

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on September 21, 2017:

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: George O. (Buster) Steere, Jr., President; Walter M. O. Steere, III; William E. Reichert and Patricia Henry.

Member Absent: Edward C. Burlingame, Vice-President

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Timothy Kane, Town Solicitor; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Lori DeSantis, Tax Assessor; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director; Gerald Mosca, EMA Director; and Judy Branch, Director of Human Services.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council meeting minutes of August 17, 2017
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements - July 2017
- C. Finance Director's Report - July 2017

Councilor G. Steere explained that there is an issue with dates on the agenda under consent items. Councilor G. Steere stated the Council has already approved the August 17th minutes; the Financial reports for July; the Additions & Abatements for July; and the Finance Director's report for July. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council can remove from the items listed under Consent Items but the Clerk needs a consensus from Council on the additions and abatement to the August tax roll so the Assessor can complete the transaction.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to REMOVE FROM THE TABLE the Approval of the Town Council meeting minutes of August 17, 2017; the Additions & Abatements for July, 2017; and the Finance Director's Report for July, 2017; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

After discussion, there was Council consensus regarding the Additions and Abatements and Councilor G. Steere stated that it will be ratified at the next meeting.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Town Employee, Department Head Hiring Processes - Discussion and/or action
Councilor G. Steere stated that Councilor W. Steere asked for this item and noted that the Council has had previous discussions about it.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere thanked the Town Clerk and the HR Director for their assistance and asked if there is any further feedback regarding this proposed process. Councilor W. Steere stated that Councilor Burlingame is not present, therefore this could be tabled to the next meeting. Councilor G. Steere commented that the addition of “Council reserves the right to add additional individuals, as needed” is a good option to have, depending on the position. Councilor G. Steere stated that there is no big rush and the Council could wait until a full Council is present to adopt the process.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the process entitled “Department Head Hiring Process” until the October 5, 2017 Town Council meeting; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VII. New Business

A. Transfer of funds: FY 2017 - Discussion and/or action
Councilor G. Steere read the following request from the Finance Director:

To: **Honorable Town Council Members**
From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance/ HR
Date: September 13, 2017
Re: Transfers and Supplements

On Friday September 8, 2017 a bill relating to expenses incurred from March- June for the services rendered on behalf of the legal department was submitted for payment. The amount of the invoice is \$1,462. I am requesting an additional supplemental appropriation for the **legal department** to cover the costs. The funds will be covered by transferring savings from the **other operational costs** budget.

If approved, the following line items will be adjusted to reflect the change:

01-021-2110 **Legal Department**
Miscellaneous Expense \$1,462.00 (increase appropriation)

01-082-2252 **Other Operational Costs**
Liability Insurance \$1,462.00 (decrease appropriation)

Based on the charter provision § C1 5-8 **Transfer of accounts and appropriations**, I propose the recommendations for transfers as described.

(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Henry questioned if this is because the liability insurance came in at less or we did not purchase as much. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, replied that the budget included money for deductions, if needed, and noted that we did not have many claims.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated for the record that the bill from legal was for our consulting engineer on the Grenga matter. T. Kane noted that the bill was received after the close of the Fiscal Year.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Transfer of Funds, FY 2017, from: 01-082-2252 Other Operational Costs, Liability Insurance \$1,462.00 to 01-021-2110 Legal Department, Miscellaneous Expense \$1,462.00; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Process for lien on private property (relating to protection of town assets)-
Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council was notified by the Director of Public Works that his department had done work at Snow's Clam Box due to safety concerns. Councilor W. Steere questioned the procedure of putting a lien on the property for the costs associated with the work performed by the Town. Councilor W. Steere stated that he has reviewed the Ordinance and feels that there may be a "hole" in the Ordinance regarding how the Town will fund this type of thing.

Councilor G. Steere stated that G. Trembl, Director of Public Works, has put together a bill for the work and materials used. G. Trembl stated that the Building Official has a small account for cleanups and they have done this before on other property. G. Trembl stated that the cost for the blocks and labor at Snow's was \$3,525.00. G. Trembl further stated that when the property transfers, we can remove the blocks and use them again.

Councilor G. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, if he would put the lien on the property. T. Kane replied that he could prepare the lien and get it recorded within the next several days. T. Kane noted that a certified copy will be mailed to the property owner.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council will hear from somebody tonight regarding another abandoned property and asked what is the next step. Councilor W. Steere stated that we need a line item in the Budget with sufficient funds for this purpose, adding that he can think of at least three (3) other properties where something needs to be done.

Councilor Henry stated that we are talking about responsiveness and in the case of Snow's, the Police Chief felt that we had a serious issue with regard to safety. Councilor Henry stated that we should be proud that we are taking steps forward in being responsive. Councilor W. Steere agreed, but he expressed concern regarding how we are paying for it.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he does not want the Town to get into the business of tearing down and cleaning up property, but the difference with this property is that the owner is in jail and the Building Official has had no luck in contacting anybody at the business. Councilor G. Steere further stated that the property is a public health nuisance and the Police have been called numerous times.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he is not arguing the point that something had to be done, but if we are going to be doing more of these, we need to have the money to pay for it. Councilor W. Steere stated his question is where is the money coming from to pay for these issues.

Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, explained that in many of these cases, they are foreclosed properties and he sends a letter to the bank stating that we don't allow properties to deteriorate to this point. K. Johnson stated that often the bank reimburses the Town for what was spent on the property. Councilor W. Steere noted that we needed to have the funds first. K. Johnson stated that this property is different because there no longer is an office or anybody to contact. K. Johnson stated that somebody did buy the property at tax sale, but we must wait a year before we can do anything. K. Johnson stated that he always goes after the bank first, adding that it is a last resort for the Town to do the work. Councilor W. Steere asked if the money we have available was enough to cover the \$3,500. K. Johnson replied that it was not in his Budget to cover it all and we will have to get creative. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council will need to budget for this type of thing. K. Johnson agreed, stating that his Budget for boarding up neglected properties is quite small.

Gary Trembl, Director of Public Works, commented that the amount for Snow's included the labor hours and the actual out-of-pocket cost to the Town was \$1,500. Councilor W. Steere stated that if we are spending taxpayers' money on private property, we want to make sure we are covered in that situation. Councilor W. Steere stated the Council didn't have a say in this decision but the ordinance does allow for some situations to be handled by the Building Official.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council discussed this at a meeting, but no vote was taken because it was not on the agenda. Councilor G. Steere stated all Councilors seemed to agree that something needed to be done. Councilor G. Steere stated that he is glad it is done and that it was done inexpensively. Councilor G. Steere stated that we will put a lien on the property.

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, expressed his appreciation that something was done on this property as his department has expended a lot of resources at this location. Chief DelPrete stated if the town had remained inactive up there it would have cost us more.

C. Creation of exploratory sub-committee to determine need for Town Manager/Administrator and possible scope of responsibility - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that he asked for this item, but feels that we should wait until we have a full Council to discuss it. Councilor W. Steere explained the reason he brought it forward is because we are a \$30,000,000 business and do not have somebody at Town Hall on a daily basis to make decisions. Councilor W. Steere stated that by Charter, no Council member can give an order to an employee of the Town. Councilor W. Steere pointed out that the Council members are all volunteers who have jobs or other things that they are doing. Councilor W. Steere stated that if we had someone here every day, we could be proactive in many different situations in our changing world.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE until the next Town Council meeting the Creation of Exploratory Sub-committee to Determine Need for Town Manager/Administrator and possible scope of responsibility; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- D. Boards and Commissions
 - 1. Resignations - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Senior Center Board of Directors
One unexpired term

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has received the resignation of Judy Branch from the Senior Center Board of Directors.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ACCEPT the resignation of Judy Branch from the Senior Center Board of Directors; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: The Council members thanked Judy Branch for her service.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Conservation Commission
One unexpired 3-year term

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has received correspondence from the Chairman of the Conservation Commission relaying the resignation of Kyle Swanton from the Conservation Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to ACCEPT the resignation of Kyle Swanton from the Conservation Commission; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the appointment to the Senior Center Board of Directors for the two year term to expire 1/2019; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Conservation Commission
One 3-year term to expire 1/2019

Mike Ahnrud, chair of the Conservation Commission, stated that the resignation of Kyle Swanton was accepted, with regret, by the Conservation Commission at their meeting in September. M. Ahnrud stated that he asked the current Alternate, Matt Varatta, if he would be willing to step up to full-time duty and M. Varatta replied that he would. M. Ahnrud recommended that the Council appoint Matt Varatta to replace Kyle Swanton as a full-time member of the Conservation Commission. M. Ahnrud stated that he will then review the Talent Bank applications to fill the Alternate position.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Matt Varatta to the Conservation Commission, regular 3-year term to expire 1/2019; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- One Alternate term to expire 2/2018

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Conservation Commission for one Alternate term to expire 2/2018; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- c. Foster-Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board
Two 3-year terms to expire 9/30/2020

Councilor G. Steere stated that this is for the two expired terms of Joe Peters and John Pitocco, both of whom have expressed they would like to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to REAPPOINT Joe Peters and John Pitocco to the Foster-Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board for a 3-year term to expire 9/30/2020; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

E. Pavilion at Kent Field - Opening ceremony plans - Discussion and/or action
Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated he had suggested that the Council have an opening ceremony prior to the first event that is scheduled in October, but due to time constraints we weren't able to plan a special event. Councilor Henry asked when the sign is expected to be installed. Charlie Wilson, chair of the Historic District Commission, replied that it should be completed some time next week. Councilor Henry commented that it would be great if the sign is up in time for the Scarecrow Festival. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council could talk to Mark Rechter about having the opening ceremony at the Scarecrow Festival.

No action needed.

F. Gloucester Manton Library: Council appointment to Library Council - Discussion and/or action
Councilor G. Steere read the following request from the Gloucester/Manton Library:

Dear Jean,

I am writing in regards to a requirement set in *Minimum Standards and Regulations for R.I. Public Libraries* that requires of each town or city that has multiple libraries, to form a library council composed of the chair of the board of trustees and the director of each library, and a representative of the city/town. This council is to meet annually to coordinate services and make a joint application for state grant-in-aid. At this time, we do not have such a council in place.

Our boards, as you may know, have been working closely together for the past several years.

We have consolidated two professional positions and the boards have created a joint subcommittee focusing on further opportunities to consolidate. The boards share a spirit of cooperation and are well prepared to meet the required state standard. I ask that the Town of Gloucester appoint someone to meet with our library council once a year to review and discuss our coordinated services and applications for state grant-in-aid.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Gayle Wolstenholme, Director
(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Henry offered to serve as Town Council representative on the Library Council.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPOINT Pat Henry as the Town Council representative to the Gloucester Manton Library Council; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

G. Streetlights (Town & Chepachet Fire District) - Ownership/purchase/pricing - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Clerk received an update from the Chepachet Fire Clerk regarding a meeting held last night by the fire district:

The Chepachet Fire District Board met on Wednesday September 20th to discuss the refitting of the street lights to LED lighting. The Chepachet Fire District Board would like to thank the town council but since the date of the initial request the law has changed so that the Fire Districts can now purchase the street lights without the towns assistance which was a requirement per the law at the time of the initial request. At this time, the Fire District will proceed directly with national grid to purchase the lights on their own. The Fire District would like to have the opportunity to discuss the towns acquisition of the lights after the completion of the refitting of the new lamps with led lighting.

(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Henry asked for an explanation regarding the ownership of the streetlights. Councilor Henry stated that the memo says that the Fire District wants to take it over themselves but at the end it says they want the Town to take it back. Councilor G. Steere explained that the Fire District wants to “wash their hands” of the lights and let the Town take them over. Councilor G. Steere stated that when this was first proposed, the only way to do it was for the Town to purchase the lights because the law did not allow Fire Districts to buy them. Councilor G. Steere stated that now that has changed. Councilor G. Steere stated that the expense would come off the Fire District and onto the Town, and the taxpayers will pay for them one way or the other.

Councilor Henry asked how much money will need to be collected each year for this purpose and will we need to create a line item in the Budget to accommodate that. Councilor Henry stated that she would like to see the Fire District’s numbers to determine how much the fire tax bills will go down.

Councilor G. Steere introduced Tom Gentz, of PRISM, and asked Mr. Gentz for an update. Councilor Henry asked if PRISM is a non-profit or a private business. T. Gentz replied that he is a volunteer for the Partnership for Rhode Island Streetlight Management (PRISM), a not-for-profit which has been formed by municipalities to reduce the cost of streetlights for municipalities and fire districts. T. Gentz stated that when PRISM was formed, they understood that the overcharge from the power distribution company was between 8 and 12 million dollars per year since the late 1800's. T. Gentz stated that the original request went from the Town to National Grid to purchase the lights because PRISM did not know that the Fire District owned them. T. Gentz stated that most recently, for the benefit of the rate payers, that price came back at \$1.00, based upon fire department & town owned, 139 lights approximately. T. Gentz noted that this will save about \$9,000 of capital expenditure to the Fire District. T. Gentz stated that when the Fire District met last night, it is his understanding they decided to move forward to purchase the lights and to convert them to LED's through PRISM. T. Gentz stated that there is some paperwork that has to be done at the PUC in order for fire districts to buy the streetlights.

T. Gentz thanked the Town Council and the Town Clerk for standing fast with him for one (1) streetlight which, as he understands, has not been there for years. T. Gentz stated that he looks forward to working with the Town Finance Director to try to get a credit back to the Town.

T. Gentz stated that the Fire District's budget for the streetlights is \$18,000, which will go down by at least a half when they are converted to LED. T. Gentz asked the Town Council to invite him back at a future time because if the PUC does not act responsively and quickly to allow the Fire Districts to purchase the lights, to see if the Town could purchase them for \$1.00 and then let the Fire District take over the lights.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he sees the saving with regard to electricity, but questioned if we have to replace a light if a pole gets knocked down. T. Gentz replied that there is a maintenance charge.

T. Gentz stated that the Town has the purchase documents and could write a check tomorrow and complete the rest of the paperwork to own the lights. T. Gentz stated that the Fire District pays the bills for all of the lights, so in essence they own them and there could be a transfer with the approval of the Town Solicitor and PRISM's attorney.

T. Gentz stated that the cost to the Fire District will be reduced by almost \$12,000 per year just by purchasing the lights and having PRISM do the maintenance. T. Gentz further stated that the LED conversion will bring the cost down even further. Councilor Reichert asked T. Gentz if his company gets RINS credit for doing this. T. Gentz replied that there are two (2) rebates available to Fire Districts and municipalities, from the Office of Energy Resources and National Grid, stating that PRISM takes care of all of the applications for these rebates.

T. Gentz commented that the capital cost for this project is very small, because they had estimated almost \$10,000 to purchase the lights, but it is \$1.00 due to straight line depreciation. T. Gentz stated that the average per light is \$70.00 which is a total of approximately \$9,600. Councilor Henry asked if it will cost the Town \$1.00 or \$10,000. T. Gentz replied that in the initial streetlight report to the Fire Districts, the cost to purchase the lights was estimated at \$9,600, but the actual number that came from National Grid was \$1.00. Councilor G. Steere asked if the cost is \$1.00 per light or \$1.00 for all the lights. T. Gentz replied \$1 for all of the lights.

Atty. Kane questioned that currently National Grid owns the lights and now, legally, the Fire District can buy the lights. Atty. Kane stated the Fire district wants to buy the lights and then wants to turn them over to the town. Atty. Kane questioned why we need to wait for them to do it if the town can do it. T. Gentz stated they want to buy the lights because they already pay for the lighting cost. Atty. Kane questioned why the "middle" scenario of the Fire District buying them and then turning them over. T. Gentz stated the Fire District is willing to buy them, pay for the conversion, and then ask the town to assume the lights as well as the lighting costs.

Councilor G. Steere asked what the Town's cost will be for maintenance of the street lights. T. Gentz stated that the return on investment is about 2 ½ years once the system is up and running. Councilor Henry asked how much we should forecast for this line item. T. Gentz again thanked the Council and the Clerk. T. Gentz replied that the cost for everything would be around \$6,000. Councilor G. Steere stated that all the Council needs to do right now is wait to hear from the Fire District.

T. Gentz stated that the last time he appeared before the Council, there was discussion regarding the fact that there are street lights above the decorative lights in the Village. T. Gentz stated that once the LEDs are installed, he would like to come back with a cost for putting in a timer in the

decorative lights to turn them off at 11:00 PM, because those are metered lights. Councilor G. Steere stated that there already is a timer that could be set.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, asked if the one (1) light owned by the Town will cause a problem. T. Gentz stated that he will work with the Finance Director regarding that light and asked how long it has been gone. J. Fecteau replied that she believes it has been gone for about 20 years. J. Fecteau explained that there is an actual street light there that belongs to the Fire Department, but on a shack by the water, there was a wire coming from the pole and there was always a light on it. J. Fecteau stated that it got knocked off in a storm, a new shed was build, and no one ever put a light back up. T. Gentz stated that he will work on getting a credit for the Town for that light.

H. State Funding (Public Funds) proposed for Paw Sox Stadium- Discussion and/or action

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated that there was Council discussion regarding this subject a year ago when there was a proposal for a new stadium to be financed by State taxpayer money. Councilor G. Steere stated that one of the Pawsox partners passed away unexpectedly and discussion stopped for quite a while. Councilor G. Steere stated that it is now back in the news and he asked the Council if they wish to do a Resolution opposing the use of Rhode Island taxpayer money to finance a baseball stadium. Councilor G. Steere commented that State funds of \$22,000,000 should not go into it when there are bridges in need of repair.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to place on the agenda for the next meeting a Resolution opposing the use of public funds for the proposed Pawsox Stadium; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Town Council Correspondence /Discussion

- A. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from DEM Wetlands Division regarding a proposed wetlands alteration permit request to build a 2-bedroom home near the intersection of Old Quarry Road and Aldrich Road.
- B. Councilor G. Steere stated that another letter was received from DEM, Division of Planning and Development, concerning improvements to the boat ramp on Brandy Brook Road.
- C. Councilor G. Steere stated that a resident complaint was received regarding unregistered vehicles left on Burgate Street and Granby Street.

- D. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, referred to correspondence from a resident regarding a tax issue. Lori DeSantis explained that the resident came in last June, 2016, to request the elderly tax exemption, but was advised that he had to be 65 years of age for a full year to qualify. Lori DeSantis stated she was not here at that time but advised the resident he could fill out a form now. L. DeSantis stated the town can not go back to last year but he could apply going forward. Councilor G. Steere stated that no action can be taken on this matter tonight. Councilor W. Steere stated he thought that there was no appeal of these decisions.
- E. Councilor G. Steere spoke regarding correspondence that was sent to George Charette, chair of the Planning Board, from the Chepachet Meeting House with regard to the Cumberland Farms application.
- F. Councilor W. Steere commented that the Pavilion is getting a lot of use and, so far, it is being kept clean.
Councilor G. Steere stated he has a log that a resident makes for the Council with a status report on the Pavilions condition that he will share with everyone.

IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

- A. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, pointed out the display that she put together to be placed at the Pavilion, which is one of the requirements of the grant. J. Fecteau thanked the Public Works Department, Robert Dauphinaus and Ryan Beaulier, for their assistance in identifying some of the artifacts and wiring them to the display board. J. Fecteau commented that everything on the board was found on the Kent Property. J. Fecteau stated that the display will be monitored by cameras to deter theft or vandalism. J. Fecteau again expressed appreciation for the work done by the Public Works employees.

Councilor W. Steere noted that we lost another piece of history this week. Councilor W. Steere stated that the house across from his grandparents' house on Route 44 was taken down this week.

Councilor Henry thanked Edna Kent, Town Historian, for writing the story about the Kent Property which will be posted at the Pavilion.

- B. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, gave an update regarding some of the school projects. D. Brennan stated that last week she submitted an application to the State "Fast Track" regarding 1.6 million dollars worth of projects to be completed at the schools and by December 18th we will know if the application was approved. Councilor G. Steere asked if these are the Capital projects that were already in the plan. D. Brennan replied in the affirmative.
- C. Karen Scott, Town Planner, stated that the Planning Board will be moving their meeting venue back to the Town Hall and this change has been advertised.
- D. Councilor W. Steere asked Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, if he has received any complaints regarding the condition of the old Purple Cat Restaurant or the barn on Adelaide Road. Regarding the barn, K. Johnson stated that he thinks

the property is in receivership. K. Johnson stated that he receives complaints regularly regarding the Purple Cat and he has advised the owner that once the roundabout is done, he will start to address the issue and decide if he needs to involve the legal department. Councilor W. Steere commented that it is a shame because there is history with that building. K. Johnson stated he has no complaints but that the barn could be an issue down the road, especially if there ever was a fire.

Councilor W. Steere questioned issues at Holiday Acres. K. Johnson spoke regarding Holiday Acres, stating that there serious issues there, criminal and otherwise. K. Johnson stated that he will have more information by the next Council meeting.

- E. Chief DelPrete stated he will work with K. Johnson regarding Holiday Acres. Councilor Reichert stated that he was asked by a resident if the Town charges for fingerprinting. Chief Joseph DelPrete replied we charge, by state law, a fee for a national inquiry but there is no charge on the a lot of the volunteer applications.
- F. Councilor W. Steere thanked Gerry Mosca, EMA Director, for being proactive regarding Hurricane Jose.

X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

- A. Marie Sweet, Gloucester Heritage Society, spoke regarding a presentation, October 16th, to be made at the Heritage Society regarding the artifacts found on the Kent Property by the gentleman that searched the property with metal detectors. Councilor W. Steere questioned their use of private property without permission.
- B. Councilor W. Steere asked Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, if the School Department has come forward for an electrical inspection on the new lights at the High School. K. Johnson replied that a lot of work has been done without proper permitting and his office was never called to perform any inspections. K. Johnson stated that photographs were submitted, but his department does not accept photographs. K. Johnson stated that he has had numerous discussions with John Obiurka, Physical Plant Director, and the School Department does admit that they “dropped the ball”. K. Johnson stated that the contractors are now starting to come into his office to pull the permits. K. Johnson noted that the Town is out thousands of dollars in permit fees.

Councilor W. Steere questioned the safety of the work and asked if something were to happen, who would be responsible. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, replied that ultimately, it should come back on the School Department. Councilor Henry asked if we can fine the School Department for not obtaining the permits and pointed out that the Town did not receive the permitting fees. K. Johnson stated he has a meeting scheduled on Monday with the engineer, Jeff Audette.

T. Kane stated that the town needs a set of stamped plans and a letter outlining that the stamped plans were followed and acknowledging their responsibility.

Councilor W. Steere asked if we will ask the engineer to put his name on it to say that it was done correctly, in case something happens, because the Building Official was not able to inspect the work. Councilor W. Steere stated that he would hope that Mr. Obiurka would know that he has to pull permits for that type of work. K. Johnson stated that he does not know why the Building Department was not involved. K. Johnson stated that they have since been allowed to wire the lights, but in the meantime, they have been put on notice that the Town will not abide by this kind of activity.

Councilor Henry asked if we should send them a fine for not going through the proper permitting. T. Kane stated that he will look at the Ordinance, but usually some sort of court action would be necessary. Councilor G. Steere stated that the big concern at this point is to get their engineer to take responsibility, sign off and get it taken care of so that it is not the Town's liability.

XI. Open Forum

Joe Somers, of Cedar Trail, spoke regarding a situation that has been going on for years concerning a piece of property that is in disrepair. J. Somers stated that the owner has filed for a demolition permit which has been approved by the Town, but he has heard that the owner has not been able to come up with the down payment. J. Somers stated that we have an Ordinance, but he feels that because this property is out of sight, nothing gets done. J. Somers stated that this house is a safety and health problem and he would like to know if anything can be done.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Building Official has some information, but because this is not on the Agenda, he does not know if we can answer Mr. Somers' concerns tonight. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, commented that if the Town invests money in this and puts a lien on the property, we need to hope that this property transacts someday. J. Somers stated that if this house was foreclosed, it would sell in five (5) minutes because it is right on the water. Councilor G. Steere suggested that J. Somers meet with the Building Official in his office tomorrow because he has been in contact with the owner recently and can provide an update.

XII. MOTION was made by Councilor w. Steere to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to: R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2)(Potential) Litigation, Fournier vs Town of Glocester, Providence County Superior Court PM 17-1963; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to disclose that one (1) vote was taken in Executive Session and to seal the minutes of Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry

NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ADJOURN at 9:23 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Henry.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED