

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on January 7, 2016:

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.

Councilor W. Steere noted that there are a number of people present to speak about a matter that is not on the agenda, and asked if they could be heard now (Open Forum) instead of at the end of the meeting. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the Council could make a motion to that effect.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to move Open Forum from the end of the meeting to the beginning; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

Albert Faubert, of 100 Gold Mine Road, spoke regarding the condition of the road, stating that there are numerous potholes and in some places, the road is caving in. A. Faubert commented that the resident of 68 Gold Mine Road will not allow the Town to make necessary repairs in front of his house, causing a dangerous situation. A. Faubert expressed concern that emergency vehicles will not be able to access the residences on Gold Mine Road if the repairs are not made. A. Faubert asked if somebody has to die or get hurt before something is done about it. A. Faubert further stated that if there is a fire in the area, the road is so narrow and in such a condition that a fire truck could tip over.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he has seen the condition of the road and agrees with Mr. Faubert,

however Gold Mine Road is private and there is only so much that the Town can do legally. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town Solicitor will look into it to try to find a possible solution.

A. Faubert stated that he understands that there are laws, but safety should be considered and something has to be done.

Councilor W. Steere noted that these are the issues that we face when we endeavor to improve and maintain private roads. Councilor W. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, if there is anything we can do regarding this situation. T. Kane replied that he will review the deed to 68 Gold Mine Road to determine where the property ends and where the private road begins. T. Kane stated that if the Town has the right to fix that stretch of road, the DPW will do so, with Police protection if necessary.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he has spoken to the Public Works Director who indicated that the owner of the property has told him not to pave the road in front of his house. However, now that there has been a formal complaint, the Solicitor will get involved. Councilor Burlingame commented that if something does happen up there and this property owner is responsible, a civil suit could be filed against him, but we hope that it doesn't get to that point.

Mr. Bourgeois, of 139 Gold Mine Road, stated that the snow plows make the holes much deeper, making driving dangerous.

Kim Katsios, of 138 Gold Mine Road, stated that the condition of the road keeps getting worse, putting the residents at risk.

Councilor Reichert noted that there was a similar situation on Durfee Hill Road about 20 years ago, where a resident claimed he owned the road and would place barricades to prevent cars from passing through. Tim Kane stated that the first thing he will look at is ownership. Councilor W. Steere stated that if the individual does own the road he has the responsibility to keep it up.

Richard Ventrone asked if the road is plowed by the Town. Councilor W. Steere replied in the affirmative. R. Ventrone asked if the road was built to DOT standards. Councilor W. Steere replied in the negative, stating that it is a private road. R. Ventrone asked if the resident is okay with the Town plowing his road. Councilor W. Steere replied "Apparently".

Bruce Burns, of 122 Gold Mine Road, stated that his concern is emergency response.

There was discussion regarding ownership of the road. Councilor G. Steere stated that we know that the Town does not own it. Tim Kane explained that most of these areas are lakefront communities which were developed over time, adding that the lots were cut out and sold with the right to pass and repass over the road. T. Kane stated that eventually everyone forgot who actually owns the road. T. Kane stated that he will look at the deed in question to determine the property lines. It was stated that the person owns property on both sides of Gold Mine Road.

Rick Perry, of 138 Gold Mine Road, stated that the DPW Director explained to him that he could not touch the road because of the resident at 68 Gold Mine Road. R. Perry commented that the road is getting worse and is causing damage to his family's vehicles. R. Perry stated that he took pictures and forwarded them to the Building Official. R. Perry noted that the Town employees have been very helpful, but he is becoming frustrated with the situation.

There was consensus of the Town Council that this must be taken care of. Albert Faubert again asked the Council not to wait until somebody dies or gets hurt to act on this matter.

- V. Public Hearing
 - A. (New) 24-hour 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 December 23rd & 31st, 2015 & January 7, 2016.

Councilor W. Steere stated the applicant was granted a Victualing License on December 17, 2015. And the applicant is now before Council for a 24-Hour Victualing License.

Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing Open and asked if anyone wished to speak.

Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere Declared the Public Hearing CLOSED.

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to GRANT the 24- hour Victualing License to Harmony Kitchen, LLC, Location of Business: 401 Putnam Pike, contingent upon: 1) Meeting all requirements to obtain the Victualing License granted on December 17, 2015; & 2) Police approval for the issuance of a 24-hr license; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid to November 30, 2016; 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 December 17, 2015
 - B. Pole Grant - Chestnut Oak Road

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to APPROVE the Town Council Regular meeting minutes of December 17, 2015; and to APPROVE the Pole Grant for Chestnut Oak Road (Pole 28S); 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. Budget Board

One 3-year term to expire 1/2019

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to APPOINT Alfred Fuoroli to the Budget Board for a three year term to expire 1/2019; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: Councilor Sette stated Mr. Fuoroli has a solid background in the area of finance and will be a good addition to the Budget Board.

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. R.I. EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) Card - Eligibility Waiting Period - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Burlingame stated that Rhode Island is a magnet for illegals due to the fact that they can obtain their benefit cards much quicker than in Massachusetts or Connecticut. Councilor Burlingame stated that Rep. Mike Chippendale is gathering information and asked to table this matter until the Council receives such information. Councilor Burlingame expressed his opinion that this is an important matter and corrective action must be taken because the taxpayers cannot afford it.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE R.I. EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) Card - Eligibility Waiting Period until the next meeting; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Tree Warden - Annual Appointment - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere explained that this is an annual appointment required by RI State Law. Sandra Shepard has expressed an interest in continuing in this position. This email was forwarded to Council on December 4, 2015.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to RE-APPOINT Sandra Shepard to the position of Gloucester Tree Warden for a term to expire January 2017; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Extension of Bid Award - Discussion and/or action

1. IFB #2015-03 Barnes Concrete Road Sand extension to 12/31/2016

Councilor W. Steere stated that Public Works has forwarded to the Council a signed agreement from Barnes Concrete in which Barnes has agreed to extend IFB 2015-03, a bid for road sand, at the bid award price of \$12.95 per ton delivered and \$9.45 per ton picked up to 12/31/2016. Councilor W. Steere stated that if Council agrees a motion is needed to extend this bid award.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to EXTEND the IFB 2015-03 bid award, for road sand, to Barnes Concrete at the bid award price of \$12.95 per ton delivered and \$9.45 per ton picked up; effective to 12/31/2016. seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

D. Charge for E-Waste at Transfer Station - Discussion and/or action

Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, stated that presently there is no charge to dispose of computers, TV's, etc., however the company which was taking these items is no longer in business. G. Treml stated that this is causing a problem within the State because Resource Recovery does not take these items either. G. Treml stated that Smithfield has suspended their drop-off and Scituate no longer accepts TV's. G. Treml stated that if we were to charge a fee for disposal, it would deter out-of-town waste coming into the Transfer Station, noting that this has worked with regard to tires. G. Treml stated that he has two (2) containers full of TV's and he feels that we take in too much. G. Treml recommended that we charge a fee of \$5.00 each for the disposal of TV's, computer towers, monitors, etc. Councilor Burlingame agreed that we must do this right away to avoid getting items from other Towns as everyone is being notified by Resource Recovery that they will not accept these items.

G. Treml stated that the old company took the above mentioned items as well as microwaves, fax machines and printers. G. Treml stated that he does not know what the new company will accept. There was discussion whether to charge a fee for all of these items. It was stated that people must be notified before this policy takes effect. There was Council consensus to place an ad in next week's Bargain Buyer.

Mike DeGrange stated that he was on the RI Resource Recovery Corporation website where it states that they offer free e-waste recycling to Rhode Island residents and public and private schools. M. DeGrange stated that there is a container located in each of the five (5) Rhode Island counties. Councilor W. Steere noted that this is for individuals, but we could not bring a container full. M. DeGrange suggested that the ad inform the residents that they have this option also.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to charge \$5.00 per unit for tower computers, monitors and televisions, effective February 1, 2016, and to place an ad notifying the residents as such, including notification that there are five (5) locations, statewide, where individuals can dispose of these items for free; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Personnel

1. Appointment: Public Works

a. Driver/Laborer I position / Discussion and/or action

Gary Treml, Public Works Director, requested that this appointment be tabled, stating that he is working with the Personnel Board.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the appointment of a Driver/Laborer 1; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

F. Signs – Private Business/ Discussion and/or action

Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, stated that the Council had asked him to obtain prices for signs for private businesses. G. Treml stated that a 24" by 24" sign would cost \$72.00 and a 30" by 30" sign would be \$112.00. G. Treml inquired who would be buying the signs and putting them up. G. Treml further stated that once we do it for one business, we would have to do it for everyone. Councilor W. Steere stated that these are the factors which the Council must decide before going forward.

Councilor G. Steere noted that a 24" by 24" sign may not work because it will be too large. Councilor G. Steere stated that the signs he has seen in other towns have been long and narrow like a street sign. Councilor W. Steere asked how much a typical street sign costs. G. Treml replied that he does not know offhand.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the Town Ordinance does not allow off-premises signs, therefore the Ordinance would have to be amended, after which the Council would have to come up with a policy regarding these signs. T. Kane stated that Tim Inacio, Town Planner, is working on this.

G. Oil Tank – Discussion and/or action

Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, stated that he wished to clarify a few things regarding the disposal of the oil tank behind Town Hall. G. Treml noted that this is the third season that the building has been on the geothermal heating system and the boilers have been removed and have been offered to the School Department, who declined the offer. G. Treml stated that the tank had approximately 2500 gals. of oil and remained in place for two years. G. Treml stated that he had the tank pumped out, at no charge, and placed the tank on Municibid as had been discussed for the disposal of surplus property. G. Treml stated that a bid in the amount of \$2,550 has been received from an individual in Maryland. G. Treml noted that the tank was offered to the School Department prior to this, but they again declined. G. Treml stated that the tank is 12 years old and cost \$7,500 when it was purchased new. G. Treml commented that we have no use for the oil tank since the geothermal system is working fine. The Council thanked G. Treml for his report.

H. Bldg. Inspection Request: Town of Scituate - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that we have received a request from the Town of Scituate to have our Building Official perform inspections on a building in that town. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that he received a memo from Bill Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor, advising against it and explained that it is a heated situation in Scituate which could result in litigation. T. Kane commented that while we like to assist surrounding communities when asked, this is a case that we don't want to get involved in.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to respectfully decline the request for assistance from the Town of Scituate and to direct the Town Solicitor to contact Scituate to inform them of this action; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere suggested that the Solicitor explain the reasons for our decision because the Scituate Building Official has helped us tremendously over the years. T. Kane noted that this is another reason not to get involved, because someone could say that our Building Official could not be objective. Ken Johnson stated that he will contact Scituate's Building Official tomorrow and Tim Kane stated that he will speak to their Solicitor.

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

MOTION PASSED

I. Boards & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Zoning Board
 - 2 Alternate one year positions to expire 1/2016

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Zoning Board Chair has informed the Clerk's Office the two alternates in these positions wish to be reappointed and this information was previously forwarded to Council.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to APPOINT Cyril Crawley & Tracey Donnelly to the Zoning Board of Review for two alternate terms to expire 1/2017; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- b. Conservation Commission
 - 1. Two 3-year expired terms to expire 1/2018
 - 2. One alternate 1-year term to expire 2/2017

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Conservation Commission Chair has asked the Council to TABLE these appointments until after their board has discussed their membership at the Conservation Commission meeting being held tonight.

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

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

J. Personnel

- 1. Resignation: Animal Control Officer - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town Council has received and filed the resignation of Michael Merchant from the position of Animal Control Officer.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ACCEPT, with regret, the resignation of Michael Merchant, Gloucester Animal Control Officer; effective January 6, 2016; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: The Council expressed appreciation for M. Merchant's service over the years.

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

MOTION PASSED

K. Determine Contract Negotiation Teams for 2016- Discussion and/or action
Councilor W. Steere stated that the Town Council has received correspondence from the Police Union requesting that negotiations begin for the next contract and the Clerk has acknowledged their request. Councilor W. Steere stated that Council now needs to decide who will represent Council at contract negotiations.

Councilor W. Steere stated that, typically, Council chooses two Councilors to represent them. Councilor W. Steere further stated the Clerk has informed Council that the Clerks and Police Dispatch contracts are also due to expire in June of this year, and suggested that the Council fill all three teams this evening, if ready.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE Councilors Sette and W. Steere to enter into negotiations for a successor agreement with IBPO, Local #638; 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 Burlingame to AUTHORIZE Councilors Reichert and G. Steere to enter into negotiations for a successor agreement with Town Hall Clerks, Local #1322; 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 AUTHORIZE Councilors Burlingame and G. Steere to enter into negotiations for a successor agreement with Gloucester Police Dispatchers, Local #1322; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

L. Video Recording Town Council Meetings - Seek assistance- Discussion and/or action
Councilor Sette stated that he has prepared an advertisement for an individual to tape, for future

broadcast, the meetings of the Gloucester Town Council at a rate of \$25.00 per meeting. Councilor Sette noted that money has been budgeted for this service. Councilor Sette suggested that the ad be placed in the Bargain Buyer.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he heard that the Region was discussing offering \$500 per meeting. Councilor Sette stated that \$25.00 per meeting would total \$600 per year for regular meetings, plus several special meetings, for a total not to exceed \$750.00 per year. Councilor Sette further stated that Cox Communications would train the individual and provide the equipment. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she has questioned other communities and was told that Burrillville had a problem with Cox because before each meeting, somebody had to pick up the equipment and return it the following morning. Councilor Sette stated that the first thing to do is to run the ad to see if anyone is interested. J. Fecteau stated that our IT Department also had some ideas regarding this matter.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to advertise in the Bargain Buyer for a videographer for Town Council meetings; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

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 a letter was received from the Rhode Island Foundation regarding the Centennial Community Grants, which pertain to parks, streetscapes and other public spaces; creative use of art in public spaces; and engaging programming that allows people to experience community in public spaces. Councilor W. Steere noted that grants will be made in the range of \$5,000 to \$15,000 and applications are due no later than February 12th. Councilor Sette commented that he has always thought that the side of the building which houses the Post Office and Dollar Store would be a good place for a mural to be painted. Councilor Sette stated that the mural could depict the history of the Town. Councilor Sette stated that there are many talented people in Gloucester who may be interested in a project such as this. Councilor G. Steere stated that the old Texaco Station would be another possible location.

- B. Councilor W. Steere stated that authorization was received from the Auditor General with regard to an extension to January 31, 2016 for submission of the audited financial report.

- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that a meeting has been scheduled for the Gloucester School Building Renovation Committee at Fogarty Elementary School on January 12, 2016.

- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Building Maintenance Service and Industrial Workers' Local 1322 informing the Town and members of the Union of a dues increase.
- E. Councilor W. Steere stated that we received the Planning Board Workshop Agenda for January 11, 2016, which includes the Comprehensive Community Plan update.
- F. Councilor W. Steere stated that an email was received concerning an article in the Milford Daily News about the proposed pipeline in Burrillville and how it might affect that area. It was stated that the residents have not expressed much concern but Councilor W. Steere commented that they are dealing with the pipeline, not the plant itself.
- G. Councilor W. Steere stated that a request for support was received from the Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island. Councilor W. Steere stated the letter noted that this year, 37 animals from Glocester were treated.
- H. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from American Water Resources of Rhode Island regarding sewer lines and water lines. Councilor W. Steere stated perhaps the company should do further research as Glocester does not have sewer and water lines.
- I. Councilor W. Steere spoke about RI Resource Recovery's proposal to substantially raise their fees. Councilor W. Steere pointed out that they take in a lot of commercial waste which will decrease the lifespan of the facility. Councilor W. Steere further stated that they tell us that we cannot bring certain items, but do not offer any alternatives. Councilor W. Steere stated that the RI League of Cities and Towns has prepared a letter in opposition to the rate increase, but he feels it will fall on deaf ears.

Councilor Burlingame stated that we took a small step tonight with regard to e-waste, but more must be done to reduce the \$65,000 increase we will get when the fees go up. Councilor Burlingame stated that the DPW Director has pointed out that we allow things to be dumped that other cities and towns do not allow in their curbside pickup. Councilor Burlingame noted that the Director has been promoting "pay as you throw" to reduce the amount being dumped, but asked if there are any other alternatives. Councilor Burlingame suggested that a sub-committee be appointed to look into ways to reduce how much is being dumped.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the layout of the new building may curb the number of contractors who back in with a truckload of building material, which is supposed to be prohibited. Councilor Burlingame stated that another idea could be to reissue stickers to preclude people from dumping what they should not be dumping. Councilor Sette commented that in Richmond, residents are charged \$25.00 annually

for a sticker and the color would change each year.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he would support the formation of a sub-committee. Councilor Burlingame recommended that we put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Gary Treml, Public Works Director, stated that the reason for the large rate increase is because there has not been an increase in 27 years. G. Treml commented that if we increased the fees by \$1.00 per year, it would not have been a big deal for anybody. G. Treml also pointed out that our incentive revenue is also going away, resulting in a loss of \$5,000.

X. Department Head Report/Discussion

A. Councilor W. Steere asked Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, how the Transfer Station construction is coming along. G. Treml replied that it is almost complete.

B. Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, gave an update on the situation at Animal Control. Chief DelPrete stated that the resignation was unexpected, and due to short staff, the Police Department will be taking care of any emergencies that come up. Chief DelPrete asked for authorization to move forward in finding a replacement for Mike Merchant. Chief DelPrete stated that Diane Brennan, Finance Director, has suggested that we start with current employees within the Animal Control Office before advertising the position publicly. It was stated that the position is non-union. The Council authorized Chief DelPrete to begin the application process.

Councilor Reichert asked Chief DelPrete if he has been to Gold Mine Road where the situation exists regarding the road. Chief DelPrete replied in the affirmative and stated that there is a public safety issue for both fire apparatus and police vehicles.

Regarding the hiring of an Animal Control Officer, Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated whenever there is a vacancy, union or non-union, she advertises internally first.

C. Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, spoke regarding Gold Mine Road, stating that the resident, Mr. Silva, had two vans parked on the property, both unregistered. K. Johnson stated that one vehicle was removed after Mr. Silva was notified that the Town Ordinance allows only one. K. Johnson noted that the remaining vehicle is parked close to the edge of the road, causing problems with the neighbors. K. Johnson stated that he sent a letter directing Mr. Silva to move the van and Mr. Silva came to the office stating that he is allowed to have the van and there is not much we can do about it. K. Johnson again spoke to him and it was agreed that the van would be moved after the winter. Councilor Burlingame asked if the van is blocking anything. K. Johnson replied in the negative, stating that Mr. Silva owns property on both sides of the road. Councilor Burlingame asked if this could be a safety issue. K.

Johnson replied that he and Chief DelPrete agree that it could possibly be a safety issue because it is parked so close to the road.

XI. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion

- A. George Charette, Planning Board chair, stated that the board held their election and everything stayed the same.

- B. Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, stated that the reason the School Department declined the offer for the oil tank is because it is 12 years old, is too small for any of the schools' uses and its condition was unknown. W. Steere, Jr. also suggested that when we advertise these items, we should do so in the Bargain Buyer because local people may be interested. Councilor Burlingame asked why the head of Building and Grounds did not take the time to look at the tank before forming his opinion. W. Steere, Jr. replied that he would have looked into it further if he thought we had a use for the tank.

Regarding videotaping meetings, W. Steere, Jr. stated that the School Committee has received a price quote of \$2000 per year for two (2) meetings per month. W. Steere, Jr. stated that the School Committee has tabled the matter for now.

W. Steere, Jr. stated that the Regional School Committee has drafted a budget for next year, noting that everything is going up 3.4%. W. Steere, Jr. stated that local appropriations are going up about \$430,000. W. Steere, Jr. stated that the Superintendent wants to install lights at the football field, which would cost \$275,000 with no reimbursement from the State at this time. W. Steere, Jr. stated that of the \$430,000, \$224,000 would be for Capital Projects which would be paid for by the taxpayers. W. Steere, Jr. expressed his opinion that the lights are a luxury and we have many things to do before we even think about lights, however the motion passed with W. Steere, Jr. the only dissenting vote.

W. Steere, Jr. spoke about the School Department's spending policy which was adopted about a year and a half ago whereby 8% was to be kept in Fund Balance. W. Steere, Jr. commented that they have never come close to 8%, therefore, they had to make an adjustment to the policy. W. Steere, Jr. stated that now any surplus at the end of the year will automatically go towards Fund Balance. W. Steere, Jr. noted that they use that surplus every year and in next year's budget, they plan to put \$150,000 into fund surplus to keep the budget going. W. Steere, Jr. stated that he does not know how they will ever get to 8%, not that he wants to.

W. Steere, Jr. stated that at a recent meeting, one of the people that asked the Town to help the Gloucester schools with their Capital projects is also asking for another policy to take 2% of the budget for Capital projects. W. Steere, Jr. cautioned that the Capital Project Committee will be looking for money at the Regional Financial Meeting. W. Steere, Jr. stated that he is on that committee but does not know if he

will be at their next meeting as he is disgusted with some members of the committee because they “spend money left and right, then plead poverty”. W. Steere, Jr. noted that there are some projects that must be done and they are putting \$300,000 into the Budget for that purpose. W. Steere, Jr. stated that we will get reimbursed 40% on most of the project.

W. Steere, Jr. stated that we will have a problem in Gloucester soon, and probably at the Region too. W. Steere, Jr. stated that pension costs are going up all the time and the pension fund is earning less than 1%, meaning that the taxpayers have to make up the difference.

W. Steere, Jr. stated that he heard that instead of putting lights at the football field, a new ball field may be built at the middle school, which would cost approximately \$400,000 to \$500,000. W. Steere, Jr. commented that when the Region does projects, it costs them a lot of money, adding that the Town of Gloucester is more efficient. W. Steere, Jr. reminded the Council that the Regional Financial Meeting is the third Tuesday in March, stating that Gloucester pays two-thirds of the Region’s budget. W. Steere, Jr. urged residents to attend the meeting and voice their concerns. W. Steere, Jr. stated that a small amount of the Budget increase goes toward education; most of it is for ball fields, tennis courts, etc. W. Steere, Jr. stated that the only way to stop this is to attend the meeting in March, and all Town employees and their families should do so, because if we spend all the money at the Region, it will be tough to give them raises. W. Steere, Jr. suggested that we let people know now because at the last minute we won’t get people to go to the meeting.

Councilor G. Steere commended W. Steere, Jr. for “telling like it is” at the School Committee meeting and for being the only dissenting vote on five or six things. Councilor G. Steere stated that they just don’t get it and spend money like it’s water. Councilor G. Steere questioned who will be running the Regional Financial Meeting this year. W. Steere, Jr. replied that it is Gloucester’s turn, therefore Cindy Joyce will be running the meeting. W. Steere, Jr. further stated that all votes will be by paper ballot. It was stated that the meeting will be held at the High School Auditorium at 7:00 on the third Tuesday of March. It was also stated that there will be a Public Hearing on the Budget on the first Tuesday in March.

There was discussion regarding regionalization on the elementary school level. W. Steere, Jr. stated that the Superintendent is in favor of it, but realizes that it is a tough thing to get done. Councilor Sette commented that there would be a problem at the legislature because if both towns don’t agree to it, the legislature will not consider it.

XII. Open Forum

- A. Albert Faubert spoke regarding contractors’ trash and suggested charging a fee to dispose of it at the Transfer Station. Councilor Burlingame pointed out that by

Ordinance, the dumping of construction waste is not allowed.

B. George Charette stated that other communities charge their residents to use their transfer stations. G. Charette further stated that some towns impose a fine if a pickup truck is not covered with a tarpaulin. G. Charette expressed his opinion that we should charge for construction debris, but we do not have a weight scale.

C. Richard Ventrone suggested that, instead of charging contractors, we enforce the Ordinance and turn them away from the Transfer Station. Councilor Burlingame stated that this is why the Council will have discussion at the next meeting, to see how we can minimize the amount of trash we take in. R. Ventrone commented that when he first moved to Gloucester, there was somebody at the Transfer Station checking for stickers, but there no longer is.

R. Ventrone stated that the Council had received a letter from the Board of Licensing of Architects which came from him, although that was not his intent. R. Ventrone explained that the Board acted on an inquiry he had made, which was totally inappropriate.

D. Donald Simpson, of 150 Lake View Drive, expressed concern that if we begin charging fees for the disposal of certain items, we may start finding those items dumped in rural areas.

D. Simpson expressed dismay at the retirement of the Animal Control Officer, stating that he will be sadly missed.

XIII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 9:28 p.m.; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

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

MOTION PASSED