



At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on October 3, 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) Forgue.

Member Absent: Patricia Henry

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Judith Branch, Director of Human Services; Lori DeSantis, Tax Assessor; and Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, Councilor G. Steere asked for a moment of silence in memory of Russell Gross, who passed away last weekend.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Regular meeting minutes of September 5th & 19th, 2019
MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPROVE the Town Council Regular meeting minutes of September 5th and September 19th, 2019; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Historic District Commission

a. One unexpired term Alternate #1 to expire 11/2019 - Discussion and/or action

Charlie Wilson, chair of the Historic District Commission, asked the Council to take this item off the agenda until a candidate is found.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to REMOVE FROM THE TABLE the appointment to the Historic District Commission, Alternate #1 position; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Consideration of reinstatement of mobile home part sites for RLM II, LLC, d/b/a Village on Chopmist Hill - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Town Clerk received an email from the manager asking Council to continue to next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to CONTINUE Item B. Consideration for Village on Chopmist Hill to the Town Council meeting of October 17, 2019; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Personnel

1. Employee Handbook - Discussion and/or Action

a. Discussion and/or Action on amendment proposal regarding oversight during supervisor's/department head absence

Councilor G. Steere stated that at the last Town Council meeting, an amendment to the handbook was considered. Councilor G. Steere stated that after input from all Councilors and the Solicitor, the proposed amendment is slightly changed and reads as follows:

“During the absence of your supervisor all instructions previously given or in place shall be followed. If a situation arises where you feel these instructions cannot or should not be followed, you must contact the Town Council liaison to your office for further guidance. Failure to follow your supervisor's instructions may result in disciplinary action.”

Discussion: Councilor Forgue stated that the Council had talked about having a letter for employees to sign. T. Kane stated that it could be included in the motion that the employees will be informed of the change and sign an acknowledgment that they have received it.

Councilor Reichert brought up that one Councilor would have to call two others to get a consensus of a decision so that no one Councilor is making decisions. There was Council discussion regarding

whether the Council can act with just a consensus. T. Kane stated that if it is that important, the Council could call an emergency meeting. Councilor W. Steere stated worst case is to follow the instruction your supervisor gave you as we don't have a Town Manager to make day to day decisions.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to AMEND the "We are Gloucester" Handbook for Employees, adopted 12/13/1990, with an addition to the paragraph entitled "Conduct" to include the previously stated language, and that a copy be sent to all employees and they be required to acknowledge the receipt of same; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. New Business

A. Resident complaint: Taxation of tangible property - Discussion and/or Action
Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has received a letter of complaint from a resident.

Jack Anderson was present to discuss his complaint. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has read his email and he gets where he is coming from, but stated that there is a process and Lori DeSantis, Tax Assessor, is doing her job. Councilor G. Steere stated that there is a form for business owners to fill out, and if they don't fill it out, there is a minimum assessment for a home business.

Councilor Reichert asked L. DeSantis when we came up with a minimum. Councilor Reichert stated for the record that Mr. Anderson is not related to him as that is one of the "stories" being spread. L. DeSantis replied that there are several ways to put on a business, but the most important way is a business trade name certificate. L. DeSantis stated that J. Anderson came in for a trade name certificate to obtain a checking account for a business. L. DeSantis noted that banks will not give them a checking account until the business is registered at the Town. L. DeSantis stated that every year, she sends a tangible form to every business in Town to be filed by January 31st. L. DeSantis explained that if it is not filed by January 31st, the only thing she can do is estimate. L. DeSantis stated to do that she compares to like businesses, and the amount is not a minimum it is an estimate.

J. Anderson stated that in July he received a tax notice for his consulting business that he has out of his house, because he needs an address for the bank. J. Anderson noted that his consulting business owns no property, which he explained to the Tax Assessor at that time. J. Anderson stated that L. DeSantis stated that it is her estimate, based on her experience of what a business would have for property. J. Anderson stated that he requested that the estimate be corrected with actual facts to reflect that the business does not have any property. J. Anderson stated that nobody in the Town of Gloucester has said to him that the Town has a minimum tax on businesses. J. Anderson stated that he does not see how he has a tax.

L. DeSantis replied that she is following State Law, which says if they do not fill out a tangible tax, you do not even have the right to appeal, although she noted that she gave J. Anderson that right. J. Anderson asked who handled the appeal. L. DeSantis replied that she did. J. Anderson noted that with that system the Assessor makes the first decision and then makes the second decision when appealed.

Councilor G. Steere stated that there is a Board of Appeals and after that, there is Superior Court. J. Anderson stated that there also is the Town Council. Councilor G. Steere stated that it is not a Town Council matter. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, explained that you can always come to the Council to talk about process, but there is a statutory scheme. T. Kane noted that he gets those forms every year but does not have time to fill them out, and ends up paying the assessment of \$20,000 worth of equipment. T. Kane stated that L. DeSantis estimates, just like when you don't let them in your house. J. Anderson asked if the estimate is wrong, don't we correct it? T. Kane replied that you file an appeal. J. Anderson stated that he did and asked what is the basis for the decision to reject the appeal since we corrected the estimate. T. Kane stated that if J. Anderson does not like the decision, the next step is to make his case with the Board of Assessment of Review. J. Anderson stated that he heard that the Town Council had authority in this.

Councilor Reichert stated that the Council has fixed many tax bills in the time he has served during the past 20-plus years. Councilor Reichert stated that he wants to know how his name got involved in this and how former Councilor Burlingame became involved stating he shouldn't put an oar in the water. J. Anderson replied that he would like to take one issue at a time and clarify this.

J. Anderson again stated that this business does not own any property and asked why his appeal was rejected. Councilor G. Steere replied that J. Anderson did not fill out the form. J. Anderson stated we can correct it now and noted that T. Kane stated that he does not fill out the form. T. Kane stated that he does not fill out the form and he pays for it.

Councilor Forgue stated that J. Anderson has the privilege of working out of his house and the only way he can get a checking account is to go to the Town and state that he has an office. Councilor Forgue stated that it is a luxury to not have to rent an office for \$1,500 a month. J. Anderson stated that it is a business in name only and has no property. Councilor Forgue asked J. Anderson if he writes off his business when he files his taxes. J. Anderson replied in the negative. T. Kane stated that this would be a way to prove to the Board of Assessment that he does not have any property. J. Anderson asked why it even has to go that far. Councilor G. Steere replied that is the protocol. J. Anderson stated that G. Steere should recuse himself because when talking to Councilor Reichert, Councilor G. Steere called him an expletive. Councilor G. Steere stated that he could call J. Anderson that to his face if he wanted to, but he is not going to. G. Steere again stated that there is a protocol to follow, Council will listen but it is not the Council's call.

Councilor Forgue asked if it would be sufficient if J. Anderson says that he doesn't show anything on his tax return. J. Anderson replied that he offered all of that at the appeal.

Councilor Reichert asked why Ted Burlingame got involved. L. DeSantis replied that T. Burlingame contacted her after J. Anderson emailed him. Councilor Reichert stated that it was said that he shouldn't "put an oar in the water", which he considers a threat. J. Anderson stated that he did not get T. Burlingame involved. Councilor Reichert stated that he was upset because he does not like his name being involved. J. Anderson stated that after the appeal was rejected, Councilor Reichert told him to bring it to the Town Council. Councilor Reichert spoke about his office, stating that he has four (4) desks that he bought at surplus and a 10-year old computer system, and noted that he pays a lot of taxes to this Town for his trucks. Councilor Reichert stated that somebody was in the tax office saying that he does not fill out the forms, which he does not. J. Anderson and L. DeSantis spoke simultaneously and Councilor G. Steere stated that we must stay on topic.

Councilor Fogue asked if Mr. Anderson is willing to bring in his tax return, would it be sufficient for the board to see that he is writing nothing off and has no equipment? T. Kane replied that it is up to J. Anderson on how to prove his case to the board. J. Anderson asked if it is okay for the Tax Assessor to tell him he is a liar, because he is telling her there is no property. J. Anderson stated you are making me prove a negative. J. Anderson stated that the Council has to look at this process of the person making the decision also handling the appeal. **MULTIPLE PEOPLE SPEAKING.** Councilor Fogue advised J. Anderson to bring his tax return to the Board of Appeals and they will take a good look at it. Councilor Fogue noted that he runs a business out of his house and it is on his tax return.

Councilor Reichert stated that years ago, he was the original violator and that is how he became involved and began serving on the Town Council. Councilor Reichert reiterated that he never got involved in this matter. Councilor Reichert stated he doesn't take threats lightly. **AGAIN, MULTIPLE PEOPLE SPEAKING**

The Tax Assessor stated that the Board has ninety days to answer the request for an appeal. When asked if the Board has been notified the Assessor stated they have been notified and they have until approximately December 12th.

MULTIPLE PEOPLE SPEAKING OUT OF TURN

Councilor Fogue recommended that if there is nothing to hide, J. Anderson should bring in his tax return and say he does not write anything off on his home business. Councilor Fogue stated they will listen to you and it should work.

Councilor W. Steere asked L. DeSantis if it is just her that is involved in an appeal. L. DeSantis replied in the affirmative. Councilor Fogue stated that the next step is the board and then Superior Court. Councilor W. Steere stated he has a question but the person is not present tonight to answer but asked where in the process does the department head and Council person get involved in a meeting. Councilor Fogue stated that L. DeSantis asked her liaison to be there. L. DeSantis stated no that Councilor Henry called her to ask what was going on because there were emails going around which threatened a department head. L. DeSantis stated that she explained the process and Councilor Henry asked if a meeting could be held so that this didn't have to be on the agenda. Councilor G. Steere commented that Councilor Henry was just trying to help. L. DeSantis stated that she is following State Law and that is what she is sticking to.

Councilor Reichert stated that ex-councilors should not be given information or be involved in anything. L. DeSantis stated that she did not get the ex-councilor involved, she received an email from him stating “Heads up”. Councilor Reichert questioned why he would send that. Councilor Forgue commented that we are way off track here.

Councilor W. Steere stated that as far as Mr. Anderson goes, we have a path that he needs to follow. Councilor W. Steere stated that previous councils have done abatements in the past and we have to look at the process. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that L. DeSantis followed the process but he is concerned that there was another meeting, which is not part of the process, which may or may not have exasperated where we are now.

J. Anderson stated that the Council needs to look at the process where the Assessor is the first appellant. T. Kane noted that this is State law and every town follows the process. Councilor Forgue stated that if you don’t like what the Assessor says, you go to the board and appeal it. Councilor G. Steere asked L. DeSantis if she will let J. Anderson know when the appeal board will meet. L. DeSantis replied that she will send him a letter, adding that it will be sometime in December.

J. Anderson asked, since he has to prove a negative, what the board is looking for. L. DeSantis stated that in her experience, she has never had anybody tell her, that has multiple businesses, that their business has no property. J. Anderson stated that in Rhode Island, you are allowed fictitious names so you can be a business in name only. **AGAIN MULTIPLE SPEAKERS** J. Anderson stated that he will go to appeal.

J. Anderson commented that the town has a lousy system and a department head who called a resident a liar.

B. Ratification

1. MOA -Between the Emergency Management Agencies of the Towns of Foster, Gloucester & Scituate Re: Public Shelters during emergencies - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the EMA Director has been working with Foster and Scituate on a Memorandum of Agreement between the three towns to coordinate a shelter plan using Ponaganset High School. Councilor G. Steere stated that at the Council meeting of September 19, 2019 there was a consensus to authorize the EMA Director to sign the MOA to start the process. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council should now ratify that authorization.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to RATIFY the authorization of signature on September 19, 2019 by the Gloucester EMA on the document entitled “ Memorandum of Understanding Between the Emergency Management Agencies of the Towns of Foster, Gloucester and Scituate Regarding Public Shelters during emergencies”; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Police Station: Septic System Repair Plans for submittal to R.I.D.E.M.-
Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated that at the Council meeting of September 19, 2019 there was a consensus of the Council to authorize the Town Council President to sign an application to D.E.M. for the septic system repairs at the Police Station to get the process started. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council should now ratify that authorization.

MOTION to RATIFY the authorization of signature on September 19, 2019 by the Town Council President on the R.I.D.E.M. application for the septic system repairs needed at the Gloucester Police Station; seconded by

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Bds. & Commissions

1. Foster-Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board - Discussion and/or Action

a. Resignation: One unexpired term to expire 09/30/2020

Councilor G. Steere stated that this resignation is for the term of Joe Peters. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Chair of the Juvenile Hearing Board has forwarded an email to the Clerk stating Mr. Peters has moved away from town and has resigned his position.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to ACCEPT the resignation of Joseph Peters from the Foster-Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board for a term to expire 9/2020; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Appointment: One Three year term to expire 09/30/2020

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Chair and Captain Fague have recommended the Alternate, Richard Travers, to fill the position. Councilor G. Steere stated that Mr. Travers has contacted the Town Clerk and expressed that he would like to be considered for the position.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to APPOINT Richard Travers to the Foster-Glocester Juvenile Hearing Board to fill Position #3, regular member for a term to expire 9/30/2020; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

D. Authorization for Council President to Sign

1. Correspondence to R.I.D.O.T. Re: surplus round-a-bout property request - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated that during the planning of the round-a-bout it was determined by DOT that they would not need all the property, the former gas station was on, in creating the round-a-bout. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has always expressed an interest in accepting the remainder property to be used for something like a mini park or for additional parking. Councilor G. Steere stated that Council now wants to send a request to DOT regarding that property being transferred to the town.

Councilor Reichert stated that if we do accept that property, we should be held harmless regarding the gasoline on the site. Councilor Reichert stated that when you dig down four (4) feet, the smell of gasoline is so bad you can't breathe. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that would be a DEM issue. Councilor G. Steere stated that he, Russell Gross and George Charette went to DEM about five (5) years ago to inquire about that and were told that it was settled and nobody was supposed to dig deeper than high water table, which is approximately four (4) feet. Councilor G. Steere noted that Gee Marion, from DOT, verbally told the Council that they would transfer the rest of the property to the Town, but he has retired. Councilor W. Steere stated that DOT said they would get back to us, but they never did. Councilor Reichert expressed concern that if anything is built there, down the road, people could get sick. Councilor Reichert stated while working there he could not breathe from the smell and had to get back in the truck.

Councilor Forgue stated that residents in that area were told, by DEM who were monitoring the wells, that the water levels in that area were fine. Councilor Forgue stated he does not know what changed. Councilor Reichert stated he believed there was a stipulation in the deed as to what could not go there for 45 years.

After further discussion regarding liability issues, T. Kane suggested that the Town Planner contact DEM regarding acquiring something in writing that says that they won't come after the Town. Councilor Forgue mentioned the possibility of leasing the property for \$1.00 per year instead of purchasing, stating also that we would lose the taxes on it if we buy it. T. Kane stated we should first look into the DEM file and review the situation.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE correspondence to R.I.D.O.T. regarding the surplus property surrounding the newly constructed round-a-bout on Route 44 in Chepachet village and to ask the Town Planner to contact DEM regarding the status and to inquire how to absolve the Town of any future liability; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

E. Personnel

1. DPW vacancy - Appoint Two Town Council members to interview potential candidates to fill vacancy - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that he thought it would be a good idea if a couple of Council people could participate in the hiring process and sit in on the initial interviews. Councilor Forgue stated that many applications were received and suggested taking the top 10. Councilor Reichert stated that it will take a special person to fill the position.

Gary Trembl, Director of Public Works, asked who will be on the committee, other than the Council members. Councilor G. Steere replied Diane Brennan, Personnel Director, and noted that Jane Steere, Tax Collector, and Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, are sometimes involved in first interviews. J. Fecteau stated that she and J. Steere usually get involved when it is a department head position. G. Trembl stated that he would like to have Beth DeCorte participate with him because she will interact with that person as much as he will.

Councilor Forgue asked what is the process after the initial interviews. Councilor G. Steere stated that the top two (2) or three (3) will be brought forward to the Town Council for final interviews.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to APPOINT Councilor Reichert; Councilor Forgue and Beth DeCorte, PW, to participate with the Director of Public Works and the Personnel Director in the interviews of potential candidates to fill the vacancy in Public Works; seconded by Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Authorization - Additional Payment to Planning Board Recording Clerk when meeting time exceeds two hours - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has received a memo from the Finance Director:

To: Honorary Town Council Members
From: Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance/ HR
Date: October 1, 2019
Re: Planning Board Clerk

During the budget process, the budget board allocated additional funding for the planning board clerk. The amount included an additional stipend of up to \$50 for those meetings over a two hour period. The compensation increase is also for the additional time to produce the minutes of the

meeting. The amount to be paid the clerk is upon the approval of the minutes.

Based on the town planner's observations, the Planning Board meetings have been steadily increasing in length over the past several years. The meetings in 2018 averaged over 2 hours per meeting with 20 meetings convened as compared with the Zoning Board of Review which held 6 meetings averaging just under 30 minutes and the Gloucester Land Trust which held 10 meetings averaging just over 1 hour.

Each of the Clerks for these Boards is paid the same flat rate of \$150 per meeting regardless of the vast differential in work it takes to prepare the minutes. Not surprisingly, the Planning Board is on their 4th Planning Board Clerk in 2 years as the rate of pay steadily decreases as the complexity and length of the business before the Board increases.

The Budget Board recommended adding a flat fee of an additional \$50 for every Planning Board meeting that runs longer than 2 hours. The funds to compensate the Planning Board Clerk the extra fee per meeting that runs over 2 hours have been included in the Planning Board Clerk line item of the Planning Board's FY 20 budget.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the additional payment of up to \$50 per hour to the Planning Board Recording Clerk when Planning Board meeting time exceeds two hours; said funds are included in the current budget; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

Discussion: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the Finance Director's memo mentions a flat fee of an additional \$50.00. J. Fecteau stated that in conversation, she thought it was "per hour", so the motion would have to be amended.

J. Fecteau stated that this is important to the Town Planner because if the hourly wage is increased, all of the recording clerks would want their wage increased. Councilor Forgue commented that the Planning Board does a lot of work and takes longer than other boards.

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the additional payment of \$50 flat fee to the Planning Board Recording Clerk when Planning Board meeting time exceeds two hours; seconded by Councilor Forgue.

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

- A. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from Dennis Danville, of 51 Evelyn's Way, asking the Town to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow micro-breweries, breweries and brew pubs. Councilor G. Steere stated D. Danville is

present to address his request.

Dennis Danville, stated that the location he is looking at is Big Bear, which is zoned B-1. D. Danville explained that a micro-brewery would produce less than 50,000 gallons per year, keeping it as a small scale. Councilor G. Steere asked if beer would be served there also. D. Danville replied that there would be a tap room serving beer and he also would be selling canned beer. D. Danville stated that the State limits tap rooms to serving 36 oz. of beer per person, with can sales limited to 24 cans per person, per visit. D. Danville noted that a brewery does not serve food, where a brew pub does. D. Danville stated that you can bring food in and food trucks are sometimes available.

Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that there is one opening in about a week on Main Street in Pascoag. T. Kane stated that someone could put this on the agenda for the next meeting and refer it to the Planning Department to draft an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. T. Kane noted that Smithfield recently passed such an amendment.

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the Planner and the Zoning Official want to research the State Law regarding what is allowed at different types of breweries, for the Council to be informed when asking the Planning Board what to consider.

Councilor Fogue stated his opinion that this would be great for the Town as it is an up-and-coming thing. Councilor G. Steere concurred and stated that we see them popping up everywhere.

T. Kane stated that someone could put it on the next agenda, get some information from the Planner and the Zoning Official, and then it could be referred to the Planning Board to draft an ordinance for consideration. Councilor Fogue stated that he will put it on the agenda.

Councilor G. Steere noted that we have to have a Public Hearing and asked Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, if there are other things to include at the same time, saving us money on advertising. K. Johnson replied he would look at other items.

- B. Councilor G. Steere stated that correspondence was received from Manafort Construction regarding a pre-construction conference which took place on September 30th. Councilor G. Steere stated that they will be working on two (2) bridges in Gloucester over the next year and a half.

IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

- A. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she has two (2) things from Diane Brennan, Finance Director, who was not present. J. Fecteau stated that the Human Services Department is down to one (1) van driver and the Finance Director is looking for a consensus regarding training him and letting him drive upon successful BCI check

completion. J. Fecteau stated that the hourly rate is \$13.75 with no benefits. J. Fecteau stated that the gentleman's name is Tom Marfeo, of Brook Hill Road. J. Fecteau stated that if the Council approves, she will put it on the next agenda for ratification. There was Council consensus to allow T. Marfeo to drive upon successful BCI check.

Director of Human Services spoke from her seat.

J. Fecteau stated that D. Brennan has requested that a memo be read into the record regarding a bookkeeping error for which she feels no action is necessary. J. Fecteau explained that the Budget was correct, but D. Brennan must make a transfer of \$750.00 from the Police Benefit line to the Police Salary line. J. Fecteau stated that the Finance Director wanted to ensure full disclosure.

Councilor Reichert read the following into the record:

To: The Honorable Town Council Members
From: Diane L. Brennan, Finance, H/R Director
Memo: Transfer Item Date: September 17 2019

This is to acknowledge a transfer to adjust the budget line item salary item for the police chief. The budget provides for an increase in his salary. The amount for his prior year actual salary was listed incorrectly causing the salary item listed for FY 20 also to be listed incorrect. A \$750 transfer from the police benefit line item to the salary line item will reflect the proper increase in his salary for Fiscal 2020. The actual increase in salary will be as the voters approved the budget.

I regret any misunderstanding this may have caused. The amount was overlooked in the presentation of the actual numbers for Fiscal 2019.

There is no formal action to be taken by the council, rather this is to acknowledge the particular line item change based on the salary item shown in the budget.

(End of memo)

- B. Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, spoke regarding the generator project at the Police Station, stating that he will obtain two (2) more quotes from the Master Price Agreement, to compare to what we have. Chief DelPrete requested that this be on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion
None.

XI. Open Forum

- A. Kathy Sorensen stated that she has reviewed the Town Charter and noted that a Charter Committee is supposed to be appointed every fifth year. K. Sorensen stated that the five years has almost expired and asked if a committee will be reviewing the Charter in the near future. The Council replied in the affirmative. K. Sorensen stated that one of the items she would like to see addressed is the 75% of the Real Estate

Conveyance Tax that is given to the Land Trust. K. Sorensen stated that in 2014, it was a \$40,000 appropriation, which has now ballooned into an \$84,000 appropriation.

K. Sorensen stated that she also has an issue regarding her property tax. K. Sorensen stated that when they did the last reval, which was not the physical reval, she noticed a miscellaneous lot fee on her tax bill, adding a value of \$7,800 to her property. K. Sorensen stated that she appealed to Vision Appraisal, who said they did not add that to her bill. K. Sorensen stated that she went to Lori DeSantis, Tax Assessor, who told her it was because she did not allow them into her house, and that the appeal period had lapsed so she could not appeal it. K. Sorensen stated that a physical reval is now underway and asked if she practices her right of privacy and not allow them in her home, will she get more miscellaneous values added to her property. K. Sorensen stated that she has contacted the Attorney General to see if this is lawful because she refuses to let someone into her home.

MULTIPLE PEOPLE TALKING

L. DeSantis stated that she has Vision's appeal sheet and K. Sorensen wanted an appointment, but never showed up. L. DeSantis stated that in the 2010 revaluation, Certified Revaluation and the prior assessor decided to put on this miscellaneous fee.

MULTIPLE PEOPLE TALKING

L. DeSantis stated that she gave K. Sorensen an appeal form and told her she had 90 days to appeal, but she never came in. L. DeSantis stated that she has to treat K. Sorensen like everybody else, fair and equitable. L. DeSantis stated she has since removed the miscellaneous fee.

K. Sorensen replied that she did do the appeal, which was conducted in Room 9 during work, and Vision was unable to answer what this #1 flat was. K. Sorensen stated that when L. DeSantis disclosed to her that it was because they did not go into the home 10 years ago, and the time had expired to file an appeal. K. Sorensen stated that L. DeSantis said that to Jeanne Carcieri also, regarding her property.

L. DeSantis stated to K. Sorensen that she is lying, repeatedly, from her seat and continued to talk over the person who had the podium.

K. Sorensen requested that the duties of the Tax Assessor be made more clear in the Charter; that it is the evaluation of property, not the assumption of property. K. Sorensen stated that there was a mention of a Town Manager last year, but it was tabled because it would have to go to a referendum for the voters, and it was too close to the election to put it on the ballot. Councilor Reichert stated that this was recommended at the last Charter Review but lost in the vote. K. Sorensen asked that this be a consideration of the Council. J. Fecteau explained that the Charter Review Committee comes up with recommendations, then the Council decides which ones go forward and appear on the ballot. J. Fecteau stated she will be advertising for volunteers shortly.

- XII. MOTION to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to: R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2) Collective Bargaining - Contract Negotiations - Discussion and/or action
1. Local Union #638 - International Brotherhood of Police Officers
 2. Local Union #1322 - Town of Gloucester Clerks
 3. Local Union #1322 - Police Department Civilian Employees

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- XIII. Reconvene Open Session
Disclosure of votes taken or # of votes taken in Executive Session - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere disclose that no votes were taken in Executive Session and to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

- XIV. MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Adjourn at 8:59 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED