

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on March 3, 2022

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

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

Member absent: William A Worthy, Jr.

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Chief Joseph Delprete; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Robert Shields, Recreation Director; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director; and John Luszc, Human Services Director.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Reichert asked all to remain standing to observe a moment of silence for Marjorie Swift, resident and member of Historic District Commission, who recently passed away.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes : Regular meeting of February 17, 2022

B. Pole Grant - Snake Hill Road (New pole #249-50 and relocation of existing pole #250)

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of February 17, 2022 and to APPROVE the Pole Grant for Snake Hill Road, new pole #249-50 and relocation of existing pole #250; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Reichert, Steere

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action

a. Recreation Commission

1. Position # 1- one unexpired term to expire 12/31/22

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

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

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission, Position #5; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Economic Development Commission

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

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Position #2, for a term to expire 12/31/2022 ; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

c. Planning Board

1. Position # 4- One 5-year term to expire 3/31/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation from the chair at this time. Councilor Reichert stated that Council can appoint or table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to APPOINT John Bart to the Planning Board, position #4, for a term to expire 3/31/2022 ; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

d. Budget Board

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

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board, Position #3, for a term to expire 12/31/2023 ; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

e. Parade Committee

1. Alternate #1
2. Alternate #2
3. Position # 8
4. Position # 9

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

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

f. Land Trust

1. Position # 1- one 5 year term to expire 2/2027

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to APPOINT Kimberley Justham to the Land Trust, Position #1, for a five year term to expire 2/2027; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: Bruce Payton thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the Town and further stated if the Council needs him Council has his contact information.

B. Social Media Policy-Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received the final document in their packets.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the Social Media Policy to be dated March 3, 2022; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: Councilor Arnold stated that he really hopes the policy will be ready for next meeting. Councilor Steere stated he has some concerns regarding training for administrators and safety protocols because of the increase in phishing schemes. Councilor Arnold thanked all who have worked on the policy.

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Proposed Policies

1. Liaison Policy-Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that this item was tabled last meeting.

Discussion: Councilor Arnold stated that he is not comfortable with the suggestion in the proposed policy that a councilor almost needs an invitation to attend a board or commission meeting. Councilor Arnold understands the problem with a councilor being too involved and steering a board or commission but feels the tone should be discussed. Councilor Arnold stated that he also has a concern about the statement that if a board has a problem then the assigned liaison needs to bring the matter before the Council. Councilor Arnold stated that the practice is not the concern but rather the form in which the matter is brought before Council needs to be defined. Councilor Steere suggested that it would be brought before Council by requesting it on the agenda. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that it should be an agenda item and/or the liaison could email all the council so long as a do not reply to all message is included. Council discussed if it should be a formal part of every agenda. D. Igliazzi stated that it can be an agenda item if requested

and then perhaps an advance email to Council to let them know about the matter. Councilor Laplante understands Councilor Arnold's concerns but feels a councilor can attend board meetings but can't interfere with the meeting, as a councilor, because they may have a private citizen reason for being there.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the Town Council Liaison Policy; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Security Camera Policy- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that this proposed policy was tabled for input and that the policy has been sent to all town hall employees.

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated that he has received input from Chief Delprete and asked about input from the IT Director. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she received input from the IT Director today. J. Fecteau stated that the feedback from the IT Director included a statement that the security cameras were on a loop of about 2 weeks so the specific date would be required. J. Fecteau stated that she would send the exact wording to the council.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the Town of Gloucester Security Camera Policy; seconded by Councilor Arnold.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to move Item D. Consideration of Approval for the hiring/retaining outside legal counsel for an active Planning Board application to Section VII. A. 1. Waiver of Conflict - Town Solicitor ; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, stated that he requested this change in the agenda in order to avoid redundancy.

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Award of Bid - Discussion and/or Action

1. RFP 2022-01 Redistricting/ Reapportionment Services

Councilor Reichert stated that the Board of Contracts and Purchases met on February 22, 2022 to consider a recommendation to the Town Council. Councilor Reichert stated that the Board considered a recommendation from the Clerk which he read as follows:

Date: February 21, 2022

TO: Town Council  
Board of Contracts & Purchases

FROM: Jean Fecteau, Clerk  
Board of Canvassers

RE: RFP #2022-01 Redistricting/Reapportionment

On Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Board of Canvassers met and reviewed the bid for the above RFP.

The Board voted unanimously to recommend ARCBridge Consulting & Training Inc. at the bid sum of \$8,995.00. Myself and members of the Board have reviewed the bid and feel it meets all requirements and represents the experience needed to complete this project.

For the record, ARCBridge was the sole bidder for this RFP.

We ask that the Board consider our recommendation and forward to the Town Council for award of the bid.

J. Fecteau

(end of memo)

Councilor Reichert stated that the Board of Contracts and Purchases then voted unanimously to recommend to the Town Council the award to ARCBridge Consulting & Training Inc.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to AWARD RFP #2022-01 Redistricting/Reapportionment to ARCBridge Consulting & Training Inc. at the bid sum of \$8,995.00; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

F. American Rescue Plan Act Funds - Discussion and/or Action

1. Review additional proposed use of funds

Discussion: K. Scott, Town Planner, gave a follow up to a couple of Council questions from the Town

Council meeting of February 17, 2022. K. Scott stated that the CBDG funds could not be used for the well and septic program because that program has qualification requirements specific for low/moderate income individuals which the village businesses and owners do not qualify. K. Scott stated that the RI Infrastructure Bank has a lot of different programs for cities and towns with public water and/or sewers but none for cities and towns where residents and businesses have private wells and septic systems. K. Scott stated that she has a meeting scheduled with the RI Infrastructure Bank to try to close this loophole because small businesses are the backbone of small town economy. K. Scott stated that the EDC has some ideas for designing a marketing strategy for the village and the town which they hope to have ready to present to the Council in a few weeks. K. Scott stated that G. Mosca, EMA Director, has information regarding the high hazard dams.

G. Mosca stated that he met with the dam safety person at DEM who stated that the state deems five (5) dams in Gloucester as unsafe. G. Mosca stated that there are four dams that are considered high hazard and one that is considered a significant hazard. G. Mosca stated that the significant hazard dam can be eliminated as it is owned by the Providence Water Supply Board. G. Mosca stated that one high hazard dam is owned by DEM and DEM is already working on it. G. Mosca stated that the three high hazard dams in Gloucester: at Lake Washington, Bowdish Lake and Waterman Lake. G. Mosca stated that the Lake Washington dam has not been properly inspected as it is too overgrown and the Waterman Lake dam is shared with Smithfield. G. Mosca is proposing setting aside money from the ARPA funds and implementing a matching grant program for these dams to be repaired. G. Mosca outlined some suggested qualifications for participation. G. Mosca stated that the Lake Washington Dam is expected to be inspected this spring; that the Waterman Lake Association is open to helping fix the dam if Gloucester and Smithfield also help; and, that he anticipates the Bowdish dam needing cleanup rather than repairs. G. Mosca stated that he will reach out to Smithfield EMA to see if they are open to setting aside money to help repair the dam which may actually be in Smithfield either fully or part. Councilor Steere stated that what G. Mosca has presented to Council makes sense.

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, asked if Council would like a list of prospective projects to be put together for voting by the council at the next meeting that would include high hazard dams, well and septic program, marketing, small grant program for non profits and capital projects. Councilors Arnold and Steere stated that would be good. K. Scott stated she would prepare a memo as to the non profits and recommended that any subgrant projects would need to be administered with plans and invoices to meet federal requirements. K. Scott offered to administer the program, if approved, as she has experience with federal grant applications.

A. Muccino, Finance Director, would like to add a few items to the proposed list for Council to consider at the next meeting. A. Muccino stated that a trailer for the police department was budgeted at \$15,000 but if the request is now to use ARPA funds then the \$15,000 appropriation could be returned to the budget. A. Muccino stated that the same could be done with the \$108,000 request from the police for two budgeted vehicles.

P. McKenney (sp?) Gloucester Little League, made a request to the Council for ARPA funds to be used primarily to fix the town's fields including sprinklers, hydro seeding, well repairs and infield mix at an

estimated total of \$50,000. P. McKenny stated that the money was needed as there was no baseball in 2020 and that they lost all of their revenue which is sponsor based. K. Scott explained a process where a non profit could apply for and receive money from ARPA funds and how it could be administered. P. McKenny will provide K. Scott with a detailed list of what they need and want to spend the money on as well as the support explaining the loss in revenue.

J. Fecteau stated that she received a request from the Harmony Fire Department for ARPA funds. Councilor Laplante stated that the request involves the purchase of mobile repeaters which he explained and added that the Chief is getting bids and would like the Council to consider the request. J. Fecteau stated that if Council would like, she can leave the item on the agenda for Council to continue hearing requests.

K. Scott stated that there were several other internal requests she would like to add to the list for Council's consideration at the next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the set asides for non profits and other suggestions through the American Rescue Act Fund to the next meeting; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Seeking further Public Input or proposals for use of funds

Discussion: Council has received a request from the Harmony Fire Department to be included on the next Council agenda for consideration.

Action included in #1

G. Human Services Department - Proposed Program: Volunteer List for Snow Shoveling - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that this item was tabled last meeting. Councilor Reichert stated that the Senior Center Director was to get information on whether this service was provided by the Village Common Program and if it was included under their insurance umbrella policy.

Discussion: M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director, stated that the snow shoveling does fall under the Village Common insurance policy.

J. Luszczyk, Human Services Director, stated that after the last meeting he had a discussion with Chief Delprete and he has decided to go in a different direction. J. Luszczyk stated that there will be a volunteer list and that the person asking for help will contact the volunteers directly which will eliminate town liability. J. Luszczyk stated that G. Kain was not going to be paid if he was to have been the driver for the volunteers.



Chief Delprete stated that M. Bouvier and H. Dufanay will be working on that program.

VII. New Business

A. Authorization for signature

1. Waiver of Conflict - Town Solicitor - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that this item is on agenda pursuant to concerns regarding a conflict of interest both he and the assistant solicitor had involving the Overlook project, he contacted the attorney for Overlook to see if they would consider waiving the conflict. D. Igliazzi stated that he had represented Overlook in 2014. D. Igliazzi stated that Overlook waived the conflict and the waiver is in Council's packet. D. Igliazzi stated that the matter before the Council is whether the Council would consider waiving the conflict also. D. Igliazzi stated he has contacted the Town Planner about the waiver and let the Planning Board know in case they had any concerns and/or objections.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Waiver of Conflict, on behalf of Atty. David Igliazzi, for Planning Board advisory work on the Overlook Ridge, LLC, Bella Vista Group, LLC, application currently before Planning Board; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

**MOVED TO THIS LOCATION ON THE AGENDA:**

D. Planning Department

1. Consideration of Approval for the hiring/retaining outside legal counsel for an active Planning Board application - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that this item was tabled last meeting per recommendation of the Solicitor.

Discussion: D. Igliazzi stated that this item is now moot as the Town has an attorney to represent them in the Planning Board application so this item could be removed from the table, if Council decides.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to REMOVE from the table Item D. Planning Department 1. Consideration of Approval for the hiring/retaining outside legal counsel for an active Planning Board applicant; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

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

Councilor Reichert stated that Council held off setting any public hearing dates while Council meetings were held by Zoom. Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk can now advertise and the hearings can proceed if Council is ready.

1. Chapter 113. Recreation Commission  
(1<sup>st</sup> Reading held on 2/3/2022)

Councilor Reichert stated that the first reading of this proposed ordinance amendment has been held. Councilor Reichert stated that this amendment was proposed originally to clarify the duties stated in the Charter for the Recreation Commission. Councilor Reichert stated that there are copies on the table to anyone interested.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to SET a Public Hearing for the consideration of the amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 113, Recreation Commission, for April 7, 2022; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Chapter # 300, Repeal, Subdivision Regulations  
(1<sup>st</sup> Reading held on 1/6/2022)

Councilor Reichert stated that this proposal was to eliminate the Subdivision Regulations from the Code of Ordinance. Councilor Reichert stated that as a way to explain the proposal, in the Planner's explanation she stated "Chapter 106, Planning Board, Sections 106-8, 106-9 and 106-10 of the Gloucester Code of Ordinances gives the Planning Board the authority to adopt, amend and administer regulations governing land development and subdivision projects within the Town of Gloucester".

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to SET a Public Hearing for the consideration of the amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 300, Repeal of Subdivision Regulations, for April 7, 2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- C. Boards and Commissions
  - 1. Resignations- Discussion and/or Action
    - a. Safety Commission

- 1. Position # 5 -member at large - term to expire 12/31/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Councilor David Laplante from the Safety Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ACCEPT the resignation of David Laplante from the Safety Commission, Position #5; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- b. Land Trust
        - 1. Position # 2- term to expire 2/28/2026

Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Steven St Pierre, on 2/17/2022, from the Land Trust, effective immediately.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the resignation of Steven St Pierre from the Land Trust, Position #2, effective February 17, 2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Position # 5- term to expire 2/28/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk has also received the resignation of Land Trust member James Giarrusso, on 2/17/2022, to be effective immediately.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ACCEPT the resignation of James Giarrusso from the Land Trust, Position #5, effective February 17, 2022; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Reichert, Steere  
NAYS-Arnold

MOTION PASSED

- c. Historic District Commission
- . Declare Seat Vacant - Position #3- term to expire 11/1/2024

Councilor Reichert stated that one of our volunteers to the Historic District Commission has passed away. Councilor Reichert stated that with regrets we must declare position #3 vacant.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to DECLARE position #3, Historic District Commission vacant; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: Council members offered condolences to the family

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

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action
- a. Safety Commission

- 1. Position # 5- member at large- term to expire 12/31/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk has sent a talent bank listing to the Chief. Councilor Reichert stated that the Chief has a recommendation to appoint.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to APPOINT Joseph Desrosiers to the appointment to the Safety Commission, Position #5 member at large, for a term to expire 12/31/2022 ; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- b. Land Trust
- 1. Position # 2- term to expire 2/28/2026

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to TABLE the appointment to the Land Trust , Position #2, for a term to expire 2/28/26 ; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Position # 5- term to expire 2/28/2023

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to APPOINT William Morin to the Land Trust , Position #5, for a term to expire 2/28/23 ; seconded by Councilor Steere

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Member at large -Planning Board- one year term to expire 2/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that this appointment is for the expired member-at large from the Planning Board, Janine Pitocco. Councilor Reichert added that Janine has stated she would like to be reappointed.

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked if the Planning Board had voted and made a recommendation and, if not, based on past practice the matter could be tabled.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Land Trust, member at large from the Planning Board for a term to expire 2/2023; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: none

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

MOTION PASSED

c. Board of Canvassers

1. Position # 1- 6 year term to expire 3/2028

Councilor Reichert stated that this appointment is for the expired term of David Calderara. Councilor Reichert stated that Member Calderara has stated he would like to be reappointed to the Board of Canvassers.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to REAPPOINT David Calderara to the Board of Canvassers for a term to expire 3/2028; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

d. Planning Board

1. Position # 3- 5 year term to expire 3/2027

Discussion: J. Fecteau stated that this is for the expired term for M. DeGrange and that he does want to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to REAPPOINT Michael DeGrange to the Planning Board, Position #3 for a term to expire 3/2027 ; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- e. Historic District Commission
  - 1. Position #3- term to expire 11/1/24

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the Historic District Commission, Position #3, for a term to expire 11/1/2024; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- D. Authorization to Sign: Contract between Town of Gloucester & ARCBridge Consulting & Training Inc. (RFP 2022-01 Redistricting/Reapportionment Services) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk has submitted a contract between the town and ARCBridge for the redistricting work to be done. Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk is asking the contract be signed by Council as soon as possible to begin the work to meet the state's April deadline.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the contract agreement between the Town of Gloucester and ARCBridge Consulting & Training Inc.; said contract to ensure the completion of town wide voter redistricting; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: J. Fecteau stated that she does not usually put the bid and the contract on the same agenda but time is of the essence.

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

MOTION PASSED

- E. Authorization of Expenditure of Funds - Earth Day Clean Up Advertisement - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor Arnold stated his opinion that this is an important event and he would like it to continue. J. Colaluca, resident and chair, asked the Council to pay for the advertisement in the Bargain Buyer for the event scheduled on April 23, 2022 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. It was discussed that R.

Shields, Recreation Director, could be reached to get permission for the Earth Day group to use the Kent Pavilion. J. Colaluca stated how impressed she was last year with all the help especially from former Council President, J. Forgue. J. Colaluca stated the list of sponsors and their donations; that she is in need of volunteers and trucks; and, that she will prepare the ad. Councilor Arnold asked about the specifics of the ad. Councilor S. Arnold asked if the ad would simply state the date, time, and location as well as who to contact. J. Colaluca agreed that was the make up of the ad. J. Colaluca stated that people may contact her and that she requested gloves and garbage bags from DPW. J. Fecteau confirmed that there were funds in the Council's advertising account that could be used.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to AUTHORIZE the expenditure of Town Council advertising funds for an Earth Day 2022 Clean Up advertisement in an amount not to exceed \$375.00 from the Town Council advertising budget; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

F. Authorization to Seek Bids - Revaluation Services - For the 2023 Tax Roll - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated he is requesting approval to seek bids for the revaluation services for the 2023 tax roll.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to authorize the Finance Director to seek bids for revaluation services for the 2023 tax roll; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

G. The Village Common Program - Discussion and/or Action regarding Town participation

Discussion: M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director, stated that she has had conversations with Village Common and the Burrillville Recreation Director. M. Bouvier stated that she received a memo of understanding from Village Common just today and needs more time to be able to understand it properly. M. Bouvier asked the Council if they would table this item.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE action on Item. G. The Village Common Program; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

H. Authorization for purchase of Ipad's - Gloucester Senior Center (American Rescue Plan Act Funds) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council voted, on February 3, 2022, to set aside an amount not to exceed \$17,000 from the American Rescue Act funds for an iPad borrow program for the Gloucester Senior Center.

Councilor Reichert stated that our IT Director is ready to go forward with the purchase of 15 - 9<sup>th</sup> Generation Apple Ipad's, 64GB model with Otterbox protective cases and 3 years of cellular data coverage under the Verizon Wireless Digital Inclusion Plan in the amount of \$13,627.35

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the purchase of 15 - 9<sup>th</sup> Generation Apple Ipad's, 64GB model with Otterbox protective cases and 3 years of cellular data coverage under the Verizon Wireless Digital Inclusion Plan in the amount of \$13,627.35; said purchase to be made from Verizon Wireless (per RI MPA#299 Wireless voice, data, and accessories - NASPO); seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor Reichert stated that the following correspondence is in your packet:

1. Councilor Reichert stated that Dr. Barnes notice of retirement from Foster/Glocester Region at the end of current school year.
2. Councilor Reichert stated that there is a Memo from Human Services Director informing Council of the increasing number of clients being served and additional services he is offering.

Councilor Reichert asked J. Luszczyk if he wanted to speak. J. Luszczyk, Human Services Director, stated that he had a meeting with A. Muccino regarding his concerns about the amount of money the Human Services Department was spending. J. Luszczyk stated that his department is healthy ; that it is actually 18% over budget due to the generosity of the residents and several fundraisers; that the number of clients has risen from 30 to 70; more vouchers have been given out due to that increase in clients; and, that he just wanted to keep the Council informed. J. Luszczyk stated that fuel was being given out seasonally and agreed with Councilor Reichert that the season should be from October to March. J. Luszczyk expects the food voucher program to be about \$15,000 per year.



No action taken

3. Councilor Reichert stated that the approved amendment for the Gloucester Memorial Park Recreation Grant is included.
4. Councilor Reichert stated there is a Use of Senior Center form received from Gloucester Lions for their annual breakfast to be held on May 1, 2022. Councilor Reichert stated that the Lions need a sponsor for the event. Councilor Reichert stated that the sponsor is the person that gives them access in the morning and checks and secures the building when the event is over. Councilor Reichert stated that sponsors are Council members or the Senior Center Director.

J. Fecteau stated that usually someone volunteers. M. Bouvier volunteered to open and close the door for the Lions breakfast.

5. Councilor Reichert stated that a Use of Senior Center form received from a citizen requesting the use of the building for a coffee hour on 4/24/2022. Councilor Reichert stated that also included are the rules and regulations for use of building which they will receive if they get a sponsor.

M. Bouvier stated that usually non profits have been given permission to use the building and this is a for profit group. M. Bouvier raised concerns regarding cleaning, and keeping the building safe. M. Bouvier suggested that maybe they would be open to holding it during senior center hours which would allow her to keep an eye on it. J. Fecteau offered to contact the people requesting the use and talk to them about perhaps using the Pavilion and /or using the Senior Center during normal hours of operation.

No action taken

#### IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

1. K. Scott, Town Planner stated that the bids have gone out for site work at GMP and are due back by March 24, 2022. K. Scott stated that the National Historic District grants are in the process of being signed by the contractors and the owners and she expects construction in the spring. K. Scott stated that the certified local grant that the town received to hire the architect has been closed but they contacted her with the possibility of more money so she will be on the next agenda with more information.

No action taken

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

1. Councilor Arnold stated he had talked to G. Treml, DPW Director, about the location of the ice rink for next year but now asked R. Shields, Recreation Director. R. Shields stated that the location would depend upon the status of GMP and what open space is available. R. Shields emphasized that wherever it is that the fence served as a good deterrent and that he would rely upon G. Treml's expertise. G. Treml stated that there should be a good spot at GMP to the left of the new park especially as it has lighting. G. Treml stated that he has measured the location; that it can be paved and a permanent fence installed. G. Treml estimated the cost of the paving to be \$10,000 and the cost of the fence to be \$22,000. G. Treml added that

due to the times a total of \$50,000 would be more accurate of an estimate. R. Shields added that the yearly expense of a liner (at approximately \$1200 to \$1500 ) would be included in the Recreation Department budget. K. Scott confirmed she knows the location G. Treml is speaking about and offered a reminder to make sure to keep the handicap spot open.

2. Councilor Steere thanked G. Mosca, EMA Director,; Captain Fague; Matt Floor and all the volunteers for their time and efforts handling the COVID clinics and pandemic.

3. Councilor Arnold stated that the principal at Ponaganset Middle School has resigned and that he was a tremendous asset to the school community.

#### XI. Open Forum

Councilor Reichert asked if there was anyone wishing to speak in Open Forum to please state your name for the record when called upon to speak at the podium

None

Councilor Reichert stated that we now need a motion to convene to executive session:

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

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(5) Land Acquisition - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council pertaining to land acquisition for municipal purposes
- B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Potential Litigation - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(5) Land Acquisition - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council pertaining to land acquisition for municipal purposes
- B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Potential Litigation - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Reconvene Open Session; Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session and Seal the Minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 11:15 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED