

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on August 2, 2018:

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; 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; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Karen Scott, Town Planner; and Bob Shields, Recreation Director.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Public Hearing

A. Gloucester Code of Ordinance - Discussion and/or action

1. Proposed Amendment to Code

Chapter 368 : Fee Schedule, § 368-1 Fees enumerated  
Building Permits & Zoning Fees

Councilor G. Steere explained that this is an ordinance amendment to reflect new state mandated fees for each municipality. Councilor G. Steere stated the first reading was held on June 21<sup>st</sup>, and this public hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer the week of July 12, 2018.

Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if anyone wished to speak regarding this proposed amendment.

Discussion: None.

Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADOPT the amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 368: Fee Schedule, § 368-1 Fees enumerated, Building Permits & Zoning Fees as presented at first reading; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Minutes of Town Council Meeting of July 19, 2018
- B. Pole Grant: Chestnut Hill Road - Pole 27, Solely Owned Pole Location

Councilor Henry questioned the location of the pole. Councilor G. Steere replied that it is near Capron Way.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to APPROVE the minutes of the Town Council meeting of July 19, 2018 and to APPROVE the Pole Grant: Chestnut Hill Road - Pole 27, a Solely owned pole location; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards & Commissions
  - 1. Historic District Commission
    - a. Appointment- Discussion and/or action
      - 1. One alternate - one year term to expire 11/2018

Councilor G. Steere stated that Councilor Henry indicated at the last meeting that the Chair has someone in mind. Councilor Henry stated that Charlie Wilson is not present tonight but she feels that the issues will be resolved by the next meeting. Councilor Henry noted that the vacancy is not affecting the Historic District in any way.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to TABLE the appointment to the Historic District Commission for one alternate term to expire 11/2018; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Gloucester Housing Authority
  - a. Appointment - Discussion and/or action
    - 1. One five year term (#4) to expire 7/2022

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that there are several names in the Talent Bank listing and she could reach out to them to see if any of them are interested.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Housing Authority for a five year term to expire 7/2022; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

2. One five year term (#5) to expire 7/2023

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Housing Authority for a five year term to expire 7/2023; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Ancients & Horribles 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade - Discussion and/or action

1. Review of 2018 parade
2. Discussion for future committees

Councilor Henry stated that it is time to have an open discussion with the Parade Committee, the Council and the public regarding how to go forward with the parade. Councilor Henry suggested putting this on the agenda in October because by then, the Committee will have paid the bills for this year and will know where their budget stands. Councilor Henry commented that the volunteer committee is carrying a huge responsibility and we need to discuss how to bring it under something else. Councilor Henry stated that by January when the Budget Board meets, we will be in a position to bring something forward that involves financial changes regarding responsibility.

MOTION was made by Councilor to TABLE the discussion regarding the Ancients & Horribles 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade until the first meeting in October; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Recreation Commission - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Henry stated that when she first came on the Council, the Recreation Commission had not met in over two (2) years, even though the Charter states that the Commission is one that has to function. Councilor Henry stated that new members were appointed, but recently she discovered that they have not formally met since February of this year. Councilor Henry stated that she spoke to the chair, Kevin Leahy, who indicated that he wishes to step down from the Commission after serving for several years. Councilor Henry stated that she sent an email to the other members asking if they wished to stay on, and if not, to send in a letter of resignation. Councilor Henry stated that the three (3) new members replied that they want to stay on and another member has not responded. Councilor Henry suggested sending that individual a certified letter.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to send Stephen Alexander a certified letter asking him to respond regarding whether he wants to stay on the Recreation Commission; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: Councilor Henry stated that the Recreation Commission meets on the last Tuesday of every month and asked Bob Shields, Recreation Director, if he would post an agenda through the Town Clerk's Office so that the Commission can meet this month.

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

MOTION PASSED

#### VIII. New Business

##### A. Gloucester Community Septic Program - Discussion and/or Action

##### 1. Exception Debt to Income Ratio- Adjustment to previous approval

Councilor G. Steere read the following request from the Finance Director:

To: Honorable Town Council Members  
From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance  
Memo: Exception to Debt to Loan Ratio  
Date: July 31, 2018

The Town Council has previously approved an exception to grant a loan from the Gloucester Community Septic Loan Program for Gloucester resident Judith Waitt of 46 Tucker Street. At the time of the request to the council, we had been advised the debt to income ratio was 53%. Since that time, we have been advised that the debt to income ratio is actually 54%. The debt to income ratio exceeds the town's criteria of 45%. The loan is coming to the council a second time requesting an exception with the new ratio.

All other information provided remains the same. I have included the original letter with this request. I would ask the council to perhaps consider exceptions with a 2-3% range to avoid a delay in the project. A final review of the loan is done close to the disbursement of the funds.

This is a request to approve an exception for Judith Waitt to obtain a loan from the Gloucester Community Septic Loan Program administered by the State of Rhode Island. Ms. Waitt exceeds the current criteria of a 45% debt to income ratio. This approval is for the debt to income ratio not to exceed 56%.

(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated that it is important to note that the first time the Council approved this, the situation was that the woman had to have her cesspool pumped every two or three weeks, so even though the loan will exceed the criteria, she will be saving that much every month. Councilor Burlingame further stated that it makes sense to put in an extra percentage in the event that the actual cost comes back higher than the initial estimate.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AMEND the APPROVAL, of June 21, 2018, for the Exception of Debt to Income ratio, not to exceed 56%, required for a loan through the Gloucester Community Septic Loan Program for Judith Waitt for property located at 46 Tucker Street; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. R.I. DOT Environmental Assessment - Toll locations- Discussion and/or action  
Karen Scott, Town Planner, stated that she received an environmental assessment for proposed toll locations 3, 4, and 6 through 13. K. Scott stated that this includes not only the toll sites, but also the diversion routes people might take to avoid the tolls. K. Scott noted that there is a diversion route that goes through Gloucester by allowing trucks to exit Route 95 in Exeter and follow Route 102 north to get to Route 146 toward Worcester and the Mass Pike, avoiding four (4) tolls. K. Scott stated that this route would come through Chepachet and through the roundabout. K. Scott stated that another diversion route will just nip the corner of Gloucester at Route 116 and will not have a major impact.

K. Scott stated that the environmental assessment is out for public comment and this is an opportunity to give feedback. K. Scott stated that it is appropriate for us to point out that this is a historic village district and she would be happy to draft a letter to that effect.

Councilor G. Steere commented that there was a hearing at the State House, which Mike Chippendale attended, where they spoke about closing several roads to through trucking in anticipation of this. K. Scott stated that there was no mention of that in the environmental assessment. K. Scott stated that we will probably get more truck traffic, but she does not feel that it will be monumental. K. Scott noted that there is a daily maximum toll and this is a way for truckers to pay one (1) toll, then exit the highway at Route 102, skipping four (4) tolls.

Councilor G. Steere asked if the Council wants to provide comments on this with regard to the Historic Village and the roundabout. Councilor G. Steere stated that we also need to take into consideration that we are not opposed to the trucking business, but local traffic is local traffic. K. Scott stated that she would frame the comments to state that we have the new roundabout, this is a historic district with narrow lanes and streets, and would DOT help us with any damage to the roundabout. K. Scott noted that there are some bridges that are due to be replaced and we want to make sure that the look of the bridges remains appropriate for the Village.

Councilor Henry added that if the power plant goes through in Burrillville, we would have that truck traffic added to this traffic.

Councilor Reichert stated that the weight should not be reduced because that would hurt everyone. K. Scott noted that when the calculations were done, we still had the stop light where the roundabout is now located.

Councilor G. Steere stated that we realize that local trucks have local business, but we would be opposed to interstate trucking from Exeter to Worcester.

K. Scott stated that the deadline for comments is next Friday.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry for the Town Planner to draft a letter to the Rhode Island DOT regarding our response to their Environmental Assessment report - Toll locations and/or diversion routes, ; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Spring Grove Development Project - Blasting (Adler Construction project) - Discussion and/or action

Karen Scott, Town Planner, stated that she received some feedback regarding the neighbors' concerns over the blasting that is taking place and there was the question of whether they are being noticed about the blasting. K. Scott stated that Rhode Island state law requires that notice be given to property owners within 500 feet of the blasting area 24 hours in advance. K. Scott stated that she spoke with the blasting company and obtained their notice list and discovered that only four (4) matched actual physical addresses at the site. K. Scott further stated that she did a 500 foot radius and found 35 people as opposed to the 12 to 15 given by the blasting company.

K. Scott stated that she could file a complaint with the State Fire Marshal's office or she could reach out to the blasting company and show them where they should be noticing, and copy the Fire Marshal. Councilor Burlingame stated that he likes the second option and noted that there was a meter placed which was said to be defective. K. Scott stated that she will ask the blasting company about that also. Councilor Reichert stated that he does not believe it was defective because the company would not want to jeopardize their license. There was Council agreement to send the blasting company our list and to copy the State Fire Marshal. Councilor Burlingame commented that this would give the company an opportunity to make corrections. Councilor Reichert noted that they are done blasting. Councilor Henry asked how do we know that.

Justin Smith, of A1 Drilling and Blasting, stated that there is no guarantee that all the blasting is done, but noted that the major blasting is done. Regarding notification, J. Smith stated that it is only required for 500 feet from the actual blasting site. J. Smith stated that Google Earth is used and they usually go beyond the 500 feet to be on the safe side. Regarding the question about the seismograph, J. Smith stated that a seismograph was moved to a neighbor who complained.

Councilor G. Steere stated that at the last meeting, several residents reported that they had damage to patios, stone walls and fireplaces, and asked if they have reported the damage to the blasting company. J. Smith replied that he was not aware of any damage and stated that the residents should go to the State Fire Marshal with complaints. J. Smith noted that he has over two (2) decades of experience and the legal limits in Rhode Island are extremely conservative and it is physically impossible to cause any damage.

Councilor Henry stated that she has had videos sent to her which show how loud the blasts are and how they affect dogs. J. Smith stated that some animals are extremely sensitive to blasting, horses and dogs in particular. Councilor Henry noted that we had a packed house at the last meeting and people were very respectful and calm, but have had some life-changing experiences. Councilor Henry asked if they are done blasting and are now going to build houses. Councilor Henry noted that she does not have an agenda in this, she just wants to know. J. Smith replied that the project is reaching the end of the blasting stage which does not mean that all blasting is done.

Ken Adler, president of Adler Brothers Construction, stated that there is still a lot of grading to be done, but most of the blasting is done. K. Adler stated that they are doing the best they can to try to

get it done. Councilor Henry asked when the first foundation will be put in. K. Adler replied when somebody buys the first lot. K. Adler stated that they would like to get the road in, then sell the lots, hopefully within the next year. Councilor G. Steere asked if the road must be put in before the lots can be sold. K. Adler replied in the affirmative.

D. Personnel

1. Appointment: Temporary Transfer Station position  
Clerk 1 - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere read the following request from the Personnel Director:

To: Honorable Town Council Members

From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance/ HR

Date: July 27, 2018

Re: Transfer Station Monitor- temporary coverage

There is an immediate need for a temporary employee at the transfer station. This is due to an estimated 8 week time period the regularly assigned employee will be out on sick leave. There is the opportunity to fill the position with the weekend person **Joyce Sweeney** for whatever days she is available. This will allow the complement of regular DPW workers to maintain a close to normal work flow during this time.

Her hourly wage would be that of a Clerk I position. That rate is **\$20.21**. Joyce has been utilized in the department in the past and that arrangement has proven to be very helpful.

There will be additional overtime to cover the weekend hours that will be incurred from the current DPW employees. The employee that is out, worked weekends as part of the normal hourly schedule. This request is with the approval of the director Gary Treml. The department will work to cover the shortfall with the best utilization of employees available during the absence.

If the time period is greater than indicated, a subsequent request will be provided to the council.

This recommendation is for consideration at the next council meeting.

(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere asked if the motion should be worded “until the employee returns” or “8 to 10 weeks”. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that if it is longer than that, she can come to the Council to extend it, but it looks like it will be about 8 weeks.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to AUTHORIZE Public Works to fill a temporary vacancy, due to an employee medical leave, at the transfer station with additional hours for weekend employee Joyce Sweeney on an as needed basis at the hourly rate of \$20.21 ; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

E. Boards & Commissions

1. Senior Center Board of Directors - Discussion and/or action  
Review current charge to determine continued need and or disbanding of board - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Burlingame stated that he is the liaison to this Board and we changed the structure last year. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Director now reports to the Council, is responsible for the budgets and has accountability for what happens in that department. Councilor Burlingame stated that prior to the restructure, the Board was an advisory board to the Director, and he questions whether we need the Board any longer. Councilor Burlingame stated that he has attended the meetings and nothing constructive takes place. Councilor Burlingame recommended that the Council discharge the Board of Directors for the Senior Center.

Councilor G. Steere agreed and stated that he has been to several of their meetings and it is not amounting to a whole lot. Councilor G. Steere noted that the Council had said a year ago that they would give it a year.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he has gotten feedback that the Senior Center is better than it has ever been and he has seen that when he has gone in to talk to people.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to DISBAND the Senior Center Board of Directors; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, asked how the Board was created, stating that if it was by a Resolution, it could be disbanded by a Resolution. Councilor Burlingame replied that it was created back when the Senior Center was initiated, and the group provided guidance during construction. Councilor Burlingame added that after the Center was built, the Board became advisory to the Director. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Clerk has the notes that state the Board was established by the Town Council in October, 2006, terms to run concurrent with the Town Council. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that it was created by motion. T. Kane stated that in that case, the Council can do a motion to disband. Councilor Henry stated another reason would be that the other department heads do not have a Board of Directors. Councilor G. Steere also stated that at their last meeting, the Board indicated that they were taking the summer off.

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Resignation:
  - a. Recreation Commission
    1. One unexpired 5-year term (position #3)- Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Kevin Leahy to be effective immediately.

Discussion: Councilor Henry stated that Kevin was a member of the committee and was also the current chair.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to ACCEPT the resignation of Kevin Leahy from the Recreation Commission (position #3), effective immediately; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS-0  
MOTION PASSED

3. Appointment:

a. Recreation Commission

1. One 5-year term to expire 1/2019 - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that there is a name on the talent bank listing to consider for this position.

Discussion: Councilor Henry stated that she would like to interview the person or have him attend the next meeting so the committee can meet him. Councilor G. Steere asked Bob Shields, Recreation Director, if he had any information. B. Shields responded from his seat and was inaudible on the recording.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to TABLE until September the appointment to the Recreation Commission for the 5 year term to expire 1/2019; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

F. Dorr Drive Property- Status, Discussion and/or action

Councilor Henry stated that in the last year and a half, she has been working with Wells Fargo and Ocwen the management corporation that currently holds everything regarding the property at 15 Dorr Drive. Councilor Henry stated that she sent them an email asking for an update on the situation and they stated that there was a new property manager. Councilor Henry stated that the new manager has indicated that they have been working diligently and have cleared up the code violations and paid the delinquent taxes. Councilor Henry stated that they hope to have clear title soon and plan to sell the property within six (6) months.

IX. Town Council Correspondence /Discussion

A. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Division of Statewide Planning has accepted and approved the Gloucester Comprehensive Community Plan 2040, which will now be valid until the year 2028. Councilor G. Steere thanked the Planning Board and the Town Planner for all their hard work.

X. Department Head Reports/Discussion

A. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, spoke regarding the future of the School Department as it relates to funding. D. Brennan stated that there is concern on the part of the School Committee and they wish to meet with the Council to have discussion in September or October before the budget process takes place.

Councilor Burlingame stated that this is critical and we don't want to underestimate how important this meeting will be. Councilor Burlingame pointed out that there is an election in November and we don't know who will be here, but it is important

that we have a clear understanding as to where we are in terms of projected expenses and revenues. Councilor Burlingame stated that we must take this seriously because in a year or two, the “rubber is going to hit the road”. D. Brennan agreed and stated that when it hits, it is going to hit big. Councilor Burlingame suggested that D. Brennan get together with the School Committee and have them tell us the real story. D. Brennan stated that she has a five-year forecast in the process of being completed and accepted by the State. D. Brennan stated that the former Finance Director had said that State funding was going to be depleted and we had to plan for it, but that never came to fruition. Councilor Burlingame stated that he was at that meeting many years ago when it was stated that funding would be cut \$80,000 for 10 years for a total of \$800,000, but it never happened. Councilor Burlingame stated that it is important to understand the reasons why it did not happen because if we had taken that as gospel, we would have made some bad decisions. D. Brennan stated that there are reasons for both sides to have concerns and it is time to bring that discussion to the table. Councilor Burlingame commented that they are on the brink right now.

D. Brennan stated that she has advertised for a Planning Board clerk, but nobody has applied. D. Brennan stated that she will advertise in the Valley Breeze but after August we may have to go to a temporary service. Councilor G. Steere stated that there are a lot of things coming down the road and suggested that D. Brennan keep trying.

- B. Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, spoke from his seat and was inaudible on the recording.

XI. Bds. and Commissions Reports/Discussion  
None.

XII. Open Forum  
Councilor Henry stated that we received something from the GBA about the Chepachet Village banners and asked if the Council will discuss that tonight. Councilor G. Steere stated that it can be discussed at the next meeting.

XIII. Adjourn  
MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 8:23 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, Reichert and Henry  
NAYS-0  
MOTION PASSED