

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on August 17, 2023

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M. by Councilor S. Arnold, Town Council Vice - President.

II. Roll Call

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

Member absent William A. Worthy, Jr., President

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Iglizzi, Town Solicitor ; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Robert Shields, Recreation Director; Gary Treml, Director Public Works; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Chief Delprete, Police ; John Luszcz, Director Human Services

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor S. Arnold asked if anyone wished to speak on an agenda item to step to the microphone and state your name when called on.

None

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of August 3, 2023 and Special meeting of August 3, 2023
- B. Tax Assessor Additions and Abatements- July 2023
- C. Finance Director Report- July 2023

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPROVE the regular Town Council minutes of August 3, 2023; and the Special meeting of August 3, 2023; to APPROVE Additions to the 2023 Tax Roll in the amount of \$7,386.36, Abatements to the 2023 Tax Roll in the amount of \$8,657.65; and to TABLE the Finance Director's Report of July 2023; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards and Commissions
 - 1. Appointments- Terms to run concurrent with the Town Council- Discussion and /or Action
 - a. EDC- Position # 2- two year term to expire 12/2024

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Clerk has not received a recommendation from the Chair. Councilor S. Arnold stated that if Council does not have a name to bring forward, then Council can

table to the next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the appointment to the EDC, Position #2; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Town Owned Property:

1. Discussion/Action - Town owned building, Adelaide Road

Councilor S. Arnold stated that Council tabled this item until a report on building structure and/or demolition was completed , and a report with possible uses proposed by the Town Planner was received. Councilor S. Arnold 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: August 17, 2023
Re: Adelaide Road

At the August 3, 2023 meeting, the Town Council discussed the current conditions and potential future uses of the recently acquired structure on Adelaide Road that was recently occupied as a multi-family residential use.

A site visit with several members of Rhode Island Housing's construction team has been scheduled for August 25, 2023. This site visit will evaluate the rehabilitation potential for this structure as a residential use, including very preliminary cost estimates. The Building Official and the DPW Director will also attend this site visit. This site visit is at no cost to the Town and the results of the evaluation are not binding on any future use of the structure.

I recommend that this agenda item be tabled until the September 7, 2023 meeting so that we can discuss the findings of this site visit and evaluation.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE Town Owned Property: Discussion/Action - Town owned building, Adelaide Road to the meeting of September 7, 2023; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Authorization to Approve/Sign

1. Contract Amendment Between CLNJS, LLC & Town of Gloucester (for previously approved National Park Service's Historic Revitalization Subgrant) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Planner has requested this item be tabled to the next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the contract amendment between CLNJS, LLC & Town of Gloucester to the next Town Council meeting, September 7, 2023; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

D. Personnel

1. Discussion and/or Action Re: Creation of job description for Hybrid Clerk position (Finance Offices)

Councilor S. Arnold stated he asked for this item to be tabled . Councilor S. Arnold stated that Council has a job description in their packet. Councilor S. Arnold stated that later on in the agenda is a consideration of posting approval.

Discussion: None

No Action Taken by Council

VII. New Business

A. Personnel

1. Discussion and/or Action - Correction to Action taken on August 3, 2023- per employee promotion and raise (Clerk II to Senior Clerk) in Finance Office (Correction retroactive to July 1, 2023)

Councilor S. Arnold stated that at the last Council meeting Council ratified an employee promotion effective July 1, 2023. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the wrong rate of pay was given in the motion, so this item needs to be corrected.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AMEND the hourly rate from \$25.57 to \$26.85, per the Clerk's current contract, for the step promotion, approved on August 3, 2023, for Finance Clerk, Dawn Amaral, from Clerk II status to Senior Clerk status, , effective July 1, 2023; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Finance Department
 - a. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action
 1. Finance Director

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Town Council, with assistance from staff and a finance advisor, have brought forward a candidate for the position of Finance Director.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPOINT Mark Capuano to the position of Finance Director, at an annual salary of \$103,000; and inclusion in the Town's fringe benefit package; with terms to include 20 days of vacation annually, accrued on a monthly basis at 12.5 hours per month at the end of each month and pro-rated for partial month's service; appointment effective September 5, 2023; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: M. Capuano stated his thanks and that he was happy to be here.

- b. Accept Resignation - Discussion and/or Action
 1. Tax Collections - Senior Clerk

Councilor S. Arnold stated that Council has received the resignation of long term employee, Sandra Major, from the Tax Collector's office.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to ACCEPT, with thanks, the resignation of employee Sandra L. Major effective September 9, 2023; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold thanked S. Major for all the years of service. Councilor W. Steere stated his thanks and that S. Major has been here a long time so good for her.

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Authorize process to fill position - Finance Department Clerk - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that as discussed previously, the HR Director, has prepared an internal posting, external posting, and a job description and is now ready to begin the posting process if Council approves.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the HR Director to begin the process to seek a Finance Department Clerk, as Clerk I or Clerk II; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold stated it seems like a good framework in the job description that the acting Finance Director and the HR Director came up with and it will serve multiple

departments.

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

MOTION PASSED

4. Authorization to Sign Addendum to Local Union 1322 Town of Gloucester Clerks Contract - Corrections and removal of obsolete language - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that with the last signing of the latest Clerk’s Contract the Clerk’s office found that the contract to be signed contained obsolete language that should have been deleted before signing. Councilor S. Arnold stated that working with the union steward, the Clerk’s office created an addendum to the current contract that eliminates language that is no longer part of the collective bargaining agreement. Councilor S. Arnold stated that once signed by Council the addendum will be forwarded to the union for signing and will be on file in the Clerk’s Office.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the signature of the Town Council President on an ADDENDUM to the Agreement Between the Town of Gloucester and the R.I. Laborers’ District Council and Local Union 1322, Town of Gloucester Clerks, Effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025; said addendum to be incorporated into the current contract and is solely meant to “state corrected language and/or removal of sections which no longer apply due to current negotiations”; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, if he had reviewed the addendum. D. Iglizzi stated that he had reviewed the addendum and was satisfied that it meets the original and gets rid of extraneous language.

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

MOTION PASSED

- B. Live Streaming
 1. Appointment and fee approval of Audio/visual Assistant - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that during the budget process the Town Clerk worked with the Budget Board to create a line item in her budget to provide a stipend for audio/visual work, live streaming, for each Council meeting. Councilor S. Arnold stated that said stipend was also included in a report from Adam Muccino, former Finance Director, of March 14, 2023, which outlined the proposed Fiscal 2024 Town Budget. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Clerk has discussed with Council utilizing the Deputy Town Clerk for that task. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Clerk is now asking for an action item to secure that stipend for the Deputy.

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame asked the amount of the stipend. J. Fecteau stated it was \$125 and that it was talked about but when we started helping with the budget it got away and there wasn’t a formal action by Council to approve. J. Fecteau stated that when it was talked about Council was in favor. Councilor W. Steere stated that the item was budgeted and it now needs approval. Councilor S. Arnold stated that this is similar to the situation at the last meeting when the Council

hadn't formally voted on a position in Finance which was in the budget, openly discussed with department heads, and communicated to the liaison so Council corrected it by vote at the last meeting. Councilor S. Arnold stated that this was caught as well.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the payment of a stipend to the Deputy Town Clerk, Christine Mathieu, at the rate of \$125.00 per meeting, for live streaming services of Town Council meetings, effective July 1, 2023; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame asked if this item was authorized previously. Councilor S. Arnold stated that this was certainly discussed openly during the budget process and with the former finance director. Councilor W. Steere stated it is in the budget. J. Fecteau stated that she was not comfortable paying the stipend without Town Council making a motion.

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

MOTION PASSED

- C. Special Event Request - (Per Code of Ordinance, Chapter 175)
 - 1. Friendship Lodge - Scarecrow Festival
 - a. Council consideration/approval of waiver of Public Hearing - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Clerk has received an application from Dennis Cipriano, representing Friendship Lodge, for a Special Event, the Scarecrow Festival, proposed for October 14, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that Council can now discuss and determine if the proposed event is similar to last years event, and if so, per the Code of Ordinance, may not require a public hearing.

Discussion:

D. Cipriano , resident, Friendship Lodge member and new Scarecrow Festival manager, stated that the event will be a little smaller than it was last year . D. Cipriano stated the following proposals as to the event: two bands from last year will not be there this year; there are ten people helping to organize and 35-40 volunteers; there will be about five press releases over the next month; and, the current logo and design will be used. D. Cipriano stated that he will be designing a new website in order to be able to collect payments and that the fee this year will be a bit higher due to inflation. D. Cipriano stated that they will need the use of the Pavilion on the day of the Festival to handle registrations and to organize any vendors. D. Cipriano stated that volunteers will be present the entire day to answer questions, direct and help organize. D. Cipriano stated that he will meet with the Chief of Police and Fire Chief to make sure it is a safe event. D. Cipriano stated that he does not think it is a good idea give out one day food licenses and would prefer just the five town licensed food trucks. D. Cipriano asked how many trash barrels and port a johns would be needed.

J. Fecteau stated that last year's motion stated there were ten port a johns. Councilor W. Steere stated that many of those port a johns were donated and he described their location. Councilor S. Arnold also recalled that there about ten port a johns and about one half were donated . Councilor S. Arnold questioned the source of the trash cans. J. Fecteau stated that the trash bins were from the DPW.

D. Cipriano stated that he will be seeking out sponsors to support the event. D. Cipriano stated that he would like to have a variety of people to judge from EDC, GBA, Grange, Friendship Lodge and the community. D. Cipriano stated that there will be three clean up days: the day after, the 29th and Nov 4th. Councilor W. Steere stated that last year trash was an issue and he wants to make sure it is not an issue this year.

J. Fecteau stated that the question is if the event is bigger, smaller or the same as last year because the first order of business is the question of whether or not the public hearing can be waived. J. Fecteau stated that once Council decides if the public hearing can be waived then the Council can hear the details. Councilor S. Arnold stated his opinion that he does not feel the event should be bigger; that the community enjoys the event; thanked Friendship Lodge for taking over; and, stated it sounds like it will be a repeat of last year or maybe slightly less.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to WAIVE a Public Hearing for the proposed Special Event, Scarecrow Festival, by applicant: Friendship Lodge, for October 14, 2023; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

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

MOTION PASSED

- b. Council consideration/approval of Special Event (if waiver of Public Hearing approved) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that Council may now consider the application received.

Discussion:

D. Cipriano stated that this event is not a money maker for the Lodge but rather it is for the community. D. Cipriano stated that the Lodge is actively seeking to raise money and will donate it back to the community. D. Cipriano stated that the Lodge has two community programs that they consistently donate to yearly and that is the goal for this event. D. Cipriano stated this event is a way for Friendship Lodge to give back to the Town.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the judging is in the hands of the Friendship Lodge; that the DPW Director (present at the meeting) gave a thumbs up as to trash cans; and stated his opinion to maintain the size of the event the same as last year. Councilor S. Arnold stated that there remained the question of the number of port a johns. D. Cipriano stated that the Lodge will take care of the port a johns and that all he needs tonight is a decision from Council as to whether or not the Lodge can hold the event.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that there was a question as to the use of the Pavilion. D. Cipriano stated that the Lodge would need the Pavilion on the day of the event for registration. Councilor W. Steere stated that this is not a town sponsored event but that the Council is trying to help out as the Lodge is running the event. Councilor W. Steere asked about the one day licenses.

R. Shields, Recreation Director, stated that in the past, the marketplace held at the Pavilion, for this event was under the Grange for an overall license. R. Shields stated that he would run this event like he does the Farmer's Market where he collects all the necessary paperwork and all vendors fall under his umbrella. R. Shields stated that if he runs it like he does the marketplace then each

individual vendor does not need to get a license from the Clerk. Councilor W. Steere stated the application from the Lodge does not have a marketplace request so the Council needs to decide if the market at the Pavilion as described by R. Shields is a separate event or not.

D. Cipriano stated that the marketplace is a draw for the people at the Scarecrow Festival and it is an activity that can support the community. D. Cipriano stated his opinion that if the goal is to give back to the community then he hopes it will continue. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that the vendors at the marketplace are there to make money. D. Cipriano stated that he feels the marketplace is more of a positive than a negative. D. Cipriano stated that adding the individual food trucks and vendors to his task as manager would get out of control.

D. Cipriano stated that Friendship Lodge and others in town like Chepachet Fire will be selling food on their private property. D. Cipriano asked if an outside vendor were to come in then would they need to get a one day license. J. Fecteau stated her confirmation. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he is concerned the event may become too big and appreciates that D. Cipriano is sensitive to that issue. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he does not think more vendors are needed and that this part is separate from the festival being requested by Friendship Lodge. C. Greathouse stated that five food trucks would be sufficient for the event being described by D. Cipriano.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council is the licensing authority so Council can decide to issue a license or not. J. Fecteau stated that the five trucks that have a license to sell in Gloucester have to have permission from the private property owner to be on their property and also permission if on town property. D. Cipriano stated that his concern that the food trucks be in a safe location. D. Cipriano stated that the food trucks and vendors are outside his scope and he does not want to handle that. Councilor S. Arnold stated his appreciation for Friendship Lodge and the volunteers for stepping up and helping to keep this event special. D. Cipriano stated that many in town are not aware of what Friendship Lodge is all about and does so this is a way for the town to learn and see.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPROVE the Special Event, for Applicant, Friendship Lodge, for the Gloucester Scarecrow Festival 2023, to be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 p.m. with the following stipulations:

1. Any food, not prepackaged, cooked and/or served on any Town property shall be served by a certified food handler and all applicable food safety state guidelines will be observed.
2. Cleanup and trash removal will be the responsibility of the Applicant
3. All stipulations for use of the Town Pavilion, **if used**, in the Code of Ordinance, Chapter. 221-18, shall be followed unless waived prior to event.
4. The applicant will work with the Chief of Police regarding a Police presence for safety. The hours and number of officers needed will be at the Chiefs discretion.
5. The applicant will work with the Chepachet Fire Chief to ensure all safety measures are observed and all areas are accessible by emergency vehicles.
6. A current Certificate of Insurance Liability, in an amount to be determined by the Town Solicitor shall be filed prior to license being issued.
7. A Gloucester Field Permit shall be obtained from the Recreation Director for use of the Pavilion, if used, prior to license being issued.
8. To include ten porta johns for the event
9. Signs for parking shall be clearly posted

seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked if the proposal submitted by Friendship Lodge that was part of their application should be included in the motion. D. Iglizzi stated that the proposal can be incorporated into the motion by reference.

Councilor J. Burlingame withdrew his second.

Councilor W. Steere added to his motion as # 10. Incorporation of the request in the application

seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discssion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- c. Council consideration/approval of waiver of Pavilion Rules -
 Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that if the pavilion is used, if there are any rules for the pavilion use to be waived, Council can discuss with applicant and decide whether to waive those rules.

Discussion: R. Shields stated that it depends upon how Council wants to handle the marketplace. R. Shields stated that if Council wants to treat the marketplace as a separate event then waivers of four items from the Code will be needed. R. Shields stated that if Council treats the marketplace as a sponsored event by the Recreation Department then no waivers will be needed. Councilor W. Steere asked what would happen if the vendors do not go through R. Shields . R. Shields stated that each vendor would have to get a license from the Clerk. Councilor W. Steere asked how it was done in the past. R. Shields stated that M. Rechter, former director of the festival, would include on his application and work with R. Shields in order to use his collection of permits to cover the vendors. R. Shields stated he can continue to do as he did in the past but it is up to Council. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he feels it is separate event from the festival.

R. Shields stated that he feels there are three items important to the festival: scarecrows, the mini art festival and the food trucks. R. Shields stated that these three components make a recipe for success. Councilor W. Steere asked how many vendors last year. R. Shields stated there were 30-40 vendors. R. Shields described the set up and how all the vendors fit at the Pavilion. R. Shields stated that S. Barron did a great job organizing and cleaning up last year and is a valuable addition to the event.

Councilor W. Steere stated he is not sure the Council can make a decision tonight because they are looking at the rules for the Pavilion so it may need to be an agenda item at another time. Councilor W. Steere stated they may need more time but if it is to occur, he does he does not want the event to get bigger. R. Shields stated that an application may be necessary if the Council sees it as something being not housed under his department. R. Shields stated that if it is under his purview then he handles the vendors and this takes some of the burden off the Council. R. Shields stated his

opinion that the marketplace is paramount to the success of the festival and he does not want to be one of the people who does not allow the event to flourish. R. Shields stated that there were just the five town licensed food trucks last year. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that R. Shields should go ahead and plan and then come before Council as an agenda item for consideration.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that he feels the marketplace should be a separate event from the festival and that a big concern is parking. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council needs to be careful with the number of special events on the same day. Councilor W. Steere stated that if the marketplace were under R. Shield's purview that he feels it would be okay and that he would feel differently if it was an outside organization asking. R. Shields stated that he feels if there are people in place who can help then he would be in good shape to go ahead and proceed without getting a special license to get it done.

D. Igliazzi stated he was looking at the Pavilion regulations. R. Shields stated that four items in the regulations that would be requested to be waived are I,N,O and P. R. Shields stated that he has been doing them on Sundays. D. Igliazzi stated that waiving rules is on the agenda and asked Council if they would feel comfortable waiving tonight or would need to think about. R. Shields stated that the items to be waived are the same that were asked for by the GBA for the Trick or Treat event. J. Fecteau asked if this item applied to the marketplace. R. Shields stated that he is not sure if this agenda item applies to the marketplace tonight as the item is part of the agenda item as it relates to the request from Friendship Lodge. Councilor W. Steere stated that these are two separate things so to have consistency it would be better if a request is made to Council as an agenda item. R. Shields stated that he can come back to Council and ask for this item on behalf of the marketplace. J. Fecteau stated that a request can be made at anytime before the event as no request has been made.

No action taken by Council

D. Bds. & Commissions

1. Parade Committee Appointments:

a. Alternate #2 & Alternate #3 Positions - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that there are no recommendations from the Parade Committee Chair at this time. Councilor S. Arnold stated that Council can choose from the talent bank list or table the appointments.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the appointment of Alternate #2 and Alternate #3, Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Learn365 Compact

1. Consideration of Support - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that this initiative, from the Governor's Office, is a request for community leaders to support concepts that promote 365 days of educational possibilities as opposed

to 180 days. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Governor's Office feels as though the support of community leaders sends a strong message of the importance of educational opportunities. Councilor S. Arnold stated that once communities opt in by signing the Governor's Learn365 Compact, grant funds will be available for qualifying uses for the creation of health monitoring programs, job training, and education programs.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that he had a chance to read the compact and that Learn365 does not have anything to do with schools but does have to do with communities. Councilor W. Steere stated that his opinion that the only qualifier may be the libraries and he feels it would be good to opt in. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has nothing to do but to opt in to support life long learning in this initiative.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that we are not committing anything except support of the principle. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that it would be supporting the concept.

J. Fecteau stated that when they first started to learn what they were offering we looked at what the grant money could be used for and it had to be capital projects. J. Fecteau stated that as the grant money was being used that programs also had to be set up. J. Fecteau stated that they first looked to the Senior Center but were told that because it is membership based that it did not qualify. J. Fecteau stated that the only town building seemed to fit the qualifications was the libraries. Councilor S. Arnold stated he is comfortable opting in and hopes it can be utilized.

G. Wolstenholme, Director of Libraries, stated that she was contacted by J. Fecteau and K. Scott, Town Planner about this grant opportunity. G. Wolstenholme stated that this is an incredible opportunity for the libraries because all previous capital projects have been done through the Champlin Foundation. G. Wolstenholme stated that Champlin Foundation has given hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years but that she can only apply to Champlin Foundation so many times and even takes two years off in between.

G. Wolstenholme stated that this \$700,000 grant would improve two buildings and would improve learning opportunities. G. Wolstenholme stated that her concern is that she hopes the programs they already do can be supported. G. Wolstenholme stated she is not sure if the grant applies only to new programs that are created. J. Fecteau stated that they were told that the grant money could possibly apply to existing programs but if G. Wolstenholme sends her a letter she will forward it to the governor's office for an answer. Councilor W. Steere stated that this is also a no match grant so there is no money required from the town. Councilor S. Arnold thanked J. Fecteau for all her hard work.

No Action necessary.

2. Authorization to sign Learn365 Compact - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that if Council agrees to support this initiative, the Compact must be signed.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the "Rhode Island Municipal Education Compact" to submit to the Governor's Office; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

F. Gloucester Food Pantry Updates- Discussion and/ or Action

Councilor W. Steere stated he requested this item as he has heard a lot of chatter about the food pantry as to supplies and wanted to give J. Luszczyk, Human Services Director, an opportunity to explain.

J. Luszczyk stated that there were two large hand trucks with food delivered on Wednesday from a regular donor which was sitting waiting to be shelved. J. Luszczyk stated that the volunteers come in at 9 am and shelve the food. J. Luszczyk stated that the individual who complained was let in at about 8 am and saw empty shelves. J. Luszczyk stated that he shops weekly going to 4-5 different stores looking for the best deals; looks for grants and that he is down to \$47,000 in his account. J. Luszczyk stated that food donations are down for both food and money . J. Luszczyk stated that all is running smoothly.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the food pantry is not the first place for people to come to as there are state programs available. Councilor W. Steere stated that the food pantry is where people turn if they run short. Councilor W. Steere stated he had several questions that people had asked him. Councilor W. Steere asked where does the food for the pantry come from. J. Luszczyk stated that he goes to Price-Rite, Job Lot, BJ's, Restaurant Depot, Market Basket, and Dollar Tree. J. Luszczyk stated he tries to look for the best deals he can.

Councilor W. Steere asked if he can get food from the RI Food Bank. J. Luszczyk stated that because the food pantry serves only Gloucester that it is exempt from the RI Food Bank. J. Luszczyk stated that he also trades with the Church . J. Luszczyk stated that he had bread today that he traded for fresh vegetables from the Church.

Councilor C. Greathouse stated that Jericho supplies meat and things that the Gloucester food pantry does not.

Councilor W. Steere asked the types of food that are being purchased. J. Luszczyk stated that he buys the foods listed on the state guidelines like: cereals, canned milk, snacks, cookies, crackers, bakery items, pasta, sauce and canned goods. J. Luszczyk stated that fruits and vegetables and bread are donated and that he gives vouchers for meat and poultry because he can't carry those items. J. Luszczyk stated that all items are on the federal guidelines and that paper products are also donated. J. Luszczyk stated that he has wonderful volunteers.

Councilor W. Steere asked how the food vouchers worked. J. Luszczyk stated that the vouchers are \$10 food each for people who qualify. J. Luszczyk stated that a single person making \$33,000 per year or two people making \$44,000 per year qualify. J. Luszczyk stated that the vouchers are \$10 each and a qualified person can get \$30 total for the month.

Councilor W. Steere asked about the hours . J. Luszczyk stated that technically he is open to the public one day a week on Wednesdays but that he works with the public and their schedules as not all can

make it on Wednesday. J. Luszczyk stated that he is at the food pantry five days a week. J. Luszczyk stated that he is up to 102 clients and added 26 in the past fiscal year. J. Luszczyk stated that there are some on the list who may come off as there has been no activity. J. Luszczyk stated that he has two and one half the times clients as when he started.

Councilor W. Steere stated his concern that with donations down, despite having generous people in town, he is worried that J. Luszczyk will run out of money.

Councilor W. Steere asked the cost value between the vouchers and the food in the pantry. Councilor W. Steere asked if it would be cheaper to have food or give vouchers. J. Luszczyk stated that both are needed as a lot of food is donated. Councilor W. Steere stated his worry of balancing food vouchers with the expense because of the worry that J. Luszczyk will run out of money. J. Luszczyk stated that one way to handle that would be to give less money in a food voucher.

J. Luszczyk stated that with the donations coming in he feels that he can maintain the \$50,000 budget and that it would take eighteen months to run out of money.

Councilor C. Greathouse thanked J. Luszczyk for all his hard work; that he is doing a fantastic job; and that people are extremely grateful. Councilors S. Arnold and W. Steere also stated their thanks to J. Luszczyk.

VIII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Council has received a resident complaint about their tax increase and Vision Appraisal.

IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor S. Arnold asked if any department heads have anything to report or if Council has any questions for department heads.

1. G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that storms are coming in fast and furious; that he feels we are coming into a hard hurricane season which he anticipates being more active. G. Mosca stated that the EMA is starting to prepare in the event of a major disaster. G. Mosca stated that Gloucester has paired up with RIEMA and FEMA for a disaster exercise that will take place next month at the town hall.

G. Mosca stated that EMA has possession of two trailers. G. Mosca stated that one is for the emergency ATV and equipment and that the other is to consolidate all the EMA supplies that are spread all over town.

G. Mosca stated that FEMA will be coming out at the end of August to look at some draft plans for the management grant.

Councilor W. Steere thanked all of the CERT volunteers at the 4th of July parade events. G. Mosca stated the CERT volunteers have gone through a lot of training and are very enthusiastic and will also help at the event in a month.

Councilor C. Greathouse asked for the date of the disaster event. G. Mosca stated the event would be held on September 16, 2023 at the town hall parking lot.

2. Chief Delprete stated that it is amazing what the residents do as he found the police station filled with donations for the food pantry. Chief Delprete stated that Congressman S. Magaziner came to the police station and spoke about the future plans. Chief Delprete stated that J. Fecteau, K. Scott and G. Mosca all came. Chief Delprete stated his opinion that it is now game time as to future plans for the police station. Chief Delprete stated that the P & S agreement could be ready to be signed; that he is working with an architect; that the water test came back better than he thought it would; and that he feels the plans are better than he originally thought. Chief Delprete stated that Congressman S. Magaziner was impressed with the health programs in town.

3. J. Luszcz asked about the van for his department as he heard it is in the country. Councilor S. Arnold stated he would give J. Luszcz an update tomorrow.

X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor S. Arnold asked if any boards and/ or commissions have anything to report or does Council have any questions for board or commission members.

None

XI. Open Forum

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

1. C. Wilson, chair Historic District Commission, stated he would like to view the Adelaide Road property when it is viewed with people from RI Housing. Councilor W. Steere stated that C. Wilson should contact K. Scott, Town Planner.
2. S. Whelan, resident, stated that he is not very happy about the tax bill he received which increased by \$700. S. S. Whelan stated that there has got to be a better way to do this and that he is retired and on a fixed income. S. Whelan stated that the values and taxes were not equal across the board. S. Whelan stated that he did not go to Vision and waited for his tax bill because the tax rate was not yet known. S. Whelan asked who sets the tax rate and stated that the rate should be known earlier than it was this year.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that Vision sets the values and Council did not know the rate till the end because there were some issues. Councilor S. Arnold stated that in theory the rates should be set a lot earlier next year because it is not a reval year. Councilor S. Arnold stated it is a frustrating process.

XII. Executive Session

- A. Seek to Convene to **Executive Session (Closed Session)**: Discussion vote or other action pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a) (1) "Any discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that the person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting".

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to CONVENE to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: D. Iglizzi stated for the record that the statutory notice was sent.

VOTE: Councilor S. Arnold requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Greathouse - Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Burlingame -Aye
Councilor Arnold -Aye

MOTION PASSED

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

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to RECONVENE Open Session, Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session, Item. A. Personnel and to Seal the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: Councilor S. Arnold requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Greathouse - Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Burlingame -Aye
Councilor Arnold -Aye

MOTION PASSED

XIV. Discussion, vote or other action regarding possible termination of employment of an introductory employee

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to ACCEPT the Public Works Directors recommendation and not offer probationary employee, Nicolas Pasquerillo , a permanent position with the Town of Gloucester; last day of service to be August 18, 2023; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

XV. Dept. of Public Works

- A. Authorization for Public Works Director to advertise and post for Driver/Laborer 1, as needed - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the Public Works Director and HR Director to begin the process to advertise and seek out a Driver/Laborer 1 for the Dept. of Public Works; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 9:12 p.m.; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED