

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on June 1, 2017:

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: George O. (Buster) Steere, Jr., President; Edward C. Burlingame, Vice-President; William E. Reichert and Patricia Henry.

Member Absent: Walter M. O. Steere, III

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Judy Branch, Director of Human Services; and Jane Steere, Tax Collector.

III. MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to: R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2) Litigation, Town of Gloucester vs. Gregoire etals., Discussion and/or action; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

7:00 P.M.

IV. Reconvene Open Session (Disclose votes taken in Executive Session)

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to SEAL the minutes of Executive Session and DISCLOSE that no votes were taken; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

V. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

VI. Ceremony - Recognitions of Achievement:

Officer Jeffrey Jenison
Officer Daniel Moriarty

Councilor G. Steere stated that tonight we are recognizing two of the officers on the Gloucester Police Department for their outstanding service while on duty.

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that last September, Officer Jenison was involved in a life-saving situation. Chief DelPrete read the following into the record:

“On Monday, September 19, 2016 at 8:09, Dispatcher Paul Desnoyers received a 911 call from a male party who advised that he had gone off the road into a pond and was trapped inside his vehicle. The male caller was extremely panicked and advised Dispatcher Desnoyers that the truck was sinking and the water was filling up in the cab. Dispatcher Desnoyers kept him calm and assured him that he was going to be okay, and was able to confirm the 911 GPS location in the Spring Grove Pond area. Dispatcher Desnoyers then calmly dispatched the emergency circumstance to Officer Jeffrey Jenison and Chepachet Fire personnel. Officer Jenison immediately responded to the area within one (1) minute and observed the truck partially submerged in Spring Grove Pond. Officer Jenison entered into the water and climbed on the rear of the truck and broke the rear window with his department issued baton. Officer Jenison was then able to grab and assist the operator, Kevin, by the back of his shirt and pulled him through the window. At the same time, the truck submerged into 10 to 12 feet of water.”

Chief DelPrete stated that we are here to recognize Jeff Jenison on a heroic achievement and noted that it is the first time in his seven (7) years as Chief that the Lifesaving Award has been issued.

Officer Jeff Jenison stepped forward and was presented a pin. Councilor G. Steere presented Officer Jenison with a Citation in recognition of his achievement.

Chief DelPrete spoke regarding Officer Dan Moriarty, stating that he received an award in Connecticut for apprehending a suspect of a breaking and entering in his neighborhood, while he was off-duty. Chief DelPrete stated that Officer Moriarty is also receiving a Commendation for an incident in Gloucester and read the following into the record:

“On Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at approximately 11:12 a.m., the Gloucester Police received a 911 call originating from 1718 Putnam Pike for a report that someone was trying to break in and gain entry to an unattached garage at that address. The caller was the father of a 13-year old girl who had called him instead of the Police. The 13-year old heard a knock at the door and observed a white van parked in the driveway and a heavy-set white male wearing a winter hat walked over to the garage and forcibly opened the side door with a crowbar. She further reported that this white male suspect placed a generator from the garage into the van and exited the driveway. Officer Hebert immediately responded to her location and confirmed the story that the 13-year old witnessed. Officer Moriarty was en route to the location to assist Officer Hebert and based on the description given by the 13-year old, observed the white van on Route 44 West in Connecticut. He approached the operator, who fit the description, and observed a power washer and generator in the rear of the van. During

questioning, the individual said “You got me”. With the assistance of the Connecticut State Police, Officer Moriarty was able to recover the stolen items and obtain a confession on the recent Gloucester housebreak. This same subject was also involved in crimes in the Town of Burrillville, including breaking and entering and larcenies. We are commending Officer Moriarty for the capturing of a career criminal with an extensive criminal record throughout New England, while attempting to escape Rhode Island into Connecticut, recovering the stolen property, obtaining a confession and also clearing the housebreaks and larcenies in the Town of Burrillville. His quick action that day in apprehending this subject reflects the high standards of the Gloucester Police Department that the public sees every day.”

Officer Moriarty was awarded a pin for his achievement and the Town Council presented a Citation to him.

Swearing in of Gloucester Patrolman

Chief DelPrete stated that tonight, we also have a new officer to swear into office, Cody Beaudette. Chief DelPrete stated that Cody was selected from 40 applicants and noted that Cody finished 1st academically in his academy class and was chosen valedictorian. Chief DelPrete stated that Cody is a very hard worker and we are very excited to have him on the Gloucester Police Department. Chief DelPrete called Cody and his parents forward and the Town Clerk administered the Oath.

The Town Council members expressed congratulations and there was a round of applause for Patrolman Beaudette.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council will take a short break and invited all our guests this evening to enjoy coffee and pastry in room #6.

7:30 p.m.

VII. Open Forum - For Agenda Items
None.

VIII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

A. Approval of Town Council meeting minutes of May 18, 2017

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of May 18, 2017, seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Unfinished Business
A. Senior Center

1. Senior Center Director: Action to fill position - Discussion and/or action
Councilor G. Steere stated that Diane Brennan, Finance Director, was to come back to Council with discussion of a job description so that the Town would be ready to advertise.

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that she went back to the original job description and the duties listed are still consistent with what we are looking for. D. Brennan stated that the biggest change she made is that the position will report to the Town Council as opposed to the Board of Directors. D. Brennan outlined briefly some of the duties involved and noted that she was assisted by Barbara Waterman, who runs the Senior Center in Woonsocket and also coordinates the meal activities in Glocester. D. Brennan stated that she has forwarded the job description to the Council members for review and unless they have any revisions, she would like to proceed to advertise for the position.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he has read the job description and it looks good to him. Councilor Burlingame concurred and stated that he went over it with the Finance Director. Councilor Burlingame stated that we are adding \$20,000 to this job to bring the annual salary to \$54,000, making us competitive with other regional and full time Senior Center Directors. D. Brennan stated that, based on the information from other centers, this salary is well within the range of other communities. Councilor Burlingame pointed out that once we get this individual in place, it will reduce some of the extra costs that we have had, so we will not absorb the whole \$20,000 since there will be some savings along the line. Councilor Burlingame stated that we want the position to have Department Head status and report to the Council, and the Board could be advisory. Councilor Burlingame noted that there is nothing in the Home Rule Charter that says we cannot do this.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Human Resources Director to advertise for the position of Senior Center Director as soon as possible; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Burlingame stated that money for this position was included in the money set aside and is included in the Budget, so there is no issue.

B. Sign - The Pavilion at Kent Field

1. Determine type & style of signage - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that Charlie Wilson went to vendors looking for ideas and prices. C. Wilson reported that he drove around different towns to get some basic ideas regarding colonial style signs. C. Wilson stated that he has three (3) quotes in the works for carved signs made of composite material and will bring the quotes to the Town Clerk to forward to the Council members.

2. Determine funding source & Authorization to purchase - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere commented that we probably have to hold off on the funding source on this until we get prices. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Gloucester Business Association may be interested in paying for the sign or part of it, if it is within their budget. Councilor Burlingame stated that there may be money in the Pavilion budget, if needed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE until the next meeting the Funding Source and Authorization to Purchase a Sign for the Pavilion at Kent Field; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

X. New Business

A. Boards & Commissions

1. Appointment - Discussion and/or action

a. Local Board of Appeals for Building Code - 5 year term

Councilor G. Steere stated that this is for the expired term on the Board of Appeals of Lori Michailides. Councilor G. Steere noted that the Town Clerk has tried to contact L. Michailides, but has not received a response.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Local Board of Appeals for Building Code; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

B. Gloucester Code of Ordinance - 1st Reading

1. Proposed Amendment to: Chapter 221, Parks and Recreation Areas

Addition: ARTICLE III, The Pavilion at Kent Field, §221-18.
Regulations - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that this item is for a first reading of a proposed ordinance amendment.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to WAIVE the First Reading of the Proposed Amendment to Chapter 221, Parks and Recreation Areas; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere explained that after much discussion, the Council has taken the Rules and Regulations that already exist for Town properties and added several things specific to the Pavilion. Councilor G. Steere gave the example that even if someone books an event at the Pavilion, the facility is open to the public at all times. Councilor Burlingame also stated that motor vehicles are not allowed on the grassy areas and skateboards are prohibited. Councilor Henry stated that one thing that was discussed but is not in the proposed Ordinance is whether there is need for a sign in the parking lot that says “No Commuter Parking”. Councilor Burlingame stated that if we think we need it we can just put it up at that time.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to SET a Public Hearing for June 15, 2017 to consider the proposed addition to the Code of Ordinance, Chapter 221, Parks and Recreation Areas, ARTICLE III, The Pavilion at Kent Field, §221-18. Regulations; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

C. Consideration of a Farmers Market and/or Establishing a Committee - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Henry stated that, now that we have the Pavilion, she wanted to reach out to people in the community regarding trying once again to have a farmers market as we had in the past. Councilor Henry stated that she contacted Robin Meek, who received an award from the Chepachet Grange for Agriculturalist of the Year. Councilor Henry stated that R. Meek owns a farm where she raises sheep and grows vegetables. Councilor Henry stated that she plans to meet with R. Meek to discuss the concept of having a farmers market in Town, perhaps on Thursday nights from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., when people are driving through the Village on their way home from work. Councilor Henry stated that she will put something on our website asking anyone who is interested in participating to attend a meeting, and we will see how it evolves from there. Councilor Henry stated that R. Meek told her that there are many young people coming back to Gloucester to become farmers again and this would help encourage them.

D. Dorr Drive - Discussion and/or action regarding future disposition of bank-owned property

Councilor Henry reported that she has good news regarding this matter. Councilor Henry stated that she spoke to a woman from Ocwen, the servicing company who oversees the property on Dorr Drive, who helped us in the very beginning. Councilor Henry stated that she called the woman yesterday to thank her for the progress that has been made in cleaning up the property. Councilor

Henry stated that it is now safe enough for a potential buyer to go look at the property. Councilor Henry commented that, she was told, there is a little more work to be done and then the property can be marketed.

The Council members thanked Councilor Henry for her efforts. Councilor G. Steere commented that she has been relentless in keeping the pressure on the people responsible for the deterioration of the property.

E. Gloucester Land Trust: Code of Ethics Document- Discussion and/or action regarding Town Solicitor review of document

Councilor Henry stated that while reading the minutes of the Land Trust, she saw something that seemed irregular. Councilor Henry stated the Land Trust minutes stated that one of the Trustees was going to be signing the Land Trust's Code of Ethics upon their return. Councilor Henry stated that she personally knows that this was not that person's intent because she was uncomfortable about signing the document. Councilor Henry stated that she has read the Code of Ethics and feels that it is inappropriate for our volunteers to be asked to sign for the following reasons: when we appoint someone to a Board or Commission, the Council has already vetted the person and feels that he or she will act in an ethical manner; the Code of Ethics reads as if it is that of a philanthropic organization or museum because it speaks to "financial support". Councilor Henry read the following from the Land Trust Code of Ethics: "C. Support the Corporation: Each trustee should support the GLT, support should include financial support and, where applicable, public support". Councilor Henry stated that we don't ask our volunteers or trustees to give money to the board that they sit on.

Councilor Henry stated that she would like to submit this to our Solicitor and ask for a legal opinion if this is something we should be asking these people to sign, and if not, we should ask the Land Trust to stop doing this. Councilor Henry stated that we do not want to make our volunteers to feel uncomfortable.

Councilor Reichert asked if the code is because they handle money and purchase land. The Solicitor stated he doesn't believe so but will advise after he looks at the document.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to refer the Land Trust Code of Ethics to Legal Counsel for an opinion; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere pointed out that the Land Trust has its own attorney, therefore all the Council can do is make a suggestion to them. Councilor Henry agreed but stated that she feels strongly that when a resident of our Town volunteers their time and their behavior is always in the best interest of the Town, they should not be made to feel uncomfortable and asked to sign something they do not want to sign.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

F. Hamilton Right of Way - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the property owner contacted the Clerk and asked that this item be tabled to the next Council meeting because she was unable to attend tonight.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE Hamilton Right of Way discussion and/or action to the Town Council meeting of June 15, 2017; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

G. Non-compliant Signs in the Town of Glocester - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Henry stated that she asked for this to be on the agenda, but she contacted the property owner and the sign has been removed. Councilor G. Steere stated that Ken Johnson, Zoning Official, has been working successfully on this subject and he is making real progress. No action necessary.

H. Letter of Support (for Grant Application of the Youth Prevention Coalition through Tri-County Community Action Agency) Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has received a request from the Tri-County Community Action Agency, which was formerly named Tri-Town.

Councilor G. Steere explained that Tri-County is a private, non-profit, community service agency providing a broad range of programs, services and support to individuals and families in need throughout North Central, Northwestern and Southern Rhode Island. Councilor G. Steere stated that Glocester has referred many of our residents to this agency. Councilor G. Steere stated that Tri-County is asking for a letter of support from the Council, to be submitted with their grant application which is to seek funds to create a regional substance abuse prevention task force.

Councilor Henry spoke in favor of sending a letter of support, stating that many people are not aware that there are drug issues in this part of the State.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign a letter in support of Tri-County's Grant Application to the RI Dept. of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals to enable them to develop and establish a Regional Prevention Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force for Region 1: Southern Providence County, which includes the towns of Johnston, North Providence, Smithfield, Glocester, Scituate, Cranston and Foster; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

I. Elderly Exemption - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Burlingame stated that there was discussion at the last meeting regarding the Elderly Exemption program and the steadily increasing percentage coming off the amount to be raised by taxes. Councilor Burlingame stated that currently, we have approximately \$2 million coming off the tax collections, which is equivalent to the total amount of taxes collected for motor vehicles. Councilor Burlingame noted that this year alone, we had between 50 and 60 new applicants because our population is getting older. Councilor Burlingame stated that he has been meeting with the Finance Director, Tax Collector and Tax Assessor to come up with some recommendations to revise the Ordinance regarding Elderly Exemptions. Councilor Burlingame noted that if the amendment is approved, anyone who currently owns a home (at the time of the revision being put into place) will be grandfathered and will qualify for the exemption under the existing program.

Councilor Burlingame outlined the proposed recommendations. Councilor Burlingame explained the concepts of a minimum tax on real estate of \$600; the current standard exemption being frozen; additional tax “credit” for owners between 65 years of age and 80 years being frozen; & owner/occupied time being changed from five years to ten years.

Councilor Burlingame stated that it would be best to have this put in place at the time of passage because people shop for exemptions, adding that we have the most generous exemption in the State. Councilor Burlingame stated that the amount of \$2,000,000 collectable taxes in terms of valuations (10%). Councilor Burlingame stated we want to make it fair and equitable for everyone.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Tax Collector and Finance Director have also put a lot of work into this and asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, what is the next step. T. Kane replied that we would formally introduce the amendment for a First Reading and follow the Ordinance process.

Councilor Burlingame suggested that we take his recommendations and put them in the form of the Ordinance language so we can set up a First Reading. Councilor Burlingame asked the Town Clerk to work on the proposed ordinance language.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to prepare an amendment to Article III of the Code of Ordinance for a First Reading; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

XI. Town Council Correspondence /Discussion

A. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from Arthur Milnes asking us to declare July 1st as Canada Day.

- B. Councilor G. Steere stated that an agreement has been signed by the Gloucester Little League regarding the use of the lawnmower and shed.
- C. Councilor G. Steere stated that a resignation from the Land Trust was received from Rebecca Schultz. The Council members thanked R. Schultz for her service and will put the resignation on the agenda for the next Council meeting. Councilor Henry stated that Ms. Shultz has been a great asset to the community.
- D. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Town of South Kingstown thanking the Council for adopting the Resolution opposing State Legislation H-5475 and S-0481, which would drastically reduce the time allowed for Planning Board decisions regarding land development projects. Councilor G. Steere noted that South Kingstown also voted to oppose this legislation.
- E. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from Rebecca Reiner asking the Council to support Tri-County concerning their grant application.

XII. Department Head Reports/Discussion

- A. Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, thanked Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, for setting up the Recognition and Swearing-In Ceremony this evening.

Chief DelPrete noted that tomorrow, the Special Olympics Torch Run will pass by the Town Hall between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m.

XIII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

None.

XIV. Open Forum

- A. Walter Steere, Jr. spoke regarding the Skate Park, stating that there is bad graffiti on the base. W. Steere, Jr. stated that there was money in the Budget to address some safety concerns, but his opinion is that the park should be torn down.

W. Steere, Jr. stated that he received a call about the tennis courts at the Region. W. Steere, Jr. stated that he was under the impression that the courts were available to the public, but he was wrong. Councilor Henry stated that she just found out about that at the Recreation Commission meeting this week and was outraged. Councilor Henry stated that she called Superintendent Barnes yesterday, and again today, to request that the tennis courts remain unlocked and available to the public. W. Steere, Jr. stated that the Superintendent told him that the courts would be available to the Recreation Department for their summer program, but not the public. W. Steere, Jr. commented that it's not right because the taxpayers paid for it. W. Steere, Jr. stated he will address the issue at Tuesday night's School Committee meeting and suggested that if anyone knew a School Committee member to contact to do so

and he, further stated, that he is working with the school on some type of compromise.

Councilor Henry stated that there was discussion concerning the Skate Park during the Budget process, and there was a contingent in Town that felt that it should remain open. Shana Grenga, resident, stated that she takes her kids there to play and noted that the bathrooms are always locked so she has to take them to Aegean Pizza to use their restrooms. Councilor G. Steere stated that we have had bad luck keeping them open. Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that his department is looking at security measures.

XV. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2) Litigation - Discussion and/or action

Town of Glocester vs. Robert & Shana Grenga, Superior Court Civil Action #PC-2017-0693.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2) Litigation - Town of Glocester vs. Robert & Shana Grenga, Superior Court Civil Action # PC -2017-0693; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

After Executive Session:

XVI. Reconvene Open Session (Disclose votes taken in Executive Session)

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session and disclose that no votes were taken in Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

XVII. Appointment of Special Counsel to assist with:

Town of Glocester vs. Robert & Shana Grenga, Superior Court Civil Action , # PC -2017-0693 - Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to APPOINT Special Counsel, Attorney Patrick Dougherty, effective June 22, 2017, at an hourly rate of \$250 to assist with Town of Glocester vs. Grenga; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion:

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED

XVIII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 8:50 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

VOTE: AYES - G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert & Henry
NAYS - 0

MOTION PASSED