

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on May 19, 2022;

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 6:45 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Members present: William E. Reichert , President; Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice President; Stephen Arnold; William A. Worthy, Jr.; David Laplante

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Gary Trembl, Director of Public Works; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Robert Shields, Recreation Director; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director; and K. Johnson, Building and Zoning Official (arrived late)

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. MOTION to Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council
- B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Potential Litigation - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to Convene to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Potential Litigation ; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk to poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

- V. Reconvene Open Session - Disclosure of votes taken in Executive Session & Consideration of the Sealing of Minutes - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Reconvene Open Session; Disclose one (1) vote was taken in Executive Session; and to Seal the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk to poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

VI. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None

Councilor Reichert stated we have representatives from Foster Town Council here to further discuss Foster's ACO situation. Councilor Reichert stated that this item was not included on the agenda but Council can make a motion to add to agenda for discussion only if they would like to discuss with the representatives. Councilor Reichert stated that no votes can be taken.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADD: Discussion with Town of Foster Officials re: shared ACO duties and/or responsibilities; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: Councilor Worthy asked for this item to be on the agenda and invited Foster to come and give an explanation as to their request. Chief D. Bright , Foster Police Department, stated that Foster has not had an animal control officer for several years as that individual retired. Chief Bright stated that Foster has a contract with Scituate for animal control. Chief Bright stated that the contract expires on June 20th and that they were before Gloucester asking for help because the contract with Scituate was increasing from \$29,000 per year to \$ 50,000 per year. Chief Bright gave the police numbers for 2021 and 2022 as to calls during and after hours with the total for 2021 being 42 calls. Chief Bright also stated that 4 dogs were housed in Scituate that he knew of during 2021. D. Paolino, Foster resident and Town Council member, stated that number of animals housed may be misleading as it depended upon Scituate records and Chief Bright only has Foster numbers. D. Paolino stated that Foster is before Gloucester to try and negotiate help as they are in desperate need. D. Paolino also gave his opinion as to a possible proposal to negotiate involving a 50% rate of the Gloucester ACO per year. D. DiFranco, Foster Town Council president, read the 2021 year to date numbers that she received from Scituate as to complaints regarding dogs, cats and other animals; the number of impounded animals; the number of animals disposed of; and, the fees and fines collected.

D. DiFranco stated she could send numbers for the years 2017 through 2021 from Scituate to J. Fecteau, Gloucester Town Clerk. Councilor Reichert stated our Police Chief has stated that one of the major concerns was that the Gloucester ACO officer is new and would need to have a Gloucester Police officer accompany her when she was called to Foster. Councilor Reichert invited Captain Fague (Gloucester) to speak on the matter. Captain Fague stated that he was speaking on behalf of the Chief who could not be at the meeting. Captain Fague stated that the Chief has many concerns and issues if we were to help Foster including but not limited to: our ACO officer is newly appointed, Gloucester has no official quarantine center, Gloucester has a limited cat room, the preference of the Chief to send a Gloucester officer each time, the large area of two towns to cover, the number of vicious dogs and the extra work and tracking involved, limited runs for animals, limited space for housing, how to cite and enforce possible violations and the routine paperwork involved with the variety of calls. Councilor Laplante stated that he was familiar with the running of the animal control center and that he sees the main problem is the physical building is limited and also brought up the cost of vets for the animals being brought in that need to be assessed.

No action taken by Council

VII. Resolutions

A. #2022-05 In Support of House Bill H-7616 Relating to the Department of Healthy Aging - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from the Senior Center Director to support legislation that would help develop state support towards seniors. Councilor Reichert stated that if Council has had a chance to read the proposed legislation and is ready to support we have a resolution ready which he read as follows:

RESOLUTION #2022 - 05
In Support of House Bill H-7616
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHY AGING

WHEREAS, the Town of Gloucester (“Town”) is a duly organized municipal corporation in the County of Providence and State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council (“Council”) is the governing body of the Town and is responsible for all aspects of governance; and

WHEREAS, the Town’s elderly population is increasing exponentially, but state resources to support that population have not increased in kind; and

WHEREAS, what was once the State’s Department of Elderly Affairs has been reduced to a Division under the Department of Human Services now called the Office of Healthy Aging, with a corresponding reduction in staff and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Senior Services Center Directors Association has introduced legislation (H-7616), which would, among other critical needs: (a) elevate the Office of Healthy Aging to a State Department, (b) increase staffing to meet the growing needs of seniors, and © give local municipal senior centers a seat at the table when it comes to providing programs, instituting policies and ensuring access to resources for the Town’s elderly population.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Town Council of the Town of Glocester, Rhode Island respectfully request that the General Assembly pass H-7616, attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is hereby instructed to submit a copy of this resolution to the Town of Glocester's State Senator and State Representative in the Rhode Island General Assembly, the Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Executive Director of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, all the Cities and Towns in the State of Rhode Island, and Governor in consideration of their support to approve these amendments to the General Laws.

This RESOLUTION shall take effect upon passage.

By Order of the Glocester Town Council

William Reichert, President

Adopted this 19th day of May, 2022

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk

seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated that he is not in favor of expanding state government but he is in favor of helping the seniors. Councilor Steere asked if any other town or city has given similar resolutions. M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director, stated that Scituate, Coventry, Cumberland have also given such resolutions. Councilor Steere added that he feels it is important for seniors to have a voice. M. Bouvier stated that COVID taught them much in terms of what seniors need and how important a voice can be.

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. #2022-06 Request for Legislation Re: Relief from R.I.G.L. 44-5-2. Maximum levy - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has prepared a resolution to be forwarded to our local legislators which he read as follows:

RESOLUTION #2022-06
REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO APPROVE INCREASE ABOVE
MAXIMUM LEVY

WHEREAS: the Town of Glocester (Glocester), a Rhode Island municipal corporation and Factory Mutual Insurance Company (FM), a Rhode Island insurance company (inclusive of all its subsidiaries), entered into a certain Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement (FM PILOT AGREEMENT) on December 18, 2002, that excluded all real and tangible property owned by FM from the tax assessment and levy; and

WHEREAS: the FM PILOT AGREEMENT and all extensions and amendments thereof have expired bringing all real and tangible personal property owned by FM (FM Property) into the tax rolls and subject to the tax levy as of 12/31/2021, causing the tax levy to increase to approximately 12.46%; and

WHEREAS: the tax levy increase resulting from the addition of FM Property does not increase the tax burden on the taxpayers of Gloucester; and

WHEREAS: RIGL 44-5-2(d)(1) allows municipalities to increase their levy above the statutory 4% cap due to a loss of non-property tax revenues when certified by the Rhode Island Department of Revenue; and

WHEREAS the Rhode Island Department of Revenue has certified that the addition of FM Property will cause the Town's tax levy to increase to approximately 12.46%; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Gloucester Town Council respectfully requests that General Assembly pass legislation that: "FM Property shall be added into the tax rolls and subject to the tax levy as of 12/31/2021 and Gloucester shall be allowed to increase their FY23 tax levy by no more than 12.46%."

The undersigned the duly elected Town Council of the Town of Gloucester have hereunto set their hands and caused this resolution to be adopted.

This resolution shall take effect upon passage.

Passed by the Town Council
on May 19, 2022

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved as to form: David V. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor

GLOCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

William E. Reichert, President
Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice President
Stephen Arnold, Councilor
William Worthy, Jr., Councilor
David LaPlante, Councilor

seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes : Special Meeting of May 4th , 2022 & Regular Meeting of May 5th , 2022
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements - April 2022
- C. Finance Director's Report - April 2022

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of May 4th & May 5th, 2022; to APPROVE the Abatements to the 2021 Tax Roll in the amount of \$18.81; the 2020 Tax Roll in the amount of \$22.59; No Additions; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for April 2022; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards and Commissions
 - 1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Recreation Commission
 - 1. Position # 1- One unexpired term to expire 12/31/22

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time. Councilor Reichert stated that unless a Councilor has a recommendation, Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission, Position #1; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Position # 5- One unexpired term to expire 12/31/22

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Kaleena Roch to the Recreation Commission, Position #5, for a term to expire 12/31/22, seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: Councilor Worthy stated that he spoke with Ms. Roch earlier today and she is on the talent bank list.

b. Economic Development Commission

1. Position #2 - Two year term to expire 12/31/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Position #2; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Position # 4- Two year term to expire 12/31/2022

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Position #4; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

c. Budget Board

1. Position # 3- One unexpired term to end 12/31/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board, Position #3; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

d. Parade Committee

1. Alternate #1

2. Alternate #2

3. Position # 8

4. Position # 9

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation from Chair, Council can refer to talent bank listing

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the open positions: Alternate 1 & 2; and positions 8 & 9 on the Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. American Rescue Plan Act Funds

1. INTERNAL PROGRAMS - Discussion and/or Action

a. Land Acquisition

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the ARPA Land Acquisition request; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. EXTERNAL PROGRAMS - Discussion and/or Action

a. Economic Development Commission – Marketing Materials.

Councilor Reichert stated that this matter was tabled pending further discussion. A. Sarje, EDC chair, stated that she did not have any new information and that K. Scott, Town Planner, was not in attendance. Councilor Laplante stated that K. Scott would be available at the June council meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the Economic Development Commission- Marketing Materials ; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

X. New Business

A. 2020 Voter Redistricting - Update by Gloucester Board of Canvassers

Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair of the Board of Canvassers is present to show the Council the new voting district map for the Town due to statewide redistricting.

David Calderara, Chair of the Gloucester Board of Canvassers, gave an explanation as to the changes that were made to create the new voting district map to be in compliance with state law. D. Calderara explained the changes using the old voting district map and the new voting district map. D. Calderara stated that the addition of a new district was required by the state to be within the total number of voters allowed as well as to allow for growth so that the districts would hopefully be in compliance until the next census. D. Calderara explained that major roads were chosen to separate the districts. D. Calderara stated for each proposed district: the district number, the number of voters currently in that district and the proposed voting location for that district. D. Calderara explained that four voting locations are out of the voting district but that is because the town has limited buildings to handle an election. D. Calderara stated that notices will be sent to each voter as well as ads in the newspaper in order for voters to know their voting location. J. Fecteau stated that the state has approved of Gloucester's lines and that our information was loaded into the state central voter registration system today without any issues. J. Fecteau gave her thanks to the Board of Canvassers for their help and work. D. Calderara thanked J. Fecteau and C. Mathieu for their work in this process.

No action taken by council

B. ATV's: Re: trespassing on private and public land- Discussion and/or Action Councilor Steere requested this item on the agenda due to requests from several landowners regarding ATV riders trespassing on private and public lands. Captain Fague stated that this is a common occurrence and is hard to enforce. Captain Fague explained that a rider needs written permission on their person if stopped in order to ride on another person's property and if they do not then it is a civil violation. Captain Fague stated that another problem is that people park on the side of the road and perhaps placing no parking signs may help especially if the vehicle is tagged and towed. Captain Fague added that some are from out of town. Captain Fague said it would be difficult to try and chase the riders through the woods. Councilor Steere stated that he was looking for options. D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, stated that signs may be put up on town roads. Captain Fague stated that they would probably have to contact the state before putting up signs on state roads. Councilor Reichert stated that he sees the riders coming in to the campgrounds. D. Iglizzi stated that the campground license would be where the vehicles could be regulated.

No action taken by Council

C. American Rescue Plan Act Funds -

1. External Request: Gloucester Little League - Discussion and/or Action Councilor Arnold requested this item to be on the agenda and recused himself from the discussion because he is a board member of Gloucester Little League. P. McKenney, representative from Gloucester Little League, is before the Council requesting additional ARPA funds from the Council in the total amount of \$50,000. P. McKenney gave a detailed explanation as to all of the work that they would like to do including items such as: buying sprinklers, dirt, hydro-seeding, regrading, rebuild pitching mounds etc. Councilor Steere stated he would like to help but had a question as to the intent of the Cemetery Association

that owns the fields. Councilor Steere and Reichert asked if the Little League could perhaps speak with the Cemetery Association to see if they would be willing to give a term commitment in writing . P. McKenney stated he would contact the Cemetery Association.

No action taken by Council

2. Internal Request: Accounting Information System software for Finance Dept. - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Arnold requested this item to be on the agenda at the request of the Finance Director. A. Muccino, Finance Director, made a request for ARPA funds in the amount of \$76,000 to be set aside for an accounting information system to replace the current system which the IT Director has stated will not be supported by the current provider Great Plains after 2025. A. Muccino stated that these funds will allow for a solution to be found before 2025 and all purchasing policies will be followed. Councilor Reichert asked for the total amount of ARPA funds. J. Fecteau stated and A. Muccino confirmed that the remaining total is \$736,000.

No action taken by Council

D. Authorization to Sign - Discussion and/or Action

1. Senior Center - Simply Clean Contract

Councilor Reichert stated that the Senior Center Director is requesting Council enter into an extension of a contract, per IFB 2016-02, with Simply Clean. Councilor Reichert stated that Simply Clean has signed an agreement that states: “We agree to extend the above referenced bid with pricing, terms and conditions remaining the same until June 11, 2023 with the option to extend an additional 12 months if mutually agreed upon by both parties”

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the extension of IFB 2016-02, between Simply Clean and the Town of Gloucester at the same pricing, terms and conditions for services at the Senior Center until June 11, 2023; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

J. Fecteau asked if there was any decision made as to the prior agenda item regarding the internal request for ARPA funds by the Finance Director in terms of the next agenda. A. Muccino stated that he has researched several companies and will follow the purchasing process. J. Fecteau asked if Council would consider an amount not to exceed set aside in order for money to be available . D. Igliazzi stated Council could make a motion to reconsider the item.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to reconsider the Internal Request: Accounting Information System software for Finance Dept. ; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Return to X. New Business item C. Internal Request : Accounting Information System software for Finance Dept. - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE Internal Request: Accounting Information software for Finance Department; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

RETURN TO REGULAR AGENDA

2. Finance Office - Vision Government Solutions Inc. - Statistical Revaluation of Real Property, Effective December 31, 2022

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a contract from Vision Government Solutions Inc. as a result of the award of RFP #2022-02 Statistical Revaluation in April 2022. Councilor Reichert stated that the contract has been reviewed by the Solicitor and he agrees with the terms of bid award.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign a contract (as a result of RFP #2022-02) between Vision Government Solutions Inc and the Town of Gloucester for the Statistical Revaluation of Real Property as of December 2022; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

XI. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Council has received Notice of a DEM Public Priority List which is a prerequisite of the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund

2. Council has received a resident letter regarding the Town's bulky rigid plastics bin disposal
3. Council has an update from Rep. Chippendale on Echo Lake state owned docks.
4. Council has received an update from the Bella Vista Homeowners Executive Board.
5. Council has received a request regarding signage and speed in the Waterman Lake Drive Area
6. Councilor Worthy stated that he had correspondence to add due to a customer in his store today who asked him to bring forward his concern regarding gas prices and if there would be any redirecting of buses for the school children for the next school year. Councilor Steere stated that was the responsibility of the school committee.

Discussion: (spoken in this order) :

Councilor Arnold has a comment on item no. 5 regarding signs on Waterman Lake Drive . J. Fecteau stated that in the past letters like these have been referred to the chief of Police and/or Safety commission for a safety determination and possible action. J. Fecteau stated that she would send the matter to the Chief.

As to item no. 2 , G. Treml, DPW director, explained that it would be cost prohibitive to hire a person to monitor the bins in order for the strict compliance with bulky plastics to be met when the entire bin gets accepted at the landfill anyway.

As to item no.3 , Councilor Arnold stated that Rep. Chippendale has been helpful with the Echo Lake situation.

XII. Department Head Reports/Discussion

1. G. Mosca, EMA Director, wanted to update the Council that the second reimbursement from FEMA for COVID equipment and supplies has been approved in the amount of \$23,646.00. G. Mosca stated that he is working on submitting the next reimbursement request in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the vaccine clinics . G. Mosca stated that the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is being ramped up; that he has about 8 new members; and, that the team will participate in a multi town exercise on Sunday run by the State with a hurricane scenario. G. Mosca stated that Gloucester has also been asked to assist in a statewide plane crash simulation in the future.

XIII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

None

XIV. Open Forum

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone wished to speak in Open Forum

None

- XV. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:
- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council
 - B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Potential Litigation - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Convene to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Potential Litigation - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk to poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

- XVI. Reconvene Open Session - Disclosure of votes taken in Executive Session & Consideration of the Sealing of Minutes - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to RECONVENE Open Session, Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session and to SEAL the minutes of the Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- XVII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADJOURN at 11:05p.m.; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

