



At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on May 2, 2019:

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, Vice-President; William E. Reichert; and Julian (Jay) Fogue.

Member Absent: Patricia Henry

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Karen Scott, Town Planner; and Jane Steere, Tax Collector.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Citations - Discussion and/or Action

A. R.I. College Alumni Association Award - Joan Walsh

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has been informed that one of our residents is being honored by Rhode Island College with a prestigious Alumni Award. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has a Citation which will be presented to Joan Walsh at a ceremony held at the college. Councilor W. Steere read the following Citation into the record:

The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Town of Gloucester
CITATION #2019-06

Be it hereby known to all that the Town of Gloucester presents this Citation to:
Joan Walsh
in recognition of achieving:

the Rhode Island College School of Nursing
2019 Honor Roll Award

For your hard work and dedication to your profession, the Town Council is proud to recognize and commend you. You are an outstanding role model to our community and especially the young students that some day may follow in your path.

The Town Council and the Town Clerk represent all Gloucester residents when we say with pride "Congratulations" for receiving this prestigious award.

George O. Steere, Jr.
President, Town Council

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC,
Town Clerk

Adopted this 2nd day of May 2019.

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council meeting minutes: April 18, 2019 Regular Meeting
& April 23, 2019 Public Hearing minutes

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPROVE the Town Council meeting minutes of April 18, 2019 & the Public Hearing minutes of April 23, 2019; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Board and Commissions
1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
a. Recreation Commission
Two year term to expire 1/2021

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- B. Historic District Commission - Discussion and/or Action
RE: Proposed amendments to Gloucester Code of Ordinance

Councilor G. Steere gave an update as follows: Last month the Chairman of the HDC submitted a proposal for amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding the Historic District. He has since reviewed the proposal with the Planner and the Zoning Official and they have proposed changes to the original draft. After it is reviewed by the Town Solicitor, a revised proposal will come back to

Council for discussion and then a first reading will be scheduled if Council decides to go forward with the proposal. Before a public hearing is set the proposed ordinance amendments will be forwarded to the Planning Board for an advisory opinion.

Charlie Wilson, chair of the Historic District Commission, stated that the proposal has been forwarded to Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, for his input, after which the Council will receive a full revised copy for their review, hopefully by June.

VIII. New Business

A. Gloucester Code of Ordinance: Proposed Zoning Ordinance Revision

1st Reading: Chapter 350-5 Definitions, Sect. 350-58.2 Farm Accessory Uses and Attachment 1, Table of Use Regulations - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated that this is the 1st reading for an ordinance amendment regarding Farm Accessory Uses submitted by the Planning Board.

Karen Scott, Town Planner, stated that the purpose of this ordinance is to expand accessory uses allowed on farms. K. Scott stated that she wishes to make it clear that these are accessory uses; you have to have farm use to be able to get them. K. Scott commented that the ordinance does not take away any uses that anyone presently has, this is just expansion. K. Scott noted that a State farm number is required to get the benefit of these accessory uses.

K. Scott stated that small farms would be less than 10 acres, medium 10 to 25 acres, and large 25 or more acres. K. Scott explained that the new accessory uses proposed are based on what size farm you have. K. Scott noted that some things, such as hay rides, crop mazes, pick-your-own and petting zoos are allowed by right on all size farms. K. Scott stated that as the intensity of use increases, the review and the size of the tract of land needed will increase. K. Scott gave the example that medium and large farms could have agricultural based classes, farm based retail, etc. but if you have a small farm, under 10 acres, a special use permit would be required. K. Scott stated that the sale of landscaping and gardening materials and farmers' markets would be allowed by right on large farms, but would require a special use permit on small and medium farms. K. Scott stated that the uses that would have the biggest impact on surrounding neighborhoods would be allowed on large farms only by special use permit.

K. Scott noted that some of the definitions of uses have been amended based on previous discussion with the Town Council. K. Scott reviewed the application process and reiterated that these are accessory uses only; you have to have a farm that files tax returns and has a tax ID number.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that there are some uses now, such as hay rides, that are already allowed by state law. J. Fecteau asked if those people have to come in because currently they do not. K. Scott replied that anybody that changes the use on their property comes in to speak with the Zoning Official and if there are issues, we will work with the farm owner to resolve them. Councilor G. Steere stated that there is no town permit for that currently. K. Scott stated that some of the confusion in our current ordinance is that it is open-ended. J. Fecteau stated that state law does not specify; it just says "related farm uses", and that has been a problem for her office over the years. J. Fecteau commented that a bounce house should not be a related farm use.

Councilor G. Steere thanked K. Scott and the Planning Board for their time and effort. K. Scott stated that they had a strong contingent of agricultural landowners present at their meetings who helped iron out some of the definitions. K. Scott noted that she will notify those individuals regarding the date of the Public Hearing.

Councilor G. Steere explained that the Council may make a motion to WAIVE the first reading and, if so, the Town Planner will explain the full scope of the proposed revision to the Code of Ordinance.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to WAIVE the full reading of the proposed Zoning Ordinance Revisions regarding Chapter 350. Farm Accessory Uses & Attachment 1, Table of Use Regulations; seconded by Councilor Forgeue.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to SET a Public Hearing for: Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Proposed Zoning Ordinance Revision, Chapter 350-5 Definitions, Sect. 350-58.2 Farm Accessory Uses and Attachment 1, Table of Use Regulations for June 6, 2019; seconded by Councilor Forgeue.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Village light poles: Additional signage - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated that, after discussion at the Town Council meeting of April 4th, 2019, there was a consensus to add to this agenda for further discussion, and/or a vote on the installation of additional signage on town owned property.

Discussion: Vin Lepore, president of the Gloucester Business Association, stated that they did as the Council suggested and hung one (1) sign in front of the Town Trader. Councilor Forgeue asked if we have received any complaints about the sign. Councilor Reichert replied that a couple of people asked him about it. Councilor Forgeue commented that he saw the sign and does not feel that it is intrusive at all. Councilor Forgeue stated that the GBA does so much to support the signage that they have up now, and if there is anything we can do to facilitate them getting funds to maintain them, he would be in favor of it. Councilor Forgeue stated that the GBA does a lot for the town and if any of the existing signs get torn, they are very expensive to replace and they are willing to maintain them. Councilor Forgeue stated that they need to find some funds to do that and are not asking the Council for it.

V. Lepore stated that the main purpose is to make it sustainable by having those signs for a long time or special event or seasonal banners on the other light poles. V. Lepore stated that we never want to change the “Welcome to Historic Chepachet” signs but we don’t want to put them on every pole.

Councilor Forgue noted that just the name of the sponsor would appear, there would be no phone number or address. V. Lepore concurred, stating that just like Public Broadcasting channel 2, we are not allowed to use websites, phone numbers or any kind of advertng; it is strictly a sponsor banner.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he has driven through different parts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island and has seen signs similar to these in seven (7) communities. Councilor W. Steere stated that five (5) of them did not have anything other than the name of the town, but the other two (2), Sherburne, MA and North Providence, had advertisements. Councilor W. Steere referred to our Code of Ordinances, Section 350-27-E, which states that “no sign located on public property or on a public right-of-way shall bear any commercial advertising or the name of any commercial business unless otherwise specified in this article”. Councilor W. Steere stated that this is not malice toward anyone nor is it about appearance, it is about our Ordinance saying we cannot do that, and if we open it up for one entity, others will ask for the same thing. Councilor W. Steere stated that he appreciates what the GBA does for the Town and suggested that we come up with a compromise such as a slat board at the Pavilion or town parking area thanking the sponsors that have done things for the village.

Councilor Forgue stated that he appreciates Councilor W. Steere’s comments, however we have a Historic District where signage is out of code. Councilor Forgue stated that he believes that these banners are not intrusive at all and would require less maintenance than one big sign.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he feels the same as Councilor Forgue and asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, for his advice regarding the Ordinance. T. Kane replied that Councilor W. Steere read it verbatim and the only way to get around it is to change the Ordinance. Councilor W. Steere asked if his suggestion would be acceptable, stating that the names would be put on as a thank you for contributing. Councilor W. Steere further stated that the Ordinance states that signs erected by the Town of Gloucester, the State of Rhode Island and the United States of America are permitted. T. Kane stated that if the Town of Gloucester erects the sign, there is enough “wiggle room” to make an exception. Councilor Forgue inquired about the “Welcome to Gloucester” signs that are there now. Councilor G. Steere replied that they are not commercial. Councilor W. Steere stated that those are fine.

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Code is pretty clear, unfortunately. V. Lepore stated that is if we call these things “signs” instead of “sponsorship banners”. Councilor W. Steere disagreed, stating that it says advertising the name of any commercial business. V. Lepore asked if we put a placard at the Pavilion, what difference does it make. Councilor W. Steere replied that we would erect it to thank the sponsors. V. Lepore asked who would put the signs up on the placard and who would pay for them. Councilor W. Steere stated that the GBA would be collecting money to do that so it would be the same thing. Councilor G. Steere reiterated that the Code states it clearly and there is no way to get around it.

After further discussion, V. Lepore asked if the GBA donates the sign for the Town to put up, what is the issue. Councilor W. Steere stated that there is the name of a commercial business. Councilor

Forgue stated that no commercial advertising can be on Town property. There was discussion regarding “semantics”. Councilor W. Steere commented that he is trying to find a way to help V. Lepore out and noted that nobody else has come up with a solution. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Code says something and he is not willing to change the Code for one entity.

Councilor G. Steere stated that it sounds like if the Town puts up a board somewhere, we could allow those names to be on it. T. Kane stated that the statute gives leeway for a limited exception. Councilor Forgue asked about the signs when you come into Town, which have advertising on them. Councilor W. Steere stated that they are on a State road, so they are not on Town property.

Councilor G. Steere stated that unfortunately, it sounds like it will have to be a board erected by the Town, either at the Pavilion or the parking lot where people can see it. Councilor W. Steere commented that there could be resident sponsors listed as well as GBA and other entities. Councilor G. Steere reiterated that unfortunately that is how our Ordinance is spelled out and apologized that he did not realize it. G. Steere suggested having more discussion to try to come up with something that will suit everybody. V. Lepore mentioned the signs on the fence as you enter Burrillville, stating that we could look a lot better than that. Councilor W. Steere noted that the sign board he suggested would be seen by many because the Pavilion will be getting more use with all the events that are planned. Councilor W. Steere noted that he is not trying to be the “bad guy”, he is trying to be helpful, but the Ordinance says what it says. V. Lepore stated that he thought the Ordinance was a guideline. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, replied that the Comp Plan is a guideline. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Ordinance is very clear and specific.

V. Lepore stated that they are trying to do something better for the Town. Councilor W. Steere responded that it bothers him that when the GBA came to the Town regarding the banners, there was no mention of sponsorships. V. Lepore stated that it was not even discussed then but the next step would be to do the event banners and seasonal banners, however the GBA could not afford to do all of the light poles. V. Lepore stated that this is why he is before the Council tonight.

J. Fecteau stated that Section 350-28 states that sign plazas, where organizations such as the GBA and Chamber of Commerce can erect signs, can be created if they are approved by the Planning Board. Councilor G. Steere commented that maybe that is an avenue we can take.

C. Personnel

1. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action

a. Gloucester Police Dept. - Part time Dispatcher

Councilor G. Steere read the following request from the Chief:

Honorable Town Council
From: Chief Joseph DelPrete
Date: April 26, 2019
Subject: Police Department Dispatcher Position

Dear Council Members,

I would respectfully request to appoint Elva Shea to a part-time dispatcher position on the Gloucester Police Department. Ms. Shea is a retired North Providence Police Officer who has experience in police and dispatch operations.

After reviewing five applications Ms. Shea has dispatch experience and she will fit the needs of the part-time dispatcher third shift scheduling vacancy at the police department once completely trained. This new part-time dispatcher replacement is needed to replace the vacancy left by Brianna Ruggiero.

I further would request that this appointment be effective starting the week of April 28 2019 where Ms. Shea will be placed on a 40 hour training schedule at \$14.00 per hour. Once she satisfactorily completes all training requirements she will be placed on the part-dispatcher 16 hours a week schedule at an hourly wage of \$17.51 per hour with no fringe benefits. She will also be placed in the part-time dispatcher pool and fill any vacancies as needed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph DelPrete
(end of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Elva Shea to the position of Part time Dispatcher on the Gloucester Police Department at the following terms: said appointment effective the week of April 28 2019 for a 40 hour training schedule at \$14.00 per hour. Upon satisfactory completion of all training requirements, employee will be placed on the part-dispatcher 16 hours a week schedule at an hourly wage of \$17.51 per hour with no fringe benefits. Said employee will also be placed in the part-time dispatcher pool and fill any vacancies as needed; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- D. Bd. & Commissions
 - 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Gloucester Economic Development Commission -
7 Voting Members & 2 Ad-Hoc non voting members (may be non-residents) for two year terms concurrent with the Town Council

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has received Talent Bank Applications for these positions. Councilor Forgue stated that he called several of the applicants and noted that only two (2) members of the Historic District Commission can serve on this Commission because three (3) would constitute a quorum. Councilor Forgue recommended several candidates and stated that Charlie Wilson and Clayton Lanphear are members of the HDC.

Councilor G. Steere asked if any of the other Council members had any suggestions. Councilor W. Steere replied that Councilor Forgue listed Diana Seaver, but she also serves on the HDC and that would be three (3) members. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, asked if any of the applicants are non-residents. Councilor Forgue replied in the negative.

Councilor Forgue stated that the Council tried to be diversified by bringing in people with different backgrounds. Regarding the members of the HDC, there was Council consensus to appoint Charlie Wilson and Diana Seaver.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPOINT: 1. Josh Hoffman; 2. Jeffrey Gold; 3. Kevin LaVoie; 4. Ashley Sarji; 5. Diana Seaver; 6. Vincent Lepore; and 7. Charlie Wilson as Regular voting members and to APPOINT: 1. William Worthy and Laurie Barrett as Ad-Hoc non voting members; all terms to expire 12/31/2020; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Bid Extension: 2001-10 Low Sulfur Diesel and Gasoline - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere read the following request from the Public Works Director:

April 29, 2019

To: Honorable Town Council From: Gary Trembl
Public Works Director

Re: Bid Extension

Bid extension was requested from the vendor on the following bid: IFB 2001-10 Low Sulfur Diesel and Gasoline.

The vendor has agreed to extend the bid at original pricing and conditions.

I am requesting that this bid extension be approved.

Gary Trembl

(end of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to EXTEND the award of IFB 2001-10 Low Sulfur Diesel and Gasoline (89 octane) at a price of \$0.085/gal over cost until May 31, 2020; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

RECUSAL - Reichert

MOTION PASSED

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated for the record that Councilor Reichert recused himself from this vote.

F. Policy Amendment – Transfer Station/Beach Pass: Regarding non -residents at Town campgrounds - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated that Council has received a request from the Public Works Department to amend the Transfer Station/Beach Pass policy adopted on August 7, 2014 to include:

NO pass will be issued to a non-resident renting a campsite at any campground in Gloucester

Discussion: Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, stated that approximately 400 people who pay taxes on campers think they are entitled to a Transfer Station pass. G. Treml pointed out that the campgrounds are supposed to provide services to the campers. G. Treml stated his opinion that if these people are not allowed to vote at a Town Financial Meeting, they should not be allowed to use the Transfer Station.

MOTION was made by Councilor Fogue to AMEND the Town of Gloucester, Policy for Transfer Station/Beach Pass Stickers policy, adopted August 7, 2014, to include: **NO** pass will be issued to a non -resident renting a campsite at any campground in Gloucester; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

G. Gloucester Town Budget 2019-2020

1. Review of Budget and/or Amendments to Budget: Town Council - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that at the Town Council Budget Public Hearing, held on April 23rd, 2019, there was consensus to make three changes, a transfer from Surplus for the Police Station, salary adjustment to show actual, and salary increase for EMA Director.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AMEND the Public Hearing Budget for FY 2019-2020 as follows:

1. Transfer from Surplus for Police Station Capital expenses (\$125,000)
2. Addition to Financial Administration, Treasurer's Office, Financial Analyst/Sr. Accountant should be adjusted to reflect the actual salary of a new hire (change from \$48,221 to \$52,000)
3. Increase EMA salary (\$11,165 to \$15,000)

seconded by Councilor Fogue.

Discussion:

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Adoption of Budget or Set Special Meeting Date to Adopt 2019-2020 Budget (for Referendum)- Discussion and/or action

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ADOPT the 2019/2020 Budget, as amended by previous motions, for presentation to the voters at the Financial Town Referendum; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Approval of Ballot Questions: Financial Town Referendum, May 21, 2019- Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has the following actual ballot questions to approve:

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert TO ADOPT Question #1 for the 2019 Financial Town Referendum:

Shall the Town Budget for fiscal year 2019/20 appropriate a sum of **\$30,263,901** which includes Municipal Services & Capital Expenses; Gloucester School Dept. Operating & Capital Expenses; Gloucester's share of the Foster/Glocester Regional Operating & Capital Expenses; and includes a Levy of Property Tax (not including Motor Vehicle taxes) of not less than **\$ 20,150,000** or more than **\$20,550,000**?

Seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert TO ADOPT Question #2 for the 2019 Financial Town Referendum:

Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of **\$300,000**, from surplus, towards a \$1.5 million dollar commitment (**this is the fourth installment of five annual installments**) for the necessary repairs to the Gloucester Elementary Schools, **this appropriation will come from the assigned surplus and will not increase the amount to be raised by taxes?**

Seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert TO ADOPT Question #3 for the 2019 Financial Town Referendum:

Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of \$ **75,000** as a reserve for loss in state aid for Gloucester Public Schools; **this appropriation will come from existing surplus and will not increase the amount to be raised by taxes?**

Seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert TO ADOPT Question #4 for the 2019 Financial Town Referendum:

Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of \$ **355,000** from the surplus for capital expenses; **this appropriation will come from existing surplus and will not increase the amount to be raised by taxes?**

Seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert TO ADOPT Question #5 for the 2019 Financial Town Referendum:

Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of \$ **40,000** from the surplus for storm expenses; **this appropriation will come from existing surplus and will not increase the amount to be raised by taxes?**

Seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert TO ADOPT Question #6 for the 2019 Financial Town Referendum:

Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of \$100,000 from the surplus for operational expenses of Gloucester Public Schools; **this appropriation will come from existing surplus and will not increase the amount to be raised by taxes?**

Seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere asked Diane Brennan, Finance Director, if this is to support the new budget or does this go back into the reserve fund for the future. D. Brennan replied that this is coming from the surplus for operational for the future. Councilor G. Steere stated that this is being set aside and not going directly to this year's budget for operation. D. Brennan stated that is correct. After further discussion, there was Council consensus to add the word "future" to the motion.

Councilor Forgue WITHDREW his second and Councilor Reichert WITHDREW his motion.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert TO ADOPT Question #6 for the 2019 Financial Town Referendum:

Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of \$100,000 from the surplus for future operational expenses of Gloucester Public Schools; **this appropriation will come from existing surplus and will not increase the amount to be raised by taxes?**

Seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert TO ADOPT Question #7 for the 2019 Financial Town Referendum:

Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of \$ 100,000 as a reserve for future student population proration for the Fasteer/Glocester region **this appropriation will come from assigned surplus and will not increase the amount to be raised by taxes?**

Seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

H. R.I. Infrastructure Bank & Town of Gloucester - Discussion and/or Action
Community Septic System Loan Program: Additional Funds

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

To: Honorable Town Council Members
From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance
Memo: Community Septic System Loan Program
Date: April 29, 2019

The Town of Gloucester has been advised the last allocation of \$300,000 set aside for Gloucester residents for the septic loan program has been nearly depleted. Council approval is required by the RI Infrastructure bank to secure additional funds for Gloucester residents experiencing failed systems.

(End of memo)

Discussion: Diane Brennan, Finance Director, stated that the fund has been depleted faster than it has in the past. D. Brennan explained that we had about \$265,000 at the start of this year and loans for \$95,000 have already been issued, and there are more than enough applications in the queue that some may be denied because Gloucester has no more authorization. D. Brennan asked the Council for a Resolution regarding this matter.

Councilor G. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, if he can vote on this since he installs septic systems. T. Kane replied that Councilor G. Steere can vote because there is no direct tie.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the request for additional funds, through RI Infrastructure Bank, to be allocated to the Town of Gloucester for the Community Septic System Loan Program; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

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

MOTION PASSED

I. Expenditure of Funds, (previously assigned) for Software Updates - Finance
Dept.- 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
Memo: Software for Tax System
Date: April 29, 2019

The Town of Gloucester has been working with the current software vendor Vision Solutions to provide the upgrade to the tax system. The development of the new version is something the town has been preparing for over the last few years. Money has been set aside in capital last year and this year to cover the cost to implement. At this time the company is offering incentives to those early innovators to be a test site for the program. The tax collector and assessor have been part of a group of professionals working with the vendor to be assured the system will meet our needs. There are several advantages to doing so now. These include but are not limited to:

Financial cost is reduced by no less than 15% based on the schedule of payment per parcel count. This represents \$14,000 in savings.

As an early implementor, Gloucester is part of the BETA testing and involved in decision making components of the software.

Training implementation is minimized as provided throughout the process.

Annual fees will remain the same.

The vendor is asking for a 20% deposit to save our spot for implementation.

At this time, the request is for the council to authorize approval to enter into an agreement with Vision Software for the upgrade for tax admin and tax assessor's software.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to AUTHORIZE the agreement between the Town of Gloucester and Vision Software for the upgrade for tax admin and tax assessor's software at an agreed upon amount not to exceed \$; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere asked if an amount is needed in the motion. D. Brennan stated that at this time she only has an estimate of \$78,625. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, asked D. Brennan if she is comfortable with the estimate. D. Brennan replied that we have been planning for this project and have over \$100,000 set aside for it.

Councilor W. Steere stated that with BETA testing, we are the guinea pigs and asked if we anticipate any impact to our operation. D. Brennan replied that there is a mutual benefit on both sides. Councilor W. Steere agreed, stating that we get to ask for things that can help us. D. Brennan stated that another plus is that they will keep our annual cost constant. Councilor G. Steere commented that it is good that we are saving money and it appears that the Tax Collector, Tax Assessor and Finance Director have been involved in some of the operations of it. D. Brennan stated she felt it was a good thing for us to become proactive.

Councilor Reichert WITHDREW his second and Councilor Forgue WITHDREW his motion.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to AUTHORIZE the agreement between the Town of Gloucester and Vision Software for the upgrade for tax admin and tax assessor's software at an agreed upon amount not to exceed \$78,625; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. Town Council Correspondence and/or Discussion

- A. Councilor G. Steere stated that an invitation was received from the Gloucester Light Infantry with regard to the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on May 27,

2019. Councilor G. Steere stated that the parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Baptist Church.

- B. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from the Pawtucket School Committee regarding a Resolution on Financial Literacy. Councilor G. Steere noted that we supported two (2) bills recently that pertained to that. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Resolution states that there are 36 states in the country that guarantee access to personal financial education in their public school curriculum, but Rhode Island does not. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Pawtucket School Committee is looking for support of House Bill 2019- H 5033 and Senate Bill 2019- S 112.
- C. Councilor G. Steere stated that we received the Burrillville Resolution regarding the Second Amendment Sanctuary Town. Councilor G. Steere noted that this will be on the Town Council agenda on May 16th for discussion.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that he hopes everybody saw the email from the League of Cities and Towns regarding proposed legislation which will make some serious financial impacts to cities and towns, especially us. Councilor W. Steere stated that there are probably things we could do Resolutions on that will help the taxpayers.

X. Department Head Reports/Discussion

- A. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the State has adopted laws to regulate mobile food establishments, which are food trucks. J. Fecteau stated that each municipality must adopt an ordinance by July for local licensing. J. Fecteau stated that she has been working with the Town Solicitor and will need a 1st reading of the proposed ordinance, either at the next Town Council meeting or the first meeting in June. Councilor G. Steere asked if this would be a Town license for a food truck. J. Fecteau stated that we license them now, but the State will take a lot of the regulating away from us.
- B. Bob Shields, Recreation Director, reported that the Earth Day Cleanup was phenomenal, with over 90 volunteers. B. Shields commented that the weather may have kept some participants indoors, but overall it was a successful event with participation and help from town departments and town groups, such as GBA.

XI. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

- A. Regarding the EDC, Councilor Forgue asked if the members will get notified. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, explained that she will send them each a letter and membership card, then come up with a first meeting date. J. Fecteau stated that at that meeting, a chair will be nominated.

XII. Open Forum

- A. Anthony Reo, of Eddy Road, spoke about the poor road conditions in the area of Long Entry and Evans Road and showed photographs to the Council. A. Reo stated that many drivers are getting wheel bearing damage and flat tires because the potholes are filled with snow or water and they don't know they are there. A. Reo stated he cannot get his mail unless he is in his car. A. Reo stated he has tried to get help from the Town Garage. A. Reo stated that he knows there are a lot of potholes

to fill, but these just keep getting bigger and bigger. A. Reo stated they fill with cold patch approximately twelve times per year and it comes out all over his lawn. A. Reo stated it is not all of Eddy Road, it is just certain sections. Councilor W. Steere stated that Public Works has a list of roads to work on as money becomes available, but in the meantime, the Council can look at ways to address the issue. Councilor G. Steere noted that last year there wasn't much money in Capital for paving, but this year we are transferring funds from surplus that will be dedicated to more road work. Mr. Reo stated he hoped to get on a road list for repair and asked that the town at least sweep the road every year.

- B. Steve Arnold, President of the Gloucester Little League, asked for an update regarding the improvements at Leja Field at Gloucester Memorial Park. Councilor G. Steere stated there was to have been a meeting called between himself, Councilor W. Steere, and the Little League and asked what the status of that was. S. Arnold stated he has come to eliminate the middle man and help make progress. S. Arnold stated that the older kids still cannot host home games in Town and have to play their home games in Cumberland. S. Arnold stated that the DPW has gone above and beyond trying to help and there have been volunteers as well, but we can't do anything about it raining six out of seven days a week. S. Arnold expressed hope that we are not here next year having the same conversation. S. Arnold requested a meeting with the Recreation Director, DPW Director and members of the Town Council. S. Arnold stated he believes there may be less expensive ideas than trying to get Leja "right".

Councilor W. Steere stated this sounds different than the last conversation. Councilor W. Steere stated he heard that there was discussion regarding the possibility that the Little League would move all their operations to the two (2) smaller fields at Gloucester Memorial Park as well as Leja Field in the back. Councilor W. Steere stated that is why work started at Leja Field.

Gary Trembl, Director of Public Works, stated that they brought loam and infield mix in, electric wires have been run from where the well has been drilled to the concession stand, more wire is on order, irrigation for infield is in. G. Trembl noted that there has always been a water problem and a pipe was installed to improve drainage. Gary Trembl also stated the last thing to be done is building a small building to house the well tank. G. Trembl stated he has also changed the size of the infield, more than once, for the Little League. Councilor W. Steere stated we could possibly come up with a sub committee to discuss and come up with a plan. Councilor W. Steere noted that there has been talk about grants to be used on Gloucester Memorial Park, but they would not be available for another couple of years.

After further discussion, there was Council consensus to place this on the next agenda to consider appointing a Council sub-committee to work with the Recreation Director, the Little League and the DPW Director.

XIII. MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:
A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2) Collective Bargaining - Discussion and/or Action and
B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5) Acquisition of Land - Discussion and/or Action
seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Forgue
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

XIV. Reconvene Open Session
MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-7; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Forgue
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

No votes were taken in Executive Session.

XV. MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to Adjourn at 10:04 p.m.; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, W. Steere, Reichert and Forgue
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED