

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on February 20, 2025

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M. by William A. Worthy, Jr., President.

II. Roll Call

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

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliozi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Gary Treml, Director Public Works; K. Scott, Town Planner; Don Zimmerman, Human Resources Consultant; M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor W. Worthy asked all to please stand and join us in the Pledge of Allegiance .

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor W. Worthy stated if anyone wished to speak on an agenda item to please step to the microphone and state your name when called on.

None

V. Presentation

A. Public Water Feasibility Study for Chepachet Village

Discussion:

K. Scott, Town Planner, stated a brief explanation as to how and why the water feasibility study was initiated and conducted. K. Scott introduced B. Ferrari , Steven Coombs and Carly Newman of Northeast Water Solutions, Inc.

B. Ferrari stated a summary explanation of the findings and recommendations as to a water solution for the center village area in the town.

B. Ferrari stated there were four alternative solutions. B. Ferrari stated that alternative #1 was the best solution as it would be tying into the Pascoag Utility District and would involve digging two wells and outbuildings on property owned by Steere Farm.

B. Ferrari stated that alternative #2 stated the second recommendation was to construct an independent water facility in the village district and that there were five potential areas for the well.

B. Ferrari stated that alternative #3 was to use existing wells or develop new wells to serve the village. B. Ferrari stated that alternative #3 was not recommended as it would only serve 73 % of the properties and the goal was to serve 100 % of the properties.

B. Ferrari stated that alternative #4 was to install individual wells on the properties in the village. B. Ferrari stated alternative #4 was not being recommended as the Dept. of Health requires 100 % participation and that could not be guaranteed, and , that individual dry wells would be required for the waste discharge and there is insufficient room due to the small and close lot sizes in the village.

Councilor W. Steere thanked the group, discussion followed on the definition of certain contaminants

Councilor Worthy questioned the typical funding or reimbursement cities and towns could expect. B. Ferrari discussed funding. B. Ferrari stated the estimate for alternative #1 as being the least expensive and the amount, as of today, was 16 million. B. Ferrari stated that there are grants and loans available that could be applied for, especially, as there is the issue of manganese and PFAS present in the village area.

Councilor Steere questioned the total time it would take to complete the recommended alternative #1. B. Ferrari stated that the estimate for building out alternative #1 is about 4 years in total. Mr. Ferrari stated that utilizing an existing water district, alternative #1, may speed up the process.

Council thanked the

The Council thanked the group for the information.

VI. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of February 6, 2025
- B. Tax Assessor' Additions and Abatements -January 2025
- C. Finance Director's Report - January 2025

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPROVE the Town Council Minutes of February 6, 2025; to APPROVE the ADDITION to the 2024 Tax Roll in the amount of \$ 341.14, NO ABATEMENTS to the 2024 Tax Roll ; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for January 2025; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards and Commissions - Discussion and/or Action
 - 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Parade Committee (continued from 9/5/2024)
 - 1. Alternate #2, Alternate #3

Councilor W. Worthy stated there are no recommendations at this time, Council can APPOINT from the Talent Bank listing or TABLE to the next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the appointments to the Parade Committee, Alternate #2 and Alternate #3 to the Town Council meeting of March 6, 2025; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Planning Board
 - 1. Position #3 for a 5 yr term to expire 2/27

Councilor W. Worthy stated there is a recommendation from the Chair at this time. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair recommends resident, Brian White. Councilor W. Worthy stated that a talent bank listing is on file.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can appoint the recommended applicant, appoint someone from the Talent Bank listing, or table to next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPOINT Brian White to the Planning Board, Position #3, for an unexpired 5 year term to expire 2/27; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- c. Land Trust
 - 1. Member-at-Large from Planning Board
One term to expire 1/31/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this position became vacant, last month, due to the resignation of the at-large member from the Planning Board. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Planning Board Chair has no recommendation at this time but indicated they will have one before long.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointment of the Member-at-Large Position to the Land Trust from the Planning Board ; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Board & Commission Appointments - Terms concurrent with Town Council, to expire 12/31/2026 - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Economic Development Board
 - 1. Position #3, 2 year term to expire 12/31/2026
 - 2. One ad-hoc non voting member, 2 yr term to expire 12/31/2026
 - 3. One ad-hoc non voting member, 2 yr term to expire 12/31/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there is a recommendation from the Chair at this time. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair recommends resident, Lewis Pryeor. Councilor W. Worthy stated that a talent bank listing is on file. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can appoint the recommended applicant, appoint someone from the Talent Bank listing, or table to next meeting.

- 1. MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Lewis Pryeor to Position #3 on the Economic Development Commission for a 2 year term to expire 12/31/26; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the appointment, to the #1 ad-hoc non voting position on the Economic Development Commission for a 2 year term to expire 12/31/26; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the appointment, to the #2 ad-hoc non voting position on the Economic Development Commission for a 2 year term to expire 12/31/26; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Affordable Housing Advisory Board

1. Position #2, #3, #4, & #5 terms to expire 12/31/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has not received a recommendation from the Town Planner at this time. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can appoint from the Talent Bank List or wait for the recommendation of the Town Planner.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE Positions #2, 3, 4, & 5 to the Affordable Housing Advisory Board to the Town Council meeting of March 6, 2025; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Resident Claim for Damage Compensation - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated he was contacted by a resident regarding a pothole. Councilor J.

Burlingame stated that this matter was not being pursued any further by the resident at this time.

No Action Taken by Council

B. Finance Office: Requesting transfer of line item in current budget year (FY25)- Discussion and/or Action

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: Fiscal 2025 Budget Transfers
Date: February 20, 2025

Below are recommended budget transfers for Fiscal Year 2025. The amounts and account codes are as follows:

To INCREASE:

| <u>Department</u> | <u>Account</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| DPW-Highway | 01-051-2010 | Wages | \$37,779.00 |
| DPW-Highway | 01-051-2018 | Longevity | 200.00 |
| DPW-Bld & Grds | 01-053-2010 | Wages | 9,263.00 |
| DPW-Vehicle | 01-054-2010 | Wages | 10,360.00 |
| Maint | | | |
| DPW-Vehicle | 01-054-2018 | Longevity | 100.00 |
| Maint | | | |
| DPW-Waste | 01-052-2010 | Wages | 14,849.00 |
| DPW-Waste | 01-052-2018 | Longevity | 300.00 |

To DECREASE:

| <u>Department</u> | <u>Account</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Other Oper Exp | 01-082-2273 | Negotiations | \$72,851.00 |

The transfers are to allocate the funds set aside for the final contractual increases to the line items that were affected in the FY25 budget.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth A. Beltram
(end of memo)

Discussion: D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, asked Councilor Worthy to clarify if the line item DPW waste wages was \$14,849 because he thought he heard Councilor W. Worthy read the line as \$14, 809. Councilor W. Worthy stated he meant to read \$14,849 as that was the amount contained in the memo.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame TO APPROVE the TRANSFER of \$72,851 from the “Other Operations Account” in the FY 25 Budget to the several accounts as follows: DPW Highway wages in the amount of \$37,779.00; DPW Highway longevity wages in the amount of \$200.00; DPW Buildings and Grounds wages in the amount of \$ 9,263.00; DPW Vehicle Maintenance wages in the amount of \$10,360.00; DPW Vehicle Maintenance longevity wages in the amount of \$100.00; DPW Waste wages in the amount of \$14,849.00; DPW Waste longevity wages in the amount of \$300.00; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilors had any legislative news or questions.

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the Deputy Town Clerk reviewed the recent proposed legislation and she would send that information to Council.

X. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has the following correspondence:

1. Notice from FERC (which is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) of a hydroelectric project at the Manville Dam
2. Receipt of the annual Legislative Priorities booklet from the R.I. League of Cities and Towns.
3. DOT Bridge Inspection Reports.

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

Councilor W. Worthy stated that he had received a call from a resident in need of oil. Councilor W. Worthy stated that a delivery was made possible through a program in the Human Services department and that all criteria to receive a delivery had been met. Councilor Steere stated as long as requirements were met he is fine with the delivery.

XI. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Department heads had anything to report or if any Councilors had any questions for Department heads.

1. M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director, stated that there is a free tax service available at the Senior Center in March. M. Bouvier stated that anyone interested should call for an appointment.

XII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Boards and Commissions had anything to report or if any Councilors had any questions for any of the Boards and Commissions.

None

XIII. Open Forum

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone had anything to discuss and if so to please state your name when you come to the microphone.

None

Councilor W. Worthy stated that a motion to convene to executive session was needed.

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

- A. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:
 1. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action re: negotiations for successor union contracts
 2. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action re: injured on duty and retirement benefits pursuant to IBPO 638 contract

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to CONVENE to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:

1. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action re: negotiations for successor union contracts
2. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action re: injured on duty and retirement benefits pursuant to IBPO 638 contract

seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to call the roll:

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Calise- Aye

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

Executive Session

All were invited back into the room after Executive session

Return to Regular Session

XV. MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Reconvene Open Session, Disclose two (2) votes were taken in Executive Session & Seal the Minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to call the roll:

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN AT 10:47 P.M.; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED