

At a Special meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on April 25, 2016:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William E. Reichert; Edward C. Burlingame.

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Diane Brennan, Finance Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Budget FY 2016/2017 - Discussion and/or action

A. Adoption of Budget

Councilor W. Steere stated that after Public Hearing and changes/minor adjustments by the Finance Director discussed at the hearing tonight we now need to adopt the budget.

There was discussion as to whether the questions should be first adopted as it may change the budget number.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to MOVE Item B. Approval of Questions for the Financial Town Referendum Ballot of May 17, 2016 to this point; seconded by Councilor G. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES - W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame
NAYS -0

MOTION PASSED

B. Approval of Questions for the Financial Town Referendum Ballot of May 17, 2016

The Town Clerk stated she had prepared some possible questions for the Council to consider and use towards their formation of questions.

Discussion followed on whether one questions could be used.

Councilor Burlingame discussed the student proration for the Region and whether it was necessary to treat that as a special appropriation. Councilor Burlingame felt that the \$65, 728 could be assigned (from surplus) by the Council at the end of year

D. Brennan explained there are commitments (which are made by voters typically at Town Financial Meeting in the past) or assignments (which the Council assigns at the end of fiscal year) that can be utilized.

Councilor G. Steere asked when the Council would do this assignment. D. Brennan stated at the end of the year.

Councilor Burlingame stated that \$75,000 is already committed and having a reserve for the next proration, which could be higher, is prudent.

D. Brennan explained that the \$65,728 (for this year's proration) is already included in the total budget and the amount would be to increase the set aside.

Councilor G. Steere stated he believed the Council was only taking \$30,000 from the existing set aside of \$75,000 towards the student proration and just appropriate the difference. D. Brennan explained that idea was presented to the budget board who came back with the proposal of paying this years bill out of surplus and appropriating another \$65,728 to the set aside account.

Councilor G. Steere questioned where the funds to pay this years proration expense was coming from and questioned whether it would increase taxes. D. Brennan stated it would not increase taxes and would be paid from surplus.

After discussion it was agreed that the proration appropriation was not necessary on the ballot.

After discussion on the correct format and how to clarify the proposed questions the Council voted on the following ballot questions:

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPROVE the questions for the Financial Town Referendum to be held on May 17, 2016:

Question #1: Shall the Town Budget for fiscal year 2016/17 appropriate a sum of \$28,717,303 which includes Municipal Services & Capital Expenses; Gloucester School Dept. Operating & Capital Expenses; Gloucester's share of the Foster/Glocester Regional Operating & Capital Expenses; and includes a Levy of Property Tax not less than \$21,653,000 nor more than \$21,703,000?

Question #2: Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of \$100,000, from surplus, towards the purchase of recreational property for the town, **this appropriation will come from existing surplus and will not increase the amount to be raised by taxes ?**

Question #3: Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of \$300,000, from surplus, towards a \$1.5 million dollar commitment (in Five annual installments) for the necessary repairs to the Gloucester Elementary Schools, **this appropriation will come from existing surplus and will not increase the amount to be raised by taxes ?**

Seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: none

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame.
 NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

IV. Budget FY 2016/2017 - Discussion and/or action

 A. Adoption of Budget

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADOPT the 2016/2017 Budget as follows:
Total Appropriations \$28,717,303 for an amount to be raised by taxes of not less than \$21,653,000
nor more than \$21,703,000; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: none

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame
 NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED

Council discussed advertising the questions with more detail so the voters will have a clear and complete explanation of the questions.

V. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 8:00 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: none

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame
 NAYS: 0

MOTION PASSED