

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on June 20, 2024

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; Jonathan E. Burlingame; Walter M.O. Steere, III; William A. Worthy, Jr. , President

Member absent: Stephen W. Arnold, Vice President;

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliozzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Jane Steere, Tax Collector; Gary Treml, DPW Director; Chief Delprete, Robert Shields, Recreation Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor W. Worthy asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

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

None

V. Citations - Eagle Scouts - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we have eight young men in Gloucester that will achieve the position of Eagle Scout at a ceremony to be held on June 23, 2024. Councilor W. Worthy stated that tonight the Council will adopt citations for the troop and each young man for their dedication to their community and their troop. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the citations will be presented to the scouts at their ceremony, but invited those present to please stand when their name is called.

Councilor W. Worthy read the Citation for the Eagle Scouts as follows:

State of Rhode Island

Town of Gloucester

*Citation*

*2024-01*

**Be it hereby known to all that the Town of Gloucester hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to Gloucester Scout Troop 44.**

**In recognition of their Scouts achieving the highest ranking honor of**

*Eagle Scout*

*in the Boy Scouts of America.*

To achieve this award, Scouts must work diligently and consistently for several years, be good leaders of others and follow good examples set forth in Scouting. These Scouts gave of their time to better our community with the following Eagle Scout projects:

*Allister Christian Becker* created a pollinator garden with landscaping for all to enjoy on Grove Street in Pascoag, Rhode Island.

*Anthony Michael Caito* organized a pet food drive for the Chepachet Union Church food pantry.

*Brett Andrew Corrigan* made needed renovations to the Ponaganset High School sign base.

*Martin Geoffroy* provided picnic tables and landscaping at Chepachet Union Church for all to enjoy.

*Killian Van Moore* made planters to add beauty to the Gloucester Senior Center for all to enjoy.

*Benjamin Edward Nadeau* made a food and supply donation box for contributions at the Gloucester Animal Shelter.

*Deagan Ashton Roux* made bat boxes with information panels for the Duck Pond in Burrillville, Rhode Island.

*Adrian Michael Swiencki* organized an in kind donation drive for Crossroads RI to benefit those in need.

The Town Council, Town Clerk and citizens of Gloucester are proud to honor these Eagle Scouts of Scout Troop 44, Gloucester.

**William A. Worthy, Jr. President,  
Gloucester Town Council**

**Jean M. Fecteau, CMC,  
Town Clerk**

Dated this 20th day of June 2024

seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated his congratulations to all Eagle Scouts. Councilor W. Steere also stated his congratulations to all of the leaders, especially Myles Beltram, as it is a tribute to them for the development of so many Eagle Scouts over the years.

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Police Department -

A. Police Station Addition & Renovations- Public outreach, questions & answers- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Chief Delprete hoped that tonight could be a time for any new information to be shared and questions answered, should anyone from the public have any questions.

Discussion:

1. Mark Saccoccio, from Saccoccio and Associates, Architects, stated a brief summary of the project by describing the various areas of the proposal to the existing police station and the addition of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

(Unknown speaker) asked for a breakdown of the costs. M. Saccoccio read the proposed costs from the powerpoint slide. (Unknown speaker) asked if there would be a new cell tower. Chief Delprete stated that a new cell tower would be built as the current tower has been condemned but there are other available funds for the cell tower and that is not part of this proposal. (Unknown speaker) asked about the septic system. Chief Delprete stated a new septic system had been installed about 5 years ago and it will support the renovations. M. Saccoccio stated that commercial systems are based on usage and it will support the new proposal.

W. Steere, resident, asked about the water problems at the site. M. Saccoccio stated that they had done multiple test pits and that the issue has been addressed in the plans. Chief Delprete stated that the excavation and site work are included in the proposal so that the area of the biggest water concern at the present garage will be taken care of.

Chief Delprete gave a description of the EOC and how it would be a center for towns in northwestern RI. M. Saccoccio stated the renovations would take care of the town for the foreseeable future.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if the Chief feels the renovations will make the people of Gloucester feel safer and if it would make the job easier. Chief Delprete stated that he has a good department and there won't be major changes to how the job is currently done but it will improve how it is done and better prepare for the future.

M. Saccoccio described that the design of the renovations improves the chain of custody ; improves the processing of prisoners as to safety; and improves the function of all aspects. Chief Delprete stated that the new design will meet and exceed national accreditation standards.

Councilor W. Steere stated that Council had hoped to have the bond financial attorney speak tonight. D. Iglizzi stated a suggestion to have the information as to the financial impact on taxpayers of this proposed bond be placed on the town website as it was presented at a public meeting two months ago.

Councilor W. Steere stated that additional grants are still being investigated and applications made. Councilor W. Steere asked the typical time frame for this project. M. Saccoccio stated two years.

D. Iglizzi stated that the town clerk has been working on the details for this special election. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the state assigned the August 6<sup>th</sup> date as the only date available due to other elections throughout the state. W. Steere, resident, asked when the date was decided. J. Fecteau stated that the Council decided on the special election at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Town Council special meeting but the state set the date. W. Steere, resident, asked the cost of this election. J. Fecteau stated that the cost started at about \$10,000 but she has been able to reduce some costs and stated people may have to wait in line. J. Fecteau stated that she is cutting down on staffing and that mail ballots are available as is early voting. Chief Delprete stated he is very excited the election is August 6<sup>th</sup> and that time is of the essence. Councilor W. Worthy stated that this election had concerns as to the timing because of the grants. Chief Delprete stated that he is currently purchasing equipment under the \$490,000 C.O.P. grant because it expires at the end of this year.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Bond Referendum will be held on August 6, 2024. Councilor W. Worthy stated that there are mail ballot applications available in the clerk's office or on line and there will be 20 days of early voting at the town hall starting July 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. up to the day before the referendum.

No Action taken by Council

VII. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of June 6, 2024
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements - May 2024
- C. Finance Director's Report - May 2024

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of June 6, 2024; to APPROVE the Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements for May 2024: No Additions to the 2023 Tax Roll; Abatement to the 2023 Tax Roll in the amount of \$943.64, the 2022 Tax Roll in the amount of \$294.55, the 2021 Tax Roll in the amount of \$276.60, the 2020 Tax Roll in the amount of \$273.30, and the 2019 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,220.27; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for May 2024; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards and Commissions - Appointments
  - 1. Parade Committee -  
Position #4, Alternate #2, & Alternate #3 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there is no recommendation from the Chair at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointments to the Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor J.Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Efforts to fill vacant positions - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk’s office has sent out advertisements and letters to existing talent bank residents. Councilor W. Worthy stated that from this effort the database will be updated and the results will be brought to Council in August.

No action necessary.

3. Housing Authority  
Position #5 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair has recommended the appointment of Stephen Gadoury, a talent bank form has been filed.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Stephen Gadoury to the Housing Authority, Position #5, for a term to expire June 30, 2025; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

A. Special Event Application - Discussion and/or Action

1. Gloucester Business Association -Trick or Treat on Main Street (Previously held event)

Proposed event scheduled to be held on October 26, 2024

a. Consideration and/or Action to WAIVE Public Hearing

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has received an application from the GBA to hold the annual Trick or Treat on Main Street event on October 26, 2024. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the representative has indicated to the Clerk that the event will remain unchanged from previous years. Councilor W. Worthy stated that therefore, the Council can choose to waive the Public Hearing per the Code of Ordinance, Chapter 175.4-b.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to WAIVE a Public Hearing for the Gloucester Business Association application for a Special Event: “Trick or Treat on Main Street” to be held on October 26, 2024; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Consideration and/or Action to APPROVE event (if PH waived)  
Councilor W. Worthy stated that as the public hearing is waived, the Council can consider the application for a special event.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated a concern that there shouldn't be political signs associated with this event as it is for the kids. Councilor W. Steere also stated that there have not been any problems with this event in the past.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPROVE the application for a Special Event, GBA Trick or Treat, on October 26, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., starting locations: the Pavilion at Kent Field, "Whisky Pearl" location, and a third location to be determined and approved by the Chief of Police; said use of town property subject to:

1. Authorization by signature of the Gloucester Recreation, Field Permit Application;
2. Adhering to the stipulations of the previously adopted "Pavilion at Kent Field Use Policy" with the following waivers: Chapter 221-18 I. To allow banner on grounds & Chapter 221-18 N. To allow local business coupons and other "promotional" items to be distributed to adults" during the event.  
Permission shall also be granted for a canopy to be set up with tables and chairs at the exit point of parking lot; in addition, Committee shall notify DPW prior to the event to request the blocking of the parking lot exit point;
3. Police and Fire Approval shall be received by applicant and filed with the Town Clerk prior to issuance of license. Both Police and Fire may require safety measures, including manpower details, as they deem necessary.
4. Additional stipulations may be made and added by a vote of the Town Council prior to the event;

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Personnel

1. Vacation Time - Carry Over - Discussion and/or Action
  - a. Building/Zoning Office - Senior Clerk

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a request from the Building/Zoning Office Senior Clerk which he read as follows:

June 14, 2024

TO: Town Council Members  
FROM: Denise Cadoret, Building Office Clerk  
RE: Carry over unused Vacation Hours

I am writing to ask permission to carry over 68.75 additional hours of my unused vacation time. Unfortunately it is not the best time right now in my Department to take time off with Ken's absence. Thank you for your consideration.  
(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to GRANT the request for carry over of 68.75 hours of unused vacation time for Denise Cadoret, Building Office Clerk; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Town Clerk's Office - Senior Clerk

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a request from the Town Clerk which he read as follows:

To: Gloucester Town Council  
From: Jean Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk  
RE: Carry over vacation hours for Senior Clerk

Councilors,  
I am asking the Town Council to consider the request of Senior Clerk, Susan Harris , to carry over 19.5 hours of unused vacation time for FY 2023/2024 to FY 2024/2025.  
Thank you,  
Jean Fecteau, Clerk  
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to GRANT the request for carry over of 19.5 hours of unused vacation time for Susan Harris; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

c. Tax Collector

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a request from the Finance Director which he read as follows:

Memo: Honorable Town Council  
From: Elizabeth A. Beltram, Finance Director  
Re: Vacation time allotment carryforward  
Date: June 20, 2024

Tax Collector, Jane A. Steere, has accrued a vacation time balance during FY24 amounting to 5 days in excess of the allowable carry forward amount. As a result, I would respectfully request that she be granted permission to carry this time forward for use during FY25.

(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to GRANT the request for a carry over of 37.5 hours of unused vacation time for Jane Steere; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

d. DPW Director

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a request from the DPW Director which he read as follows:

June 14, 2024

To: Honorable Town Council  
From: Gary Treml  
Public Works Director  
Re: Vacation Time Carry Over

I am requesting approval to allow DPW Administrative Aide, Beth DeCorte to carry over up to 37.50 hours of vacation time from 2023/2024 fiscal year to 2024/2025.

I would also like to request to carry over up to 60 hours of vacation time from 2023/2024 fiscal year to 2024/2025 for myself.

Respectfully,  
Gary Treml, Public Works Director  
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to GRANT the request for carry over of 60 hours of unused vacation time for Gary Treml; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None



VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, J.Burlingame , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0  
MOTION PASSED

e. DPW - Union Administrative Aide  
(memo included in previous item)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to GRANT the request for the carry over of 37.5 hours of unused vacation time for Beth DeCorte; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, J.Burlingame , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0  
MOTION PASSED

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated that unless there are extenuating circumstances that vacations should be taken and a request for a carryover should include a reason. Councilor W. Steere stated that these requests are highly irregular as the Council does not typically have these requests. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that there were a lot of extenuating circumstances in multiple departments with people being out sick and others having to cover.

2. Resignation

a. Public Safety - Assistant ACO - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the resignation of Victoria Kramer, Assistant ACO.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to ACCEPT, with thanks, the resignation of Victoria Kramer, from the position of Assistant ACO, effective May 25, 2024; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, J.Burlingame , W. Worthy  
NAYS-0  
MOTION PASSED

3. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action

a. Public Safety - Assistant ACO

Discussion: Chief Delprete stated that he has no recommendation but that he is working on it.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the acting HR Director to begin the process to seek a replacement Public Safety, Assistant ACO; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Summer Recreation Positions - 2024 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a request for appointments of summer recreation positions from the Recreation Director.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that for most positions there are recommendations, but for Parking Lot Attendants, Council will hold a lottery of all names to determine position .

Discussion: R. Shields, Recreation Director , stated that the parking lot attendants are selected by lottery and that instead of having names drawn from a hat, that he has prepared a wheel of fortune to use with all of the names to select the order.

Councilor W. Worthy asked how many of the potential employees are residents. R. Shields stated that all are local with the exception of two who will be placed at the end of the list.

R. Shields stated the following are the lottery results in the order they were selected: Ryan Shields, Chase Braxton, Jenna Lowell, Christian Wagner, Jaycob Deroche, Emilie Violette, Kyla Desormier, Julianna Rozzero, Duncan MacLean, Jackson Bernie, Nayomi Miller, Ryan Berryman, Mario Girard.

R.Shields stated that parking lot attendants will be at Marion Irons beach to make sure people are aware of the beach closing due to blue green algae. R. Shields stated that all swim lessons will be held at Spring Grove until Marion Irons is safe for swimming.

R. Shields stated that the lifeguards being proposed for hire are contingent upon their passing the DEM non surf or surf certification.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPOINT the following to the 2024 Summer Recreation program:

**1. ARTS & CRAFTS INSTRUCTORS:**

Lucy Rockwell  
Isabelle Shields  
Riley Shields

**These appointments will be at the rate of pay of \$14 per hour and are effective June 21, 2024**

**2. LIFEGUARDS (Contingent upon passage of certification testing)**

Briella Bailey	\$19.00 per hour
Isabelle Bottone	\$19.00
Sarah Brown	\$19.00
Mason Caramante	\$20.00 per hour
James Cavanagh	\$20.00

Owen Machan	\$19.00
Jack Rockwell	\$19.00
Richard Scott	\$19.00
Cordelia Siedzik	\$19.00 corrected to \$20.00

**These appointments will be a rate of hourly pay as noted and are effective June 21, 2024**

R.Shields stated one correction as that of the rate for Cordelia Siedzik should be \$20.00 per hour as this is her 4<sup>th</sup> year as a lifeguard and not \$19.00..

Councilor W. Steere retracted the motion as to Cordelia Siedzik and corrected the motion to include the rate for Cordelia Siedzik to be \$20.00 per hour.

**3. PARKS AND GROUNDS**

- Myles Choquette
- Mario Girard
- Matthew Jones
- Natalia Laurie
- Jack Rockwell
- Owen St.Cyr

**These appointments will be at the rate of pay of \$14 per hour and are effective June 21, 2024**

**4. PARKING LOT ATTENDANT**

(Lottery results)

1. Ryan Shields
2. Chase Braxton
3. Jenna Lowell
4. Christian Wagner
5. Jaycob Deroche
6. Emilie Violette
7. Kyla Desormier
8. Julianna Rozzero
9. Duncan MacLean
10. Jackson Bernie
11. Nayomi Miller
12. Ryan Berryman
13. Mario Girard

**These appointments will be at the rate of pay of \$14 per hour and are effective June 21, 2024**

**5. PROGRAM SUPERVISORS**

Riley McCormick

**This appointment will be at the rate of pay of \$20 per hour and is effective June 21, 2024**

**6. TENNIS AIDES**

Christian Campanella  
Gizelle Charron  
Liam Elderkin  
Mason Parrillo  
Christian Wagner

**These appointments will be at the rate of pay of \$14 per hour and are effective June 21, 2024**

**7. TENNIS INSTRUCTOR**

Elijah Gouin

**This appointment will be at the rate of pay of \$24 per hour and is effective June 21, 2024**

**8. WATER SAFETY AIDES/L.I.T**

Keira Barbosa  
Zoe Glover  
Jayde Hatzberger  
Marin Iamarone  
Eli Machan  
Lauren Seabury  
Raegan Siedzik  
Cyrus Sullivan  
Andrew Tammaro

**These appointments will be at the rate of pay of \$14 per hour and are effective June 21, 2024**

seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

c. Gloucester Police Recruit - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chief has submitted the a request which he read as follows:

To: Honorable Town Council  
From: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police  
Date: June 13, 2024

Subj: Police Officer Recruit Appointment

Dear Council Members:

I would respectfully request to appoint Jacob M. Keens age 22 of Scituate to the Rhode Island Municipal Police Training Academy commencing on August 3,2024.

The Rhode Municipal Training Academy salary will be \$750.00 per week until December 20, 2023 and the recruit will be afforded all medical benefits according to the Town of Gloucester policy handbook. All recruit candidates are required to have healthcare coverage while in the municipal police academy. The town will provide the opportunity to enroll the candidate as of August 1, 2024, to meet this stipulation if needed.

After successful completion of the Rhode Island Municipal Training Academy on December 20, Jacob Keens will be granted a one-year probationary police officer position with the **Gloucester Police Department at a salary of \$67,464.04**

This position further provides a full benefit package in accordance with the current IBPO 638 collective bargaining agreement.

This police officer recruit appointment process was approved by the Town Council in the FY2025 Budget to fill current vacancies and anticipated police officer retirements this upcoming year. Candidate Keens has successfully completed all phases of the recruit selection process and background investigation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph DelPrete  
(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated that the date in the letter should be December 20,2024.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Jacob M. Keens to the Municipal Police Training Academy commencing on August 3,2024 at a salary of \$750.00 per week until December 20, 2023 will all medical benefits according to the Town of Gloucester policy handbook. The town will provide the opportunity to enroll the candidate as of August 1, 2024, to meet this stipulation if needed. After successful completion of the Rhode Island Municipal Training Academy on December 20, 2024, Jacob Keens will be granted a one-year probationary police officer position with the Gloucester Police Department at a salary of \$67,464.04

This position further provides a full benefit package in accordance with the current IBPO 638 collective bargaining agreement; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Boards & Commissions

1. Parade Committee

- a. Authorization for Town Council President to sign for, provide signatory information, and establish electronic means to process sales for 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 2024 events- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Finance Director has submitted the following request on behalf of the Parade Committee Chair which he read as follows:

Memo: Honorable Town Council  
From: Elizabeth A. Beltram, Finance Director  
Re: Parade Committee request for electronic payment capabilities  
Date: June 20, 2024

The Parade Committee would like to have the ability to accept electronic payments for the sale of various merchandise at their events celebrating July 4th. To that end, on their behalf, I have investigated what would be needed in order to get this established. Currently there is a small Special Events savings account held with Navigant Credit Union for deposit of fund-raising earnings. The Branch Manager at Navigant has put us in touch with Clover, the vendor they work with for this purpose. I have also spoken with Matt Floor regarding the cyber security surrounding these services. The Clover Go service will provide a more secure option than Square devices. There are service fees involved, which the Parade Committee plans to absorb. The caveat here being that in order to establish the service, personal information from the authorizing agent will be required to be provided (end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame asked Councilor W. Worthy if he was the authorized agent . Councilor W. Worthy stated he was the authorized agent.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the Finance Director to enroll in the Clover Go service through Navigant Credit Union for an undetermined time period; and AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to submit his personal information as required, representing the Town Council as the authorizing authority; said service is a month to month service with the initial device purchase of \$133 and a monthly fee of \$9.95 with a 2.85% + \$.10 per transaction fee. The Parade Committee shall absorb all charges and fees, and the Finance Director can cancel with a 30 day notice at any time, seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame asked Councilor W. Worthy if he was okay with providing personal information. Councilor W. Worthy stated he was okay with providing personal information.

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Authorization of Expenses/Events for 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 2024 celebration - (not previously voted by Parade Committee) Discussion and/or Action  
Councilor W. Worthy stated that this item is on the agenda in an “as needed” capacity.

Discussion: K. Lamontagne, Chair of the Parade committee, stated that there was a quorum at their meeting tonight and gave a rundown of the items approved at their meeting.

J. Fecteau asked the name of the Grand Marshall chosen for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. K. Lamontagne stated that the name of the Grand Marshall is Pete Roberts, a Korean War veteran. J. Fecteau asked how the electronic payments would work. K. Lamontagne stated that there would be a dedicated ipad that works off an app that would be at the town hall on the day of the parade to handle transactions. K. Lamontagne gave the council a sheet with expenses listed to date. Councilor W. Worthy stated his thanks for all of their hard work.

No action taken by Council

D. Fiscal 2024 Fund Balance Assignment - Discussion and/or Action  
Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Finance Director has asked for the following assignment which he read as follows:

Memo: Honorable Town Council  
From: Elizabeth A. Beltram, Finance Director  
Re: Fiscal 2024 Fund Balance Assignment  
Date: June 20, 2024

I am requesting approval to transfer the amount of \$3,000 for a one-time retention bonus to be paid to the Building Official upon successful completion of the six-month probationary period in FY25. This amount would be assigned from the savings realized in account number 01-003-2004 - Building /Zoning

Official Salary due to a retirement in FY24. It will be held in GASB54 fund BP - Bonus Set Aside, and included as part of the Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2024.  
(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TRANSFER funds as follows:

FROM: Account: 01-003-2004 - Building /Zoning Official Salary  
Amount: \$3,000

TO: Account: GASB54 Fund BP - Bonus Set Aside  
Amount: \$3,000

seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Municipal Resilience Program Action Grant - Authorization to Withdraw - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the following memo from the Town Planner which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members  
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner  
Date: June 11, 2024  
Re: Municipal Resilience Program – Action Grants

Back in October 2023, the Town applied for construction funds through the Municipal Resilience Program Action grant to address flooding issues at 5 locations. The grant was partially funded to engineer all five (5) sites in preparation for submitting the projects for construction again in the next grant cycle.

The Town received \$59,950 in Action Grant funds and committed \$14,991 in match using ARPA, Project 50. The price for engineering on these projects came in well above budget at over \$210,000. No amount of negotiating is going to get those numbers close enough to complete the project.

Gary Trembl, DPW Director, and I are in agreement that the grant funds will not cover the cost of the scope of work of the grant; therefore, we are requesting authorization to withdraw from the grant program. DPW will continue to work to solve the issues outlined in the original grant in-house as time and funding permits.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the Town Planner and DPW Director to withdraw the Town of Gloucester from the Municipal Resilience Program Action grant (original approval October 2023); seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

F. ARPA Funds - De-obligate and re-assign for a first-line police vehicle - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Chief Delprete stated that he ordered a police vehicle and is asking the Council for ARPA funds to help pay for it. Chief Delprete stated that he will use forfeiture funds to help pay for some of the cost for the car. Chief Delprete stated that there are four police related ARPA accounts that have been completed which have money remaining in them. Chief Delprete would like to have the money from these police related ARPA projects be used towards payment of the car. Chief Delprete stated he is also asking for \$24,000 of unobligated ARPA money to be applied towards the purchase.

Chief Delprete stated that the four accounts and their amounts are as follows: Project 11 (\$1316.00); Project 18 (\$12); Project 28 (\$4640); and, Project 32(\$ 77) for a total of \$ 6045.00.



J. Fecteau stated that she only put the deobligation of funds and the reassignment on the agenda and not the request for unobligated ARPA funds.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to De-obligate \$1316.00 from Project # 11, \$12.00 from Project # 18 , \$4640.00 from Project # 28 and \$77.00 from Project # 32 and re-obligate the amount of \$ 6045.00 of those ARPA funds to new Project #53 ; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

G. Juneteenth Holiday - Town Council Decision - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, stated that June 19<sup>th</sup> was made a state holiday so that by state law, anyone who works the holiday gets paid time and a half. D. Iglizzi stated that the Town Council approved the holiday for all employees in March 2024. D. Iglizzi stated that the police work 24/7 ,365 days a year so they don't get a day off , they get a day paid. D. Iglizzi stated that a budget issue of about \$5000 was created by this holiday because the police did not budget for this matter . Chief Delprete stated that this holiday was not a holiday at the time of the last union contract and, therefore, a clause was not included. D.Iglizzi stated that the current police contract does not include this day as a holiday and by state law , if the holiday is not in the contract then the police personnel do not have to get paid the holiday rate. D. Iglizzi stated that the town usually pays the for all holidays worked at one time in December. D. Iglizzi stated that he wanted to clarify this matter with the Council so it is taken up in the next contract.

Chief Delprete stated that as an unbudgeted item , the town could do a memo of understanding (MOU) but that he followed state law and paid the personnel who worked on June 19<sup>th</sup> at time and a half. Chief Delprete stated that it was a minimum staff and cost about \$1000. Chief Delprete stated that the holiday will be added to the next union contract. Councilor W. Steere asked if the pay was budgeted in this coming fiscal year. Chief Delprete stated it would be paid as it was this year.

No Action Taken By Council

X. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilor had any have legislative news or an update.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the state is hoping to visit Gloucester lakes to see about the milfoil issue .

XI. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the Audit planning letter for FY24 from the Town's Auditor, Damiano & company.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilors had any correspondence or a discussion item.

2. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that the local schools have a contract with the facilities director at the Regional school so he is requesting the Memorandum of understanding with the town's DPW workers be placed on the next agenda to be eliminated.
3. Councilor W. Steere stated his thanks to everyone involved in the Memorial Day parade, especially Bob Shields. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that the parade went off well and is an important event. Councilor W. Worthy stated his opinion that he was impressed with Bob's (Shields) speech.

#### XII. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any department heads have anything to report or if any Councilors have any questions for department heads.

1. Councilor W. Steere asked Bob Shields, Recreation Director, if DEM does any followup to determine the cause of the blue green algae issue that closed Marion Irons beach. Bob Shields stated that DEM monitors the blue green algae on a weekly basis. Bob Shields stated that this is the first time DEM has identified blue green algae in one of our bodies of water. Bob Shields stated that DEM determines when the beach can be reopened. (Unknown speaker) asked the effects of the blue green algae. Bob Shields stated that it is an irritation to the skin that causes a rash and it can cause vomiting and diarrhea as well as be toxic to any animals. Bob Shields stated the description from DEM that creates the bloom of the blue green algae and attributed it to the amount of nitrogen in the water. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that the bloom is caused by too much nitrogen from fertilizers.
2. G. Trembl, DPW Director, stated that he posted the existing open position in DPW that is included in the FY25 budget.

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

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any boards or commission have anything to report or if any Councilors have any questions for boards or commission members.

None

#### XIV. Open Forum

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone has anything to discuss on any other subject and if so, to please state your name when you come to the microphone

1. B. Brown, stated that he is asking the Council again about his proposal to have the Historical Cemetery Association become a town department. B. Brown is asking again to get together with the Council in order to present something to the residents for them to vote on at an election. B. Brown handed the Councilors copies of correspondence he has received. B. Brown stated that he is not sure what else he can do and is asking for a special referendum for the voters to decide if they want a town department.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that he was one of the no replies and stated his personal opinion that smaller government and not larger government is better so perhaps B. Brown can talk to the state about ideas. Councilor W. Worthy stated that all Councilors have praised what B. Brown is doing for veterans and the cemeteries in town but that adding another department to the town is about more than money.

Councilor C. Greathouse stated that the police referendum may cost the town about \$10,000 as a special election so maybe a meeting could be held instead. B. Brown did not agree with the idea of a meeting.

Councilor W. Steere stated that these discussions have been done for a long time and that the Council had suggested B. Brown speak with the Budget Board. Councilor W. Steere stated that B. Brown's presented his lengthy proposal to the Budget Board who stated no to his proposal. Councilor W. Steere stated that the quoted cost from a few years ago was \$280,000 is not feasible and expects that cost will escalate every year. Councilor W. Steere stated that this amount is more than most of our departments cost each year. Councilor W. Steere stated that the suggestion of this department would mean other departments would need to be cut especially with the state law requirement that the budget tax increase cannot go over 4 percent. Councilor W. Steere stated that the entire Council looks at the budget and has to make tough decisions. Councilor W. Steere stated that the B. Brown's group is not a town entity and suggested that B. Brown and his society come up with some sort of program. Councilor W. Steere stated that the work B. Brown and his volunteers have done is amazing, honorable and admirable.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that if the matter went to the voters and they approved it cuts would have to be made which would most likely result in eliminating current employees to add these new employees. Councilor W. Steere stated that the voters would have to choose between cutting departments like the DPW and police in order to have this cemetery department. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that the average voter would probably choose to keep the DPW and police employees.

B. Brown stated again that he wants the matter to go to the voters and if they vote it down then he would accept their decision. B. Brown stated that the people he has spoken with just want the information about what his committee does and how much it will cost them. Councilor W. Steere stated that B. Brown has the information.

D. Iglizzi stated that the question is whether or not the town wants to add a department. D. Iglizzi stated that the Budget Board said no to B. Brown's proposal of adding a department. B. Brown stated that he feels like he has been rowing this boat alone and he felt the budget Board and Council would help a bit more. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has been very supportive financially by giving \$12,000 of ARPA funds; \$6000 each year, and \$14,000 one year so B. Brown can't say the Council has not been supportive.

B. Brown asked again why the matter can't be left up to the voters. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that the Budget Board said no and even if the voters did approve it, there is no money for it so the department would be un staffed. B. Brown stated his opinion that it is a shame the Council does not see the needs, the history or the respect. Councilor W. Steere stated that comment is not true but that he understands the reality of paying for this department.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has to support the whole town and all the departments that run the town. Councilor W. Steere asked how many other towns have departments similar to what B. Brown is proposing. B. Brown stated that Gloucester would be the first.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that he takes offense to the comment by B. Brown that the Council does not care about veterans because the Council does. Councilor W. Worthy called a point of order as B. Brown was disrespectful and out of line by saying that the Council does not care about vets.

2. K. Lavoie, resident, stated his complaint about Mulberry Vineyard and the special event they held last weekend where he stated his opinion that the music was too loud. K. Lavoie asked the Council to have this matter be heard on the next council agenda. Councilor W. Steere asked what Mulberry Vineyard did that was outside the scope of the bounds approved by Council.

K. Lavoie stated that they were within the time frame and type of music but that it was a full band and it was too loud. K. Lavoie also stated that Mulberry Vineyards sold tickets for the event.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the motion approving special events did not say they could not sell tickets. K. Lavoie stated his opinion that it is a matter of the scope of business between a winery where people can go and have a glass of wine and a full blown concert. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he has made a point to visit the winery and has found it to be peaceful. K. Lavoie stated that this was the first event of the season. Councilor W. Worthy asked Chief Delprete if any complaints had been made. Chief Delprete stated that two complaints had been made but that the vineyard was within the timeframe and shut down when they were supposed to.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we will now seek to convene to Closed Session:

XV. Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or potential litigation Discussion by Council, Vote or Other Action:
  1. Potential Litigation

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to: RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or potential litigation Discussion by Council, Vote or Other Action: 1. Potential Litigation; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to Call the Roll

Councilor Greathouse- Aye  
Councilor Burlingame- Aye  
Councilor Steere- Aye  
Councilor Worthy-Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

**Return to regular meeting**

XVI. 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 Session; and to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, J.Burlingame , W. Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

XVII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Adjourn at 10:30 p.m.; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, J.Burlingame , W. Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED