

At an Emergency meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on May 25, 2022;

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:00 P.M.

II. Roll Call

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

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Chief Joseph Delprete, Chief Police

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to honor the tragic school shooting in Uvalde,, Texas .

IV. Discussion and/or Action to consider actions necessary for the protection of Gloucester Schools

Chief Delprete gave a review of the safety protocols in place in our schools , including ALICE training, to handle active shooter situations as well as an explanation of the collaborative safety measures between the schools, the police and the students. Chief Delprete stated that the SRO officer is at the high school daily. Chief Delprete recommended that a police officer be placed in the schools for the rest of the school year. M. Barnes, Superintendent of Foster/Glocester Regional School, reinforced the Chief's comments in that there are safety protocols in place and that there is great collaboration between the police, schools and students. Captain Fague, Gloucester Police, spoke about the different types of training that the police are constantly doing in order to remain vigilant and prepared. Captain Fague stated that the department is always trying to think outside the box as a way to prepare for various situations as well as inviting different organizations like the State police or the FBI to aid in training. Captain Fague stated that today the police were instructed and complied with 15 minute check ins at each of the schools during the course of the day. J. Fecteau , Town Clerk and resident, raised her concern that there is complacency after these events and questioned if entry training is held from time to time. Captain Fague stated that there are new access measures in place at the Gloucester Elementary Schools which make it harder to have access. J. Fecteau stated that ALICE training had been done in the past with town employees but that there are new employees so it might be prudent to have a training session. Councilor Laplante stated his opinion that for the short term it would be good to have a police officer at the school and for the long term it would be the responsibility of the school to include in their budget a provision for some type of security. Councilor Worthy agrees with Councilor Laplante. Councilor Arnold looks forward to a dialog in the future but is concerned about the short term solution until the end of the year. Councilor Arnold would like the matter decided tonight until the end of the year or at least through next week and then make this topic an agenda item for discussion as to the remainder of the school year. Councilor Steere complimented the police for their extra safety measures today and stated that he would leave it up to the police to determine the necessary protocol based on their professional expertise and

judgment. Councilor Laplante recommended a meeting with the school committees to figure out what could or should be implemented. Chief Delprete stated that he would recommend a police presence at the schools during school hours, approximately, 7AM to 3 PM and/or 8AM to 4PM until the end of the year.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to continue the police presence at the schools during regular school hours until the next Council meeting on June 2nd; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

V. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ADJOURN at 8:13 P.M. ; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED