

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on January 11, 2022 which was held due to the postponement of the Regular Council meeting of January 6, 2022 as a result of an Executive Order signed by the Governor on January 6, 2022.

Councilor Reichert stated that pursuant to current R.I. Executive Orders this meeting is being teleconferenced via Zoom.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members present: William E. Reichert Vice President; Walter M.O. Steere III; Stephen Arnold; and William 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 Trembl, Director of Public Works; Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Robert Shields, Recreation Director; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance followed by “Moment of Silence” out of respect for past Council Member, Julian P. Forgue Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Reichert went on to explain the procedure for the zoom meeting and how participants can be recognized when requesting to speak. Councilor W. Reichert also stated that participants expressing inappropriate behavior or being disruptive may be removed from the meeting by the Council.

IV. Organization of Town Council-

A. Swearing in by Town Clerk of Town Council replacement member (Certified candidate) - Term to expire 12/31/2022- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk will now swear in the next successful candidate for Town Council from the November 2020 election. Councilor Reichert stated that per the Home Rule Charter, the candidate, David Laplante, was certified on Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, by the Gloucester Board of Canvassers as a qualified elector.

Councilor Reichert Asked the Town Clerk to swear in David Laplante. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk swore in D. Laplante as a Town Council member.

Councilor Reichert congratulated Councilor Laplante and invited him to join the council.

B. Election of Officers

1. Town Council President - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council now needs to elect a Town Council President. Councilor Reichert stated that anyone wishing to nominate a Councilor to that position may make a motion to elect.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ELECT Councilor Reichert to the position of Town Council President; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

2. Town Council Vice President - (if seat vacant) - Discussion and/or Action  
MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to ELECT Councilor Steere to the position of Town Council Vice-President; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

V. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor Reichert stated that anyone wishing to speak on any agenda items may speak during this open forum. Councilor Reichert stated that if there is someone who wishes to speak, raise your hand as previously explained and the host will call on you in order. Councilor Reichert stated again, anyone speaking must identify themselves for those that are joining us without video. Councilor Reichert asked if any hands were raised.

None

VI. Citation 2022-01 - Ponaganset High School “Chieftains” Football Team - 2021-2022 Division IV State Champions.

Councilor Worthy stated that Council is proud to present for approval a Citation in recognition of the Ponaganset High School Chieftains, Division IV State Champions:

**The State of Rhode Island  
Town of Glocester  
CITATION 2022–01**

**WHEREAS,** the Town Council and the Town Clerk of the Town of Glocester would like to

congratulate the 2021-2022 Ponaganset High School “Chieftains” football team for achieving the distinct honor of being the 2021 Division Champions and the Division IV State Champions; and

**WHEREAS,** the Chieftains rallied to a perfect undefeated season with a league record of 8-0 led by the strong leadership of 14 seniors; and

**WHEREAS,** the Chieftains perfect season saw the team outscore their opponents by a 368 -24 point margin with the defense allowing only 12 points all year; and

**WHEREAS,** the team was led by Head Coach , James Cook and Assistant Coaches; Michael Calenda, Michael Montella, Anthony Sasso, Christopher O’Donnell and Ray Dame; and

**WHEREAS,** it took each and every member on the team to make the Ponaganset High School Football Team the success it became ; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council and the Town Clerk of the Town of Gloucester and its citizens appreciate the dedication and efforts of the Ponaganset High School “Chieftains” football team for achieving the distinct honor of being the 2021-2022 Division IV State Champions.

William E. Reichert, President,  
Gloucester Town Council

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> Day of January, 2022

seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

**MOTION PASSED**

VII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of December 16<sup>th</sup> & Special meeting of December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of December

16<sup>th</sup> and the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 29, 2021; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: Councilor Reichert informed Councilor Laplante of the choice that he may abstain from voting on the minutes as he was not on the Council at the time of the meetings.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante - Abstain  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Recreation Department- Discussion and/or Action

1. Plan for amendment and/or clarification to charge of Recreation Commission and Recreation Director's role with the Recreation Commission

Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk has been working with the HR Director and the HR Director has suggested more detail in describing tasks and duties of the Recreation Commission. Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk is proposing to Council an ordinance amendment that would outline the Recreation Commissions responsibilities and tasks more fully while still tying in with the existing Code of Ordinance. Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk and HR Director recognize the need to resolve questions at hand as soon as possible but is asking for this item to be tabled until next meeting.

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE Item. A. Recreation Department to the meeting of January 20, 2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

- B. Boards and Commissions
  - 1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action
    - a. Recreation Commission
      - 1. Position # 1- one unexpired term

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 Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission, Position #1; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Position # 5- one unexpired term

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

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

- b. Economic Development Commission
  - 1. Ad Hoc Non Voting member- 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 Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Ad Hoc Non Voting Member position; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

2. Position #3 - 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 Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Position #3, for a term to expire 12/31/2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere - Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

c. Conservation Commission

1. Alternate- One year term to expire 2/01/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time. Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair has asked that Council table this appointment. Councilor Reichert stated that unless a Councilor has a recommendation Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the Conservation Commission, Alternate position, for a term to expire 2/01/2022; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

d. Planning Board

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

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time. Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair of the Planning Board has asked Council to table while they seek out a potential member.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to TABLE the appointment to the Planning Board, position #4, for a term to expire 3/2022; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

C. Gloucester Code of Ordinance- Proposed Amendment- Discussion and/or Action

1. Planning Board recommendation to amend Chapter # 300, Subdivision Regulations

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from Planning Board to amend the Code of Ordinance which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members  
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner  
Date: December 31, 2021  
RE: Subdivision Regulations- Removal from Code of Ordinances

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. This authority is consistent with RIGL 45-23-51 which provides that municipalities shall adopt ordinances that authorize the municipal planning board to adopt, modify and amend regulations governing land development and subdivision projects. Subdivision Regulations are not generally codified in the Town Code of Ordinances once the authority has been given to the Planning Board; therefore as previously discussed, the Planning Board is recommending the repeal of Chapter 300 Subdivision of Land from the Code of Ordinances. The Advisory Opinion from the Planning Board is attached. I am requesting first reading and scheduling of a public hearing on this action.  
(End of memo)

Discussion: J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that typically a first reading would not be done at the same time as a proposal is being introduced. J. Fecteau stated that this matter was introduced before by the planner and that the Council requested an advisory opinion from the Planning Board. J.

Fecteau stated that the advisory opinion explains the concept that the recommendation is to remove the sections from the Code but not to repeal the sections. J. Fecteau stated that a she is asking the Council to table the public hearing until such time as a meeting can be in person . K. Scott, Town Planner, agrees with the Clerk's suggestion.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to SET the 1<sup>st</sup> reading for the proposed amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, removal of Chapter #300, for January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

2. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading - repeal Chapter # 300, Subdivision Regulations

Councilor Reichert stated that at a previous meeting of the Council it was determined the Council may go forward with the consideration of a code amendment if a request was received from the Planning Board to amend the code. Councilor Reichert stated that as Council now has that request and we have an agenda item for a first reading the explanation as stated in the Planning Board motion can serve as a 1<sup>st</sup> reading, per the charter a 1<sup>st</sup> reading is to either explain the proposed amendment or read it in its entirety which Councilor Reichert read as follows:

**Amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinances  
Removal of Subdivision Regulations from the Code of Ordinances  
Advisory Opinion of the Planning Board  
December 13, 2021**

At their December 13, 2021 meeting, the following motion was made by Planning Board member Mike DeGrange:

After careful consideration and discussion at the December 13, 2021 regular meeting, the Gloucester Planning Board hereby recommends that the Town Council enact revisions to Gloucester Code of Ordinances, attached hereto. Said revisions remove the Subdivision Regulations from the Code of Ordinances in compliance with RIGL 45-23-51 and Gloucester Code of Ordinances Chapter 106. The Subdivision Regulations will then become a standalone document adopted, modified and amended by the Planning Board. The Board's recommendation is based upon the following Findings of Fact:

**Findings of Fact**

1. RIGL 45-23-51 authorizes and empowers the Town Council of any town to enact ordinances that authorize the municipal planning board to adopt, modify and amend regulations governing land development and subdivision projects.

2. In compliance with RIGL 45-23-51, the Town Council adopted Sections 106-8, 106-9 and 106-10



Glocester Code of Ordinances which gives the Planning Board the authority to adopt, amend and administer regulations governing land development and subdivision projects within the Town of Glocester.

3. The proposed amendments are consistent with the goal of the Land Use Element: Preserve the rural character of Glocester for future generations while enhancing services and facilities, housing, open space and recreation, natural and cultural resources, circulation and economic development.

4. The proposed amendments are consistent with the Policy 2 of the Land Use Element: Encourage responsible land use decisions by public officials and public bodies.

In making this recommendation, the Board has considered the following:

1. Discussions held at the December 13, 2021 regular meeting

Based on the above findings, I hereby make a motion to recommend approval of the draft Code of Ordinance amendments, dated November 22, 2021 related to the subdivision of land. The motion was seconded by Planning Board member Lionel Delos.  
Ayes - (Calderara, DeGrange, Delos, Furney, Pitocco).

(End of motion)

No Action

3. Set Public Hearing Date for consideration of repeal of Chapter # 300, Subdivision Regulations

Councilor Reichert stated that after the first reading, Council can now set a Public Hearing Date. Councilor Reichert stated that if Council goes forward the Clerk needs time to advertise and is requesting a Public Hearing date of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. The Clerk stated that we now need to table the setting of a public hearing due to uncertainty with electronic meetings.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to DECLARE the First Reading complete and TABLE the setting of a Public Hearing to hear the proposed Code of Ordinance amendment, Deletion from Code, Chapter 300, Subdivision Regulations; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

A. Tree Warden - Annual Appointment for 2022 - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received the annual request from D.E.M. calling for the appointment of a Tree Warden for the Town for 2022. Councilor Reichert stated that the person appointed must have a valid Arborist License within six months of appointment.

Councilor Reichert stated that the current Tree Warden, Sandra Shepard, has expressed an interest in remaining in that position.

Discussion: Councilor Steere had some concerns as to accessibility issues. K. Johnson said he was not aware of any issues. J. Fecteau suggested Council could table the matter and offered to contact the current Tree Warden to express Council's concerns.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment of the position of Tree Warden for the Town of Gloucester for 2022 to January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

B. Town Council Liaisons - Reassignments for 2021-2022 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that there are seven liaison positions that were held by former Council member Forge. Councilor Reichert stated that Council now needs to assign those positions and possibly move around other positions.

Discussion: Council members discussed their preferences as to the available liaisons. Councilor Arnold asked if Councilor Laplante had been a previous member of the Planning Board and questioned why he left and the type of rapport. Councilor Laplante stated that he was a member of the Planning Board several years back; that he left for personal reasons and there were no bad feelings.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT the following liaisons for the remainder of the 2021-2022 term:

Building/Zoning Office (to include Zoning Bd): Councilor Worthy

Historic District Commission: Councilor Worthy  
Human Resources: Councilor Laplante  
Human Services Dept.: Councilor Reichert  
Planning Office & Planning Board: Councilor Laplante  
Public Works: Councilor Reichert  
Senior Center: Councilor Arnold  
with the remaining liaisons staying the same; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

- C. Personnel
  - 1. Tax Assessor appointment-Discussion and/or Action  
2- year Term to expire 12/31/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has a request from the Finance Director which he read as follows:

To: Honorable Gloucester Town Council  
From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director  
Re: Personnel Tax Assessor Appointment  
Date: 1/04/2022

For over a year, from Fall of 2020 to Fall of 2021, Jessica was instrumental in keeping the Tax Assessor's Office up and running as a Clerk while the previous Tax Assessor was out on leave. Jessica has all the necessary credentials and is keeping current with her continuing education requirements in order to maintain her certification. Since being appointed Tax Assessor in the Fall of 2021, Jessica has stepped into the role seamlessly and has since worked with the rest of the team to onboard and train a new Clerk in the Tax Assessor's Office. For the aforementioned reasons as well as Jessica's work ethic and attention to detail, it is my humble recommendation that the Council re-appoint Jessica Parker as Tax Assessor, term to expire on 12/31/2023.

Respectfully,  
Adam R. Muccino  
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPOINT Jessica Parker to the position of Tax Assessor for a two year term to expire 12/31/2023; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

D. American Rescue Act Funds: Consideration of Dept. Head grant requests-  
Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that these are the rest of the proposals submitted by Department Heads for grant funds consideration.

Councilor Reichert stated that after each explanation, if Council agrees with including a proposal a motion is needed to include the project with the projected amount of funding needed.

1. Internal proposals
  - a. iPad Loaners - Senior Center

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a memo from the Senior Center Director which he read as follows:

To The Honorable Town Council,

In regards to The American Rescue Act Funds, I am proposing an iPad loaner program to help bridge the digital divide for our Seniors. Covid-19 has changed our daily lives in so many ways, including the way we shop, do banking, attend fitness classes, make appointments and most importantly stay connected to our loved ones. Many of our seniors don't have access to a computer or internet connectivity. I would like to change that with this program.

I am proposing the purchase of:

(15) 64 GB Ipads with Wi-Fi & cellular =  $\$459 \times 15 = \$6885$   
(15) Rugged OtterBox Cases  $\$89.95 = \$89.95 \times 15 = \$1349.25$   
For a total of  $\$8234.25$

It would also cost \$70 per month for unlimited airtime for those that don't have access to Wi-Fi. If the program really took off where we had numerous devices loaned out at a time then we would need to consider a Mobile Device Management system to help to keep things in order.

I have discussed this plan with Matt Floor who is on board with the idea of the program and willing to help me navigate through the setup including policies for lost or stolen devices and also an acceptable use policy.

Please consider this investment in helping to keep our seniors connected.

As always, any questions, comments or concerns please feel free to reach out.

Respectfully,

Melissa Bouvier

(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked as to the monthly cost of \$70 as to whether it was per Ipad or for all I pads. M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director stated that it was a monthly cost per machine. M. Bouvier stated that the enclosed monthly cost per machine was no longer available and provided a new monthly cost of \$40 or \$50., by gigabyte, per machine. M. Bouvier recognized that the monthly cost was high and suggested started with only a couple of I pads. Councilor Arnold stated that he felt this was a fantastic idea and a good use of funds but that the question was the monthly expense. Councilor Steere agreed with Councilor Arnold in that this is a great idea for the seniors but that the monthly cost is high especially going forward when it would be most likely become a budget expense. Councilor Laplante asked if the I Pads would be purchased and M. Bouvier stated they would. Councilor Worthy clarified for Councilor Laplante that it is cell service that is the monthly expense. Councilor Steere stated that perhaps the Council would agree to buying the I Pad but get estimates as to different plans and discuss at another meeting. J. Fecteau suggested that there may be providers who might offer free service. Councilor Arnold suggested the purchasing of the 15 I pads all with cell service capabilities but possibly only activate a few.

J. Fecteau stated that Council is driving these decisions and that they have plenty of time to do so especially as the internal requests will be decided before any external uses are considered.

K. Lamontagne, resident, suggested M. Bouvier contact the School Department for information that may be relevant because the students use chrome books with wi-fi service. K. Lamontagne also stated that the Police Dept. Does not pay for internet as Cox provides it for free. Councilor Worthy asked M. Bouvier who she spoke to about the purchase. M. Bouvier stated she contacted the Apple Store. Councilor Worthy stated he would send his contact information as to a local AT &T person to M. Bouvier for information.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE to February 3, 2022 the consideration through the American Rescue Act Fund for the following project: I Pad Loaners, Senior Center; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

b. Replenish Revenue - Parade Committee

Discussion: K. Lamontagne, Acting Parade Chair, stated that she is requesting \$40,000 in total funds to be allocated to \$20,000 per year. K. Lamontagne stated that the parade and fireworks costs about \$40,000 per year. K. Lamontagne stated that donations have paid for the parade and the money received from the Budget Board of \$20,000 has paid for the fireworks. K. Lamontagne explained the costs associated with the parade and fireworks and the proposals to attract new participants as well as increasing advertisement. K. Lamontagne stated that the donations have been much less in the past two years. Councilor Worthy asked if these funds would be in addition to what the town appropriates. K. Lamontagne stated it would be because the Town funds are only used for the fireworks. K. Lamontagne stated the parade is paid for by donations. A. Muccino, Finance Director, confirmed that the Council has two years to allocate funds under this program and that the money is to be spent within 4 years. A. Muccino confirmed for Councilor Arnold that the Budget Board has authorized \$20,000 per year in the past. Councilor Laplante suggested the money be concentrated on the parade. L. Gaddes-Barrett, resident, stated her support for this request as in her opinion it is an economic opportunity for the town.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to set aside \$30,000 to be dispersed as \$10,000 per year over the next three years through the American Rescue Act Fund for the following project: Replenish Revenue, Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, as to the phrasing of the motion in terms of the money allocation. D. Igliazzi stated that it was a total allocation being dispersed over time. J. Fecteau stated that the Town Planner has been handling the ARPA fund request and is knowledgeable as to criteria. K. Scott, Town Planner stated that the funds meet the criteria as to funding and spending.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

- c. Police Station - IT
  - 1. Replace tower

Discussion: Chief Delprete stated that the Police Department made three requests for ARPA funds for a new tower, new security cameras and for mobile repeaters .

Chief Delprete stated that the current tower is structurally deficient and has been since 2015. Chief Delprete stated that the tower is used for critical infrastructure for the police department, the Department of Public Works and Emergency Management. Chief Delprete stated that the tower can't be climbed which means no additions or repairs can be made and that he is concerned if it were to fall down. Chief Delprete is requesting \$150,000.00 for the new tower.

Chief Delprete stated that the security cameras would be digital and would include the interview room in order to be in compliance with state law; as well as surveillance cameras inside and outside. Chief Delprete is requesting \$55,000.00 for the security camera system.

Chief Delprete stated that the mobile repeater systems would be inside the police vehicles and would provide better enhanced communication especially as the service in some areas of the town is lacking due to the topography. Chief Delprete is requesting \$70,000.00 for the mobile repeater system.

Chief Delprete stated that the most important part of police department is communication and these will aid communication and benefit the town.

Councilor Laplante asked if the current building were expanded in the future if the location was considered in order to not have to be moved. Chief Delprete stated that he is not 100% sure it can remain in the same location due to the height , it may need to be moved further back , and that property lines do need to be considered.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to to set aside \$150,000.00 through the American Rescue Act Fund for the following project: Police Station, Replace Tower; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

2. Security Cameras

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to set aside \$ 55,000.00 through the American Rescue Act Fund for the following project: Security Cameras, Police Station; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

d. Fiber-Optic Cable - IT

Discussion: M. Floor, IT Director, stated that this proposal is to build private fiber network between all town buildings. M. Floor stated that the benefits would be ones such as saving money, increasing speed and better security. Councilor Laplante asked if the fiber optic runs on poles or on the ground. M. Floor stated that the fiber optic runs on poles but that there is already space designated for this municipal service. Chief Delprete stated his agreement with M. Floor as to this request.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to set aside \$100,000.00 through the American Rescue Act Fund for the following project: Fiber-Optic Cable - IT; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

e. Roads/Drainage - DPW

Discussion: G. Trembl, DPW Director, asked the Council to table this matter until the next meeting.



MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the request for funds through the American Rescue Act Fund for the following project: Roads/Drainage - DPW; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

- f. Mobile repeaters for first line vehicles for public safety radio coverage - IT

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to set aside \$70,000.00 through the American Rescue Act Fund for the following project: Mobile repeaters for first line vehicles for public safety radio coverage - IT; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

- E. Boards and Commissions- Discussion and/or Action
  - 1. Appointments
    - a. Zoning Board

Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair has indicated that both Alternate members wish to be reappointed.

- 1. Alternate position # 1 - one year term to expire 1/1/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that this is for the expired term of Frank Anderson who wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to REAPPOINT Frank Anderson to the Zoning

Board, Position #1 Alternate for a term to expire 1/1/2023; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

2. Alternate position #2- one year term to expire 1/1/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that this is for the expired term of Chris Clark who wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to REAPPOINT Chris Clark to the Zoning Board, Position #2 Alternate for a term to expire 1/1/2023; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

b. Conservation Commission

Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair has informed the Clerk that both of the members holding these expired terms wish to be reappointed.

1. Position # 6- 3 year term to expire 1/2025

Councilor Reichert stated that this position is currently held by Michael Ahnrud who wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to REAPPOINT Michael Ahnrud to the Conservation Commission, Position #6, for a three year term to expire 1/2025; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

2. Position # 7- 3 year term to expire 1/2025

Councilor Reichert stated that this position is currently held by Jonathan Smith who wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to REAPPOINT Jonathan Smith to the Conservation Commission, Position #7, for a three year term to expire 1/2025; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

c. Budget Board

Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair has indicated that both members wish to be reappointed.

1. Position #5- 3 year term to expire 1/2025

Councilor Reichert stated that this is for the expired term of Maureen McNamara who wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to REAPPOINT Maureen McNamara to the Budget Board, Position #5, for a three year term to expire 1/2025; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

2. Position # 1- 3 year term to expire 1/2025

Councilor Reichert stated that this is for the expired term of Cassandra Barone who wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to REAPPOINT Cassandra Barone to the Budget Board, Position #1, for a three year term to expire 1/2025; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

F. Authorization to EMA Director to use D.O.H. Covid Relief Funds for EMA functions and operational/related expenses - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a memo from Gerry Mosca which he read as follows:

January 5, 2022

To: Honorable Town Council  
Subject: EMA authority to expend Health Department Vaccination funds.

The RI Health Department (RIDOH) pays funds to the Town of Glocester upon successful completion of COVID-19 vaccination clinics for the use by Glocester Emergency Management. These funds are payment for our planning and operating Mass Vaccination clinics. The town does not have to expend any funds to qualify for these payments, EMA just needs to operate clinics to RIDOH standards and comply with their reporting requirements.

The funds are designated for state sanctioned mass vaccination clinics or other Emergency Management operational expenses, equipment or supplies and are placed in a separate Gloucester EMA account. These funds are not part of the American Rescue Act funds or any other grant for a specific purpose.

The director of the Gloucester Emergency Management Agency is requesting authority to use these funds for COVID-19 vaccination clinic expenses, supplies, volunteer stipends, fire department fees and any other Gloucester EMA related operational expenses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gerald A. Mosca, Director  
(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated his recusal on this matter.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the EMA Director, Gerald Mosca, to expend funds received from the RI Health Department following successful completion of COVID-19 Vaccination clinics, for COVID-19 vaccination clinic expenses, supplies, volunteer stipends, fire department fees and any other Gloucester EMA related operational expenses; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Recused  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

G. Authorization to Sign:

1. Agreement for Information Technology Products & Services  
Between Avenu Insights & Analytics, LLC & Town of Gloucester  
Five Year Contract to expire February 16, 2027 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that the Town Clerk is asking Council to TABLE this item to the Council meeting of January 20<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk and Deputy are checking all aspects of the proposed agreement to ensure it is correct and as stated in the bid award.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE item G. Authorization to Sign, agreement

between Avenu Insights & Analytics, LLC and the Town of Gloucester to the Town Council meeting of January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: Councilor Worthy asked if this item was the one that handled the town website. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that this item is for a land evidence recording system.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

H. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Fiscal Year 2022-2023- Authorize referral to Budget Board - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a memo from the Town Planner which he read as follows:

To: Gloucester Town Council Members  
From: Gloucester Planning Board  
Date: December 13, 2021  
Subject: Capital Improvement Program 2022-2023

At their December 13, 2021 meeting, the Planning Board motioned to advise the Town Council that the Capitol Improvement Project requests for 2022-2023 as described in the proposals from the Gloucester Land Trust, Finance Department and Police Department are not inconsistent with the Gloucester Comprehensive Community Plan.

We respectfully request that these requests are forwarded to the Budget Board for consideration during the FY 2022- 2023 budget process.

(End of memo)

Councilor Reichert stated that the requests are in Council's packet.

Discussion: Councilor Reichert asked A. Muccino, Finance Director, if any of these requests were funded through ARPA. A. Muccino stated that he does not believe these were funded through ARPA. A. Muccino stated that the Finance Department was requesting money for budgeting software; that the Land Trust was requesting money for repairs to the Clarksville School; and, the Police Department was requesting money for a shooting range. A. Muccino stated that these

projects are not yet funded.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to FORWARD the Capital Improvement Plan 2022-23 requests from the Land Trust, Finance Department and the Police Department to the Budget Board for their consideration when preparing the FY 2022-23 proposed budget; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

X. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Councilor Reichert stated that there is one correspondence from the Auditor General granting an extension of the audit report for fiscal year ending 2021.

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone on Council has any correspondence or discussion items.

Discussion: None

XI. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor Reichert asked if any Department Heads have anything to report.

1. J. Fecteau asked the Council if they would consider the dilemma of boards and commissions meeting or not during the current executive order requiring remote meetings through the first week of February. J. Fecteau stated that the cost to the town to purchase the license required for remote meetings for all boards and commissions to meet can be very expensive and she is not sure as to how long the executive order will be in place. J. Fecteau is asking the Council to put this item on the next agenda for consideration.
2. Councilor Reichert thanked the DPW for doing a great job during the past week's snowstorm.

XII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor Reichert asked if any Boards and Commissions have anything to discuss.

1. Councilor Arnold asked R. Shields, Recreation Director about the new skating rink at GMP.

R. Shields stated that the ice rink is up and running, that there is good ice and it is cleared, and that it will be available for skating from dawn to dusk. R. Shields stated he will lock and unlock it daily. R. Shields stated that he would place this information on the town's website as well as the Recreation Commission's facebook page.

Councilor Arnold thanked G. Treml and the DPW for all their help. G. Treml, DPW Director asked R. Shields if he needed any other help. R. Shields responded in the negative.

### XIII. Open Forum

Councilor Reichert stated that if anyone would like to speak in Open Forum to please raise your hand. Councilor Reichert asked the Clerk to please remind everyone of the various ways to raise your hand. The Clerk read as follows:

To raise your hand on a lap top, press "Alt-Y" or click the participants tab and the raise hand button will be in the bottom right.

To raise your hand on a tablet, click on the more tab and click raise hand.

On a smart phone, you should see a raise hand icon.

On a landline, press \*9 to raise your hand.

When you are recognized by name or phone number, we will ask you to unmute yourself

1. L.Gaddis Barrett, resident, thanked the police department for the handling of the critical incident that occurred at the Middle School recently. L. Gaddis Barret especially thanked the School Resource Officer. L. Gaddis Barret stated her support for whatever equipment the police department was requesting. L.Gaddis Barrett asked for an update on the retrofitting of the Town Hall. L.Gaddis Barrett stated her issue with the pick up and drop off at the school and asked for a police detail to help. L.Gaddis Barrett made a statement regarding how the Town of Cumberland is handling the prevention and treatment of the COVID virus and asked if the local fire departments would be doing the same in terms of the treatment clinics. Councilor Laplante stated that the Harmony Fire Chief is looking into this type of clinic but the problem is the low number of paramedics who would be needed to run the clinics. Councilor Laplante stated that this is a fire department issue and not a Council issue as the fire departments are independent of the town. Councilor Laplante suggested L.Gaddis Barrett contact the fire department in her district. Councilor Reichert stated the same message from the fire chief of West Gloucester as he is a member. Councilor Laplante stated that the Department of Health is working on this matter. L.Gaddis Barrett asked about payment. Councilor Laplante stated that part is paid by the state and third party billing is accepted by the department. Councilor Laplante stated that whatever the insurance company pays is the amount that is accepted and that if there is no insurance then no bill is sent.



A. Muccino gave an update as to the retrofitting of the town hall. A Muccino stated that they are still working through the purchasing process .

2. Chief Delprete stated his thanks for the kind words in support of the police department as well as the school resource officer. Chief Delprete recognized that there is an issue with traffic at the school at dismissal time. Chief Delprete stated that the number of parents picking up and dropping off students has increased but they are working on the issue.

XIV. 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 - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

Councilor Reichert stated that Council will need a motion to convene to Executive Session and that after Executive Session we will bring anyone waiting back into the meeting before we begin open session:

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to CONVENE to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(5) Land Acquisition; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye

Councilor Worthy -Aye

Councilor Laplante -Aye

Councilor Steere -Aye

Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Reichert asked Christine to please move everyone into the waiting room.

XV. 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; and to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to ADJOURN at 10:30 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED