

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on April 6, 2023

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M. by Councilor W. Worthy, Town Council President.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Cheryl A. Greathouse; Walter M. O. Steere, III; Jonathan E. Burlingame; Stephen W. Arnold, Vice President; William A. Worthy, Jr., President

Also Present: David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director ; Chief Delprete, Gloucester Police; Gary Treml, Director Public Works; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; John Luszcz, Human Services Director; Ken Johnson, Building and Zoning Official (arrived at 7:50 P.M.) ; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director; Karen Scott, Town Planner; and Robert Shields, Recreation Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor W. Worthy stated that anyone wishing to speak on an agenda item can step to the microphone and state your name when called on.

None

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of March 16, 2023 and Special Meeting of March 30, 2023
- B. Abatement of 2012 Tax Year Receivables & 2011 Tax Sales Fees
- C. Pole Grant- Cooper Road- Relocate pole # 71

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of March 16, 2023 and March 30, 2023; APPROVE the ABATEMENT of the 2012 Tax Year Receivables in the amount of \$ 48,658.68 & 2011 Tax Sales Fees in the amount of \$189.83 ; and to APPROVE the POLE GRANT on Cooper Road to relocate pole # 71 seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments- Terms to run concurrent with the Town Council- Discussion and /or Action

a. Affordable Housing Advisory Board- two year term to expire 12/2024- 5 positions

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk’s office has contacted all individuals on the talent bank list and sent the responses to the Planner and the Council liaison. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council may appoint or table.

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that he is the liaison for this board and would like the matter tabled in order for him to speak to the members before this is set.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE the appointments of Positions # 1,2,3,4 and 5 to the Affordable Housing Advisory Board ; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. ARPA Funds

1. Review and/or changes to allocated funds – Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has received a memo from Adam Muccino, Finance Director which he read as follows:

To: Honorable Gloucester Town Council, William Worthy, President  
From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director  
Re: American Rescue Plan Funds - Reallocation  
Date: 04/06/2023

The total unallocated balance of American Rescue Plan funding is \$175,339 (\$3,085,615 awarded less \$2,910,276 in Town Council approved allocations). One projects that I would recommend the Council re-examine and perhaps reallocate all or a portion of the previously allocated amount to is:

**Project 17**— \$190,983 Fire Departments Mobile Repeaters — The Council has previously allocated \$190,983 to fund the purchase of mobile repeater equipment for the (3) fire departments in Town. The Fire Departments are working with the Police Department in order to address deficiencies in their radio system, which may take precedence over the mobile repeater project. Additionally, the Fire Departments will benefit from Project 8, Police Station Tower, as it is the Fire Department communication equipment that needs to go up on the tower; DPW and Police communication equipment do not need to be installed on a tower. In other words, DPW and Police communication

equipment could be installed on the roof of the police department forsaking the tower and the maintenance that goes along with it altogether.

New priorities and/or projects that the Council might consider allocating funding towards, in no particular order, are:

**Project 15** — Chepachet Village Marketing Materials — This project has been in consideration since earlier this year and is essentially a branding initiative for the Chepachet Village. If approved, obviously work can begin on this project. \$25,000

**NEW ARP PROJECT** — Police Department — (1) front line police vehicle. Approval would offset the amount requested as part of the FY24 Budget Board recommended capital budget. \$55,000

**NEW ARP PROJECT** — Senior Center — Couch recovering or new couches. Approval would offset the amount requested as part of the FY24 Budget Board recommended capital budget. \$6,000

**NEW ARP PROJECT** — Senior Center — Storage shed for the Senior Center. Approval would offset the amount included in the Budget Board recommended FY24 Budget Board recommended capital budget. \$15,000

**NEW ARP PROJECT** — Department of Public Works — the loader used by DPW staff is due to have its tires replaced. Approval would offset the expense included in the Budget Board recommended FY24 operating budget. \$20,000

**NEW ARP PROJECT** — Department of Public Works — Automatic generator for the DPW shop on Chestnut Hill. Approval would directly reduce the amount in the FY24 Budget Board recommended capital budget. \$15,000

**NEW ARP PROJECT** — DPW Vehicles — The Budget Board FY24 recommended capital budget includes a four-wheel drive pick-up truck (\$60,000) a four-wheel drive pick-up truck with a plow (\$80,000) and a hook truck with a plow and sander (\$125,000) for the Department of Public Works. Allocating American Rescue Plan funding to any or all of these trucks would directly reduce FY24 Budget Board recommended capital budget.

(End of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor W. Worthy, speaking in regards to Project 17, stated he spoke with the Fire Department Board and all fire departments are meeting next week to discuss this project. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the fire departments would like to give Council an update after that meeting. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the fire departments are trying to decide which system to go with.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that some of these requests could reduce the budget which would be good.

A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that the tires are from the operational budget but that others are either new requests or from the capital budget.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the new requests are in the capital budget which will not effect the

amount of tax required in the budget.

Councilor S. Arnold recommended these matters be tabled as these are not operational requests but rather capital ones. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the budget needs to be refined before the public hearing.

In regards to the Fire depts. request, Councilor S. Arnold stated that he is struggling with this project as the fire departments have their own budgets and send out tax bills. Councilor S. Arnold also stated his opinion that the fire departments came before Council over a year ago with this request and still have not provided the Council with the additional information as Council requested. Councilor S. Arnold stated again that this is a capital request which will not effect the operational budget.

A. Muccino recommends Council fund the new tires for the Department of Public Works.

Councilor J. Burlingame agreed with Councilor S. Arnold as to the fire departments raising money by sending out tax bills. Councilor C. Greathouse stated that it would be important to see the fire departments books. Councilor W. Steere stated that the financial information is available on line as it is public information. Councilor W. Steere stated his agreement with Councilor S. Arnold in tabling this matter.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE Project # 17, Project # 15, the Police Department vehicle, the two Senior Center requests, the DPW generator and new vehicle request; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame.

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Approval of additional allocations- Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to SET Aside \$20,000 in funds for tires for DPW; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: P. Henry, resident, suggested that Council set aside \$200,000 or \$500,000 for road repairs.

C. Review of Community Solar Program with Power Options- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that at the last meeting the Finance Director stated that he received a draft contract for consideration and had shared it with the Town Solicitor for review.

Discussion: A. Muccino requested this item be tabled as he has not been able to schedule a meeting with the Town Solicitor and Power Options.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE review of Community Solar Program with Power-Options ; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Authorization of Bid Extension: RFP 2016-02 Fireworks-Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: A. Muccino stated that this is for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. A. Muccino stated that the original bid was in 2016 and that the vendor is willing to extend the terms. A. Muccino recommends the Council approve the bid. Councilor W. Worthy asked if the cost has increased. A. Muccino stated he did not have the figures with him but he could get them. Councilor J. Burlingame asked if it would cost more if Council delays deciding, A. Muccino stated his opinion that he did not think so. A. Muccino stated that there was time and if the matter was tabled he could get the Council the numbers.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the Authorization of Bid Extension RFP 2016-02; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

E. R.L.M. d/b/a The Village on Chopmist Hill Mobile Home Park  
Request to forgive a Western R.I. Home Repair Mortgage - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this matter was tabled in order to try and obtain more information regarding this request for forgiveness of this debt.

Discussion: D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, summarized the situation and stated that he has not received any new information. D. Igliazzi stressed that the debt is owed but the collect ability is not clear because the value of the trailer is very low. D. Igliazzi stated he did not contact the debtor and does not know if the Town Clerk did. D. Igliazzi stated he will send a letter to the debtor asking him to come to a Council meeting at the request of the Council.

Councilor S. Arnold stated he is not sure if he is willing to forgive this lien because of the precedence it would set. Councilor S. Arnold stated he recognizes the difficulty in collecting on this debt.

Councilor W. Steere stated the question is how far does the Council want to go to collect on this debt in terms of time and money.

D. Igliazzi stated that at the time this debtor received the money, it was a grant program with payment due upon transfer of the trailer. D. Igliazzi stated that the program morphed into a loan program with routine payments.

No action taken

## VII. New Business

### A. Boards and Commissions

#### 1. Resignations- Discussion and/or Action

- a. Recreation Commission- Position # 2- two year term to expire 12/2024

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Jamie Larose from the Recreation Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to ACCEPT the resignation of Jamie Larose from the Recreation Commission, with thanks ; seconded by Councilor w. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

#### 2. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action

- a. Recreation Commission - Position #2- two year term to expire 12/2024

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair has recommended Lewis Pryeor from the talent bank listing to fill the vacancy on the Recreation Commission.

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to APPOINT Lewis Pryeor to the Recreation Commission, Position #2, for a term to expire 12/2024; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Gloucester Code of Ordinance - Proposed Amendments

1. First Readings - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has proposed to add the retail sale of cannabis to the ordinance regulating land use and to add the retail sale of cannabis by special permit in zone B2 ( Highway commercial) and I (Industrial) in the Table of Use Regulations of the Zoning Ordinance. Councilor W. Worthy stated that these documents have been forwarded to Council and reviewed by the Solicitor. Councilor W. Worthy stated that if Council is ready, these documents can be read or described, in detail, by the Solicitor and then classified a first reading.

Discussion: D. Iglizzi summarized the proposed ordinance as to retail sales and their location in B2 and Industrial zones . D. Iglizzi stated that item c. was for a correction to the enacted ordinance as to use. D. Iglizzi stated that state law use is for smoking and vaping and our ordinance included consuming . D. Iglizzi stated that this proposal would remove the word consume from the ordinance to be in accord with state law.

D. Iglizzi explained that this was sufficient for a first reading and if Council is satisfied then a public hearing could be scheduled at which the public can speak and changes can be considered by Council and made if agreed upon.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council was going through this process because the voters approved it. Councilor W. Worthy stated a lot of work was involved.

a. Chapter 350-VII Special Regulations , Section 58.1 Cannabis -  
Addition of : Cannabis Retail Sales

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to DECLARE the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading complete for the proposed Code of Ordinance, Addition of Chapter 350-VII Special Regulations , Section 58.1 Cannabis- Addition of Cannabis Retail Sales ; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Chapter 350 Zoning Attachment 1- Table of Use Regulations -  
Addition of : Cannabis land use - by special permit in zone B2  
(highway commercial) and I (industrial)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to DECLARE the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading complete for the proposed Code of Ordinance, Addition of Chapter 350 Zoning Attachment 1- Table of Use Regulations- Addition of : Cannabis land use by Special permit in zone B2 (highway commercial) and I (Industrial) ; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

c. Chapter 154, Cannabis - Use in Public Places - Correction to C.(1)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to DECLARE the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading complete for the proposed Code of Ordinance, Chapter 154, Cannabis-Use in Public Places correction to C.(1); seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Set Public Hearing Dates- Discussion and/or Action

a. Chapter 350-VII Special Regulations , Section 58.1 Cannabis -  
Addition of : Cannabis Retail Sales

Councilor W. Worthy stated that if the first reading was completed then a Public Hearing can be set for May 18, 2023 if Council & Solicitor agree.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to SET a Public Hearing for May 18, 2023 for consideration of an amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 350-VII Special Regulations, Section 58.1 Cannabis - Addition of Cannabis Retail Sales; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Chapter 350 Zoning Attachment 1- Table of Use Regulations -  
Addition of : Cannabis land use - by special permit in zone B2 (

highway commercial ) and I ( Industrial)

Councilor W. Worthy stated the first reading was completed.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to SET a Public Hearing for May 18, 2023 for consideration of an amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 350-VII Zoning, Attachment 1- Table of Use Regulations - Addition of: Cannabis land use by special permit in zone B2( highway commercial) and I (Industrial); seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

c. Chapter 154, Cannabis - Use in Public Places - Correction to C.(1)

Discussion: C. Mathieu explained that the date was left blank for Council and the Solicitor to decide as this is not a zoning ordinance so it could be held earlier as it has less requirement as to advertising time. D. Iglizzi stated that he feels all should be done at the same time.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to SET a Public Hearing for May 18, 2023 for consideration of an amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 154, Cannabis- Use in Public Places Correction to C.(1) ; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. Senior Center Picnic Pavilion - Incidental increase to funding for IFB #2022-07 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has received a memo from Karen Scott, Town Planner which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members  
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner  
Date: March 22, 2023  
RE: Request to Amend IFB 2022-07

The Town received a Placemaking grant from RI Commerce Corporation for \$150,000 to initiate Phase II of improvements to Gloucester Memorial Park. These improvements include a covered picnic

pavilion and parking improvements. I went out to bid for a pavilion structure and on February 16, 2023, the Town Council approved the purchase of the pavilion for \$113,075 from Coverworx, the low bidder. After reviewing the preliminary engineering, the approval amount must to be amended by \$650. \$450 was added to incorporate electrical access holes into the six (6) center columns and \$200 is for the advance shipping of the anchor bolts for the structure. To accommodate any other small changes, I would like to have this approved as not to exceed \$115,000, which is well within the \$150,000 grant. This is a no match grant and requires no cash contribution from the Town.  
(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to AMEND the approved amount of \$113,075 to an amount not to exceed \$ 115,000.00 ; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- D. Request from the Gloucester Housing Authority to affiliate with the Town of Gloucester for the purpose of obtaining Health/Dental insurance - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has received a memo from Adam Muccino, Finance Director which he read as follows:

To: Gloucester Town Council; William Worthy, President  
From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director  
Re: Gloucester Housing Authority Affiliation with the Town for Health/Dental Coverage  
Date: 04/05/2023

The Town has received a request from the Gloucester Housing Authority (GHA) to affiliate with the Town of Gloucester for the purpose of obtaining Health and Dental coverage for two employees of the GHA. Affiliating would allow the GHA to be insured through the Trust Pools as an affiliate/subgroup under the Town; a group this small would not be able to “stand on its own” as a separately rated entity. The GHA is currently insured through the Town for their property/liability and worker’s compensation.

The Housing Authority would be billed directly, have the benefits it chooses to offer and their own separate rates. Each year, both the Town and the Housing Authority would share risk as the renewal would include the claims experience of both the Town and the Housing Authority enrollees. Other than that, they would be considered a separate entity for billing purposes and be responsible for their own payments to The Trust. Representatives from the Trust have confirmed that in other cities and towns there are a number of other very small entities, similar to the GHA, affiliated with their respective Towns. Both entities would have to sign a very simple one-page affiliation

agreement.

Two immediate concerns arise at the prospect of the GHA affiliating with the Town:

1. Setting precedent to where other entities in Town that meet the eligibility requirement to affiliate with the Town submit their own requests to affiliate for the purpose of purchasing medical and dental insurance.
  - a. Rhode Island General Law § 45-5-20.1(b), the Trust's enabling statute, defines "eligible entities" as "any city, town, school committee, water or fire district, or other public or quasi-municipal authority, agency or entity, or organization that is an instrumentality of such cities or towns, or any group of such cities or towns, authorities, agencies or entities which is a member of the corporations created pursuant to this section."
2. Negative claims experience of the affiliated members negatively affecting the Towns overall claims experience rating. In other words, if the members of the GHA have a significant number of claims, for any reason, that negative experience can/will impact the overall rating of the Town, affecting renewal rates. The risk here is essentially the same as to when the Town hires a new employee and that new employee elects to take health and dental insurance through the Town and potentially add their dependents as well. Essentially when an employee and their dependents are added to the Town's insurance, we have no control over the experience, positive or negative.

Respectfully,

Adam Muccino  
(End of Memo)

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame asked how this matter came about. A. Muccino stated he received an email request. A. Muccino stated the Housing Authority Board has approved. A. Muccino stated that this will not effect the budget and that they will make the payments. A. Muccino stated his concern of the precedent for other entities in town who may also want to join if this is approved.

Councilor S. Arnold stated his concern of the precedent being set if the Council were to approve this matter. Councilor W. Steere stated that this could open the door for others to ask to be included. D.Igliozi suggested investigating the other entities that could qualify if Council wanted.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to DENY the request from Gloucester Housing Authority of the Town of Gloucester for the purpose of obtaining health/dental insurance; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

E. Personnel

1. Authorization - Temporary “fill-in” assistance - Bldg/Zoning Official - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk received a notice from the Human Resources Consultant that he and the Building Official have not yet met.

Discussion: K. Johnson, Building Official , asked the Council to table this matter as he is trying to figure all the details out.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE Authorization for Temporary “fill-in” assistance for the Bldg/Zoning Official ; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Senior Center - Appointment to the “as needed” Interim Director list - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk received a memo from Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director which he read as follows:

To The Honorable Town Council,  
4/3/2023

I am requesting that our Meal Site Coordinator, Bethany Danielson, be included in the list of people who could act as Interim Director in my absence. I have started training her and she is catching on quickly. I am requesting that she would receive a rate of \$20.00 per hour while acting as Interim Director. She currently receives an hourly rate of \$18.00 while working as Part time Meal site Coordinator, this would be a \$2.00 per hour difference which is consistent with the differential for the others who are trained in both positions.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Respectfully,  
Melissa Bouvier

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPOINT , Bethany Danielson to be included on the list of people who may act as Interim Director in the absence of the Senior Center Director at a rate of \$20.00/ hour; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director how many people were on the interim list and how many she felt were needed. M. Bouvier stated that there are currently two people on the list and adding a third person would be better for being prepared when scheduling due to the possibility of illness absences and / or daily life matters.

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

F. Use of funds for a master plan for recreation areas (GMP /Winsor) - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold stated he requested this matter and stated his opinion that preparing a master plan for development of GMP and Winsor Park would be beneficial in terms of applying for and getting grants. K. Scott, Town Planner stated that a phase 1 plan was already done for GMP and looks at general space and elevations to figure out what have and what would fit. K. Scott explained that the scope of a plan and a price could be obtained with the various items that have been suggested . Councilor s. Arnold asked if phase 2 of GMP and Winsor Park could be worked on by the same company that did phase 1. K. Scott stated that they could ask for a scope of work and price and the estimate may be about \$20,000. Councilor S. Arnold asked if there was a way to get a hard number for this. K. Scott stated if the affirmative.

#### VIII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council received correspondence from a potential cannabis retail sales applicant.

#### IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Department Heads wished to speak to come up to the microphone.

1. Chief Delprete stated that the RI Accreditation Commission was at the police station today to review the standards and practices and a final assessment will take place in June. Chief Delprete stated that the Department of Corrections is scheduled for litter cleanup on state roads in Gloucester during the third and fourth weeks of April.

2. J. Luszcz, Human Services Director, stated that the Easter fund raiser he held went great and that he has scheduled an other one at Navigant Credit Union on April 13, 2023 at their request. J. Luszcz thanked several volunteers especially, Rose and Bob Hogan as well as Councilor C.

Greathouse.

3. A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated he has been in touch with the Department of Municipal Finance and he would like to run a new ad for the budget. A. Muccino is waiting for final approval on the ad. A. Muccino stated that the tax rate is dropping lower than the first ad and stated the first ad had to run due to the strict time line so it had some estimations included in it. Councilor J. Burlingame asked if A. Muccino had an estimated tax rate. A. Muccino stated that it was looking to be about \$13.00 plus or minus 20 cents. A. Muccino stated the number will move around. Councilor S. Arnold stated the numbers seem to be moving in the right direction.

4. K. Johnson, Bldg./Zoning, was asked by Councilor W. Steere if he had an update on the West Gloucester situation. K. Johnson stated he has not heard back yet.

D. Igliazzi recommended a reminder letter be sent and K. Johnson will update D. Igliazzi if he receives a response.

Councilor W. Worthy brought a matter to the attention of K. Johnson that he has received complaints about the Coluch matter. Councilor Worthy stated they have been sent a cease and desist order for operating a gravel operation with out the proper license. K. Johnson stated they have been told to come to the clerk's office to apply for a permit and follow the proper procedures. K. Johnson stated that a use change would be required and the proper procedure followed to get a permit.

#### X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any representatives from our Boards wished to speak.

1. Pat Henry, representing Gloucester School committee, gave an update on the Gloucester and Foster/Glocester Regional School committees.

P. Henry stated that the Regional budget was passed and that the Gloucester budget is still being worked on. P. Henry stated that there is not much fund balance remaining so it is too low to touch. P. Henry stated that there is about \$200,000 in the fund balance.

P. Henry stated that a subcommittee is being formed to review the school committee charter to try and clean up old matters and to change the charter to attempt to eliminate the "swing" between Foster and Gloucester that occurs every year. P. Henry stated other regions have found the way to eliminate this problem.

2. B. MacArthur, EDC Chair, stated her thanks for putting the EDC presentation on the next agenda.

3. W. Morin, Land Trust, updated the Council that the meeting between DEM, Land Trust, EMA and Councilor W. Worthy was held. W. Morin explained that it was a productive resettlement conference which helped in understanding the notice of violation. W. Morin stated that a potential consent agreement listing the steps to make the dam safe is a goal. W. Morin stated that another

meeting is scheduled for the end of April but that the consent agreement will not be in place until they have received the engineering report .

Councilor W. Worthy asked about other dams that effect Hawkins. W. Morin stated that there are other dams in other towns that effect Hawkins Dam so they will need to be mindful of performing work when the other dams release water.

G. Mosca, EMA director stated that the meeting went well with DEM and that DEM wants to fix the dam. G. Mosca stated it would be bad to enter into a consent agreement too soon if you do not have all the information.

4. C. Greathouse wanted to acknowledge all the hard work done by J. Luszcz and his volunteers in the food pantry. C. Greathouse stated they are always gracious and thanked residents for their donations. C. Greathouse thanked all shoppers who helped with the recent fund raiser.

#### XI. Open Forum

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone wished to speak and if so to come up to the microphone and state your name.

1. George Charette, resident, spoke on the revaluation he received for his property. G. Charette stated he contacted Vision and had a conversation with a representative as advised if you were challenging the new valuation. G. Charette stated that the new appraisal was not done by a drive by or an on site visit but rather using a computer imagery from the town records. G. Charette explained how and why such an appraisal is not right in his opinion .G. Charette stated the representative stated she applied a percentage based on retail sales in the area without any knowledge of condition. G. Charette also stated how the representative abruptly hung up after 15 minutes without any resolution. G. Charette also stated how rude the representative was. G. Charette complained of the number of the valuation and how it was obtained.

Councilor W. Steere stated that a representative being paid by Gloucester should not be rude and asked A. Muccino to look into this. Councilor W. Steere asked if the time for appointments has been extended. A. Muccino stated that he believes the appointments have opened and for anyone having a difficult time to contact him.

2. J. Lowell, resident, stated her complaints regarding the property in West Gloucester where Smithfield Peat is operating. J. Lowell stated hundreds of trucks have brought materials in and she is very concerned about what is being dumped there. J. Lowell would like action. Councilor W. Worthy stated that he received a lot of calls and further that K. Johnson acted quickly. Councilor Worthy stated we will continue to communicate and hold accountable. Councilor Worthy also stated if need be we will put on a future agenda to update as answers are rec'd.

#### XII. Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

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

Town Council

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to: A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council; seconded by Councilor w. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: Councilor Worthy asked the Clerk to Poll the Council

Councilor J. Burlingame- Aye

Councilor C. Greathouse- Aye

Councilor W. Steere- Aye

Councilor S. Arnold - Aye

Councilor W . Worthy-Aye

MOTION PASSED

**AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**XIII. 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 W. Steere to RECONVENE Open Session; DISCLOSE zero (0) votes were taken in Closed Executive Session; and to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: Councilor Worthy asked the Clerk to Poll the Council

Councilor J. Burlingame- Aye

Councilor C. Greathouse- Aye

Councilor W. Steere- Aye

Councilor S. Arnold - Aye

Councilor W . Worthy-Aye

MOTION PASSED

**XIV . Adjourn**

MOTION was made by Councilor w. Steere to ADJOURN at 9:36p.m.; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE:

AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED