

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on September 1, 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: Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; and Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. PRESENTATION

A. Gloucester Police Department Accreditation Award & Recognition

Councilor W. Steere explained that the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Committee, RIPAC, was established in 2012 as a way of proving the tools necessary for police agencies to evaluate and improve their overall performance. Councilor W. Steere stated the goal of this program is to increase professionalism and adopt the best practices in law enforcement observed nationally.

Councilor W. Steere stated that around three years ago Lt. Matthew Fague was assigned and designated as the Police Department Accreditation Manager and was the point person on the project. Councilor W. Steere stated that Matthew Floor was very important on logistical, communications, computer, and any technical issues. Councilor W. Steere stated this project was very important to every police department member with respect to training, compliance and valuable input to help shape policies toward our goal the past three years.

Councilor W. Steere stated that Executive Director, Christine Crocker and Smithfield Police Chief, Richard St. Sauveur, will be presenting the award to Chief Joseph DelPrete.

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that this project was started three (3) years ago and he has kept the Council up to date with its progress. Chief DelPrete commended Lt. Fague, stating that he did a fantastic job as Accreditation Manager. Chief DelPrete noted that in February, a mock accreditation took place which resulted in some corrective action. Chief DelPrete pointed out that the whole department was involved and it has put us in a great position. Chief DelPrete introduced Christine Crocker, Executive Director, a retired Cumberland Captain who has been a wealth of knowledge and a great asset to us. Chief DelPrete stated that Smithfield Police Chief, Richard St. Sauveur, has also been a great resource. Chief DelPrete thanked the Town Council for their support

during the 2½ to 3 years it took to accomplish this goal.

Richard St. Sauveur, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the RI Police Accreditation Committee, thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak regarding this significant accomplishment by Chief DelPrete and the Gloucester Police Department. Chief St. Sauveur pointed out that the accreditation program is voluntary with absolutely no obligation to participate. Chief St. Sauveur stated that Chief DelPrete willingly opened up his agency to a team of assessors who verified that the Gloucester Police Department is adhering to industry standards and best practices as determined by the RI Police Accreditation Commission. Chief St. Sauveur congratulated Chief DelPrete and the Gloucester Police Department for being in compliance with 161 applicable RIPAC standards.

Christine Crocker stated that there are 46 agencies that have signed on in the State, which says a lot about law enforcement in Rhode Island. C. Crocker stated that you can't turn on the news without hearing law enforcement being criticized, but here in Rhode Island, we are ahead of the curve. C. Crocker stated that the Police are the gatekeepers of the community and this is the tool to give our personnel what they need to make good decisions. C. Crocker noted that out of the 46 agencies, the Gloucester Police Department is the 17th agency to achieve accreditation and the 9th agency to become compliant with additional standards. C. Crocker commented that many of the larger agencies that have more resources still have not attained accreditation. C. Crocker called Chief DelPrete to the front of the room to accept the award.

C. Crocker stated that Chief DelPrete has spoken about the support his department has received from the Town Council and the Town Clerk throughout the accreditation process, adding that it means a lot to the Commission also because the Police Departments cannot do this without that support.

Lt. Matt Fague thanked the Town Council and the Police Chief for their help along with all members of the Department, stating that it was a whole team approach.

Councilor W. Steere stated that we have a Citation which was read into the record by Councilor G. Steere:

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Town of Gloucester

CITATION

2016-1

Be it hereby known to all that the Town of Gloucester presents this Citation to:

The Gloucester Police Department

in recognition of achieving:

State Accreditation by the

Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association.

For your hard work and dedication to our department the

Town Council is proud to recognize and commend Chief Joseph DelPrete; Lieutenant Matthew Fague, Accreditation Manager; Matthew Floor, Administrative Assistant; and all the members of the Gloucester Police Department for their commitment to this achievement.

The Town Council and the Town Clerk represent all Gloucester residents when we say “thank you” for the extraordinary effort you gave and congratulations for receiving the prestigious:
Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission (RIPAC) Award

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

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC,
Town Clerk

Adopted this 1st day of September, 2016

seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere expressed appreciation to the Police Department and our honored guests, adding that this award is a big deal to the Council, the Town and the Department. Councilor W. Steere noted that Gloucester has been rated the safest place in Rhode Island which is a reflection on our Police Department.

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 August 18, 2016

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPROVE the Town Council meeting minutes of August 18, 2016; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Conservation Commission - Ratify 2016/2017 Hunting Regulations
Williams Mills Conservation Area - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that both Mike Ahnrud and Roy Najecki of the Conservation Commission have agreed the hunting regulations for the Williams Mills Conservation Area are the same as Council adopted last year. Councilor W. Steere explained that the reason the Council adopts the rules for this property, only, because the Conservation Commission has stewardship of the property.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to RATIFY the 2016/2017 Hunting Regulations for Williams Mills Conservation Area, as presented by the Conservation Commission; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Taxation of Renewable Energy Facility

Authorization: Host Agreement: A.P. 17, Lot 35 - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council had discussed this at a previous meeting and tabled for further consideration.

Discussion: Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the facility in question is small and the owner of the property has offered \$250 per year. T. Kane explained that after January 1st, whatever new ones go up which are not completed and do not have an interconnection agreement will be subject to whatever rate the State determines.

Councilor G. Steere asked if the owner currently has an interconnection agreement. T. Kane replied in the affirmative and reiterated that the project also needs to be completed by 12/31/16 to be tax exempt. T. Kane further stated that if the project is not completed by 12/31, the Host Agreement would be terminated. Councilor G. Steere stated that we need to define “completion” as either complete or hooked up and producing power to the grid. Councilor Burlingame expressed his opinion that hooked up and providing power to the grid would be “complete” and anything less is not. T. Kane stated that this would be stated in the Host Agreement.

Councilor Sette stated his opinion that the State is putting us over a barrel by what they have agreed to in the legislation, \$5.00 per kilowatt, compared to what neighboring states are getting. Councilor Sette commented that if this is the best we are going to get, we must approve the Host Agreement. Councilor Sette stated further stated that any time that the Solicitor spends on this matter should be reimbursed to the Town.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE subject to any excess capacity over 250KB after 12/31/16 will be taxed at State rate in accordance to State Law and the agreement is contingent upon completion, which means hooked into the grid and selling electricity to the grid; seconded by Councilor Sette.

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Sette stated that we may want to send something to the Office of Energy Resources. T. Kane suggested that we also contact the League of Cities and Towns.

Councilor G. Steere asked if the Host Agreement we came up with was \$5,000 per megawatt. T. Kane replied in the affirmative, stating that \$5,000 per megawatt is close to \$5.00 per kilowatt. T.

Kane stated that there is major interest in Town regarding solar facilities. T. Kane mentioned several companies that are planning to install large facilities in the near future. Councilor Burlingame spoke about a 15-acre facility in the town of Foster.

C. Boards & Commissions - Discussion and/or action

1. Appointments

a. Historic District Commission

One Alternate, One year term to expire 11/30/2016

Discussion: Charlie Wilson, chair of the Historic District Commission, stated that the Commission would like more time and requested that this appointment be removed from the table until the Council hears back from him.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to REMOVE FROM THE TABLE, per the chair of the Commission, the appointment to the Historic District Commission for the Alternate, one year term to expire 11/30/2016; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Resignation - Discussion and/or action

1. Acceptance by Town Council: Tax Assessor Position

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received the resignation of Jennifer Mooney from the position of Tax Assessor.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to ACCEPT with regret the resignation of Jennifer Mooney from the position of Tax Assessor effective 9/23/16; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere thanked J. Mooney for her services and wished her well in her future endeavors.

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Discussion and/or Action Necessary to fill position

Discussion: Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that she would like to advertise the position on the Gloucester website as well as on the State's website. D. Brennan further stated that she wants someone with Rhode Island certification. D. Brennan stated that she would consider part-time for the right candidate with the appropriate level of skills. Councilor Burlingame stated that he would

like to advertise for the full position with certification, but to state that consideration would be given to a part-time position, based on the candidate's experience.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Finance Director to advertise for the position of full-time Tax Assessor, with the necessary certifications, with the consideration of a part-time position also; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Taxation Exemption

1. Public Request for consideration of Tax Exemption, A.P. 5, Lot 122 -
 Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received correspondence from a resident regarding his tax exemption. Councilor W. Steere stated the resident states he was not aware he had to sign up each year and is asking the Council to reinstate his exemption status.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that a similar request was addressed at the last Council meeting at which time the Council made it clear that they wish to be consistent with this type of thing.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to DENY the request for consideration of Tax Exemption, A.P. 5, Lot 122; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Steere asked if any type of verification is sent out to residents to indicate that their request has been received by the Assessor's Office and is valid. Councilor W. Steere stated that this may help to eliminate the problem. Councilor Burlingame replied that years ago, letters were sent to residents by certified mail, but now the Assessor sends out two (2) letters by regular mail. Councilor Burlingame stated that if the letters did not come back undeliverable, we would assume that the resident received them. Councilor Burlingame further stated that the Council members looked at the list of residents who did not respond and the Assessor would follow up with a reminder. Councilor Burlingame noted that in this instance, the letters went out twice and did not come back undeliverable.

Councilor W. Steere noted that we do a lot on the front end to make people aware by advertising and having it stated on the tax bill. Councilor Burlingame stated that we go above and beyond by looking at the list and calling people to remind them.

C. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointment

a. Foster/Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board

One Expired three year term to 9/2019

Councilor W. Steere noted that this position is for the expired term of Kerri Desnoyers. Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk, stated that the Clerk's Office has been notified that Ms. Desnoyers wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to REAPPOINT Kerri Desnoyers to the Foster/Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board for a three year term to expire 9/2019; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

One Expired Alternate one year term to 9/2017

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk has forwarded to Council correspondence from the current member, Richard Travers, asking Council to reappoint him to the position.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to REAPPOINT Richard Travers to the Foster/Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. Town Council Correspondence and/or Discussion

A. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from Dave Chace, of the Senior Center Board of Directors, stating that when his current term was completed he did not wish to be reappointed.

B. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from a resident regarding a business on Route 44. Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, stated that a sign has been installed advertising the business and the owner has been notified that they must go through the proper channels and protocol if they wish to run a business on

the property. Ken Johnson stated, per zoning, the sign must be taken down in the meantime.

- C. Councilor W. Steere stated that a complaint was received with regard to the road conditions on Spring Place. This has been forwarded to the Public Works Director.

X. Department Head Reports/Discussion

- A. Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, stated that cleanup has begun on the abandoned house on Putnam Pike, noting that there is still some remediation of asbestos shingles on the property to be done. K. Johnson expressed hope that the work will be finished soon and the house will be taken down.

K. Johnson stated that progress is also being made regarding the Nannig Property (next to Kitson's Liquors). K. Johnson commented that there is still work to be done, but they are making an attempt. Councilor G. Steere asked if it was the new owners. K. Johnson replied that the house is for sale by the co-executors of the estate and it is the real estate agent who initiated the cleanup.

- B. Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk, reported that the Clerk's Office is moving forward with preparation for the upcoming Election cycle. S. Harris noted that a demonstration of the new voting equipment will be held at the Senior Center.

XI. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

None.

XII. Open Forum

Don Simpson spoke regarding turkey hunting regulations, stating that there is an over-population of wild turkeys in the area. D. Simpson asked if the bag limit could be increased to alleviate this problem. Councilor W. Steere replied that hunting regulations are established by the Department of Environmental Management.

XIII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) Collective Bargaining: Contract Negotiations - 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) (2) Collective Bargaining; Contract Negotiations - Discussion and/or action; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

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 disclose that no votes were taken in Executive Session and to 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 G. Steere to ADJOURN at 9:27 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Sette.

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

MOTION PASSED