson extended an invitation to the Council members to tour the property.

Councilor W. Steere voiced concern regarding Affordable Housing, stating that another project in Town had agreed to include affordable housing units but it wasn't until the end of this project that we were able to get them to include these units. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that we have this developer very secure, adding that they must have an affordable housing unit for every ten (10) units of the development. K. Johnson commented that the previous project will meet the affordable housing requirement, otherwise he will not issue the Certificate of Occupancy.

- C. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, spoke regarding school funding for projects which are shovel-ready. D. Brennan stated that the deadlines to apply are September 10th and September 15th and the State would notify us by May of 2016 if we are eligible. Councilor W. Steere questioned the September 15th date and also questioned the fact that "we" won't know if we are being reimbursed until May. D. Brennan stated in the affirmative.

X. Bds. and Commissions/Discussion
None.

XI. Open Forum

- A. Councilor W. Steere stated that he was informed by the Community Resource Committee that the garden in West Gloucester has yielded 410 pounds of produce which was donated to the Food Bank. Councilor W. Steere commended the Committee for their accomplishment.
- B. Edna Kent, Town Historian, spoke regarding two (2) properties in West Gloucester which are scheduled to be demolished: one is the former H. A. Hawkins & Sons store and the first Gloucester's first Post Office. E. Kent read quotes from a book regarding Gloucester history.
- E. Kent stated that the other building is the Seth Kent House, now owned by FM Global, for which she gave a historical background. Councilor Burlingame stated that the house and barn are in disrepair and FM Global wishes to raze the buildings to eliminate any liability. Councilor Burlingame stated that Charlie Wilson, chair of the Historic District Commission, plans to take photographs to commemorate the buildings before they are taken down.

- C. Bill Dupuis, of Durfee Hill Road, questioned the grants for school projects, asking if only the local schools are eligible. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, replied in the affirmative.
- D. Laurie Morgan addressed the Council regarding the property formerly known as Bonniedale Farm on Snake Hill Road. L. Morgan stated that she is interested in working with the owner to use the property as a venue for events such as weddings. L. Morgan stated that she was informed that the property is in an agricultural zone and asked the Council what would need to be done to use it for this purpose. L. Morgan read from the Zoning Ordinance and listed the uses allowed in an agricultural zone.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that L. Morgan's proposal does not fit in with those categories. T. Kane stated that she could petition the Town Council to change the text of the Zoning Ordinance to allow a Special Use Permit. Atty. Kane stated the other option would be to apply for a Use Variance which requires proof that the applicant cannot otherwise make any beneficial use of the property. T. Kane suggested that L. Morgan consult a Land Use attorney.

Councilor Burlingame pointed out that there is no municipal water or septic. Councilor Burlingame stated that a Zone Change would create spot zoning, which he would not support. Councilor W. Steere agreed. Councilor Sette stated that he would have to see a full detailed plan before forming an opinion.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that L. Morgan first approached the Zoning Official and Town Planner with her idea, and was then referred to the Town Clerk's office. L. Morgan submitted a business plan which was reviewed by the Clerk, the Zoning Official and the Planner. J. Fecteau stated that she advised L. Morgan of the two (2) options which she could pursue but informed her that the Council does not take zone changes lightly.

J. Fecteau stated that the reason L. Morgan is here tonight is to speak to the Council to determine if the Town would be receptive to her idea. Councilor W. Steere stated that he is receptive to the concept, but is concerned about the consequences of a zone change. T. Kane stated that there is a three-layer process to go through and again recommended that L. Morgan retain a Land Use attorney.

- E. Bill Dupuis spoke regarding the breakdown of figures that appears on our tax bills. It was stated that the bill indicates how much goes toward Municipal and how much goes toward Schools. There was discussion regarding whether the School amount is for grades K through 12. Councilor Sette asked if it would be a better indicator to include the local schools in the Municipal amount, since the Gloucester School Budget is part of the Municipal Budget.

Councilor Burlingame suggested having three (3) numbers; the Municipal, the Gloucester Schools, and the Region. Councilor Burlingame stated that this would give voters a better idea of how their tax dollars are used. Diane Brennan commented that

the format of the tax bill is dictated by the State, but she will ask if the information can be clarified.

B. Dupuis commented that it is difficult to deal with the Region, noting that voters could not get a vote in before the gavel was lowered. The Council members agreed that it is important to attend the Regional Financial Meeting. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Region has their own Charter which has nothing to do with the Town's Charter. B. Dupuis stated that since they are their own entity, they should send out their own tax bills.

XII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 8:52 p.m.; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the September 3, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Glocester on **September 17, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William Reichert and Edward C. Burlingame.

Member Absent: Steven A. Sette

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Ken Johnson, Building Official; and Judy Branch, Director of Human Services.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum

George Charette spoke regarding his resignation as Planning Board designee of the Land Trust. G. Charette stated the physical duties of the Land Trust are becoming too demanding for him, therefore, he feels he should resign from that Board. G. Charette stated the Land Trust is a superb group of volunteers.

V. Public Hearings - Discussion and/or action

A. Exception to the Ordinance Regulating the Issuance of Bldg. Permits

Owner & Applicant: Bonnie L. Clark, Trustee

Location: Assessors Plat 17, Lot 7

To obtain a Building Permit on an unnamed right of way, off Putnam Pike

Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised on August 6, 2015 in the Valley Breeze Observer and abutters letters were mailed.

Councilor W. Steere noted that the Public Hearing was scheduled for August 20th and continued without opening or discussion due to a scheduling conflict with applicant.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and read the following letter from the Fire Department regarding this application:

July 24, 2015

Owner: Bonnie L. Clark, Life Estate

Referenced Property: Parcel ID 017-007-000 (*Proposed Construction*)
Contact Person: Christopher P. Clark

Dear Mr. Clark:

Enclosed are the results of the fire safety code inspection conducted with you on the 8th day of July, 2015 at the above referenced property. This on-site inspection was performed to verify that the property met the "Rhode Island State Fire Safety Code" specifically NFPA 1, Section 18.2 which addresses Fire Department Access. At the time of this on-site inspection the current roadway to this lot appears to be in compliance with the RI Fire Safety Code.

Prior to any construction of a building on this site an official "Plan Review" shall be performed by this office. The plans submitted shall show the exact location of the house and other structures on a site plan along with building plans. During that plan review if there becomes an issue with fire department access it will be handled at that time.

Should you require any additional assistance in this or any other fire safety related matter please call the Fire Department.

Sincerely,
Richard A. Waterman, Captain
Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal
Harmony Fire Department

(end)

Councilor W. Steere read the following Planning Board opinion:

To: Town Council
From: Planning Board
Date: August 6, 2015
Subject: Bonnie Clark Application (#15-01), Recommendation to an Exception to the Ordinance Regulating the Issuance of Building Permits, Lot 7.

At the August 3rd Planning Board Meeting, the Planning Board motioned to forward to the Town Council a positive recommendation to the Glocester Town Council regarding an application for an Exception to the Ordinance Regulating the Issuance of Building Permits by Applicant and Owner Bonnie L. Clark, for property located along Putnam Pike and further described as Assessor's Plat 17, Lot 6, as shown on the plans entitled "Administrative Subdivision Plan AP 17, Lot 6& 7", dated 7/1/2009 and prepared by Flynn Surveys Incorporated.

The applicant seeks to use the existing private right of way from the previously granted Exception to the Ordinance Regulating the Issuance of Building Permits for access to an existing residential lot (Lot 7). Lot 7 is an existing lot of record. It is located adjacent to Putnam Pike, a state road but does not have physical driveway access from this property

due to steep slopes. Access must be gained through abutting properties, therefore an exception is necessary.

As part of a previous Application (#11-1), On February 11, 2011, Gloucester Town Council granted the application and Exception to the ordinance Regulating the Issuance of Building Permits for Owner & Applicant Bonnie L. Clark, Trustee, for AP17, Lot 6. This current application (#15-01), addresses lot 7, the lot that directly abuts lot 6 to the south. Granting this Exception will allow the owner to access Lot 7 through Lots 200 and 12 as the only practical access to the property.

In making this recommendation, the Planning Board has considered the following:

- 1) That the proposed access meets or exceeds the Rules and Regulations adopted by the Gloucester Planning Board;
- 2) The plan entitled "Administrative Subdivision Plan AP 17, Lot 6& 7", dated 7/1/2009 and prepared by Flynn Surveys Incorporated., which supports the feasibility of the access request;
- 3) That the present condition of the improved portion of the private driveway/ROW are adequate for public safety vehicle access;
- 4) A written recommendation from the Harmony Fire Department on 7/24/15, as well as a written recommendation from the Department of Public Works on 7/30/15.

The proposed plan is found to be consistent with the Gloucester Comprehensive Community Plan:

- Section 3 .2.1 “To preserve, enhance and protect Gloucester's rural character and sense of place”
- Section 3.2.2 “To encourage responsible land use decisions by public officials and public bodies”
- Section 4.2.1 “To maintain, protect and enhance Gloucester's desirable living attributes”
- Section 6.2.4 “To prevent the loss, destruction or misuse of natural and cultural resources in order to preserve the special character and sense of place of Gloucester”
- Section 9.2.2 “To create, maintain and preserve a safe and efficient multi-modal circulation system”

The Planning Board recommends that the following conditions be included in any approval of this application:

- a) Since the ROW is shared with other properties, it is recommended that a maintenance agreement be either created, or if existing, amended to include this property prior to issuance of a building permit.

George Charette
Chairman

(end)

Councilor W. Steere read the following recommendation from the Technical Review Committee:

To: The Planning Board
From: Gloucester Planning Department
Date: July 30, 2015
Subject: Public Works Recommendation for Exception to Ordinance Regulating the Issuance of Building Permits
Applicant: Bonnie Clark AP: 17 Lot: 7
Shared Driveway off Putnam Pike

The members of The TRC have reviewed the subject application, materials and plan entitled "Administrative Subdivision Plan, Assessors Plat Lot 6 & 7" dated 4/20/09 and revised 7/1/2009 for property located off Putnam Pike and report the following recommendation(s) to The Gloucester Planning Board:

Findings/Recommendations:

- a) Lot 7 is an existing lot of record. It is located adjacent to Putnam Pike, a state road but does not have physical driveway access from this property due to steep slopes (ledge). Access must be gained through abutting properties, therefore an exception is necessary.
- b) This application is to access AP 17, Lot 7 via an existing shared driveway/ROW to the south that connects to Putnam Pike and crosses AP 17, Lots 12 and 200, while eventually connecting to lot 6.
- c) As part of a previous Application (#11 -1), On February 11, 2011, Gloucester Town Council granted the application and Exception to the ordinance Regulating the Issuance of Building Permits for Owner & Applicant Bonnie L. Clark, Trustee, for AP 17, Lot 6. This current application(# 15-0 1(addresses lot 7, the lot that directly abuts lot 6 to the south.
- d) The proposed access, as described by the applicant is the only feasible means of access/egress to the subject properties and directly connects to Putnam Pike which is a State road.
- e) The applicant had proposed to improve the driveway to a consistent 14 foot wide gravel travel way with two foot shoulders on either side. In addition, it is proposed to have a fifteen foot clear zone on either side. The improvements to this travel way will begin at the intersection with the paved portion of the shared driveway on lot 200 and extends through lots 12 and 7 and ultimately to lot 6 as shown on the supplied plan.
- f) The proposed access driveway will provide adequate access/egress for emergency and safety vehicles if improved as proposed. If improved as proposed, there will be no environmental or physical constraints that would prohibit physical access to this property.

- g) The applicant has been informed to contact the Harmony Fire Department for a recommendation and provide them with a copy of this application. A recommendation was added as part of this application on 7/24/15.
- h) This is a private right of way and in no way does the Town have the right to grant access across these properties. Therefore, it is the applicant's sole responsibility to seek and receive all clearances and or approvals prior to making any alterations or using this road for access to this property.
- I) The deed for this property was modified to include language that the Town of Gloucester will not be responsible for maintenance of any nature to this private road, inclusive of snow and ice control and that this language will remain part of the record when title passes in the future. A copy of the modified deeds are to be presented to the Building Official and Director of Public Works prior to issuance of building permit.
- j) Since the R O W is shared with other properties, it is recommended that a maintenance agreement be either created, or if existing, amended to include this property prior to issuance of a building permit.

The Department of Public Works finds that the proposed access meets the minimum design standards and, if constructed as proposed will provide adequate access to the existing lot (AP 17, Lot 7) and hereby recommends approval of this request for an Exception to the Ordinance Regulating Issuance of Building Permits.

Gary Treml, Director of Public Works
July 30, 2015

(end)

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere asked if the applicant is present.

Arthur Russo, attorney for the applicant, introduced himself and the personal representative of the Trust, Chris Clarke. Mr. Russo explained that the subject property is a pre-existing lot (AP 17, Lot 7) of record which is landlocked with no frontage on a public road.

A. Russo stated that the only access to the property is a right-of-way which extends from Putnam Pike through the subject property and across to Lot 6. A. Russo stated that this access was recommended by the Planning Board and approved by the Town Council in February of 2011.

Councilor W. Steere questioned that there is no access and pointed out that the documents which were read into the record state that there is frontage on Putnam Pike, but it is steep ledge.

Attorney Russo distributed a larger version of the map which shows that there is no frontage on Putnam Pike. A. Russo pointed out that Lot 6 has access, however the terrain was extremely difficult, therefore the Council approved access through the right-of-way back in 2011.

Councilor W. Steere stated that erroneous information was read into the record and asked if the Council can proceed. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, replied that a correction can be made and referred to in the motion.

A. Russo noted that the application has received favorable recommendations from the Planning Board, the Technical Review Committee and the Harmony Fire Chief. A. Russo further stated that he has a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Tocci, abutting property owners, stating that they have no objection to the application.

Councilor W. Steere asked if there is already a covenant in place regarding shared access to the right-of-way. A. Russo replied in the affirmative.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anybody from the public wished to be heard.

1. Daniel Nardelli, abutting property owner at 519 Putnam Pike, stated that he came before the Council in 1998 to obtain an exception to build his house. D. Nardelli distributed copies of the motion which listed the conditions imposed, as well as a copy of the motion when the exception was granted for Lot 6. D. Nardelli noted that the original right-of-way references four (4) lots and this 5th lot was not part of the original project.

D. Nardelli stated that when his exception was granted, the condition was that no further development would take place unless the road was brought up to certain standards. D. Nardelli also expressed concern that it is difficult for trucks to turn around on the right-of-way. Regarding the original maintenance agreement on file, D. Nardelli noted that it only pertains to four (4) lots.

Councilor Burlingame stated he was on the Council in 1998 and he made the motion referred to by D. Nardelli.

Councilor Burlingame quoted from the motion as follows: "that no further building permits or exceptions under the ordinance will be granted for homesites utilizing said right-of-way given the condition of the right-of-way as improved hereunder, unless and until the Gloucester Town Council determines otherwise and under whatever conditions it shall prescribe."

Councilor Burlingame stated that it was worded that way so as not to rule out additional proposals without further consideration by the Council, as they are doing tonight.

D. Nardelli again inquired about the maintenance agreement. Councilor Burlingame stated that the maintenance agreement will be updated to include the additional lot. Councilor Burlingame further stated that the Building Official will receive a copy of the recommendations which will be addressed prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.

D. Nardelli reiterated his concerns regarding additional development off this road and asked at what point does the Council say that the road is not adequate to service these lots. Councilor Burlingame replied that the Planning Board and Technical Review Committee

would make that determination in their advisory opinion to the Town Council. D. Nardelli stated that when Lot 6 was developed several years ago, there was damage to the shared paved driveway due to the construction vehicles. D. Nardelli expressed concern that additional development will cause further damage.

Councilor W. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, asked if there is a limit regarding how long a right-of-way can be. T. Kane replied in the negative.

Councilor G. Steere noted that the subject property is an existing lot of record with no road frontage. Councilor G. Steere stated that he was present at the Planning Board meeting at which this proposal was presented, adding that it was stated that the lot had no frontage as the map clearly indicates.

Councilor W. Steere stated that Mr. Nardelli's concerns are duly noted and will be taken into consideration in any decisions made by the Town Council.

2. George Charette, Planning Board chair, stated that he recalls that when the previous application was before the Planning Board, he questioned the width of the roadway as well as the bridge. G. Charette stated that two (2) cars cannot pass each other unless the road is widened.

Councilor Burlingame stated that the prior decision stipulated that the right-of-way be widened to a width of 14 feet where practical, and topsoil be removed with a minimum of four (4) inches of gravel. Councilor Burlingame noted that the current recommendation takes it further than that, adding 2-foot shoulders on either side with a 15-foot clear zone on either side.

3. Nathan Clark, owner of Lot 6, stated that he has had the Fire Department respond to his house with no trouble going up and down the driveway. N. Clark noted that there was snow on the ground at the time. N. Clark stated that his house is the last house abutting Gloucester Land Trust property and he feels that this application would have no impact on his driveway.
4. Atty. Russo spoke regarding Mr. Nardelli's concerns, stating that if the maintenance agreement needs to be amended, his client will do so. Chris Clark, personal representative of the applicant, concurred. Regarding the possibility of further development, A. Russo stated that the last lot abuts property owned by the Land Trust. A. Russo pointed out that this application is for a recorded lot of record, not a subdivision.
5. Chris Clark noted that the access to Lot 7 takes place prior to Lot 6 and stated that since Mr. Nardelli's approval in the 90's, there have been improvements made such as the installation of guardrails and the widening of the entrance. C. Clark noted that he was responsible for all improvements other than the cost of the paving of the road, which was shared with Mr. Nardelli and Mr. Tocci.

C. Clark pointed out that the access to Lot 7 does not cross D. Nardelli's property. C. Clark further stated that the first 500 to 600 feet of the right-of-way is a shared common use, however the remaining two-thirds only goes to lots 6 & 7.

6. D. Nardelli reiterated that his concern is that he has not seen a maintenance agreement. Councilor Burlingame stated that one of the conditions of approval is that a maintenance agreement be created, or if one exists, it be amended to include this property prior to the issuance of a building permit. Councilor G. Steere pointed out that the share of each property owner will change since there will now be more lots included.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone else wished to speak.

Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere stated that his biggest concern is that the map clearly indicates that Lot 7 does not border Putnam Pike, however the Planning Board recommendation states that it does. Councilor W. Steere asked if the Council would have to amend that.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, replied that the Council cannot amend what was sent to them by the Planning Board, but a statement should be made for the record that Lot 7 does not have frontage on Putnam Pike. T. Kane stated that he believes that it was just a clerical error in the text of the recommendation. Councilor Burlingame asked if the statement should be made as part of the motion. T. Kane replied in the affirmative.

Councilor G. Steere noted that the right-of-way already goes beyond this property and the lot is already existing and is not being subdivided. Councilor G. Steere further stated that the lot consists of 27 acres. Councilor G. Steere commented that the right-of-way has been slightly improved since Mr. Nardelli's lot was approved. Councilor Burlingame agreed, stating that the Council wanted to be sure that this was not a subdivision on a right-of-way, which has always been a concern.

Councilor G. Steere addressed Mr. Nardelli's concern regarding future development, stating that a subdivision is a whole different ball game than granting a building permit for an existing lot of record.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to GRANT the Exception to the Ordinance Regulating the Issuance of Building Permits, for Owner & Applicant: Bonnie L. Clark, Trustee; Location: Assessors Plat 17, Lot 7; Application # 2015-01; To obtain a Building Permit on an unnamed right of way, off Putnam Pike contingent upon:

- 1) Prior to any construction of a building on this site an official plan shall be submitted to the Harmony Fire Department and a "Plan Review" shall be performed . The plans submitted shall show the exact location of the house and other structures on a site plan along with building plans.

- 2) A maintenance agreement be either created, or if existing, amended to include this property prior to issuance of a building permit.
 - 3) The driveway shall be improved as proposed: to a consistent 14 foot wide gravel travel way with two foot shoulders on either side, with a fifteen foot clear zone on either side. The improvements to this travel way will begin at the intersection with the paved portion of the shared driveway on lot 200 and extends through lots 12 and 7 and ultimately to lot 6 as shown on the supplied plan.
 - 4) The applicant shall seek and receive all clearances and or approvals from the owner of properties to be crossed prior to making any alterations or using this road for access to this property. Said clearances and or approvals shall be required by the Building Office before a building permit will be issued.
 - 5) The Town of Gloucester will not be responsible for maintenance of any nature to this private road, inclusive of snow and ice control and that this language will remain part of the record when title passes in the future. A copy of the modified deeds are to be presented to the Building Official and Director of Public Works prior to issuance of building permit.
- 6) Let the record reflect that Lot 7 does not abut Putnam Pike.

Seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Reg. meeting minutes of September 3, 2015
- B. Tax Assessors Additions & Abatements for August 2015
- C. Finance Directors Monthly Report for August 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPROVE the Town Council regular meeting minutes of September 3, 2015; to Approve the Tax Assessor's Abatements to the 2015 Tax Roll in the amount of \$5,202.44; the 2014 Tax Roll in the amount of \$103.69; the 2013 Tax Roll in the amount of \$79.35; to Approve the Tax Assessor's Additions to the 2015 Tax Roll in the amount of \$6,415.98; the 2014 Tax Roll in the amount of \$267.10; the 2013 Tax Roll in the amount of \$267.09; and the 2012 Tax Roll in the amount of \$267.09; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Monthly Report for August 2015;

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Appointment

1. Senior Center Board of Directors - Discussion and/or action
One 5-year term to expire 1/1/2019

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE, until the next Town Council meeting, the appointment to the Senior Center Board of Directors for one 5-year term to expire 1/1/2019; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Boards & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Foster/Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board
One 1-year Alternate term to expire 9/30/2016

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Foster/Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board for a 1-year term to expire 9/30/2016; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Finance Office

2. Authorization to Change employee classification (position currently vacant) - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Financial Clerk to Clerk 1

Councilor W. Steere stated that a motion was made at the August 20th meeting to authorize the Finance Director to advertise for a Financial Clerk to fill the position of the person who retired in the Finance Office. Councilor Steere stated the Finance Director would now like to classify the vacant position in her office as a Clerk I position.

Discussion: Councilor Burlingame stated that Diane Brennan, Finance Director, has asked the Council to table this item until further clarification is obtained with regard to the bargaining unit.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the classification of the Financial Clerk position to a Clerk I position;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Finance Office

1. Current Employee/Position Reclassification Approval

Administrative Aide to Financial Analyst - Discussion and/or action

Discussion: There was Council consensus to table this matter until the next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the reclassification of the Administrative Aide position to the next Council Meeting; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Gloucester Code of Ordinance

1. Proposed Amendment: 1st Reading – Discussion and/or Action

a. Chapter 258, Vehicles & Traffic

Section 5. Renumbering

New Sect. 5. Overnight parking on Town Property

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council is proposing the following ordinance amendment:

Existing 258-5 is just being renumbered to Chapter 258-4.B

Chapter 258 Vehicles & Traffic, Article II Parking

§ 258-5. Violations and penalties.

4. B. Any vehicle parked in violation of this article shall be towed upon the order of the Police Department and will be released to its owner only upon payment of the applicable towing charges

Councilor Burlingame read the following into the record:

Proposed New Section:

§ 258-5. Overnight parking on Town owned property

A. There shall be no overnight parking on town owned property unless permission is obtained from the Town Council.

B. Any vehicle parked in violation of this section may be towed and/or shall incur a fine of \$50 for the first offense; \$100 for the second offense; \$500 for the third offense and daily for each day thereafter.

C. Any vehicle parked in violation of this article may be towed upon the order of the Police Department and will be released to its owner only upon payment of the applicable towing charges

(End of ordinance)

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to SET a Public Hearing for October 15, 2015 for the proposed amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 258, Article 2. Renumbering Section 4 & new Section 5 regarding parking on Town property; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

**C. Conservation Commission - Ratify 2015/2016 Hunting Regulations
Williams Mills Conservation Area - Discussion and/or action**

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Conservation Commission would like the Clerk's office to give out annual permission slips to hunters for the property under its stewardship, Williams Mills Conservation Area. Councilor W. Steere stated there is no change to the adopted rules proposed and the Clerk would like to issue passes for this property, therefore, the Clerk is asking the Council to ratify the rules for 2015- 2016.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to RATIFY the 2015-16 Hunting Rules & Regulations for the Williams Mills Conservation Area;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

D. Transfer of Funds - Discussion and/or action

From: General Fund, Assigned Account to Irrevocable OPEB Trust Account
(established by R.I. Interlocal Trust)

Councilor W Steere read the following memo from Diane Brennan:

To: Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan
Memo: OPEB Trust
Date: September 10, 2015

With the approval to establish the irrevocable OPEB trust through the RI Interlocal Trust, the next step is to fund the account. Last year the council assigned funds for the purposes of the OPEB liability for the town. The amount of the assignment was \$384,191. Annually there is an estimated budget amount allocated to OPEB costs. Remaining funds from the pay as you go plan have been part of this cumulative set aside. At this time, I would recommend to the council to fund the OPEB by authorizing this intitial amount of the set aside from last year.

The funds are to be placed in a conservative plan as further directed by the council. I recommend passing a motion authorizing the finance director to transfer \$384,191 to the irrevocable OPEB trust account as established by the RI Interlocal TRUST.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to AUTHORIZE the Finance Director to transfer \$384,191 to the irrevocable OPEB Trust Account as established by the RI Interlocal Trust; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame explained that this action will move this account from local funds where it could be transferred based on a Council decision, to an irrevocable trust where once it is set aside, it cannot be changed. Councilor Burlingame stated that it is protection for the pension fund and other post employment benefits and will further strengthen our financial credibility.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

E. Board of Contracts & Purchases - Discussion and/or action

1. Award of Bid: IFB 2016-01 Town Hall Exterior Painting Services

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town Clerk, as a member of the Board of Contracts & Purchases, is asking Council to TABLE this award.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to TABLE the AWARD of IFB 2016-01 Town Hall Exterior Painting Services;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

F. Board & Commissions

1. Resignation - Discussion and/or action

a. **Members At Large** - Planning Board member (Land Trust)

1 year term to expire 2/1/2015

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of George Charette from the position of Land Trust Member at Large - Planning Board.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ACCEPT the resignation of George Charette from the position of Land Trust Member at Large from the Planning Board for the unexpired one year term to expire 2/1/2015; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: The Council members expressed their appreciation to George Charette for his time and effort.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

It was stated that the Planning Board will put this item on their agenda to determine which of their members will serve as the next member at large, after which the Clerk will present that name to the Council for the appointment.

IX. Council Correspondence (and or discussion)

A. Councilor Burlingame spoke regarding the Governor's attempt to get city and town governments to support undocumented non-residents getting drivers' licenses.

Councilor Burlingame stated his opinion that this would cause a raft of problems and suggested that the Council prepare a Resolution stating that we don't want any part of this. Councilor Burlingame stated he felt the Governor is just trying to ensure future votes. There was a consensus to prepare a resolution.

B. Councilor W. Steere stated that an invitation was received from the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council to an event regarding Excellence in Business and Footprints in History.

X. Department Head Report/Discussion

A. Building/Zoning: Councilor Burlingame reported that the issue with FM Global regarding snow plowing has been resolved and the building permits for the demolition are all set. Regarding the barns on the property, Councilor W. Steere stated that Charlie Wilson, chair of the Historic District Commission will see if there is a way to save them.

XI. Bds. and Commissions/Discussion

- A. Mike DeGrange stated that the Kent Property Committee met and would like to schedule a workshop with the Town Council. Councilor W. Steere asked M. DeGrange to give the Council several dates when the Committee would be available.
- B. Linda Nichols, chair of the Community Resource Commission, asked if the Town Clerk has received a voter registration from somebody who wishes to serve on the Commission. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, replied in the negative.

L Nichols spoke regarding the community garden and thanked all those who helped make it a success; particularly Gary Treml and his staff.

L. Nichols noted that 482.8 pounds of produce was harvested and donated to the Food Pantry.

Linda read the following correspondence from Amica Insurance (her employer):

Dear Linda:

You have been selected as a 2015 Employee Community Involvement Award recipient.

Congratulations! In recognition of the time and effort you have devoted to Gloucester Human Services, we are enclosing a check to support your commitment to this organization. As an Arnica employee volunteer, you project a positive impression in the community that enhances the image of our company.

We ask that you personally present this check to the director of this organization. In addition, please have this organization complete and return the enclosed form in the envelope provided. The completed form is required for tax purposes by our Accounting Department.

We hope you will continue your involvement in the community. On behalf of the Employee Community Involvement Committee and Arnica, thank you for applying for a grant, and once again, congratulations.

Sincerely,
Robert A. DiMuccio, CPA, CPCU
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

(End of memo)

L. Nichols presented a grant in the amount of \$900 from her employer, Amica Insurance, to Judy Branch, Human Services Director. L. Nichols stated that she applied for the grant on behalf of the Food Pantry and further stated that she will continue to attempt to obtain grants for other Boards and Commissions.

The Council thanked L. Nichols for her efforts. Councilor W. Steere pointed out that L. Nichols sought out this grant of her own accord and thanked her for her efforts.

XII. Open Forum

- A. Carole Fry, of 13 Reynolds Plat Road, spoke regarding the poor condition of her road. C. Fry commented that Blackinton Drive was recently paved and asked what is the criteria for prioritization. C. Fry stated that she fears the road will not last through another winter. C. Fry stated that there have also been drainage problems since CVS was built. C. Fry commented that there are 12 houses on the street and they all pay taxes. C. Fry stated we, as residents, are not looking for a two lane highway, just to be able to pass over the road. Councilor W. Steere expressed agreement that something needs to be done. Councilor G. Steere acknowledged that road is in bad shape Councilor Reichert stated that he is the Council Liaison to Public Works and will speak to the Director.
- B. Inga Burns, who resides at the corner of Salisbury Road and Lake Drive, expressed concern regarding speeding on Lake Drive. I. Burns noted that there are many children in the area and she fears that somebody will get injured. I. Burns further stated that she was told that the road is the responsibility of the Echo Lake Association, however the Town paved the road several years ago because it is a school bus route. I. Burns suggested that stop signs be placed on Lake Drive in both directions. I. Burns noted that there is no longer a neighborhood association, except for the small beach area. There was Council consensus to refer this matter to the Safety Commission for their recommendation.
- C. Mark Place, of 21 Hopkins Road, stated that he hopes something is done regarding the condition of his road.
- D. Russell Amato, of 7 Reynolds Plat Road, emphasized that his road is in need of repair.

XII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 9:08 p.m.; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the October 1, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **October 1, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William Reichert; Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; and Gary Tremel, Director of Public Works.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Resolution

A. Angela Taylor - West Gloucester Fire - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk did a Resolution on behalf of the Town Council for a ceremony that was held last week and is requesting Council now ratify this Resolution. Councilor Reichert stated that he is a member of the West Gloucester Fire District with Angie and he presented the following Resolution to her at her retirement party:

Resolution 2015-16
In Recognition of our hero
“Angela L. Taylor”

WHEREAS: A fire company is only as good as the dedicated men and woman that give of their heart, soul, and countless hours of service. This service for some comes in many forms; and

WHEREAS: West Gloucester Fire Department's own, **Rescue Captain Angie Taylor**, is the definition of dedication, beginning her career at West Gloucester Fire in 1982 as a Rescue, EMT Basic. In 2000, Angie achieved and still holds her EMT Cardiac Certification; and

WHEREAS: Angie has diligently served as the West Gloucester Fire District Board Tax Collector since 2000; and

WHEREAS: Angie was an elected Clerk/Moderator for the Gloucester Board of Canvassers from 1987 forward serving her entire community through her work as an election official. Angie was always called upon by the Town Clerk to “work” elections due to her experience, knowledge, and

willingness to pitch in and do whatever was needed to ensure the election process for her town; and

WHEREAS: Despite all the hours she works, without question, she was always the person anyone could call and ask for help with anything; and

WHEREAS: Angela came to Gloucester when she met and married her husband, Thomas, and together their involvement and hard work in West Gloucester serves as one of the cornerstones of the community; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Gloucester Town Council and the Town Clerk wish to congratulate and express our extreme appreciation to Angela L. Taylor as she, Thomas and Smokey embark on a new chapter in their lives and on this occasion we wish to thank Angie for her professionalism, hard work, sense of community, and dedication to our Town. We know that many will continue to benefit from what we have learned from Angie and we know West Gloucester Fire Department will continue to thrive because of the foundation Angie has given them.

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC
Gloucester Town Clerk

Walter M.O. Steere, III, Council President
Gloucester Town Council

Adopted Gloucester Town Council, October 1, 2015
Seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Public Hearing - Discussion and/or action

A. Gloucester Home Repair - Small Cities Community Development Block Grant

Proposed Application 2015/2016

2nd Public Hearing (of two)

(Further action on application below, IX. New Business)

Councilor W. Steere stated that this is the second public hearing, required by State Office of Housing and Community Development, and this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on September 17, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere declared the Public Hearing Open and read the following recommendation from the Town Planner regarding the application:

9/23/2015
Gloucester Town Council
Walter M. O. Steere, III, President

Re: 2015 CDBG Proposed Activities

Dear Council Members;

The Gloucester Home Repair Program has completed the Community Development Block Grant application and made the following recommendations.

The activities were reviewed by the Planning Board on September 14, 2015. The activities were found to be consistent with the Town of Gloucester's Comprehensive Plan.

Please prioritize the proposed activities as follows:

Housing Rehab. /Mobile Home Replacement	\$146,000.00
Glocester Food Pantry	\$ 4,000.00
Total Proposed Activities	\$150,000.00

The CDBG Grant Application will be delivered to the Office of Housing and Community Development, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI before October 9, 2015.

Sincerely,

Timothy Inacio, Town Planner

(end)

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere asked if anybody wished to speak regarding this application. Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere declared the Public Hearing closed and stated that further action will be taken under New Business.

VII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Reg. meeting minutes of September 17, 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council meeting minutes of September 17, 2015;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion:

Councilor Sette stated that he will abstain from the vote.

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

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: Sette

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Senior Center Board of Directors
One 5-year term to expire 1/1/2019

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE until the next meeting the appointment to the Senior Center Board of Directors for one 5-year term to expire 1/1/2019;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Land Trust - Member At Large - Planning Board member (to Land Trust) 1 year term to expire 2/1/2016

Councilor W. Steere noted that the Planning Board is to vote on their recommendation at their next meeting, October 5, 2015.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to TABLE the appointment to the Land Trust - Member at Large from the Planning Board;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- c. Foster/Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board
One 1-year Alternate term to expire 9/30/2016

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Juvenile Hearing Board, an Alternate member for a 1-year term to expire 9/30/2016; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that he will contact a prospective candidate before the next Town Council meeting.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Finance Office

- 1. Authorization to Change employee classification (position currently vacant) -
Discussion and/or action
 - a. Financial Clerk to Clerk 1
- 2. Current Employee/Position Reclassification Approval
 - a. Administrative Aide to Financial Analyst - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Sette noted that Diane Brennan, Finance Director, is absent tonight, therefore the matter should be tabled until the next Town Council meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to TABLE Items B. 1 and 2 until the next Town Council meeting;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Board of Contracts & Purchases - Discussion and/or action

1. Award of Bid: IFB 2016-01 Town Hall Exterior Painting Services

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk is requesting the Award of IFB 2016-01 be removed from the table at this time because the bid specs need to be reviewed as the scope of the project may need to be downgraded. Councilor W. Steere stated this item may come back to the Council at a later date.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to REMOVE FROM the TABLE Item C.1. Award of Bid: IFB 2016-01 Town Hall Exterior Painting Services;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

- A. 2015 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant - Gloucester Home Repair
1. Prioritize 2015 Grant requests - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that as stated in the Planner's correspondence read during the Public Hearing earlier this evening, the recommendation is as follows:

Please prioritize the proposed activities as follows:

Housing Rehab. /Mobile Home Replacement	\$146,000.00
Glocester Food Pantry	\$ 4,000.00
Total Proposed Activities	\$150,000.00

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to PRIORITIZE the grant requests for the 2015 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant - Gloucester Home Repair as follows:

Housing Rehab. /Mobile Home Replacement	\$146,000.00
Glocester Food Pantry	\$ 4,000.00
Total Proposed Activities	\$150,000.00

seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Authorization: Council President to sign 2015 Grant Application - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere explained that the final step for the submittal of the 2015 CDBG application is the authorization of the Council President to sign the application.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the signing of the 2015 CDBG application as proposed by Gloucester Home Repair; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Code Red Agreement- Statewide Coverage Agreement: Impact to town
Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere explained that the State has entered into an agreement with Code Red which will begin on Monday, October 5, 2015. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town already has a contract with Code Red for the year and asked Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, how this will impact us.

Chief DelPrete stated that our contract ends in May and the Town will receive a credit due to the State's contract which will extend us to next October. Chief DelPrete noted that the State will use the system for emergency notifications only, such as hurricanes, missing persons, etc. Chief DelPrete stated that general notifications will be done on our system and asked if the Council wished to continue after our current term expires.

Councilor W. Steere stated that Code Red has been a valuable resource for both emergencies and community notifications. Chief DelPrete stated that the cost for 2017 would be \$1,913 and would increase to \$2,750 the following year.

Chief DelPrete noted that much of the cost the first year was paid for by grants. Councilor G. Steere asked if Code Red has given any consideration to reducing the cost, since the two (2) systems will overlap.

Chief DelPrete replied in the negative but we have gotten good pricing in the past. Councilor G. Steere commented that he feels we should keep the system because we have used it often. Councilor Sette stated that the system allows 10,000 people to receive messages at a minimal cost.

Councilor Burlingame asked if the ground rules for use of the system will remain the same when the State begins using it. Chief DelPrete replied in the affirmative. Councilor Burlingame stated he likes the status quo. Consensus was the system has been beneficial to the town.

It was stated that no action is necessary at this time.

C. Little League:

Discussion of upgrade of facilities and locating new area for ball fields
Discussion and/or action

Bob DiGiulio, on behalf of the Gloucester Little League organization, was presented and stated that the League intends to do some work at Acotes Field and request that they use Gloucester Memorial Park in the Spring if the work is not completed.

Councilor Burlingame asked if B. DiGiulio has been working with the Recreation Director. Councilor W. Steere suggested that B. DiGiulio contact Anthony Parrillo, Recreation Director, who can serve as liaison between the Town and the Little League.

Councilor Burlingame stated that this matter came up several weeks ago when there was a conflict between teams at the Ponaganset Field when one team was moved to Leja Field, which was not in good shape. Councilor Burlingame stated that Leja Field should be fixed up so that we have another field suitable for the older boys' games. Councilor G. Steere commented that Leja Field is nice, however it is lack of use which causes the infield to be overgrown with crabgrass.

Councilor W. Steere asked if the Middle School teams use the field and if so, have there been any scheduling issues with other teams. Dave Steere replied that the Middle School does use the field, but they usually play right after school, which would avoid a conflict with other teams. D. Steere noted that the field was in terrible shape and needs some attention.

There was discussion with Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, regarding the extent of maintenance his Department is expected to perform on the fields at Acotes and Gloucester Memorial Park. Council discussed giving G. Treml the necessary resources. Councilor Burlingame suggested that G. Treml put together a proposal for seasonal help to present to the Council at budget time. Councilor Reichert noted that he has received many compliments regarding the work done at Winsor Park.

D. Authorization of Correspondence

1. Letter to Gov. Raimondo opposing the issuance of driver's licenses to illegal immigrants - Discussion and/or action

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated he brought up this issue. Councilor Sette spoke regarding the proposed letter and asked if we should state that we support legal immigration. Councilor Burlingame replied that the letter he has drafted stresses the fact that the issuance of driver's licenses to illegal immigrants would further move the State toward being a sanctuary state.

Councilor Burlingame noted that he absolutely supports legal immigration. Councilor Sette expressed his concern that the letter could be misconstrued and people may think that the

northwest part of the State is racist. Councilor Burlingame stated that a sentence could be added at the end of the letter which reaffirms that the Town Council supports legal immigration.

Councilor Burlingame read into the record the following letter which he has drafted as a result of discussion at the last Council meeting:

Honorable Governor Raimondo:

It has come to the Gloucester Town Council's attention that you are considering issuing driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants and are looking for support from the various city mayors and administrators. We want to be on record as opposing the issuance of these licenses for several reasons.

1. The issuance of these licenses will advance Rhode Island further as a sanctuary State for these immigrants. We just cannot afford to keep allowing them to overburden our schools and benefit systems.
2. This type of documentation can lead to further voter fraud by using these licenses as a form of identification. It also can be used as a means of identification to obtain other services and benefits not currently available to undocumented immigrants. On its face, the fact that a person now has a driver's license also tends to negate the undocumented status somewhat.
3. There is clearly a safety problem and financial liability problem with issuing these licenses. From a safety point of view how can we be sure they would be able to read the highway signs if they did not speak English or had passed a test so qualifying them? From a financial point of view insurance would be required as well. This whole system is abused by people who take out the insurance one day to register their vehicle and cancel it the next day leaving the law abiding citizen holding the bag. If these immigrants came here illegally what makes anyone believe they would follow the other laws of the land?

In summary, we the members of the Gloucester Town Council have voted to send you this letter opposing the issuance of driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants by executive order or any other process which might be employed to issue them.

Sincerely,
Walter M. O. Steere, III, President
Gloucester Town Council

(End of letter)

Councilor Burlingame suggested adding the following to the last paragraph: "This is not to infer that we would not support the issuance of driver's licenses to legal immigrants." Councilor W. Steere stated that if the Council feels strongly about it, we could wait until the next meeting to reword the letter.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he would just add it right now. Councilor W. Steere stated that it is an important letter to send to the Governor and he would prefer to wait until the next meeting. Councilor Sette suggested that a copy of the letter, when finalized, be sent to our Representatives.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, suggested two (2) minor changes to the text which would specify “undocumented immigrants.”

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE until the next Town Council meeting the authorization of the Town Council President to sign correspondence to the Governor’s office regarding the Town Council’s opposition to the issuance of driver’s licenses to illegal immigrants; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. R.I. D.O.T. Gloucester road work
RT. 100 to Town line - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Burlingame stated that he was advised by Tim Inacio, Town Planner, that the planned roundabout has been rescheduled because the State is reallocating the funds to address bridge repairs first. Councilor Burlingame stated that his concern was that the Route 100 project was tied in with the roundabout, but the Department of Transportation has notified us that the resurfacing of Route 100 will be done next Spring. Councilor Burlingame stated that a Project Manager has been named, giving us a contact person to keep the Council informed.

Councilor W. Steere asked if DOT mentioned the resurfacing of Route 44 in the eastern part of Town. Councilor Burlingame replied in the negative, stating that they have not responded to the letter sent by the Council. It was suggested that a second letter be sent. Councilor G. Steere stated that the roundabout may be tied in with the repair of cracks on the bridge, which would be a priority.

- E. Boards & Commissions
 1. Declare vacancy - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Budget Board
One 3-year term to expire 1/2016

Councilor W. Steere stated that Dave Steere, Budget Board Chair has requested the following:

“as we discussed several weeks ago, Ron has not attended any BB meetings and has moved out of State and therefore not eligible to be a member of the BB and his position should be filled. I do not know anyone who would be interested.”

Councilor W. Steere noted that the Clerk has stated that Mr. Bachman is no longer a registered voter in Gloucester due to a registration in another state.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to DECLARE a vacancy on the Budget Board, for the 3-year term to expire 1/2016, of Ronald Bachman; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

2. Appointments - Discussion and/or action

- a. Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission
Position #4: One 2-year term to expires on 01/01/2017

Councilor W. Steere stated that there are currently three vacancies on this board. The Chair is now recommending Sharon Menard, a registered voter. Councilor W. Steere stated the Council has received her talent bank application.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPOINT Sharon Menard to the Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission to Position #4, for a 2-year term to expire 01/01/2017;

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Budget Board - Discussion and/or action
One 3-year term to expire 1/2016

Councilor W. Steere noted that there are a few names on the talent bank listing from 2013. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she will contact them and ask if they are still interested.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board for the 3-year term to expire 1/2016;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that Budget season will be upon us so we need to appoint somebody soon.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, Reichert, G. Steere, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

X. Council Correspondence/Discussion

- A. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received correspondence with regard to a situation on Gold Mine Road. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the Council may

discuss this matter, but may not take action. Councilor W. Steere explained that there is a strip of land at the Ponaganset Reservoir that people are using as access, but ownership is in question.

Ray Stetkiewicz, abutter to the strip of land in question, was present. Councilor G. Steere stated that he has met with the residents regarding problems and saw the storage of approx. 15-18 boats on the property in question. Councilor G. Steere stated there is an ownership issue. Councilor G. Steere stated Providence Water Supply has a sign up there with a cable across that is locked. and it has become a nuisance (parties, parking on the property and on the side of the road. etc.). Councilor G. Steere stated, he believes, that the strip of land was originally intended to be used as a fire lane to get water for the fire trucks.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the Assessor's Map shows it clearly as a parcel with no identifying number, therefore it is not being taxed. J. Fecteau stated that she contacted Providence Water Supply Board regarding their sign on the property, but they stated that they did not put it there, adding that people frequently steal their signs.

Councilor Reichert commented that when the lots were originally cut, (when it was owned by O'Keefe) he believes, the road was opened up to be a fire trail. Tim Kane stated that the plat was recorded in 1951 which predates planning. T. Kane stated that the deeds to these lots gives the right to use the 30-foot right-of-way to access the property, but the 25-foot right-of-way is not mentioned. T. Kane stated the deeds need to be reviewed.

T. Kane asked Mr. Stetkiewicz if it was residents of the plat or outsiders using it. Mr. Stetkiewicz stated he does not know who but just that so many people use it, and they would like to know who owns the property, especially, should a problem arise. Mr. Stetkiewicz stated realtor sites are putting "water access" to surrounding lots that may be for sale.

Councilor Reichert stated he would like to check in with West Gloucester Fire regarding this issue.

Atty. Kane discussed what rights may or may not be present for the property owners. There was discussion concerning the procedure for road abandonment, which would require advertising and notice to the residents of the plat. J. Fecteau noted that abandonment may not be an option due to the fact that it is used so much. Councilor Reichert gave some history of the area.

Councilor Burlingame suggested taking down vehicle registrations to determine who is using the access. Councilor Burlingame stated that it is important to know whether they live in the area to determine what direction the Council should go. Tim Kane stated that he will review the deeds and the Assessor will research ownership.

- B. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank regarding the Municipal Road and Bridge Revolving Fund. Councilor W. Steere stated that there has been an increase in funding and we are encouraged to send in submissions for eligible projects.

- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received an update concerning the status of the State pension case.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the (Interlocal) Trust regarding a claim which was forwarded.
- E. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received some information from the Town of Putnam, CT, with regard to the proposed amendments to their Subdivision Regulations. Councilor W. Steere noted that we received the letter because Gloucester borders Putnam.

XI. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that EMA Director Jason Rhodes has been monitoring hurricane Joaquin and the Department is making preparations, such as updating the Special Needs Registry. Councilor W. Steere asked Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, where his Department stands with regard to the storm. G. Treml replied that the generators are full and chain saws are ready to go.

Councilor Reichert asked G. Treml how the building is progressing. G. Treml replied that it is not going as well as expected. Councilors W. Steere and Burlingame both commented that on a recent visit, the two workers were sitting around drinking coffee. G. Treml stated that he has no control over that.

Councilor Burlingame asked if we run the risk of having the temporary operation through winter. Councilor Burlingame offered to attend the next meeting with the engineers, who originally projected a completion date of September.

XII. Bds. and Commissions/Discussion

None.

XIII. Open Forum

- A. Marie Sweet of the Heritage Society spoke about a fundraiser scheduled for November 1st. M Sweet noted that this will be a comedy performance called “Father Misgivings” and will be the only fundraiser for 2015. M. Sweet stated that tickets are \$20 and refreshments will be served.

Marie Sweet expressed her opinion that, as a constituent, she is opposed to sending a letter to the Governor regarding driver’s licenses for undocumented immigrants.

- B. Lorraine O’Connors, representing the Ponaganset Education Foundation, stated that there will be a fundraiser on October 11th at Bella Restaurant. L. O’Connors stated that tickets are \$50, which includes a wine-tasting and a raffle.
- C. Councilor Sette mentioned a fundraiser on October 22nd, supporting Wreaths Across America, at the Kelly-Gazzera Post in Johnston.
- D. Councilor W. Steere asked Tim Kane if he has heard back from RIPTA. T. Kane replied that he has spoken to their attorney who advised that if we don’t want bus riders

parking in the Town's lot, they should be told to park on the street. Councilor W. Steere suggested that a letter be sent to RIPTA with copies to our Senator and Representatives.

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to ADJOURN at 8:52 p.m.; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the October 15, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council held in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **October 15, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William E. Reichert; Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; William Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; and members of the Budget Board.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Public Hearing - Discussion and/or action

A. Gloucester Code of Ordinance – Discussion and/or Action

Proposed Amendment:

- a. Chapter 258, Vehicles & Traffic
 - Section 5. Renumbering
 - New Sect. 5. Overnight parking on Town Property

Councilor W. Steere stated that the first reading for this proposed amendment was held on September 17, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Open and asked if anyone wished to be heard.

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

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADOPT the amendment to Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 258 Vehicles & Traffic, amending Section 5. renumbering & the addition of a new Sect. 5. Overnight parking on Town Property, effective upon passage; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

- VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action
- A. Approval of Town Council Reg. meeting minutes of October 1, 2015
 - B. Tax Assessors Additions & Abatements for September 2015
 - C. Finance Directors Monthly Report for September 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council Regular meeting minutes of October 1, 2015; to APPROVE the ADDITIONS to the 2015 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,280.70 and the ABATEMENTS to the 2015 Tax Roll in the amount of \$2,730.89; and to ACCEPT the Finance Directors Monthly Report for September, 2015; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

- VII. Unfinished Business
- A. Boards & Commissions
 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Senior Center Board of Directors
One 5-year term to expire 1/1/2019

Councilor Burlingame recommended Judy Branch for this position, stating that she has expressed interest in serving on the Senior Center Board. Councilor Burlingame noted that he has cleared it with legal.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Judy Branch to the Senior Center Board of Directors for one 5-year term to expire 1/1/2019; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

- b. Land Trust - Member At Large - Planning Board member (to Land Trust) 1 year term to expire 2/1/2016

Councilor W. Steere read the following recommendation from the Planning Board:

To: Town Council
From: Planning Board
Date: October 13, 2015
Subject: Planning Board Liaison the Land Trust

At the October 5th, 2015 Planning Board Regular Meeting, the Planning Board motioned:
That the Planning Board introduce Janine Pitocco to the Town Council for the position
on the Gloucester Land Trust.

(End)

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Janine Pitocco to the Land Trust,
Member at Large from the Planning Board, for a one year term to expire 2/1/2016;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- c. Foster/Gloucester Juvenile Hearing Board
One 1-year Alternate term to expire 9/30/2016

Councilor G. Steere stated that he spoke with Richard Travers, of Gold Mine Road, who listed
Juvenile Hearing Board as his first choice on his Talent Bank Application. Councilor G. Steere
noted that Mr. Travers confirmed that he would like to serve on the Board.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPOINT Richard Travers to the Juvenile
Hearing Board, an Alternate member for a 1-year term to expire 9/30/2016;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- d. Budget Board
One 3-year term to expire 1/2016

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that since 2011, there were nine (9) people who wanted to be
on the Budget Board. J. Fecteau noted that several have stated that they are no longer interested
and she is still waiting to hear back from the remaining candidates.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board for the
3-year term to expire 1/2016;

seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Finance Office

1. Authorization to Change employee classification (position currently vacant) -
Discussion and/or action
a. Financial Clerk to Clerk 1
2. Current Employee/Position Reclassification Approval - Discussion and/or action
a. Administrative Aid to Financial Analyst

Councilor W. Steere read into the record the following request from Diane Brennan, (this was received in August but not read into the record, at that time, due to this item being tabled):

To: Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance, H/R
Re: Finance Personnel
Date: August 27, 2015

I am looking to change my initial request to post the position of finance clerk. I asking for you to reconsider and post the position as a Clerk I.

I am proposing to change Jacky DiPietro to the position of financial analyst with increased duties and responsibilities. The function of this position will be to work with me in developing the town budget and the school budget.

The position would be responsible for all grant reporting – school and town – and any other reporting mandates as required. Special projects, audit preparation, monthly analysis, and general financial reporting would be done by the financial analyst. Additional duties on the HR side are to be part of the duties as well. There continue to be new initiatives due to federal mandates for the human resource area. Many of these functions would be new duties and some would be to expand on existing duties.

Jacky has demonstrated that she is a hard worker and cares about the town as she performs her job. As the opportunity presented itself, I see this proposed change as a move to capitalize on Jacky's expertise.

Jacky has grown up with the job and possesses analytical skills due to her extensive on the job training. Her performance demonstrates the same. I have spoken at length to Councilman Sette finance liaison and Councilman Burlingame, human resource liaison, about this change. I am requesting the compensation of \$52,000 base pay as an appropriate amount for the duties of the job. Jacky would transition out of the bargaining unit to the

new position with her current vacation and sick time transferring over. She would fall under the guidelines of the personnel handbook for her benefits.

The effective date would be August 3, 2015.

(End of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor Sette stated that he has had extensive discussion with the Finance Director regarding this request. Councilor Sette stated that he is in favor of the proposal due to new mandates that we need to be aware of and keep track of. Councilor Sette noted that he previously thought the Finance Department was becoming too school-oriented, but this re-organization would allow the Finance Director to focus on the Town, especially during budget time.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he has been involved with this over the past several months and he believes that the proposal makes sense from a Human Resource point of view.

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, commented that she sought legal advice with regard to the realm of the bargaining unit.

Councilor Reichert inquired if this position would be appointed by the Town Council every two (2) years. There was Council consensus that this would be up for appointment along with the other non-Union positions. Councilor W. Steere asked if the applicant is aware of that. D. Brennan replied that the applicant is aware that she is coming out of the Union.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to AUTHORIZE the Finance Director to post and advertise a Clerk 1 position to fill a current vacancy in the Finance office, and to AUTHORIZE the appointment of Jacky DiPietro to a newly created position of "Financial Analyst", for a two year term to run concurrent with Town Council term, at the annual rate of \$52,000, effective 8/3/15;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Authorization of Correspondence

1. Letter to Gov. Raimondo opposing the issuance of driver's licenses to illegal immigrants - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Burlingame explained that the Council has amended their original proposed letter to show Council's issue lies with "undocumented immigrants" and not those in our state legally.

Councilor Sette explained reasoning being put forward in an interview by Mayor Elorza, of Providence.

Councilor Sette stated the considerations were for parents, whose children may be legal immigrants, to be able to drive to work, school, and for identification for banking, etc.

Councilor Burlingame expressed his concern regarding the unintended consequences of issuing the driver's licenses.

Discussion followed on the lack of attention our area received during the last election and it was agreed that the town needs to continue to speak out to be heard. Councilor Sette asked this correspondence also be forwarded to the League of Cities and Towns.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign correspondence to the Governor's Office regarding the Town Council's opposition to the issuance of R.I. Driver's Licenses to undocumented immigrants; a copy of this correspondence shall be forwarded to our Senator and Representatives and the RI League of Cities and Towns; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Police - Dispatch - Discussion and/or action

1. Authorization to Advertise - Police Dispatch staffing

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, requested the authorization to advertise for the position of a full-time dispatcher.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Chief to work with the Personnel Director to advertise for applicants for the position of Police Dispatcher; seconded by G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Budget Board

1. Legal Opinion Re: Aid Requests - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere read the following quote from the Budget Board's correspondence forwarded to Council on 5/7/2015:

“The Budget Board is requesting that a legal opinion from the Town Solicitor be obtained as to whether town aid can be extended to non-town entities and if so, what type of non-town entities would qualify for town aid.”

William Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor, stated that the Atty. Kane has forwarded a legal opinion. Atty. Bernstein stated the Town Charter does not specifically prohibit entertaining the requests from non-Town entities such as libraries or Little League and past practice has been to accept these requests. Atty. Bernstein stated the legal opinion is that accepting these requests does not violate the charter.

Councilor Sette stated he has some experience with these issues in other communities while working on their budgets. Councilor Sette stated these requests are common practice and the one thing the community he worked it requested of the entity was a financial statement to ensure the funds are truly needed.

Councilor Sette stated if there was concern in the future that could be a step to take. Councilor Sette stated in most communities, if there is a year where cuts need to be made, cutting those requests may be the hard choices.

Atty. Bernstein stated the Charter states that the Budget Board may consider all requests.

Greg Agnone, Budget Board Chair, indicated they were satisfied with the answer.

No action taken.

C. Kent Drive - Maintenance Status - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that earlier this month Councilor Burlingame spoke to representatives of Factory Mutual regarding maintenance of Kent Drive. Councilor W. Steere read into the record the following memo submitted by Councilor Burlingame to memorialize any agreements made at that meeting:

September 30, 2015
Memo to Town Council

Subject: September 9, 2015 meeting with F.M. Global Concerning Kent Drive

A meeting was held on September 9, 2015 at the West Gloucester Campus of F.M. Global to discuss the snow plowing and maintenance of Kent Drive located off of Rt 94. Attending the meeting were Buster Steere, Gary Tremel and Ted Burlingame representing the Town of Gloucester together with Rich Chmura and Janine Pitocco from F.M Global.

It was agreed that in the future F.M. Global would be responsible for the snow plowing of Kent Drive. Gary offered to touch the road up with gravel as necessary prior to the snow plowing season.

Rich Chmura, the campus manager, also reaffirmed the volunteer days from his staff to assist the Town on various projects. This included help with a future Gazebo on the former Kent property in the village.

These are my notes from the meeting.

Ted Burlingame

(end of memo)

Discussion:

There was discussion regarding whether any action is necessary concerning this agreement. Councilor G. Steere and Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, agreed with Councilor Burlingame's notes, but Councilor W. Steere noted that at some point, there will be new people on the Council and at F. M. Global and perhaps this agreement should be in writing. It was suggested the Council could send a letter to F.M. affirming the agreement.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to authorize the Town Council president to send a letter to the Campus Manager of F.M. Global affirming the agreement regarding the maintenance of Kent Drive;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

D. RLM Request/Satisfaction of Lien - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Burlingame suggested that this matter be tabled until we are clear on the process. Councilor Burlingame stated that there are questions regarding how the liens can be discharged without a transfer of the property. Councilor Burlingame stated that we must obtain an opinion from the Town Solicitor.

Councilor Sette agreed, stating that he does not know if the Council can abate this. Councilor G. Steere asked if it is our lien or Rhode Island Housing's.

William Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor, stated that if the Town is the lien holder, the Council would have the authority to compromise or settle. Councilor Burlingame noted that when it was Western RI Home Repair, we could not have done that, but now that it is under Glocester Home Repair we can, however, several things must happen before that.

Councilor Burlingame further stated that the liens are in the name of the former owner, not RLM. Councilor Burlingame questioned whether the mobile home could be transferred to RLM with liens on it.

Councilor G. Steere stated that we don't want to own the mobile home because we would have to not only pay the liens, but also pay to have the home disposed of.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the request by RLM regarding the satisfaction of liens on a mobile home until a legal process is determined by the Solicitor; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Council Correspondence/Discussion

- A. Councilor Sette reminded the Council about the fundraiser for Wreaths Across America to be held on October 22, 2015. Councilor Sette further reiterated the work of Wreaths Across America and its mission of Teach, Honor, Respect, as taught by teacher Mike Calenda.

Councilor Sette explained the fund raising done by Wreaths is to ensure a green wreath can be purchased for Arlington Cemetery in the name of each eighth grade student from the middle school.

- B. Councilor Burlingame stated that Tim Inacio, Town Planner, has given the Council a schedule with regard to the installation of a roundabout, but stated that there are concerns about the area of the old Texaco station. Councilor Burlingame stated that T. Inacio is in contact with DOT and will let the Council know when he receives an answer.

Councilor W. Steere spoke about road projects which have been pushed back several years by DOT. Councilor W. Steere further stated that he is upset that the rumble strips on Snake Hill Road have not been removed as promised by DOT. Councilor W. Steere stated the Planner has reached out and has had no response since August. There was Council consensus to send a second letter to DOT and also to the Governor.

Councilor Sette noted that as a result of the bridges and Infrastructure Bank structure being created, projects which include a bridge get priority over other road projects. Councilor W. Steere noted that Route 44 has not been resurfaced in over 35 years.

- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Governor stating that her focus is putting people back to work, making our economy stronger.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received an offer to donate land to the Town. There was consensus to forward the letter to the Tax Assessor.

- E. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received a complaint from a resident regarding a dirt bike track in the eastern part of Town.
 - F. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from DEM with regard to a stormwater coordinator.
 - G. Councilor W. Steere stated that an application was received from DEM regarding Tree City USA Certification if we are interested in applying. This was forwarded to the Town Planner and the Tree Warden.
- X. Department Head Report/Discussion
- A. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, gave a report regarding the construction at the Transfer Station. Councilor W. Steere asked when we could expect this job to be completed. (No date given, but response not audible)
- Councilor Sette stated that a memo was received from Resource Recovery regarding tipping fees, stating that the increase will be staggering. G. Treml stated he has been saying just that for a long time. Councilor Sette stated this will become a budgeting issue by 2017.
- B. Councilor G. Steere spoke about the traffic light in the center of Town, stating that he feels that the timing needs to be adjusted. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Department of Transportation should come out to assess the situation and he wants to be present when they do. Councilor G. Steere stated the timing is ridiculous and something has to be done. Joseph DelPrete responded he will investigate further and he will be in touch with Councilor G. Steere.

- XI. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion
- A. Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, stated that there is land at the Middle School which may be suitable for ball fields and suggested that the Town partner with the School Department in this regard. Councilor G. Steere stated that we give the School Department millions of dollars each year and asked if we are not already a partner.
- W. Steere stated the taxpayers are going to pay for fields one way or another. Councilor Sette stated Foster should be involved also. W. Steere agreed. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Little League could go to the Region on their own without the Town getting involved.
- W. Steere, Jr. stated that a firm has been hired to create a computer program by which parents can monitor what their child has done all year, such as assignments and homework. Councilor W. Steere noted that there are still some households in Foster who do not have access to the Internet.

- B. Greg Agnone, of the Budget Board, stated that David Steere, chair of the Budget Board, has indicated that he no longer wishes to serve in that capacity. G. Agnone stated that he will take over as chair and D. Steere will serve as a regular member.

XII. Open Forum

A. Cassy Heneault, of Snake Hill Road, complained to the Council about a motocross track which has been installed on neighboring property, causing a noise issue. C. Heneault stated that she and her husband called the Police, but were told that the Town's noise ordinance is "unenforceable". Councilor W. Steere asked if she has been in contact with Ken Johnson, Building Official.

C. Heneault replied in the affirmative. K. Johnson stated that he spoke with the property owner last month and was told that the bike track was for his son. K. Johnson stated that he did some research to determine if there was an Ordinance concerning this type of track. K. Johnson stated that whenever he went out there, nothing was going on at the time.

Councilor W. Steere asked William Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor, if restrictions could be made with regard to the number of bikes allowed. W. Bernstein replied that something would already have to be in place but our Zoning Ordinance does not specifically address this situation.

W. Bernstein noted that a Private Nuisance could be filed in Superior Court by the residents affected by the noise. W. Bernstein stated that the problem with the Noise Ordinance is that unless it is specific with regard to decibel levels, it is unenforceable because what is "reasonable" to one person is not to another.

Councilor G. Steere noted that he owns land in Burrillville and has had a similar experience with an abutting property owner. Councilor G. Steere concurred that a Noise Ordinance is totally useless because the Police were there with their decibel reader and it did no good at all.

Councilor Burlingame urged K. Johnson to speak to the property owner again. Councilor Sette stated that we must make sure that it does not become a commercial enterprise. Councilor W. Steere commented that it is frustrating because this is not an isolated incident; it happens all over Town.

Cassy Heneault asked if there is a way to change the Noise Ordinance to make it more enforceable. Councilor Sette replied that a former Town Council tried to amend the Ordinance but was unsuccessful. Councilor G. Steere noted that even with a Noise Ordinance, you have to be there at the right time and the decibels must be at a certain level.

- B. Don Simpson spoke in favor of four-wheelers and bikes, but stated that the noise problem is caused by the owners who remove the baffles from the exhaust.

D. Simpson stated that it is very difficult to come out of the Family Dollar parking lot and the gas station due to the parking spaces and traffic backup.

XIII. Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to: R.I.G.L. 42-46-5.a (2) Potential Litigation - Zoning - Discussion and/or action; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XIV. Reconvene Open Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to RECONVENE Open Session. Disclose that one (1) vote was taken in Executive Session and seal the minutes of Executive Session; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 9:17 p.m.; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the November 5, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **November 5, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William E. Reichert; and Edward C. Burlingame.

Member Absent: Steven A. Sette

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; and members of the Kent Property Oversight Commission.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Proclamation - Discussion and/or action

A. Lieut. William G. Schanck Jr., Hall of Honor

Councilor W. Steere stated that on November 10th at 6:00 p.m. at Ponaganset High School, a main hallway where a mural was painted, will be dedicated to Lieut. Schanck and Ponaganset alumni that have served or are currently serving in the military.

Councilor Reichert read the following Proclamation into the record:

Proclamation #2015-3
Lieutenant William Garrett Schanck, Jr. Ponaganset Hall of Honor

Whereas; Ponaganset high school students, under the guidance of Art Teacher Heather Bovenzi, took the idea of Teacher/Coach Gary Martinelli and created a mural in the main hallway of Ponaganset High School to honor:

Lieutenant William G. Schanck Jr.

and all servicemen and women, whether veterans or those currently serving our country, with ties to Ponaganset High School; and

Whereas; Lieutenant “Gary” Schanck, a Ponaganset graduate, enlisted in the US Marine Corps to serve his country on August 16, 1968. Upon his graduation from

Officers Candidate School, Gary received a commission as a Second Lieut. in Quantico, Virginia. He was assigned for duty and went to Viet Nam on May 17, 1969 to serve with Company D, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division; and

Whereas; On June 21, 1969 Lieutenant Schanck gave the greatest sacrifice for his country when he was injured and died as a result of his aircraft being hit by enemy ground fire; and

Whereas; Gary Martinelli, with the help of CAST for funding, the support of Dr. Michael Barnes, and the talent and hard work of Art Teacher, Heather Bovenzi, along with the students of Ponaganset High School created a beautiful and lasting memorial mural to honor Lieutenant Schanck, those veterans who have served, and those currently serving our country who have the distinction of being past alumni of Ponaganset High School; and

Whereas; this mural embodies the dedication , patriotism, and sacrifice of those that serve their country, and the honor we hold for these brave serviceman and women; and

The Town Council of the Town of Gloucester hereby proclaims our thanks and appreciation to Ponaganset High School for bestowing this honor upon Lieutenant William G. Schanck, Jr., his family, and all Ponaganset Alumni that have chosen to serve our country with the creation of the Lt. William Garrett Schanck, Jr. Ponaganset Hall of Honor.

Walter M.O. Steere III, President

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Dated this 5th day of November, 2015
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere noted that this dedication will take place on November 10th, the evening before Veterans' Day, adding that a Veteran's Day celebration will also be held on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. at the Senior Center.

Councilor Burlingame commented that he was a friend of Lieutenant Schanck and was in the service at the same time. Councilor Burlingame stated that Lieutenant Schanck was a good guy and he feels that this honor is very fitting.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Resolution - Discussion and/or action

A. Wreaths Across America - November 20th, 2015

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has prepared a Resolution for the Wreaths Across America ceremony, which was read into the record by Councilor G. Steere.

RESOLUTION #2015-17
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

- WHEREAS:** Since 1992, the Worcester Wreath Company has given Arlington Cemetery more than 5,000 wreaths annually. The project, known as the Arlington Wreath Project, began when the company, owned by Morrill Worcester, found itself with extra wreaths at the close of the 1992 holiday season. Wanting to do something to honor our nation's veterans, Worcester arranged for these wreaths to be laid in one of Arlington's older and less-visited sections. As Worcester's plans became known, other groups and individuals began offering their support and assistance; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2006, Worcester took the project national with the launch of Wreaths Across America. In his words, "We couldn't do anything in this country if it wasn't for the people who gave their lives to protect us. It's a great honor to be able to come here and pay our respects"; and
- WHEREAS:** Fifteen years later, more than 75,000 wreaths have adorned the Arlington graves of our nation's fallen veterans. By the time the final wreath has been placed this event has helped spread the message of the importance of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by our veterans and their families to preserve the freedoms we hold dear; and
- WHEREAS:** at Ponaganset Middle School our students and their teachers give of their time and efforts for months to prepare for the chance to show our communities support; and
- WHEREAS:** Ponaganset Middle School, under the direction of Social Studies Teacher, Michael Calenda, has been and continues to be the force that brings this honor to our Town; Through him our young people have set an example for all our residents to follow and have laid the groundwork to ensure our Veterans are never forgotten, living the **REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH** message; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Town Council and the Town Clerk represent all Gloucester residents when we say to Mr. Michael Calenda, the staff, & the students that we are proud of the spirit you bring, the example you set, and the leadership you show by giving us WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA at Ponaganset Middle School.

Walter M.O. Steere, III
Gloucester Town Council President

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Dated this 5th day of November, 2015
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Steere commented that it is excellent to see that our local schools recognize our veterans because it is not like that everywhere in the country. Councilor W. Steere added that it is a tribute to the teachers and students.

VII. Kent Property Oversight Committee Future proposals & plans - Discussion & Action

Councilor W. Steere stated that members of the Kent Property Oversight Committee would like to address the Council with updates on their work and recommendations for the use of the property.

Mike DeGrange, chair of the Kent Property Oversight Committee, explained several options that the Committee has come up with. M. DeGrange stated the Committee considered why and what a building could be used for. M. DeGrange commented that existing Town events, such as the 4th of July parade, Memorial Day parade and Candlelight Shopping could benefit from having a pavilion with restrooms on the property.

M. DeGrange further stated that having a pavilion for the outdoor concerts that currently take place at Chepachet Union Church would accommodate more people and be protected from rain. M. DeGrange mentioned several other events which could take place, such as wine tastings, barn dances, etc.

M. DeGrange stated that the first proposal is for a 40' X 60' open air pavilion and a 20' X 30' building which would house a men's and women's bathroom in addition to a storage area and mechanical room. M. DeGrange stated that the second proposal would have a smaller footprint, therefore the cost would be slightly reduced.

M. DeGrange stated that proposal #3 would be just the open-air pavilion with no accessory building or restrooms. M. DeGrange noted that this would be the least expensive option. M. DeGrange stated that the Committee studied all of the options and has made their recommendation to the Council that Proposal #1 would be the most beneficial option for the Town and its citizens.

Councilor Burlingame asked if the pavilion is the same size in each proposal. M. DeGrange replied in the affirmative. Councilor W. Steere asked if parking is included in the proposals. M. DeGrange replied yes, but until the engineering is complete we will not know how many spaces. Councilor W. Steere asked if we have an approximate cost for each option. M. DeGrange replied in the negative, stating that when we decide which way we are going, we can get an cost estimate. Councilor W. Steere stated that he hoped to get a "ball park" idea before going any further.

Regarding the public restrooms, Councilor W. Steere questioned how they will be maintained and the cost of such maintenance. Councilor W. Steere also asked if there would be one unisex bathroom or one of each. Councilor W. Steere noted that there have been issues at Gloucester Memorial Park with regard to the restrooms. Councilor W. Steere stated that a visitor center would be great, but questioned who would man a visitor center. Councilor W. Steere stated that these would be extra costs, however he is in favor of the overall concept.

Councilor Burlingame stated that these are things that the Council must think about. Councilor Reichert stated that he likes the idea, but we must consider the cost. Councilor G. Steere expressed his opinion that it would be senseless to have a pavilion with no restrooms. Councilor W. Steere stated that Scituate has a nice complex without restrooms; Porta-Johns are used instead.

David Wright, of 95 Pound Road, stated that he loves the idea of having something in the center of Town and asked if the buildings would be colonial in nature. M. DeGrange replied that the architectural design is meant to go along with the rest of the Village. D. Wright stated his opinion that having a bathroom would be an advantage.

Richard Ventrone, of Old Quarry Road, stated that he is an architect and has just completed a similar building in Wakefield. Mr. Ventrone stated that a building of approximately this size would cost about \$400,000. R. Ventrone stated that the building (in Wakefield) was very carefully detailed, therefore the cost could be trimmed down. Councilor G. Steere asked what is the size of the building in Wakefield. R. Ventrone replied that it is 40' 4" by 18' 4". R. Ventrone stated that he will send the information to the Town Clerk.

Rose LaVoie asked if this matter will go before the voters. Councilor W. Steere stated that it will be the Council's decision, however we have a grant from DEM. R. LaVoie asked the amount of the grant and Councilor W. Steere replied \$100,000. R. LaVoie commented that the last time we received a grant, for Gloucester Memorial Park, it cost us a million dollars. R. LaVoie stated that she is concerned with the upkeep of the buildings and cautioned the Council to look at this very carefully.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council will take all this into consideration and will wait until Councilor Sette is present to take action. Councilor G. Steere noted that there is a deadline regarding the grant; however there no longer is a deadline to put a building on the property, as that deed restriction was removed.

George Charette stated that he has worked on this project for the past three (3) years and feels that Gloucester needs a venue such as this to keep people in Town and bring people in from other towns.

Councilor W. Steere stated that if we do not use the grant money, this would be a Capital Project which would have to go to the voters. Councilor W. Steere commented that he would not feel comfortable asking the voters for money at this time. Councilor Burlingame stated that there was an offer from FM Global to help us with the pavilion. Councilor Burlingame further stated that both buildings do not have to be constructed at the same time. Councilor W. Steere stated that

Councilor Sette should be back by the next meeting and suggested that the Council discuss the matter and come to a consensus by the end of December.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Committee has given the Council some good suggestions and thanked the members for their time and effort.

VIII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

A. Approval of Town Council Reg. meeting minutes of October 15, 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPROVE the Town Council Regular meeting minutes of October 15, 2015;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Unfinished Business

A. Boards & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action

a. Budget Board

One 3-year term to expire 1/2016

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board for one three year term to expire 1/2016;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. RLM Request/Satisfaction of Lien- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere explained that this item was tabled until the Solicitor could advise.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that if the Council grants the request to waive half the amount of the lien, he recommends that it be conditional upon the mobile home park owner acquiring ownership of the abandoned mobile home and paying outstanding taxes. T. Kane noted that the Town could take the mobile home as collateral, however a 40-year old mobile home does not have much value. Councilor Burlingame agreed that this makes sense.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to WAIVE \$2,250.00 of the \$4,500.00 owed by George Plouffe to the Gloucester Home Repair Program with respect to a mobile home located at 18 Hemlock Road, Chepachet, RI, conditional upon the mobile home park owner, RLM II LLC, acquiring ownership of said mobile home for \$1.00 and bringing taxes on said mobile home current. Finance Director Diane Brennan is hereby authorized to discharge any liens securing said \$4,500.00 debt upon satisfaction of the conditions set forth above; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

Councilor G. Steere asked if by waiving half the amount of the lien, do we have to pay that amount to Rhode Island Housing. Councilor Burlingame replied in the negative and stated that this way RLM will pay half of the lien when otherwise we were going to get nothing. Councilor Burlingame further stated that if we were to take possession of the mobile home, it would probably cost us more to get rid of it. Councilor G. Steere agreed.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

X. New Business

A. Motor Vehicle Tax Valuations - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Burlingame explained that this came up when a taxpayer called to ask why the taxes went up on his 19-year old vehicle.

Councilor Burlingame stated that the Department of Revenue has a table where book value is factored by a percentage, depending on the age of the vehicle, with the percentage decreasing as the vehicle gets older.

According to this chart, a 1998 vehicle would be assessed at 30% of the Blue Book value, however for older vehicles, the value jumps back up to 100%. Councilor Burlingame stated that this is the way the Legislature set it up. Councilor Burlingame stated that he contacted Representative Chippendale regarding this matter, but was told that nothing will change because the Legislature does not want to bother with it.

Councilor Burlingame proposed to the Council that we leave the assessment at 30% until the vehicle is 25 years old, at which time the tax goes away. Councilor Burlingame noted that some communities do that. There was Council consensus to put this on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

B. Personnel

1. Building/Zoning Official
Salary adjustment - Discussion and/or action

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere congratulated Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, on passing his certification exam. Councilor W. Steere noted that at the time of hire, there was discussion regarding a salary adjustment upon the completion of the certification process. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, concurred and stated that the motion was to revisit the salary amount when certification was obtained, which took place on October 26th.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to set the annual salary compensation for Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, at \$46,237.50;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to make the salary adjustment effective 10/26/15;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

C. RI (Road/bridge) Tolling Proposals - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Burlingame stated that this has been in the news lately and somebody in an official capacity, such as a Town Councilor or a Mayor, must come forward and say that this proposal is insane.

Councilor Burlingame stated that as proposed, the voters will not get a chance to vote on it because revenue bonds will be used. Councilor Burlingame stated that it doesn't make sense to pay 5% for revenue bonds when you could pay 2% for obligation bonds. Councilor Burlingame further stated that the tolls from the trucks will not raise enough money, therefore eventually we could all be paying tolls on the roads we use every day.

Councilor Burlingame noted that there are alternate proposals on the table and he suggested that the Council consider supporting one of them. Councilor Burlingame stated that he is not confident that the Department of Transportation could manage a construction project such as this.

Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council must take a position and let the Governor know that we do not agree with her proposal. Councilor W. Steere stated that he received a phone call today from a Community Outreach representative from the Governor's office asking what we need. Councilor Burlingame stated that he will draft a letter for review at the next meeting.

Councilor Reichert commented that he saw several State workers on Route 94 spreading asphalt with a snow plow. Rose LaVoie stated that these issues should be brought to the attention of the TV stations. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council sent a letter opposing the issuance of drivers' licenses to illegals and that a copy of that letter should be sent to the media if the subject comes up again.

D. Mutual Aid Agreement Between Gloucester Police Department & Foster Police Department - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Solicitor has forwarded a Mutual Aid agreement with Foster. Councilor W. Steere noted the Solicitor has stated this proposed agreement is the same agreement as the existing agreement between Gloucester and Burrillville.

Councilor W. Steere stated that per the agreement a Resolution is required. Councilor Burlingame read the following into the record:

**RESOLUTION #2015-18
GLOUCESTER TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Gloucester Chief of Police has been authorized by Resolution #2013-15 to enter into a mutual aid agreement with the Town of Foster, thereby, authorizing the provision of police services across jurisdictional lines; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gloucester now seeks, through its Chief of Police, to enter into a mutual aid agreement with the Town of Foster, for the purpose of providing reciprocal police services across these jurisdictional lines; and

WHEREAS, the "agreement" attached, dated November 5, 2015, includes the geographical boundaries, terms, & conditions needed to support and enhance the capabilities of local law enforcement in the Towns of Foster & Gloucester; and

WHEREAS, said agreement, shall be forward with a certified copy of this resolution, upon passage, to be signed and so authorized by the Foster Chief of Police. Upon the signing and authorization by both parties and filed in each respective town the agreement shall be considered effective; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Town Council hereby acknowledges said "agreement" by this Resolution and authorizes its Chief of Police to sign said agreement between the Towns of Foster and Gloucester.

Walter M.O. Steere, III, Council President
ATTEST: Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

E. Kent House - Historic property maintenance
Zoning Issues & Permission to proceed - Discussion and/or action

Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, stated that his office has run out of options with regard to the above mentioned property, which has been in foreclosure since 2007. K. Johnson stated that the bank is not willing to pay to maintain the property, adding that the property has deteriorated to the point where it has become a safety issue. K. Johnson does not feel that the house will be viable after the winter. K. Johnson noted that this is a violation of the Zoning Ordinance.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that Wells Fargo has foreclosed on the property according to the Land Evidence records and a letter will be sent to them regarding their responsibility. K. Johnson stated that the Town has the option to correct the problem and place a lien on the property, however he feels that the Town should not have to expend money on property for which it is not responsible. The Council members concurred. K. Johnson reiterated that if no action is taken to repair the house before winter, it may be lost.

There was discussion regarding the Ordinance, which allows the Town to correct the problem, but does not address fines. K. Johnson expressed his opinion that the Town should not invest money in a project such as this. T. Kane noted that fines are allowed under the Building Code.

F. Boards & Commissions - Discussion and/or action
1. Historic District Commission
a. Three 3-year terms to expire 11/2018

Councilor W. Steere stated that this is for the expired terms of Robin Meek, Molly Harrington and Clayton Lanphear. Councilor W. Steere stated the Chair has indicated that M. Harrington and C. Lanphear wish to be reappointed, however R. Meek does not. Councilor W. Steere stated the Chair has requested that the person filling the alternate position be moved up to fill Robin Meek's position.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to REAPPOINT Molly Harrington & Clayton Lanphear to the Historic District Commission for a three year term to expire 11/2018; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to MOVE Alternate #1, Stephanie Kain, to the expired Regular position #2 for a three year term to expire 11/2018; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None

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

- b. One Alternate 1-year term to expire 11/2016

Councilor Burlingame stated that there has been a recommendation to appoint Richard Ventrone, Jr., a registered architect who has been involved in several historical projects throughout the State.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Richard A. Ventrone, Jr. to the Historic District Commission for a one year term to expire 11/2016; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

Richard Ventrone spoke regarding the issue of the house in the Historic District which is in disrepair and stated that Newport has a Demolition by Neglect clause in their Historic District Ordinance. R. Ventrone noted that severe fines are assessed to owners who neglect their property.

- 2. Zoning Board
 - a. One 5-year term to expire 11/2020

Councilor W. Steere stated that this appointment is for the expired term of Christine Bigwood, who wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to REAPPOINT Christine Bigwood to the Zoning Board for a five year term to expire 11/2020; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

G. Safety Commission Recommendation - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received the minutes of the October 13, 2015 Safety Commission meeting. Councilor W. Steere stated the Safety Commission was asked to discuss speed concerns on Lake Dr. and Salisbury Rd.

Minute excerpt:

After discussion the Commission made this motion:

Motion made by Chief Joseph DelPrete to recommend to the Town Council that a stop sign be added to the end of Salisbury Road and in addition lower the speed limit to 15 miles per hour on the following roads: Lake Drive, Salisbury Road, First Road, Center Road, Middle Road, second DPW Gary Treml and approved unanimously.

(End of motion)

Discussion:

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, asked that the Public Works Department install speed limit signs on the above mentioned roads as well as a stop sign on Salisbury Road.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, distributed copies of the current ordinance regarding speed limits and stop signs. J. Fecteau noted that Lake Drive is currently 20 miles per hour, Salisbury, First and Middle Roads are already 15, and Centre Road is not on the list.

Regarding stop signs, J. Fecteau noted that a sign was added at Salisbury Road and Jackson Schoolhouse Road in 2010. J. Fecteau stated that if the Council wishes to grant the recommendation, the ordinance would have to be amended.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to schedule a 1st reading of a proposed amendment to the speed limit ordinance for December 17, 2015; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

H. 2015-16 MEDS Contract - R.I. Dept. of Health & Town of Gloucester
Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that Jason Rhodes, EMA Director, has submitted the 2016-16 MEDS Contract, which is actually a modification to the original agreement, and the Federal Funding Accountability & Transparency Act form to accompany contract.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the 2015-16 MEDS Contract - between R.I. Dept. of Health & Town of Gloucester & the Federal Funding Accountability & Transparency Act form to accompany said contract; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XI. Council Correspondence/Discussion

- A. Councilor G. Steere stated that he and Chief DelPrete met with a representative from the Department of Transportation regarding the traffic light in the Village. Councilor G. Steere stated that they observed the traffic pattern to determine what was causing the backups and adjustments were made to the timing to remedy the problem. Councilor G. Steere stated that the representative's name is Ted Coleman and he commended him for his effort.
- B. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Audubon Society asking for support for a storm-water runoff project. Councilor W. Steere read the letter into the record:

Dear Mr. Steere and Members of the Town Council:

Audubon Society of Rhode Island is applying with the Blackstone River Coalition for funding to sample the Chepachet River, Clear, Branch and tributaries and to hire a team of dogs that is trained to discern human waste from animal waste in water. This investigation will enhance the Town's ability to respond to permit information and to provide better water quality for the surface waters of the Town. New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) is the funding agency.

The commitment would be for matching hours of any staff time to help direct me to find maps and locations of storm-drains in town, property records, and past monitoring that the town has done for its MS4 permits, as well as access to those records.

The Town Manager of Burrillville and Town Planner of North Smithfield have each provided letters of support. I enclose copies of each for your review.

I am also asking the Gloucester Town Council for its endorsement. I would be happy to make a presentation to the Planning Board at your earliest convenience about this project. Our deadline for the application is November 17. Will you consider a letter of support?

Thank you.
Cordially,
Eugenia Marks
Senior Director for Policy
(End of letter)

Councilor G. Steere stated that he met Eugenia Marks at the Planning Board meeting. Councilor G. Steere stated his opinion that Ms. Marks should be allowed to come to the Town Hall to obtain maps and other documents, but he does not want to commit any of the Town Planner's paid time to assist in this project.

Eugenia Marks was present and explained that she would just ask for an electronic copy of the locations of the sewers. E. Marks further stated that the funding agency is looking for municipal support from the cities and towns in the watershed.

Councilor Burlingame referred to the maps and property records mentioned in the letter from the Audubon Society and stated that he does not know if they are readily available. Ken Johnson noted that the Town Planner has created a layout of all of the storm drain locations and stated that this information is available to the Audubon Society.

Councilor G. Steere suggested that the Town Council write a letter of support, indicating that we will provide any public information which pertains to the project. There was Council consensus to do so.

- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that an invitation was received from Ponaganset Middle School for the Wreaths Across America ceremony which is scheduled for Friday, November 20th at 9:00 a.m.

XII. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the Council had correspondence at the last meeting regarding a lot of land which is being offered to the Town. J. Fecteau noted that the parcel is not located near any other Town-owned property or Land Trust property. J. Fecteau stated that the person making the offer has called her asking for an answer. There was Council consensus to place this on the next agenda.
- B. Councilor W. Steere asked Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, how the Transfer Station project coming along. G. Treml replied that the retaining walls have been

poured and more work is scheduled for next week. W. Steere asked if everything “goes right” would the new facility be operational sometime at the end of December. G. Tremel replied in the affirmative if everything “goes right”.

XIII. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion

- A. Linda Nichols, chair of the Community Resource Commission, reported that one of the members (Laurie Archambault) of the Commission has not attended meetings for the past year. L. Nichols stated she has attempted to reach out to the member on multiple occasions. The Council directed L. Nichols to submit a letter asking for the position to be declared vacant.

L. Nichols explained some of the information she has forwarded to the Council regarding funding & incentives for solar projects.

- B. Roy Anderton of the Community Resource Commission spoke regarding solar projects in Town and potential incentives. Mr. Anderton had previously presented to the Council advisory recommendations from his Commission which include the town forgoing any municipal alternative energy projects until incentives improve and focusing on school facilities first when these projects are considered.

R. Anderton stated the Commission also recommends the town seriously consider the states planned Infrastructure Bank residential component. Councilor W. Steere thanked the Commission for the time they put into this.

- C. Walter Steere, Jr., member of the School Committee, reported that the High School has received 2 grants for the funding needed to establish a lacrosse team in the Spring.

W. Steere, Jr. updated the Council with regard to students from out of district who pay tuition to attend our schools, stating that this will bring in approximately \$245,000 in tuition this year but in the coming years we will have to hire additional staffing. W. Steere, Jr. noted that the classes are now at capacity, therefore if more students come in, additional staff will be required.

W. Steere, Jr. noted that the school may have to hire a dedicated person to oversee this program. Councilor G. Steere stated he thought the school had already hired that dedicated person. W. Steere, Jr. stated he was incorrect (when he previously stated that someone had already been hired just for that purpose) and that a person had been hired to process state forms and state information requests.

W. Steere, Jr. stated that the School Committee has voted to hire an assistant to the grounds person at the High School. W. Steere, Jr. stated while he didn't feel a full time position was necessary but he mentions it because this might involve the town with some cost sharing with Foster.

XIV. Open Forum

- A. Charlie Wilson, chair of the Historic District Committee, noted that Candlelight Shopping will be held on three (3) Thursdays; December 3rd, 10th and 17th.
- B. Mark Rechter, 1218 Putnam Pike, suggested that the Town place a Community Bulletin Board in the Village. M. Rechter stated that this would lend itself well to the Village and would allow tourists to see what is available.
- C. David Wright, of 95 Pound Road, stated that he owns Mulberry Vineyards and asked if he could get some type of signage directing people to his business. D. Wright noted that many farms have this sort of sign and he stated that he would be willing to pay for it. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council recently had discussion regarding signs and it was stated that Foster and some towns in Connecticut have them. There was Council consensus to place the matter on the agenda for the Dec. 3rd Town Council meeting.
- D. Kathy Martley, of 1280 Wallum Lake Road, Pascoag, spoke regarding the proposed power plant in Burrillville, to which she is opposed. K. Martley expressed concern regarding the amount of water which would be used as well as the pollution which would be caused by a power plant. K. Martley distributed literature to the Council members and noted that if anything went wrong at the power plant, Gloucester would also be affected.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has been monitoring the developments but commented that there is not much they can do since the location is in Burrillville. Councilor W. Steere further stated that when more definitive information comes forward, the Council can voice their concern. Councilor W. Steere thanked K. Martley for the information she provided.

- E. Rose LaVoie spoke regarding the motor vehicle tax valuation and the toll proposal for roads and bridges, stating that we should make our views known to the media. Regarding the Kent house, R. LaVoie stated that bad publicity might shame Wells Fargo into doing something about it. R. LaVoie noted that the only reason the Reuben Mason House was saved was because she got so much publicity.

R. LaVoie suggested that a cleanup effort be organized for the Chepachet River as was done in 1995. Councilor W. Steere replied that DEM prevents us from doing that.

- F. Nick (?) (Providence resident) spoke regarding the proposed power plant and showed the Council a map indicating the number of large industrial trucks which will be traveling through Gloucester during the construction of the plant. This will destroy the roads and cause diesel pollution. Nick stated that there will be an open hearing at which time impacted communities and agencies can give their opinions.
- G. Linda Nichols spoke regarding the flags on the poles in the Village, suggesting that the Department of Public Works put them up annually instead of asking for volunteers. L.

Nichols noted that they have the equipment and the employees are already covered by insurance.

- H. Odette McMahon, of Pine Orchard Road, spoke about speeding traffic on her road, stating that there are only three (3) 25 MPH speed limit signs on the entire road. O. McMahon commented that it is unsafe for pedestrians and suggested that more signage be used or speed bumps be installed temporarily to reduce the speeding.
- I. Donald Simpson, of 150 Lakeview Drive, also spoke regarding vehicles speeding on Route 44 in the Village. D. Simpson recommended that caution lights be installed.
- J. Walter Steere, Jr. spoke regarding parking on Putnam Pike in the Village, stating that it makes it difficult to see when pulling out from the side streets. W. Steere, Jr. further commented that it is especially dangerous when trailer trucks park there.
- K. George Charette expressed concern regarding speeding on Route 102 and suggested that the Police issue speeding tickets to violators.

XV. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5.a (5) Land Acquisition - Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Convene to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46.5a(5) Land Acquisition; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Reconvene Open Session

Disclose votes taken in Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Reconvene Open Session, to disclose that no votes were taken and to Seal the minutes of Executive Session; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XVII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 10:13 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the December 3, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting holden in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **November 19, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William E. Reichert; and Edward C. Burlingame.

Member Absent: Steven A. Sette

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; and Judy Branch, Director of Human Services.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Boy Scout Troop 44 from Chepachet.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council would like to recognize Pack 1 and Pack 9 from Troop 44 for their recent efforts regarding a food drive to benefit the Gloucester Food Pantry and the Chepachet Union Church Food Pantry. There was a round of applause for the Scouts.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Reg. meeting minutes of November 5, 2015
- B. Finance Director's Report for October 2015
- C. Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements - October 2015
- D. Pole Grant: Pole 85 & 86, Durfee Hill Road - Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to TABLE the Town Council meeting minutes of November 5, 2015; to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report of October 2015; to APPROVE the Tax Assessor's Additions to the 2015 Tax Roll in the amount of \$2,638.33; the Abatements to the 2015 Tax Roll in the amount of \$2,363.27, the 2014 Tax Roll in the amount of \$347.67, the 2013 Tax Roll in the amount of \$318.77, & the 2012 Tax Roll in the amount of \$137.38; and to APPROVE the Pole Grant for Pole 85 & 86 Durfee Hill Road; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Boards & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Budget Board

One 3-year term to expire 1/2016

Discussion: It was stated that no new Talent Bank applications have been received for this position.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board for one three year term to expire 1/2016; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame noted that he is in communication with a possible candidate.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Public Hearings

A. Gloucester Code of Ordinance - Discussion and/or action

1. Proposed modification to a prior Zoning Map Amendment

2013 PUD Zoning Map Amendment: Approved at Town Council meetings of 11/7/2013 & 11/21/2013

Owner/Applicant: Julian Forgue - AP 18, Lot 10

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised on October 29th, November 5th and November 13th, 2015 in the Valley Breeze and that Abutters letters were mailed to those within a 200' radius.

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

Councilor W. Steere noted as a reminder:

September 2013 Jay Forgue went before the Zoning Board (Use Variance was needed back then to propose solar) APPROVED

October 2013 Planning Board for an opinion to Council on zoning map amendment: adjust boundaries, create another lot & approve Solar
POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION

November 2013 Zoning Map Change for PUD, boundaries & Solar (a survey was submitted that showed an amendment to property lines which included an additional strip of land on either side of an existing right of way. Mr. Forgue was swapping property with his neighbors and this was going to widen his right of way.

All was granted, but then the swap of property didn't go through, so the applicant is now asking the approvals be amended to show there was no swap of property. A new survey was submitted showing the lines as is.

It was recommended by the Planning Office that Mr. Forgue come back and ask for the modification to that original granting.

Discussion: None.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that he has no objection to the application, noting that the right of way is there and other than the land swap, nothing is different.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to GRANT the Modification to the Zone Change Granted on November 7, 2013, re: Gloucester Pines, Planned Unit District, Applicant/Owner: Julian Forgue, Address: 401 Snake Hill Road, also known as A.P. 18, Lot 10 to allow a survey plan dated 11/10/2015 by National Land Surveyors to replace the survey previously submitted with application of 10/4/2013. Said modification allows the applicant to proceed with subdividing, A.P. 18, Lot 10 without obtaining 50' frontage between A.P. 18, lots 18 & 293; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- B. 24-HOUR VIRTUALING LICENSE RENEWAL - Discussion and/or action
 - 1. Chepachet Deli & Catering, 842 Putnam Pike
 - 2. April's on the Pike, 401 Putnam Pike

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised on October 29th, Nov. 5th & Nov. 12th, 2015 in the Valley Breeze/Observer.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Open and asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the renewal of these licenses.

Discussion: None.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to GRANT the RENEWAL of 24-hour Victualing Licenses to:

1. Chepachet Deli & Catering, 842 Putnam Pike
2. April's on the Pike, 401 Putnam Pike

contingent upon: 1) payment of all Town taxes; 2) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 3) Police and or Fire inspection and approval as needed; 4) Health Department approval; 5) Food Manager Certificate; 6) Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; 7) copy of current menu to remain on file in Clerk's Office; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. VICTUALING LICENSE RENEWALS - Discussion and/or action

1. Aegean Pizza, 1195B Putnam Pike
2. Burrillville/Glocester Youth Soccer Association, 1407 Putnam Pike (Concession Stand)
3. Cady's Tavern, 2168 Putnam Pike
4. Chepachet Farms, 226 Tourtellot Hill Road
5. Chester's Restaurant, 102 Putnam Pike
6. DePetrillo's Pizza & Bakery, 1153 Putnam Pike
7. Dino's Park N Shop, 1020 Putnam Pike
8. Dunkin Donuts, 1006 Putnam Pike
9. Gentleman Farmer Restaurant, 617 Putnam Pike
10. Glocester Little League, 1011 Putnam Pike (Concession Stand)
11. Glocester Memorial Park, Town of Glocester, 46 Adelaide Road (Concession Stand)
12. Harmony Corner Store, 365 Snake Hill Road
13. J & D's Pub & Grille, 2400 Putnam Pike
14. Knight Farm, 1 Snake Hill Road
15. Melody Hill Country Club, 55 Melody Hill Lane
16. Paris Irons Farm, 86 Paris Irons Road
17. Philanthropy Tea & Coffee Company, 11 Money Hill Road
18. Pinewood Pub & Pizza, 16 Terry Lane
19. Sticks Tavern, 417 Putnam Pike
20. Tavern on Main, 1157 Putnam Pike
21. The Road House Farm, 312 Chopmist Hill Road
22. Village Bean Café, 15 Money Hill Road

Councilor W. Steere stated that This Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on Oct 29th, November 5th & 12th, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if anyone wished to be heard for or against the renewal of these licenses.

Discussion: None.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing CLOSED.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to GRANT the RENEWAL OF a Victualing License to all applicants named above contingent upon: 1) payment of all Town taxes; 2) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 3) Police and or Fire inspection approval as needed; 4) Health Department approval; 5) Food Manager Certificate; 6) Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; 7) copy of current menu to remain on file in Clerk's Office; these licenses shall be for the interior of the premise only and are valid from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

D. NEW VICTUALING LICENSES - Discussion and/or Action

1. Neutral Zone, Inc, d/b/a, To Be Determined, 16 Terry Lane, Unit #8

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on Oct 29th, November 5th & 12th, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if anyone wished to speak regarding Neutral Zone, Inc.

Councilor W. Steere explained that the applicant is asking for a "full service lounge with the sale of food, beverage, and tobacco".

Councilor W. Steere stated that tobacco sales are to be regulated and permits will be issued by the State. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that before a license is issued, copies of the State licenses must be filed with the Town Clerk.

Discussion:

William Kapanakis, applicant, stated that he also owns the Pinewood Pub and Pizza and wishes to open a new business directly next to that establishment to serve as a smoking lounge. W. Kapanakis explained that it would be a 1,500 sq. ft. facility with soft seating, such as couches, chairs and coffee tables. W. Kapanakis stated that a person would be able to purchase a cigar to either take with them or smoke on the premises. Councilor W. Steere asked if only cigars would be sold. W. Kapanakis replied that all legal tobacco products would be available. Councilor

Reichert inquired if hookah is included. W. Kapanakis replied in the affirmative, but noted that this would not be a “hookah lounge.”

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that he has no concerns at this time. Councilor W. Steere commented that if any problems arise, the Town Council, as the Licensing Board, would have the authority to suspend the license.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he is uneasy with the concept of a hookah bar, noting that this type of establishment has caused problems in Providence. Councilor Burlingame expressed his concern that the owners may wish to move their businesses to this area if allowed. Councilor Burlingame stated that he will not approve this application if the hookah bar is included.

Councilor W. Steere asked W. Kapanakis how he would prevent the problems that have occurred in Providence. W. Kapanakis replied that his establishment would be more of a cigar lounge, and hookah would be served on a limited basis. W. Kapanakis noted that the problems in Providence are in bars that have more of a nightclub setting, unlike the small lounge that he is proposing.

Councilor Burlingame recalled years ago that a bar owner from Providence bought a local lounge on Route 44 when his establishment in Providence was closed down. Councilor Burlingame noted that the lounge turned into a “high class strip joint” and expressed concern that this is a slippery slope.

W. Kapanakis commented that he is not somebody who is coming from out of town; he has operated his current business for 15 years and has an excellent track record. Councilor Burlingame agreed. W. Kapanakis stated that he plans to run the cigar bar with the same business standards that he runs the Pinewood Pub and has no interest in running an establishment that is not wanted or would get him into trouble.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone else wished to be heard. Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed and asked the Council members for comments.

Councilor G. Steere stated that W. Kapanakis has quite an investment and has done a good job, therefore he will trust him to keep the lounge under control, adding that if it does get out of hand, the Council will pull the license.

Councilor Burlingame agreed that W. Kapanakis has done a good job and he is willing to grant the proposal with the exception of the hookah.

W. Kapanakis stated that if that is the will of the Council, he will withdraw the application if it is not granted for all “legal tobacco sales.”

Donald Simpson, of 150 Lakeview Drive, asked for an explanation regarding “hookah.” It was stated that it is smoking with water pipes.

Councilor W. Steere stated that Councilors Burlingame and G. Steere brought up good points on both sides. Councilor W. Steere stated that he knows W. Kapanakis has a quality track record

and will do what needs to be done, however there is concern that this will lead to 6 or 7 applicants coming forward. Councilor W. Steere suggested tabling this application for further review and to wait until Councilor Sette returns to obtain his input.

Tim Kane noted that the Public Hearing has been closed. Councilor W. Steere asked if it could be reopened. T. Kane stated that nobody has left the room and suggested that a motion be made to reopen the Public Hearing, then continue until Councilor Sette is present.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to REOPEN the Public Hearing; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Greg Agnone, of Hopkins Road, spoke on behalf of W. Kapanakis, stating that he frequently brings clients to his facility, noting that it is a classy place. G. Agnone stated his opinion is that hookah is the wave of the future and has nothing to do with strip clubs. G. Agnone stated that some people prefer it to tobacco because it is less invasive to the lungs. G. Agnone encouraged the Council to approve the application.

Councilor Reichert noted that everything he has seen in the news indicates that it seems that every one of these establishments that has opened up has been closed. Councilor W. Steere stated that this is a good point.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to CONTINUE until December 3, 2015, the Public Hearing regarding the Victualing License for Neutral Zone, Inc, d/b/a, To Be Determined, located at 16 Terry Lane, Unit #8; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

E. CLASS A LIQUOR- RETAILER RENEWALS - Discussion and/or action

1. Christy's Liquors, Inc., Kevin J. Kitson, d/b/a Christy's Liquors, 1184 Putnam Pike
2. Kitson's Liquors, Inc., Lisa Kitson, d/b/a Kitson's Liquors, 677 Putnam Pike

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Providence Journal Legal Ads on November 6th & 13th, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if anyone wished to speak regarding these license renewals.

Discussion: None.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing CLOSED.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to GRANT the RENEWAL of a Class A - Retailer Liquor License to:

1. Christy's Liquors, Inc., Kevin J. Kitson, d/b/a Christy's Liquors, 1184 Putnam Pike;
2. Kitson's Liquors, Inc., Lisa Kitson, d/b/a Kitson's Liquors, 677 Putnam Pike;

contingent upon: 1) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 2) Fire & Police Chief approval as needed; 3) Rhode Island B.C.I. check; 4) Rhode Island Certificate of Good Standing; 5) Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; 6) payment of all Town taxes; 7) Alcohol Service Certification for all employees to be kept current in the office of Town Clerk; 8) R.I. Dept. of Health Certification; these licenses shall be for the interior of the premises only and are valid from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

F. CLASS BV LIQUOR- RETAILER LICENSES RENEWALS - Discussion and/or action

1. Chester's Restaurant, Inc., Barbara Hamill, William J. Hamill III, Ann Marie Hamill, Barbara Royer and Patricia Johnson, d/b/a Chester's Restaurant , 102 Putnam Pike
2. Melody Hill Country Club, Inc., Diane R. Delfino, d/b/a Melody Hill Country Club, 55 Melody Hill Lane
3. Agios Inc., Panagiota Arsoniadis, d/b/a Gentleman Farmer Restaurant, 617 Putnam Pike
4. Prickly Pear, Inc., William J. Kapanakis, d/b/a Pinewood Pub & Pizza, 16 Terry Lane
5. Tyo-Ristaino Corp., Stephen & Robin Tyo & Robert Ristaino, d/b/a Cady's Tavern, 2168 Putnam Pike
6. Adriana Enterprises, LLC, Adriana Iannuzzi, d/b/a Sticks Tavern, 417 Putnam Pike
7. J@D Snows, LLC, Justin Moseley, d/b/a J & D's Pub & Grille, 2400 Putnam Pike

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Providence Journal Legal Ads on November 6th & 13th, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if anyone wished to speak regarding these license renewals.

Discussion: None.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing CLOSED.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to GRANT a Class BV Retailer Liquor License to **all applicants named above** contingent upon:

1) Issuance of a valid Victualing License; 2) payment of all Town taxes; 3) Building/Fire Inspector; 4) Police Chief approval as needed; 5) Rhode Island Certificate of Good Standing; 6) Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; 7) Current diagram of the complete service area filed in the Town Clerk's Office; 8) Alcohol Service Certification for all employees to be kept current in the office of Town Clerk; 9) copy of current menu to remain on file in Clerk's Office; 10) Rhode Island B.C.I. check; these licenses shall be for the **interior of the premise only with the exception of;**

4) Prickly Pear, Inc., William J. Kapanakis, d/b/a Pinewood Pub & Pizza ;
5) Tyo-Ristaino Corp., Stephen & Robin L. Tyo and Robert Ristaino, d/b/a Cady's 6) Adriana Enterprises LLC, Adriana Iannuzzi, d/b/a Sticks Tavern, 417 Putnam Pike (**additional stipulations as granted previously apply);**

these licenses are valid from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

G. CLASS BT LIQUOR-TAVERN RENEWAL- Discussion and/or action

1. DLUM Restaurant LLC, David Lumnah, d/b/a Tavern on Main, 1157 Putnam Pike

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Providence Journal Legal Ads on November 6th & 13th, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing open and asked if anyone wished to be heard regarding this license renewal.

Discussion: None.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to GRANT the RENEWAL of, DENY, OR TABLE a Class BT-Tavern License to: DLUM Restaurant, LLC, David Lumnah, d/b/a Tavern on Main, 1157 Putnam Pike contingent upon: 1) Issuance of a valid Victualing License; 2) payment of all Town taxes; 3) Building Inspector/Fire/ and or Police Chief approval as needed; 4) Rhode Island Certificate of Good Standing; 5) Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; 6) maintaining an up to date diagram of the complete service area in the Town Clerk's office; 7) Alcohol Service Certification cards for all employees to be kept current in the office of Town Clerk; 8) updated menu maintained on file; 9) Rhode Island B.C.I. check; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016; seconded by G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

H. CLASS BV LIQUOR - LIMITED RENEWAL - Discussion and/or action

1. Knight Farm, LLC, Joseph Iacofano, d/b/a Knight Farm, 1 Snake Hill Road

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Public Hearing was advertised in the Providence Journal Legal Ads on November 6th & 13th, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing open and asked if anyone wished to be heard regarding the license renewal.

Discussion: None.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to GRANT the RENEWAL of a Class B-Limited License to Knight Farm, LLC, Joseph Iacofano, d/b/a Knight Farm, 1 Snake Hill Road; contingent upon: 1) Issuance of a valid Victualing License; 2) payment of all Town taxes; 3) Building Inspector/Fire/ and or Police Chief approval as needed; 4) Rhode Island Certificate of Good Standing; 5) Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; 6) maintaining an up to date diagram of the complete service area in the Town Clerk's office; 7) Alcohol Service Certification cards for all employees to be kept current in the office of the Town Clerk; 8) updated menu maintained on file; 9) Rhode Island B.C.I. check; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

I. NEW LIQUOR LICENSE: CLASS B - RETAILER LICENSE - Discussion and/or action

1. Neutral Zone, Inc., William J. Kapanakis, d/b/a, To be Determined, 16 Terry Lane, Unit #8

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Public Hearing was advertised in the Providence Journal Legal Ads on November 6th & 13th, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing Open and asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, if this application must be continued since the application for a new victualing license for this location was continued. T. Kane responded in the affirmative.

Discussion:

William Kapanakis, applicant, stated that he would like the Public Hearing to continue at this time because the abutters have already been notified. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Public Hearing would remain open but if anyone wished to speak, they can do so. W. Kapanakis asked if the abutters would be allowed to keep coming back if they are not present tonight.

T. Kane stated that if somebody wants to speak tonight, it is up to the Council. Councilor G. Steere noted that if the Council continues the Public Hearing until December, the applicant would not have to pay to advertise again. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, noted that a BV license cannot be issued without a victualing license.

Councilor W. Steere stated that if anyone present tonight would like to be heard, the Council will take their testimony. There was no response.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE until December 3, 2015 the Public Hearing for a Class BV Retailer License to Neutral Zone, Inc., William J. Kapanakis, d/b/a to be determined, 16 Terry Lane;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- J. ENTERTAINMENT LICENSES RENEWALS - Discussion and/or action
1. Chester's Restaurant, Inc., d/b/a Chester's Restaurant, 102 Putnam Pike
 2. Prickly Pear, Inc., d/b/a Pinewood Pub & Pizza, 16 Terry Lane
 3. Tyo-Ristaino Corp., d/b/a Cady's Tavern 2168 Putnam Pike
 4. Adriana Enterprises LLC, d/b/a Sticks Tavern, 417 Putnam Pike
 5. J@D Snows, LLC, d/b/a J & D's Pub & Grille, 2400 Putnam Pike
 6. The Purple Cat Vineyard & Winery, Inc., 11 Money Hill Road

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Observer/Valley Breeze on Nov 5, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Open and asked if anyone wished to speak regarding the license renewals.

Discussion: None.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to GRANT an Entertainment License to:

1. Chester's Restaurant, Inc., d/b/a Chester's Restaurant, 102 Putnam Pike
2. Prickly Pear, Inc., d/b/a Pinewood Pub & Pizza, 16 Terry Lane
3. Tyo-Ristaino Corp., d/b/a Cady's Tavern 2168 Putnam Pike
4. Adriana Enterprises LLC, d/b/a Sticks Tavern, 417 Putnam Pike
5. J@D Snows, LLC, d/b/a J & D's Pub & Grille, 2400 Putnam Pike
6. The Purple Cat Vineyard & Winery, Inc. 11 Money Hill Road

contingent upon 1) Payment of all Town taxes; 2) Building Official approval as needed; 3) Fire Inspector approval as needed; 4) Police Chief approval as needed; these licenses are valid from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016 and are subject to the following stipulations:

1. That all entertainment be confined to the inside of the building, with the exception of #4. Sticks Tavern, per Expansion of Entertainment stipulations granted on March 5, 2015 and #6. The Purple Cat Vineyard & Winery, Inc. granted on August 20, 2015. The stipulations approved for outdoor entertainment apply, **in addition**, to the following stipulations for all indoor entertainment:
2. That all windows on the premises are kept closed, but not permanently, and that doors are only opened for normal ingress and egress from the premises.
3. That all live entertainment cease at 1:00 a.m.
4. When there is live entertainment, the Town Council, at its discretion, may assign a supplemental police officer or officers at such time and in such a place as the Town

Council deems appropriate and the license holder shall reimburse the Town of Gloucester for the expense of such police officer(s) and to such other reasonable conditions and restrictions as the Town Council may from time to time require.

5. All entertainment shall be limited to that which is applied for in writing on the application for said Entertainment License;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

K. Special Events - Discussion and/or action

1. Adriana Iannuzzi, Adriana Enterprises, LLC
d/b/a Sticks Tavern, 417 Putnam Pike
Request for miscellaneous Special Events with Outdoor Entertainment
May - October, 2016

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze on November 5, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Open

Councilor W. Steere stated for clarification the Town Council typically classifies Special Events as any event held outside. For those that have outdoor use, we would have to call any event that is "advertised" as more than eating and drinking, such as bike runs, fund raisers, car washes, and car shows Special Events. Councilor W. Steere stated these events bring more people to the establishment just for that use.

Councilor W. Steere stated that this request is for 12 events, noting that 8 events were approved last year. Councilor W. Steere stated that the application asks for fundraisers, most of which appear to be bike runs.

Discussion:

Adriana Iannuzzi, owner/applicant, stated that she thought that bike runs were allowed under her regular entertainment license and a Special Event license would only be required if there was a DJ or outdoor band. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that a bike run is considered a special event. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, asked the applicant if she has more bike runs scheduled than stated in her request. A. Iannuzzi replied that she does not know yet as they are scheduled in the Summer.

T. Kane stated that the establishment already has entertainment and outdoor drinking, and a bike run brings more traffic and more people to the outdoor area, which the Council considers a special event. Councilor W. Steere stated that the key word is "advertised". Councilor

Burlingame stated that last year's motion was to approve 8 bike runs/charity events, with no mention of being advertised. J. Fecteau informed the applicant that the hearing is still open if she wishes to amend her application. A. Iannuzzi declined.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing for item K. 1 CLOSED.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame asked if it a big deal that the number of events requested had increased from 8 to 12. Councilor W. Steere stated that he feels that 12 is excessive because it allows 4 events per month. A. Iannuzzi explained that last year she had made an error with regard to the dates, which resulted in only 8 events allowed. It was stated that last year's motion was later amended to allow 10. A. Iannuzzi noted that two years ago, she was granted 12 events.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he has no objection to granting 12 events this year because they had that before and there were no incidents. Councilor W. Steere commented what is next, 16 or 24? The Chief of Police was asked if there have been any problems at this establishment.

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, replied that there have been no issues for the past several months and it has been quiet. However, J. DelPrete stated that for any events, parking on Route 44 will be prohibited. Councilor G. Steere stated that he recalls last year that the applicant amended her application and by the time the Council heard it, a month had passed, therefore only 8 events were granted.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE twelve (12) Special Events from May through October 2016 to include Bike Runs/Charity Events for Adriana Iannuzzi, Adriana Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Sticks Tavern, not to exceed a four hour period between 1:00 p.m and 6:00 p.m., no consecutive days in the same weekend, including volleyball competitions, subject to:

1. the filing of an application 10 days prior to each event
2. Crowd management & parking plan filed with each application
3. No on-street parking allowed on Route 44
4. Should uses not previously discussed, or included on application be requested, additional Council approval may be sought by the Town Clerk
5. the approval of the Chief of Police & Fire Chief
6. This approval may be rescinded by the Town Council for just cause.
7. Live music will be limited to a three-piece band with no bass or a DJ
8. Alcohol is only allowed in previously approved areas

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere stated that these requirements will be followed for all applicants, adding that if an application is not filed 10 days before an event, the event will not happen.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert and Burlingame.

NAYS: W. Steere.

MOTION PASSED

2. Robin Tyo, Tyo-Ristaino Corp
d/b/a Cadys Tavern, 2168 Putnam Pike
Request for miscellaneous Special Events
May - November, 2016

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze on November 5, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Open.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the application asks for fund raisers, most of which appear to be car washes and car shows. Councilor W. Steere asked the applicant if she plans to have any bike runs. Robin Tyo, applicant, replied in the affirmative, but noted that she is sometimes unaware that the tavern is a stop until approximately an hour before they arrive. It was stated that this would not be considered a event because it would not have been advertised.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, asked the applicant if she would like the motion to include bike runs and other charity events. R. Tyo replied in the affirmative. Councilor W. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, if the charities are required to have 501c designation. T. Kane replied that it is within the Council's discretion, but noted that it is difficult to obtain 501c status.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing for item K. 2 CLOSED.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE twelve (12) Special Events from May through November 2016, to include Car/Bike washes, car/ bike shows, bike runs and other charity events for Robin Tyo, Tyo-Ristaino Corp., d/b/a Cady's Tavern, subject to:

1. the filing of an application 10 days prior to each event
 2. Crowd management & parking plan filed with each application
 3. No on-street parking allowed on Route 44
 4. Should uses not previously discussed, or included on application be requested, additional Council approval may be sought by the Town Clerk
 5. the approval of the Chief of Police & Fire Chief
 6. This approval may be rescinded by the Town Council for just cause
 7. Alcohol is only allowed in previously approved areas
- seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere again stated that there will be no exceptions with regard to filing an application 10 days prior to the event.

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Joseph Iacofano, Knight Farm, LLC
d/b/a Knight Farm, 1 Snake Hill Road
Request for Car/ Antique Tractor Shows
June- August, 2016

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze on November 5, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Open.

Councilor W. Steere stated that this request is for antique car shows each Saturday from June through August, adding that last year's request was for 4 shows.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing for Item K. 3 CLOSED.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere expressed his opinion that increasing from four (4) events to twelve (12) is excessive. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council must consider Public Safety when addressing these Special Event applications.

Councilor Burlingame asked the Chief of Police if there have been any issues at the car shows. Chief DelPrete replied that there have not been any problems. Councilor W. Steere noted that the applicant is not present. Councilor G. Steere commented that these events are low-key. Councilor Burlingame stated that he does not see a problem, and if one should arise, the event could be stopped.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE twelve (12) Special Events to be held between June 2016 and August 2016, to include Antique car shows, for Joseph Iacofano, Knight Farm, LLC, d/b/a Knight Farm, location: 1 Snake Hill Road, subject to:

1. The filing of an application 10 days prior to each event
2. Should uses not previously discussed, or included on application be requested, additional Council approval may be sought by the Town Clerk
3. The approval of the Chief of Police
4. This approval may be rescinded by the Town Council for just cause
5. No on-street parking allowed on Snake Hill Road

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame pointed out that this approval can be rescinded for just cause, for instance if the Police Chief reports that there is a problem. Councilor W. Steere stated that with this logic, the Council could let everyone do whatever they want, and if there is a problem, the Council can stop it.

VOTE: AYES: G. Steere, Reichert and Burlingame.

NAYS: W. Steere

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Gloucester Motor Vehicle Tax Valuation

Motor Vehicle Aging Methodology for Gloucester- Discussion and/or action

Councilor Burlingame stated that a resident called to say that his motor vehicle tax had gone up on a 19-year old car and asked for an explanation. Councilor Burlingame stated that he looked into the matter and found out that the State Department of Revenue implemented a table based upon what the Blue Book value would be and after 17 or 18 years, a vehicle would be assessed at 30% but after that it is open-ended, meaning it would jump back up to 100% of the Blue Book value.

Councilor Burlingame commented that on an old vehicle, it is not a lot of money, but it is still an increase. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Tax Assessor conducted a survey of the other cities and towns and found that some of them maintained the 30% instead of jumping up to 100%. Councilor Burlingame stated that our impact would be \$17,000 on a 20 million dollar tax bill if we decide to stay at 30%.

Councilor Burlingame noted that after 25 years, a vehicle has no tax. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council must make a decision whether to leave the tax assessment at 30% until it has no value at 25 years or to let the assessment go back to 100% of the Blue Book value for a 17 or 18 year old car.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to maintain the assessed value of vehicles at 30% when we reach the end of the Department of Revenue's tax table; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere asked if the 30% would remain until the vehicle is 25 years old and has no tax value. Councilor Burlingame replied in the affirmative.

Councilor Burlingame amended his motion as follows:

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to maintain the 30% value based upon the Department of Revenue's chart until such time that the vehicle has no taxable value at 25 years; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. R.I. (Road/bridge) Tolling Proposal

Authorization of Correspondence - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Burlingame stated that this matter was discussed at the last Council meeting at which time there was Council consensus to send correspondence to the Governor's office expressing our opinion regarding her tolling proposal. Councilor Burlingame stated that his letter offers

some alternatives for funding the repair of bridges in the State, such as increase diesel fuel prices and registration fees.

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

November 19, 2015

Governor Gina Raimondo
Office of the Governor
82 Smith Street
Providence, R.I. 02903

Honorable Governor Raimondo,

The Gloucester Town Council at its November 5, 2015 meeting voted to send you a letter opposing your current proposal to finance the repair of roadway bridges in the State. We all agree the bridges are in a high state of disrepair and must be fixed to ensure the safety of our motoring public. That being said, we want to be on record as opposing your proposed method of financing for the following reasons.

The amount interest at an estimated \$500 million over a 30 year period is way out of proportion to the amount of infrastructure to be repaired and we are getting nothing for that money.

You are proposing revenue bonds which are almost twice as expensive as general obligation bonds. If we are going to bond at all why not use general obligation bonds and let the voters vote on the matter rather than the end run of using revenue bonds that do not require a vote.

We have no confidence that once the gantries for the truck tolls are constructed and once the revenues from the truck tolls prove to be insufficient, that some future governor or legislature will act to make up the revenue loss by tolling private passenger automobiles. We have seen this time and time again with taxes that were supposed to be temporary but wound up being permanent. Erecting the gantries is a slippery slope Rhode Island taxpayer.

We are also concerned and are skeptical about RIDOT being able to effectively manage the actual construction of the projects in the short order of time. We do not know what the capacity is of the construction firm is or the timeline for the project completion. There are just too many unknowns at this time to go forward in such a rush. We clearly prefer to have local infrastructure improvements under local control because we can stretch the dollars further than the State bids.

You have received various recommendations to fund this project without the tolls but rather a pay as you go approach. The trucking organizations have suggested increasing the tax on diesel fuel and increased fees for truck registrations. How about an increase in the gas tax with a dedicated allocation to the bridge projects? Others have suggested trimming

costs from the already bloated State budget to find a partial revenue source. You need to be creative and look a solution with several contributing components.

In summary, we the members of the Gloucester Town Council have voted to send you this letter opposing your financing proposal using tolls to fund and repair our state bridges and urge you and the legislature to come up with an alternate method of financing the bridge repair project.

Sincerely
Walter M.O. Steere, III, President
Gloucester Town Council
(end of correspondence)

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to send the previously read letter to the Governor; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

C. R.I. D.O.T. Status request - Discussion and/or action
Authorization of Correspondence - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that Tim Inacio, Town Planner, has drafted a letter to send to the Department of Transportation. Councilor W. Steere stated that Council authorization is needed for the Council President to sign the letter.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE the Council President signing the letter to R.I.D.O.T regarding various projects;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere explained that this is a request for clarification regarding the status of projects such as the roundabout in Chepachet and the proposed repaving of Route 44 from the State highway barn to the Greenville town line.

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

D. Donation of Land Offer
Authorization of Correspondence - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received an offer of land from a resident offering the town a lot on Ramble Road from her father's estate. Council has received information about the lot from the Assessor.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere stated that he has reviewed the information received from the Tax Assessor which states that the lot is a little over an acre in a residential area. Councilor W. Steere stated that he does not know how the Town could use the land as it is too small for a park. Councilor Burlingame suggested that the Council members all review the information and put the matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE until December 3, 2015 the Donation of Land Offer;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

- E. Boards & Commissions - Discussion and/or action
 - 1. Resignation
 - a. Community Resource Commission
One unexpired Alternate term to expire 1/2017

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received the resignation of Joel Niedel-Gresh from the Community Resource Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ACCEPT the resignation of Joel Niedel-Gresh from the Community Resource Commission for a term to expire 1/2017; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

Councilor W. Steere expressed thanks to Mr. Niedel-Gresh for his service.

2. Request to Declare Vacancy
 - a. Community Resource Commission
One unexpired term to expire 1/2017

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has received a request from the Chair of the Community Resource Commission to remove a member that has missed multiple meetings.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to DECLARE a vacancy on the Community Resource Commission for the unexpired term to expire 1/2017, per the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 392.2.g Rules of Procedure for Boards and Commissions; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

3. Juvenile Hearing Board
 - a. Consideration to Rescind Motion
(Motion of Nov. 5, 2015 regarding appt. of Alternate)

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council member who requested this is not present and suggested that the Council table until the next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to TABLE until the meeting of December 3, 2015 the consideration to rescind motion; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

- F. Personnel
1. Authorization to Advertise for Public Works Position If Needed - Discussion and/or action

Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, explained that he has an employee who might retire soon and he is asking to advertise now for potential applicant(s) for consideration to avoid being short-handed during the winter. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that this is a time-sensitive issue and this would give us the ability to replace an employee as soon as we get notice. Councilor Burlingame stated that this makes sense and would avoid getting caught between

Council meetings. D. Brennan stated that an appointment would still be approved by the Council, but this would get the process started.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to authorize the Finance Director to advertise for a Public Works position when needed;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

G. Police Department

1. Authorization to Appoint a Paid Intern - Discussion and/or action

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

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Joseph S. DelPrete, Chief of Police
Date: November 16, 2015

Ref: Part-time paid intern position

I am respectfully requesting to appoint Brendan Morgan of Gloucester to a paid intern position on the Gloucester Police Department. This position would start during the week of November 16, and end on January 31, 2016.

Brendan Morgan was an intern at the Gloucester Police Department during his college senior year and is familiar with department operations, and the Rhode Island Accreditation and records management project. He will assist Lieutenant Fague with accreditation policy management and the continuation of the department records reorganization project.

I would request that he be paid \$14.00/hour up to 10 hours a week ending the week of January 31, 2016. This position will be supported from the current 2015-2016 fiscal year budget.

Thank you for your consideration in this proposal.

(End of memo)

Discussion:

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, explained that the Police Department has received new software that B. Morgan is familiar with.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Brendan Morgan to the position of paid-intern on the Gloucester Police Department at an hourly wage of \$14 per hour up to 10 hours a week starting November 16, 2015 and ending on January 31, 2016; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

H. Wreaths for Village Light Posts - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that he was contacted by the same local vendor who put up the wreaths in the Village last Christmas. Councilor W. Steere stated that it would cost the same this year as last year, approximately \$400, which could be taken from the Council Contingency Fund.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert that an amount not to exceed \$500 be taken from the Council Contingency Fund for wreaths on the Village light posts; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Council Correspondence/Discussion

A. Councilor Reichert stated that he was contacted again by residents of Snake Hill Road asking when the removal of the chatter strips will be completed by DOT. Councilor W. Steere stated that this is one of the issues included in the letter drafted by the Town Planner.

Councilor Reichert stated that the Council should also send correspondence to DOT concerning the mess they made on Route 94 when they used a snow plow to spread asphalt on the road. Councilor Burlingame noted that he saw them doing the same thing on Smith Ave. near Knight Farm.

B. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from members of the Chepachet Grange asking for some type of warning at the curve at the bottom of the hill just before the White Rock Motel on Route 44. The letter states that there have been 14 accidents at this curve since August, 2011. Councilor W. Steere stated that this is a State road and suggested that we forward the request to DOT, Rep. Chippendale and Sen. Fogarty.

- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received an email from Gov. Raimondo's office asking Rhode Island children to send in healthy affordable recipes. Three winners will be chosen and will be invited to a celebration luncheon at the RI Community Food Bank.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that a notice was received from RIEMA regarding an 8-hour course pertaining to Climate Adaptation Strategies for Emergency Services.
- E. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received a letter from Representative Brian Newberry concerning HUD's AFFH rule - Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing. Councilor W. Steere explained that by accepting future funding from HUD for land use and new development of affordable housing, you are accepting HUD's rules, which disregard local zoning requirements. Councilor G. Steere commented that the Council has had discussions about this.
- F. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Governor's office about RI Promise Scholarships which are awarded to Rhode Island students.
- G. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from DOT with regard to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Fiscal Years 2017 through 2025.
- H. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the United States Department of Transportation concerning a Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding future rail lines in the Northeast.

X. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, reported that the work at the Transfer Station is moving along very well.
- B. Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, reminded the Town Council that the Wreaths Across America ceremony will take place tomorrow at 9:00 at the Middle School. Councilor W. Steere commented that this is an emotional event, adding that the students always do a great job.
- C. Judy Branch, Human Services Director, reported that her department has put together 70 Thanksgiving baskets or boxes of food to help service the Town of Gloucester. J. Branch noted that there were many generous donations, both from organizations and individuals. J. Branch stated that she will be starting her Christmas Adopt-A-Family program soon.

XI. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion

None.

XII. Open Forum

- A. Councilor W. Steere mentioned that there were two (2) Veterans Day events last week; the dedication of a mural at the High School in honor of Lt. Schanck, a Gloucester

resident and Ponaganset graduate who died while serving during the Vietnam War; and the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the Senior Center. Councilor W. Steere expressed thanks to the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, and all those who assisted.

- B. Odette McMahon of Pine Orchard Road thanked whomever is responsible for placing the 25 MPH signs on her road. O. McMahon stated that it has helped to reduce the speeding traffic.

XIII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(5) Land Acquisition - Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(5) Land Acquisition;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XIV. Reconvene Open Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Reconvene Open Session, to Disclose that no votes were taken in Executive Session and to Seal the Minutes of Executive Session;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 9:44 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

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

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the December 3, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **December 3, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William E. Reichert; Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; and Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Public Hearing - continued from Nov. 19, 2015

A. NEW VICTUALING LICENSES - Discussion and/or Action

1. Neutral Zone, Inc, d/b/a, To Be Determined, 16 Terry Lane, Unit #8

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on Oct 29th, November 5th & 12th, 2015. Councilor W. Steere stated this hearing was opened on November 19, 2015 and continued after those present were allowed to speak.

Councilor W. Steere noted that the applicant is asking for a “full service lounge with the sale of food, beverage, and tobacco.”

Councilor W. Steere noted that one Council member was absent from the last meeting and there were questions regarding the possibility of the sale and use of hookah at the proposed lounge.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Public Hearing is open and asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the application.

Discussion:

Bill Kapanakis, applicant, explained that the proposed cigar lounge would be located adjacent to his current establishment, Pinewood Pub. B. Kapanakis stated that there would be other tobacco products available such as cigarettes and hookah, to be sold as retail or smoked on the premises. B. Kapanakis noted that hookah would not be the focus of the business.

Councilor Sette asked if the applicant is also seeking to obtain a liquor license. B. Kapanakis replied in the affirmative. Councilor Sette asked if the establishment will be for those 21 and over, or will 18 year olds be allowed in. B. Kapanakis stated that is similar to a restaurant where underage people can buy a cheeseburger but not a beer.

B. Kapanakis commented that the alcohol servers will be TIPS certified, per State law, and will not serve alcohol to minors. B. Kapanakis stated that he is willing to develop some sort of alcohol policy with the Police Department with regard to how the alcohol service will be monitored.

Councilor Sette stated that he reviewed the notes from the last meeting and noted that much of the discussion centered around hookah, which attracts younger people. Councilor Sette inquired how many rural communities presently have establishments which offer hookah.

B. Kapanakis replied that he has brought Anthony Davidson, owner of two (2) such places, one in North Providence and the other in Cranston. B. Kapanakis noted that his lounge would be very much like those owned by Mr. Davidson and invited the Council members to direct their questions to him.

Anthony Davidson stated that his facilities have a full liquor license and serve food as well as tobacco products. A. Davidson stated that there was concern regarding hookah at the Cranston location because it is close to Providence. A. Davidson noted that his customers are spending \$12 to \$15 dollars on a cigar and up to \$40 on bourbon or scotch.

A. Davidson stated that the State of Rhode Island is very strict in monitoring the 50% sales of tobacco required for a smoking lounge, adding that limiting to 21 and over will restrict B. Kapanakis' sales possibility. A. Davidson noted that the places that have had problems are those with a nightclub environment. A. Davidson stated that at his North Providence lounge, there are six (6) hookahs on the bar which are seldom used.

Councilor G. Steere questioned how do you keep a 21 year old from sharing an alcoholic drink with an 18 year old. A. Davidson replied that it is no different than at Applebee's when someone at a table orders a drink; it is the server's responsibility to serve to 21 year olds but afterwards it is out of their control. A. Davidson stated that ID's will have to be shown to prevent underage drinking.

A. Davidson commented that Mr. Kapanakis has a successful business next door at Pinewood Pub and he would not do anything detrimental to that business. A. Davidson stated that his lounges offer hand-made premium cigars and he does not carry the type of products that attract young people.

Councilor Sette asked if a full tobacco license can be limited, stating that Mr. Davidson made a point about hookah, that it is not requested frequently. Councilor Sette noted that the applicant indicated at the last meeting that if hookah was not included, he would withdraw the application. Councilor Sette stated that he personally has some concerns regarding hookah. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, replied that he believes that the license can be limited by the Town Council acting as

the Licensing Board. Councilor Sette recommended that the application be approved without hookah, and in the future the Council can reconsider.

Anthony Davidson commented that although the Council has the authority to place restrictions, he feels that it would be a recipe for failure. A. Davidson noted that the cost for hookah is \$35.00, which the applicant would need for his tobacco sales.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he shares Councilor Sette's concerns and feels that allowing under 21 year olds where alcohol is served would set up a slippery slope.

Councilor Reichert stated that he was the one who brought up hookah because he had learned that there were concerns about it. Councilor Reichert stated that just last week a license was taken away from an establishment elsewhere.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he has done some research and discovered that hookah is much more detrimental to one's health than cigars or cigarettes. Personally, Councilor G. Steere stated that he does not have a problem with hookah being offered, but his biggest concern is regarding the 18 year olds.

Councilor G. Steere stated his opinion that Bill Kapanakis is a very responsible business man and he is willing to give him a chance. Councilor G. Steere stated that the problems that have occurred are at places that are more of a nightclub venue rather than a lounge. Councilor G. Steere pointed out that if there is a problem, the Council will end it.

Allen Schenck, of 36 St. James Lane, spoke in favor of the application, stating that the applicant is socially responsible and is supportive of the community.

Tom D'Angelo, of 252 Chopmist Hill Road, stated that his office is across the street from the proposed lounge and stated that he has been to both of A. Davidson's stores. T. D'Angelo commented that he seldom sees anyone smoking the hookah, however in order to meet the State's requirements, the applicant should be able to sell all types of tobacco.

Councilor Sette stated that selling tobacco is not the issue, but having a station at which to smoke is the problem. Councilor Sette stated that if the only restriction is that you can't smoke it there, is that a compromise that works. Councilor G. Steere pointed out that you would not buy tires from a place that would not put them on. Councilor Sette stated that North Providence and Cranston are much different from Gloucester and he does not feel that this community is ready for a place where people can smoke hookah.

Bill Kapanakis stated that he has been before the Council twice and expressed appreciation for everybody's time. B. Kapanakis stated that it is a legal product and he does not wish to do anything that is detrimental to his business or to the Town. B. Kapanakis stated that he will address any concerns that may come up, however he does not want to be restricted from an economic stream which would help him get to the 51% requirement.

Councilor W. Steere asked Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, if he foresees any Public Safety issues with this application. Chief DelPrete replied in the negative, but spoke about medical marijuana.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone else wished to speak. Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere declared the Public Hearing Closed.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere stated that many points were made for either side and stated that he is leaning toward giving the applicant an opportunity. Councilor W. Steere stated that he would not want to see marijuana and asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, if this would be a concern if this license is granted.

T. Kane replied that a condition could be made that no marijuana, either medical or otherwise, will be allowed. Councilor W. Steere noted that there will be a lot of scrutiny of this license and if problems occur, the Council can stop it. Councilor Sette added that if we do have problems, the Council will pull the entire license. The applicant agreed to these conditions.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he is still uneasy regarding the fact that there will be 18 year olds in a drinking establishment. Councilor Burlingame noted that we are a rural community and questioned if we are really ready for this. Councilor Burlingame stated that if it was restricted to those 21 and over, he would feel differently.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he is willing to give the applicant a chance, noting that he is a very responsible business owner with much invested who will not let it go down the drain by making poor decisions.

There was discussion regarding restrictions placed on the license and a policy with the Police Department by which wristbands would be required to keep those under 21 from consuming alcohol.

Councilor Reichert expressed his opinion that hookah is a fad which will be popular at first, but will die down soon after. Councilor Reichert stated that if the applicant is willing to give up his entire license if problems arise, he is willing to give him a chance.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to GRANT the issuance of a Victualing License to Neutral Zone, Inc. (d/b/a to be determined) Location of Business: 16 Terry Lane, Unit #8, contingent upon: 1) payment of all Town taxes; 2) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 3) Police and/or Fire inspection approval as needed; 4) Health Department approval; 5) Food Manager Certificate; 6) Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; 7) copy of current menu to remain on file in Clerk's Office; 8) before licenses are issued by the Town copies of State Tobacco permits will be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid to November 30, 2016, subject to the licensee developing a policy in conjunction with the Police Chief or his designee to prevent those under 21 years old from consuming alcohol; and subject to the condition that no marijuana or cannabis be sold or consumed on the premises;

seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. NEW LIQUOR LICENSE: CLASS B - RETAILER LICENSE - Discussion and/or action

1. Neutral Zone, Inc., William J. Kapanakis, d/b/a, To be Determined, 16 Terry Lane, Unit #8

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Providence Journal Legal Ads on November 6th & 13th, 2015 and this hearing was opened on November 19, 2015 and continued after those present were allowed to speak.

Discussion: None.

Councilor W. Steere declared the Public Hearing Closed.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to GRANT the issuance of a Class B-V Liquor License to Neutral Zone, Inc. (d/b/a to be determined) Location of Business: 16 Terry Lane, Unit #8, contingent upon: 1) Issuance of a valid Victualing License; 2) payment of all Town taxes; 3) Building/Fire Inspector; 4) Police Chief approval as needed; 5) Rhode Island Certificate of Good Standing; 6) Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; 7) Current diagram of the complete service area filed in the Town Clerk's Office; 8) Alcohol Service Certification for all employees to be kept current in the office of Town Clerk; 10) Rhode Island B.C.I. check for applicant; 11) before licenses are issued by the Town copies of State Tobacco permits will be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid to November 30, 2016;

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that out of an abundance of caution, the same stipulations which were added to the Victualing License should be added to the Liquor License.

Councilor G. Steere withdrew his second. Councilor Reichert added to his motion the following:

"subject to the licensee developing a policy in conjunction with the Police Chief or his designee to prevent those under 21 years old from consuming alcohol; and subject to the condition that no marijuana or cannabis be sold or consumed on the premises;"

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

A. Approval of Town Council Reg. meeting minutes of November 5th & 19th, 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPROVE the Town Council regular meeting minutes of November 5th and November 19th, 2015; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: Sette

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Boards & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action

a. Budget Board

One 3-year term to expire 1/2016

Councilor Burlingame recommended the appointment of Charles Poirier.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the term is about to expire and asked that the Council appoint Mr. Poirier for the next 3-year term to expire 1/2019.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Charles Poirier to the Budget Board for one three year term to expire 1/2019;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion:

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Burlingame suggested that the Council place an ad for volunteers in the Bargain Buyer, noting that Dave Steere has indicated that this will be his last term.

B. Donation of Land Offer - Discussion and/or action

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere stated that he has looked at the property and while the offer is generous, the land has a culvert running through it and is wet throughout. Councilor Burlingame suggested that the Council send a letter to the owner thanking them for the offer but stating that the Town has no use for the property.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to send a letter thanking the property owner but declining the offer of a land donation;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Juvenile Hearing Board

1. Consideration to Rescind Motion - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Sette stated that he asked for this to be placed on the agenda. Councilor Sette explained that he voted in the affirmative to appoint a new member to the Juvenile Hearing Board to replace an existing member, however he would like to have the motion reconsidered.

Councilor Sette stated that at the time he was led to believe that the person who was not reappointed did not want to be reappointed. Councilor Sette stated that he later found out that this was not the case, adding that the person who was not reappointed was a valuable and long-standing member of the Board.

Councilor Sette stated that this Board does very good work and he cannot see making a change just to make a change. Councilor Sette noted that the person was never told why he was not reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to RESCIND the Motion made at the October 15, 2015 meeting to appoint Richard Travers to the Juvenile Hearing Board, an Alternate member, for a 1-year term to expire 9/30/16;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

Councilor Reichert stated that Mr. Travers had come to him asking for his support regarding the appointment. Councilor Reichert noted that he did not know what was going on.

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that Richard Travers was appointed two months ago and has been a good addition to the Juvenile Hearing Board. Chief DelPrete stated that a vacancy may be coming up and he would like to have Mr. Van Pelt considered for appointment.

John Pitocco, of Tourtellot Hill Road, member of the Juvenile Hearing Board, stated that Chris Van Pelt was a valuable member of the Board who only missed meetings while stationed in Afghanistan.

Councilor W. Steere asked what would be the process to add another alternate member to the Board. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that he would have to review the State Law which created the Board. T. Kane stated that if State Law dictates the number of members, it would have to be amended, which is a long process. Jean Fecteau stated that the Board was created by Ordinance. T. Kane agreed but noted that the Ordinance may be pursuant to State Law.

Councilor Sette asked Chief DelPrete if the vacancy he anticipates will be for a full-time member. Chief DelPrete stated that he is not sure and does not want to speculate. Councilor Sette asked who would move up to the full-time position, the new member or the member who has been on the Board almost since its inception. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk stated that normally, the alternate automatically moves up, but possibly not for this Board.

Councilor Sette was concerned because he would expect that the person with the longer tenure would be the full time person. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council could do that since this is not policy. Councilor Sette stated that he would feel more comfortable if that is in the record.

Councilor W. Steere stated that we have a situation where we have two qualified candidates for one position and asked how do we do that. Councilor G. Steere stated that he personally does not want to reconsider, however if a vacancy comes up, he would consider appointing the former member.

Councilor Sette asked Greg Agnone, chair of the Budget Board, if he is asked for recommendations when there is a vacancy on the Board. G. Agnone stated that when there is a vacancy, all members are aware and look for a replacement. Councilor Sette asked the chair of the Juvenile Hearing Board if he was notified that there was going to be an opening.

David Sweet, chair of the Juvenile Hearing Board, replied that they were established 14 years ago and for the first series of terms, the members just rolled over to the next term. Mr. Sweet stated at that point, they were notified by the Town Council that members had to be reappointed. In this case, David Sweet stated that he was not informed that somebody was up for renewal.

Jean Fecteau stated that when the terms on the Budget Board and Juvenile Hearing Board were about to expire, the chairs (or the members) were asked if the members wished to be reappointed. J. Fecteau noted that she was informed (by Kevin Kitson) that they did wish to be reappointed, which she relayed to the Town Council. Councilor Burlingame stated that the appointment for Juvenile Hearing Board was tabled several times, so it was no surprise.

David Sweet stated that he received an email from Capt. Mattera and from Chief DelPrete, but that was the first he heard of the vacancy. D. Sweet noted that Kevin Kitson was formerly the chair so perhaps he was notified.

D. Sweet stated that this has nothing to do with Richard Travers, whom he has known for 15 years.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere and Sette.

NAYS: G. Steere, Reichert and Burlingame

MOTION FAILED

John Pitocco asked if Chris Van Pelt would be appointed to the next vacancy on the Juvenile Hearing Board. Councilor W. Steere replied that in his opinion, C. Van Pelt should be the first candidate.

VIII. New Business

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

Eric Grist, of North Smithfield, stated that he is a Free Mason and Master of the Friendship Lodge in Chepachet. E. Grist stated that one of the tenets of the Lodge is charity and they wish to donate funds to the Home Heating Assistance Program. A check was presented and will be forwarded to the Director of Human Services.

The generosity of the Masonic Lodge was acknowledged and applauded.

B. Sand Dam Reservoir Association - Presentation

Judy Colaluca, of the Sand Dam Reservoir Association, addressed the Council regarding the Smith and Sayles Reservoir. J. Colaluca stated that the Association is working very hard to keep their pristine lake in top condition. J. Colaluca informed the Town Council that there is a problem regarding invasive weeds called milfoil which wrap around boats and paddles.

J. Colaluca stated that the Association plans to seek grant funding to deal with this issue and asked the Town Council for a letter of endorsement. Councilor Burlingame suggested that this be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council.

C. Boards & Commissions

1. Resignation - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Gloucester Housing Authority
One 5-year term to expire 7/2019

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Kai Goto from the Housing Authority.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ACCEPT the resignation of Kai Goto from the Gloucester Housing Authority for a term to expire 7/2019;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

The Council thanked Kai Goto for his 16 years of service to the Town.

2. Appointment - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Gloucester Housing Authority
One 5-year term to expire 7/2019

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to APPOINT Eric Bither to the Gloucester Housing Authority;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

- D. Personnel - Discussion and/or action
 1. Public Works - Accept retirement

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received the retirement letter of Dennis Stockwell from Public Works.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to ACCEPT, with regret, the resignation of Dennis Stockwell from the Dept. of Public Works, effective December 4, 2015, end of work day;
seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

2. Letter of Recognition & Congratulations

Councilor W. Steere read the following letter of Recognition for Dennis:

December 3, 2015

Dear Dennis:

On behalf of the citizens of Gloucester, the Town Clerk, and the Town Council we wish to thank you for your 22 years of dedicated service to the town of Gloucester. You have been a valued and dedicated employee.

During those years you have assisted, instructed, guided, and watched over whatever assignment you were given and in doing so you have come to be known by many as:

“The Mayor”

We know our residents will miss seeing you at your usual locations but we are sure you will remain an active “voice” and part of our community.

We take this opportunity to congratulate you on your retirement and wish you much enjoyment & good health in all that you do, especially as a Granddad.

Sincerely,

Councilors W. Steere; G. Steere; S. Sette; W. Reichert; & E. Burlingame
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor Burlingame stated that he was on the Council when Dennis was appointed, first as a part-timer, before becoming a full-time employee for 22 years.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

E. Kent Property: Future Plans - Discussion and/or action

Discussion:

Norman Sampson, of Reynolds Road, asked the Council to explain this item, stating that his property borders the Kent Property and was unaware that anything was going on. Councilor W. Steere explained that the subject property is located on Putnam Pike across from the former State Police Barracks, not the Kent Property in West Gloucester where Mr. Sampson lives.

Councilor W. Steere noted that at the last meeting the Council was given three (3) proposals prepared by the Kent Property Oversight Committee. It was stated that nobody from the Committee is present tonight. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council will need price estimates before making a decision.

Councilor Burlingame stated in his opinion that we should look at the pavilion as the first piece of the project and noted that FM Global has offered their assistance. Councilor Burlingame

recommended that the Council ask the Committee to get cost estimates on the pavilion only and see where that takes us. Councilor W. Steere agreed, stating that we have a limited budget and he would not feel comfortable asking the voters for money for something that would be nice to have but we don't need to have.

Councilor Sette stated that the Committee had submitted a 23 page document at the end of which they recommended Proposal #1. Councilor Sette stated that the Council would prefer to see them start at Proposal #3, which is the pavilion only.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to notify the Kent Property Oversight Committee that the Council recommends Proposal #3 and to get cost estimates and fine-tune the specifications;
seconded by Councilor Sette.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

F. Business Signage (to assist local business) - Discussion and/or action

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has had discussion regarding signs for local businesses and asked what the process would be. Councilor Sette stated his opinion that the first step would be to contact the Department of Transportation. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town Planner could also contact other towns that have this type of signage.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone had any other ideas regarding this matter. David Wright, owner of Mulberry Vineyard, stated that he would like one or two simple, straightforward signs on Route 44 or 102 which point in the direction of his business. D. Wright noted that he would be happy to do some research and provide the Council with examples from other communities.

Councilor G. Steere stated that these signs could possibly be purchased from the company that supplies our street signs. D. Wright stated that he would be willing to pay for the signs for his business.

G. Candlelight Shopping/Detail Expense: Discussion and/or action

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that last year, his department took care of Police Detail for two of the three events and the Town Council paid for the third one.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to pay for one Police Detail for Candlelight Shopping in December 2015 ;
seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

H. Capital Needs for Gloucester Schools - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Sette stated that, as liaison to the School Committee, he recently met with Anne Ejnes to discuss the State's School Building Authority which requires any projects to go through a review prior to being submitted for reimbursement. Councilor Sette stated that the School Committee has hired a consultant to go through the elementary school buildings and develop a five-year plan.

Councilor Sette noted that some of the upgrades that are needed are original to the building. Councilor Sette stated that the projects would cost between 3 and 5 million dollars and asked how we would cover these costs. Councilor Sette suggested that the Town Council meet with the School Committee to prioritize the needs, determine how much the Town will have to pay after reimbursement, and to decide if we will use bonds, capital funds or set-asides. Councilor Sette stated that if we do it over a period of time, the taxpayers will not be hit very hard.

Councilor Sette stated that there is surplus in the Gloucester School Budget and there is also a Capital Account which could be used towards these projects. Councilor Sette commented that it would cost much less to maintain the existing buildings over the next five years versus building a new school. Councilor Sette stated that the process for reimbursement has changed and the School Building Authority will not approve projects that are not needed in a community.

Councilor W. Steere stated that if it was the Region, it would be another story, but we need to take care of our local schools. Councilor W. Steere stated that we should meet with the School Committee and have a list of what the proposal are and how much they would cost.

Councilor Sette suggested that if a group of people are put together to discuss these matters, that they not be called a "Building Committee."

Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, stated that the list of projects is extensive and expressed his opinion that it would be impossible to do all of them. W. Steere stated that we should complete the most important ones soon and anticipates receiving a reimbursement of 40% from the State. W. Steere noted that the surplus may disappear in a few years and when that happens, it will be a big problem. W. Steere agreed that the Council and School Committee should meet to discuss this matter and suggested that Public Works be included to provide input.

IX. Council Correspondence/Discussion

- A. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the State of RI Department of Business Regulations regarding Design Requirements for Public Buildings on Property Across from Former State Police Barracks. Councilor W. Steere stated that they are looking for a project plan and certified drawings for the Kent Property project. Councilor W. Steere noted that all we have at this point are artist's renderings and proposed plans.

- B. Councilor W. Steere read the following into the record:

Dear Council Members,

Please accept our deepest appreciation regarding the consistent efforts made by the Gloucester Police Department to assist us with the Wreaths Across America Ceremony. Throughout the years, their input and involvement has guided us through creating a safe, organized and cherished ceremony for our entire community.

We are continuously impressed with the department's consistent professionalism. Their attention to details, effective communication skills and problem solving abilities have been of great value to our planning a successful event. All requests for assistance have been responded to in a timely and productive manner.

It is evident that the department's leadership has implemented a culture of respect, responsibility and service. We are fortunate to have such responsive, thoughtful partners in caring for and educating our school community. We are very appreciative and hope to continue the productive working relationship that has been developed between our two professional organizations.

Sincerely,
Patricia Marcotte, Principal
Joseph Porrazzo, Assistant Principal
(End of memo)

X. Department Head Report/Discussion

- A. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, reported on the progress of the Transfer Station construction project.
- B. Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, spoke regarding a violation at Sticks Tavern, stating that the license holder has agreed to submit a corrective action plan. Councilor W. Steere suggested that the establishment be closely monitored, especially during large events.
- C. Councilor Burlingame stated that he was on Route 94 between Routes 101 and 6 in Foster and commented that the center chatter strips have been filled in. Councilor Burlingame stated that it was Representative Chippendale who was responsible for getting it done.

Councilor Burlingame explained that the chatter strips were eliminated where there was dense population, and noted that if the same process is followed regarding Snake Hill Road, all of the chatter strips from Route 102 to Tourtellot Hill Road could be removed, both in the center and on the side of the road. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Town Planner is working on this matter.

XI. Bds. and Commissions/Discussion

None.

XII. Open Forum

- A. Donald Simpson stated that he lives on Keach Pond and several years ago had a problem with milfoil. D. Simpson stated that something was done to freeze the roots and he is now Keach Pond is free of milfoil. Mr. Simpson recommend J. Colaluca contact the Keach Pond Associaiton.
- B. Walter Steere, Jr. stated that he hopes the Parade Committee invites the “Dancing Cop” back.
- C. Councilor G. Steere stated that he read an article in a trade magazine regarding the condition of bridges across the country and Rhode Island was second from the bottom two years in a row. Councilor G. Steere stated the article indicated that 52% of the bridges are structurally deficient or in failing condition.

Councilor Burlingame commented that 80% of the bond proposal will be used for the Route 6/Route 10 interchange, leaving very little for bridge repair.

XIII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(5) Land Acquisition - Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to convene to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(5) Land Acquisition;
seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XIV. Reconvene Open Session

Disclose votes taken in Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to SEAL the minutes of Executive Session and to disclose that one (1) vote was taken in Executive Session;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ADJOURN at 9:52 p.m.; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the December 17, 2015 Town Council Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and
for the Town of Gloucester on **December 17, 2015**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William E. Reichert; Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Also present: Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Tremel, Director of Public Works; Jennifer Mooney, Tax Assessor; Judy Branch, Director of Human Services; and Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Citation - Eagle Scout

Noah Morin

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has been asked to recognize Scout Noah Morin as he makes Eagle Scout, with a court of honor to be held on January 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the South Foster Fire Station.

The following Citation was read into the record by Councilor G. Steere:

**Be it hereby known to all that:
The Town of Gloucester
hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to:
NOAH JAMES MORIN
in recognition of
achieving the highest ranking honor of
Eagle Scout
in the
Boys Scouts of America**

To achieve this honor Noah did work diligently and consistently for several years, has been a leader of other young men and a follower of good example in Scouting. While a Scout, Noah has earned the Arrow of Light Award and in 2015 was awarded the Woody Lowden Award for Scout of the year.

For his Eagle Project, Noah lead a group of scouts in constructing benches for the tennis courts at Ponaganset High School.

The Town Council, Town Clerk and Citizens of Gloucester are proud to have Noah James Morin, of Boy Scout Troop 101, Foster, as a member of our community.

Proposed this 17th day of December, 2015

Walter M. O. Steere, III, President, Gloucester Town Council

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Public Hearing

A. New Victualing License - Discussion and/or action

1. Harmony Kitchen LLC

Location of Business: 401 Putnam Pike

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on November 25th, December 10th & December 17th.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the applicant did ask to be heard for a 24 hour victualing which is the license that the previous owner of that location had but the ad only stated a Victualing license, due to a typo, so the clerk is asking Council to hear only a regular victualing license tonight. Councilor W. Steere stated we can advertise and call a public hearing, at a later date, for a 24 hour license if the applicant still wishes to.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if anyone wished to speak.

Elizabeth Hollis, applicant, was present and stated that she would like to obtain the 24 hour license in order to open the restaurant early for hunters, fishermen and snow plow drivers. Councilor G. Steere commented that the ad was our mistake, therefore the applicant will not be charged for the new ad. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council will schedule another meeting for that, but in the meantime, the regular victualing license can be discussed.

Councilor W. Steere asked if anyone else wished to be heard regarding this application. Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to GRANT the Victualing License to Harmony Kitchen LLC, Location of Business: 401 Putnam Pike, contingent upon:

1) payment of all Town taxes; 2) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 3) Police and/ or Fire approval as needed; 4) Health Department approval; 5) Food Manager Certificate; 6) Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; 7) copy of current menu to remain on file in Clerk's Office; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid to November 30, 2016; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Steere noted that the 24 hour license will be addressed at a later date, as soon as possible. Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk, noted that we will need 3 weeks to advertise.

VII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Reg. meeting minutes of December 3, 2015
- B. Tax Assessors Additions & Abatements - November 2015
- C. Finance Director's Report - November 2015

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE the Town Council Regular meeting minutes of December 3, 2015; to APPROVE the Tax Assessors ADDITIONS to the 2015 Tax Roll in the amount of \$504.62; ABATEMENTS to the 2013 Tax Roll in the amount of \$514.25, the 2014 Tax Roll in the amount of \$591.66, and the 2015 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,564.23; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for November 2015; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

- A. Personnel

- 1. Appointments

- a. Tax Assessor

Two year term to expire 12/31/2017- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that by R.I. Public Law the Gloucester Tax Assessor is appointed every two years in the odd numbered years.

Councilor W. Steere noted that the Council has received a letter from our current Assessor, Jennifer Mooney, stating she would like to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor G Steere to REAPPOINT Jennifer Mooney to the position of Gloucester Tax Assessor for a two year term to expire 12/31/2017; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

b. Clerk I Position, Treasurer's Office - Discussion and/or action
Councilor W. Steere read the following recommendation from the Finance Director:

To: Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance/HR
Date: December 14, 2015
Re: Clerk I Position, Treasurer's Office

On October 16, 2015, the position of Clerk I in the Treasurer's office was posted for consideration of employees of the bargaining unit. The application period was until October 28, 2015. Subsequently the position was posted on the town website and an advertisement was placed in the local newspaper. The application period was until November 20, 2015. There were over forty five applications received. Eight individuals were selected for interviews. Interviews were conducted by Jacky DiPietro, financial analyst; Jane Steere, tax collector; and myself.

The choice is to recommend Kathy Sorensen of Chepachet, RI for the position. The decision was unanimous.

The appointment would be for a Clerk I with a salary of \$32,506.50. This is an hourly rate of \$16.67 for a weekly total of 37.5 hours. This is part of the Rhode Island Laborers' District Council, local 1322 bargaining unit. This position is eligible for full time benefits as described in the contract effective through June 30, 2016.

The starting salary is 10% lower than the current listed rate as described in the contract for the first year, with incremental step increases occurring every six months from hire. Upon the completion of two years of continuous employment the employee shall be paid the negotiated contract rate for Clerk I.

This recommendation is for consideration at the meeting on Thursday December 17, 2015.
The recommended start date would be Monday January 4, 2016.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Kathy Sorensen to the position of Finance Office, Clerk 1, a Local 1322 Bargaining Unit position, at an hourly rate of \$16.67, for 37.5 hours per week. Said appointment is effective January 4, 2016; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Boards & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Budget Board
One 3-year term to expire 1/2019

Councilor W. Steere stated that Dave Steere, of the Budget Board, has chosen not to be reappointed for another term.

Councilor W. Steere stated that there will be an ad run next week seeking candidates, and if no one has a recommendation, tonight, this item will be tabled until next month.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board for a three year term to expire 1/2019;
seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Assignments of portions of General Fund Balance -

1. Fund Balance end of FY June 30, 2015 & Authorization for Director of Finance & Town Council President to make necessary adjustments to comply with Surplus Fund requirement- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Finance Director has requested that portions of the General Fund balance as of June 30, 2015 be assigned.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame stated that this is the prudent thing to do and will satisfy the audit requirements.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ASSIGN the following portions of the General Fund balance at fiscal year end June 30, 2015 for the purposes specified:

Amount	Purpose
\$ 1,508	for Tree planting
\$ 350,170	for Healthcare reserve
\$ 433,240	for Other Post Employment Benefits [OPEB]
\$ 52,388	for Police equipment maintenance
\$ 6,397	for Senior Center dues
\$ 75,673	for Radio contracts
\$ 34,824	for Comprehensive plan
\$ 56,976	for Computer System Maintenance
\$ 308,761	for Revaluation reserve
\$ 348,773	for Storm Fund
\$ 454,123	for Accrued Comp Absences
\$ 50,000	for Matching Grants
\$ 31,579	for Police Vehicle Replacement
\$2,204,412	Total

and to AUTHORIZE the Director of Finance and the Town Council President to make adjustments, as necessary, to comply with our required surplus; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion:

Councilor Burlingame pointed out that this does not affect the tax rate at all; it is an allocation of the existing surplus.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

D. Correspondence to R.I.D.O.T./update to Snake Hill Road (rumble strip)
correspondence - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Burlingame stated that DOT had agreed to remove the center chatter strips on Route 94, in Foster, after Rep. Mike Chippendale got involved due to resident complaints. Councilor Burlingame noted that this area is not as densely populated as Snake Hill Road, where chatter strips were also installed.

Councilor Burlingame stated that DOT had agreed to remove the side strips on Snake Hill Road because they were a hazard to bicyclists, but suggested that we amend our request to include the removal of the center strips in some areas. Councilor Burlingame noted that Rep. Chippendale has a liaison with DOT and could be of assistance in this matter.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to send correspondence to DOT to have not only the side strips removed on Snake Hill Road, but also the center strips where appropriate; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Sette suggested that a copy of our original letter be included.

E. R.I. Resource Recovery: Proposed procedure re: Tip Fees - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Sette stated that there was a Public Hearing regarding big changes at RI Resource Recovery, adding that we have to seriously think about what we are going to do. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, explained that tipping fees are going to increase by over \$61,000 and the recycling rebate will be eliminated. G. Treml further stated that Resource Recovery will no longer accept e-waste, such as TV's and computers.

G. Treml expressed his opinion that we take in too many of these, some of which do not come from this Town. G. Treml commented that substantial changes will need to be made regarding how the Transfer Station is run. Councilor Burlingame suggested charging a fee for disposal of these items and further stated that we should send a letter to the Governor asking her for recommendations.

Councilor W. Steere agreed that we need to do something, adding that we are not the only ones in this situation. G. Treml noted that tire disposal has decreased dramatically since a fee was imposed. G. Treml expressed his personal opinion that we should implement a pay-as-you-throw program, which has proven to be effective in other communities.

Councilor Burlingame again suggested that we charge a nominal fee for the disposal of electronic items such as computers and televisions, stating that this may reduce the number as it did with tires.

There was Council consensus to place this on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

IX. Council Correspondence/Discussion

- A. Councilor Burlingame stated that in Rhode Island, there is no waiting period for EBT cards for people coming in from other countries, as there is in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Councilor Burlingame stated that this is a problem and suggested that the Council send a letter to our legislators bringing it to their attention. Councilor Burlingame asked that this placed be on the next agenda.
- B. Councilor Reichert read a letter of appreciation from Michael Robinson, president of the Pine Ledge Association, regarding the recent upgrading of Pine Ledge Road.

- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that an annual report was received from the Pascoag Reservoir Dam Management District.
 - D. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the IBPO Local 638 regarding upcoming contract negotiations.
- X. Department Head Report/Discussion
- A. Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, provided an update on the Transfer Station project. G. Treml reported that he hoped to have the compactors placed in the new building on Monday.
- XI. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion
- A. Anne Ejnes, School Committee member, stated that the State has lifted the moratorium on housing aid and has formed the School Renovation Group, which will review all school projects. A. Ejnes reported that a study was conducted for Gloucester schools and a prioritized list of projects has been created. A. Ejnes noted that some of the equipment, especially at Fogarty School, is original.
 - A. Ejnes stated that the cost of the updates is in the 9 million dollar range. A. Ejnes suggested scheduling a workshop with the Gloucester School Renovation Group and the Town Council. A. Ejnes stated that Diane Brennan, Finance Director, is also involved in the reimbursement application process.

Councilor W. Steere stated that there has been discussion regarding projects which need to be done versus those that we would like to do and asked if the 9 million dollar estimate includes all projects. A. Ejnes replied in the affirmative and noted that not everything on the list needs to be done. A. Ejnes stated that the next step is to discuss funding and added that, depending on the project, reimbursement would be at least a year later.

There was a tentative date of January 14, 2016 for the workshop, which will take place at Fogarty to allow those in attendance to see what is planned. Councilor G. Steere stated that he would like to see everything on the list. A. Ejnes stated that the Council will receive all documentation before the workshop.

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that now that the moratorium has been lifted, we want to put Gloucester in line for reimbursement eligibility. D. Brennan explained that we hired a consultant to give us a 5-year plan of what would be needed to bring our buildings up to code and the list was then submitted to the RI Department of Education. D. Brennan stated that the next step is for the State to go through the buildings to approve the projects.

Councilor Sette noted that as we get reimbursed for certain projects, it goes back to fund subsequent projects. Councilor Sette also spoke regarding debt service, stating

that when things come to an end, what we were paying can be put toward some of these other items. Councilor Sette stated that he feels it is important for all parties to meet to look at this to make sure everyone is comfortable, to avoid the issues that have happened in the past.

- D. Brennan concurred and stated that it is important to be eligible for the 40% reimbursement for projects which need to be done anyway.
- B. Councilor Sette spoke regarding the Gloucester Land Trust, stating that they have made significant headway in the last 6 months. Councilor Sette recommended that the Council members take a look at the Land Trust's website, noting that they have added maps and management plans for several of their properties.
- C. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that she will ask for a two-week extension on the audit. It was stated that the Finance Office has been short-handed for some time.

XII. Open Forum

- A. Lauren Niedel, of Camp Street, spoke regarding the energy project that is taking place in Burrillville. L. Niedel stated that she participated in a recent protest at the site due to her concern regarding the truck traffic through Chepachet which will result from the construction of the power plant. L. Niedel noted that the project is estimated to take two and a half years. L. Niedel suggested that the Council intervene and stated that there will be a meeting of the PUC on January 21, 2016 in Warwick.

Councilor W. Steere thanked Lauren Niedel for bringing this forward, stating that two and half years of concrete trucks on our roads will do considerable damage. L. Niedel pointed out that when these trucks are stalled in traffic, the diesel fumes will be another concern. L. Niedel stated that if anyone would like more information or would like to get involved, they should contact her.

- B. Donald Simpson, 150 Lakeview Drive, expressed his opinion that the power plant is needed because more and more people are using electricity. D. Simpson stated that more houses are being built and more services will be needed. D. Simpson stated that two and half years won't be that bad.
- D. Simpson asked if there is any new information with regard to the Kent Property project. Councilor W. Steere replied that the Council has not received a follow up on that.
- C. Walter Steere, Jr., stated that his electric bill reflects a "renewable energy" charge and commented that renewable energy costs more than coal, oil or propane because wind and solar cost more to produce. Regarding the trucks that will be coming through Chepachet, W. Steere, Jr. stated that as long as they are registered, insured and the drivers obey the speed limit, they should be allowed.

XIII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 8:35 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.

NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved at the January 7, 2016 Town Council Meeting.