

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on August 5, 2021:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to Order at 7:31 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Julian (Jay ) Forgue, President; William E. Reichert, Vice President; Stephen Arnold; and William Worthy , Jr.

Members absent: Walter M. O. Steere, III

Also Present: David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; John Luszcz, Human Services Director; Robert Shields, Recreation Director and Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor Forgue stated that this item is for discussion on agenda items.

1. K. Iacobbo, 58 Granby Street, stated her opinions and concerns as to masks and gave each Council member a handout.

V. Public Hearing

- A. Amendment to Special Events Previously Granted to Hill's Tavern and Grill, LLC  
Applicant: Albert Hill, Jr., d/b/a Hill's Tavern and Grill  
Location: 417 Putnam Pike  
Applicant Proposes adding an additional outside Special event with music for August, 2021- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that this public hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on July 29, 2021 and abutters notices were sent.

Councilor Forgue DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN.

Councilor Forgue asked if either the applicant or his attorney would like to step to the podium and explain the application before Council.

Discussion: D. D'Agostino , Esq., Attorney for applicant, stated that applicant is requesting one special event for August. Attorney D'Agostino stated that applicant had already booked the two allowed outside special events for August and could not rearrange the already scheduled events. Attorney D'Agostino stated that applicant will comply with whatever Council says and that this will not change the total number of allowed events for the year.

Councilor Forgue asked the time for the event. Attorney D'Agostino stated the event would be from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Councilor Worthy asked if the raffle was done through

the state police. Attorney D'Agostino stated he was aware of the requirement but does not know if anyone has followed the procedure.

D. Storey, Putnam Pike, Gloucester resident, gave a description of the young person who the fund raiser was for and that the funds would be used to purchase a much needed van. D. Storey stated that they went through the state police and the Chief of Gloucester waived their normal fee. Councilor Reichert stated that the abutters have no problem with this event.

Councilor Forgue asked if anyone else would like to speak, hearing none:

Councilor Forgue DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to GRANT the request to amend the previously granted block of Special Events for applicant: Albert Hill, Jr., d/b/a Hill's Tavern and Grill, Location: 417 Putnam Pike; said request is to add a, one time amendment, of an additional outside Special event with music for August 21, 2021 bringing Hill's Tavern and Grill to three events with music in August 2021; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of July 1, 2021; Special Meeting of July 7, 2021
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements - July 2021
- C. Finance Directors Report -June & July 2021

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of July 1st and the Special meeting minutes of July 7th, 2021; to APPROVE the Additions to the 2021 Tax Roll in the amount of \$3,440.17; the Abatements to the 2021 Tax Roll in the amount of \$3,787.06; and to ACCEPT the Finance Directors Reports for June and July 2021; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards and Commissions
  - 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
    - a. Parade Committee
      - 1. Positions #7

Councilor Forgue stated that the Chair has recommended Michael Danielson and that a talent bank application has been filed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPOINT Michael Danielson to Position #7 on the Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Recreation Commission
  - 1. Position # 2- term to expire 1/2023

Councilor Forgue stated that the Chair has not given a recommendation at this time. Councilor Forgue asked if anyone on the Council has a recommendation and if not then this appointment can be tabled.

Discussion: Councilor Worthy stated that he had spoken to the commission and they would like the matter to be tabled.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission, Position #2; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- c. Historic District Commission-
  - 1. Position # 1- Term to expire 11/1/2023

Councilor Forgue stated that the Chair has recommended moving Alternate member, Barbara Waterman, from an Alternate position to this full position.

MOTION was made Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Barbara Waterman to Position #1, Historic District Commission, for a term to expire 11/1/2023; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: C. Wilson, Chair of Historic District Commission, stated he has not found anyone to fill the Alternate position and thanked the Council for moving B. Waterman forward.

#### VIII. New Business

- A. Discussion on the possible creation/adoption of an “Employee’s Freedom of Choice Policy” - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that Council received correspondence from an employee regarding the

adoption of a policy that includes the following: **“prohibiting the Town of Glocester from mandating any employee to receive any medical vaccinations prior to or during employment with the Town of Glocester, and that employees be protected from any discrimination, harassment or dismissal for refusal of such vaccinations regardless if such requirement is mandated by the State of RI or the U.S. Federal Government. With the only exception being the existing requirements in place for employee’s working within the Animal Control”**

Councilor Forgue stated that if Council wants to consider such a policy, this item can be forwarded to Don Zimmerman, acting HR Director, to formulate a policy and bring back to Council for adoption.

Discussion: Councilor Arnold stated his opinion that this is a good idea as employees should be able to do what they want with their medical care and he supports sending to HR to look at. Councilor Worthy stated he supports such a proposed policy.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to forward the proposed policy request to the acting HR Director to research and determine if said policy is appropriate for the Town of Glocester and it’s employees and return to Council with a recommendation at a later meeting ; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Boards & Commissions

1. Resignation(s) - Discussion and/or Action
  - a. Economic Development Commission

1. Position # 1- One unexpired two year term to expire 1/2023

Councilor Forgue stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Christopher Harkness from the EDC.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ACCEPT, with regrets, the resignation of Christopher Harkness from the Economic Development Commission, Position #1; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: Councilors Worthy and Forgue thanked C. Harkness for his service.

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Zoning Board

1. Position # 3- One unexpired five year term to expire 11/2023

Councilor Forgue stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Steven Winsor from the Zoning Board.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to ACCEPT, with regrets, the resignation of Steven Winsor from the Zoning Board of Review; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: Councilor Forgue thanked S. Winsor for his work and recognized the long time he was on the board.

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action

a. Economic Development Commission

1. Position # 1- One unexpired two year term to expire 1/2023

Councilor Forgue stated that the Clerk has received a recommendation from the Chair. Councilor Forgue stated that the Chair recommends the ad hoc member, Bernadette MacArthur.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Bernadette MacArthur to Position #1 on the Economic Development Commission for the term to expire 1/2023; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Zoning Board

1. Position # 3 - term to expire 11/2023

Councilor Forgue stated that the Chair has asked that the Alternate #1 member, Mike Martone, move up to Position #3,

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Mike Martone to Position #3 on the Zoning Board, for a term to expire 11/2023; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. Personnel

1. Resignation - Discussion and/or Action

a. Police Department - Dispatcher

Councilor Forgue stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Dispatcher, Paul Desnoyers, effective August 9, 2021.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ACCEPT , with regrets, the resignation of Police Department Dispatcher, Paul Desnoyers effective August 9, 2021; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forge,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Tax Assessor

Councilor Forge stated that the Council has received the resignation of Lori DeSantis, on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, from the position of Tax Assessor, effective immediately.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ACCEPT the resignation of Lori DeSantis from the position of Tax Assessor, effective July 27, 2021; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forge,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Appointments

a. Public Works - Discussion and/or Action

1. Driver/Laborer 1

Councilor Forge stated that this item is for an approved, budgeted new position in the Public Works Department.

Council Forge stated that Council has received a recommendation from the Public Works Director and the acting HR Director which Councilor Forge read as follows:

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jean Fecteau

FROM: Don Zimmerman

DATE: July 26, 2021

SUBJECT: Driver/Laborer I

Please see the attached memorandum from Gary Treml, Public Works Director, dated July 23, 2021, recommending the hiring of Kevin Paine as a Driver/Laborer I, effective August 9, 2021. I reviewed Kevin's background and qualifications and participated in the selection interview. I agree that Kevin is well-qualified for the position.

(End of memo)

July 23, 2021

TO: Donald Zimmerman, HR Director

From: Gary Treml, Public Works Director

Re: Driver/Laborer I Position Recommendation

Don:

The Driver/Laborer I position was advertised in the Bargain Buyer and the Observer. We received 12 applications. After reviewing them I chose 4 applicants to interview. Out of the 4 interviews I thought Kevin Paine was best suited for the position. I am requesting that Kevin Paine, of 1234 Jackson Schoolhouse Rd, Pascoag, be appointed to the position of Driver Laborer I effective August 9,2021. The rate of compensation will be \$23.73 per hour. After satisfactorily completing the six month probationary period his hourly rate will increase to \$24.73. regular full time Driver Laborer I rate.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Trembl  
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPOINT Kevin Paine to the position of Dept. of Public Works, Driver/Laborer I, effective August 9, 2021, at a rate of compensation of \$23.73 per hour until the completion of the six month probationary period, then increasing to \$24.73 per hour; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Human Services - Discussion and/or Action
  - 1. Van Driver - On Call Driver

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received a memo from the Human Services Director which he read as follows:

Members of the town council:

As I am preparing to reinstate the shopping trips for our shut in seniors I am concerned about my ability to fulfill my obligation with my existing drivers. The shopping trips will be on Tuesdays only and to Dino's Market. Dino's has a 10% discount for seniors on Tuesday and I would like for our senior residents to take advantage of this. This program was abandoned before due to our clients either moving away, going to nursing homes or passing away. Now I am getting calls from senior clients family members asking if such a program exists.

At this time I am asking that Stephanie Kane be reinstated as a part time on call driver. She will be used only as needed. This action will not impact my existing drivers as Stephanie will only be used when the other drivers are out sick or are taking some personal time. Mrs Kane has a recent BCI on file from the Glocester Police Department as well as her cardiac/cpr certificate. She has already operated as a driver when one of my people was out for an extended period of time. She has demonstrated an ability to work professionally and personally knows many of our senior clients.

I respectfully request the council give serious consideration to this request.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration.

John Luszczy Director

(end of memo)

Councilor Forgue stated that the acting HR Director has reviewed the request and sees no issue.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Stephanie Kane as an On-Call Van Driver for the Human Services Department, effective immediately, at an hourly rate of \$14.16; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: Councilor Reichert asked if the new person would effect the job of the person who was on leave. J. Luszcz, Human Services Director, corrected Councilor Reichert that the usual van driver was not on leave and stated that the new hire would be an on call driver so she would not effect the usual driver.

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

c. Police Department - Dispatcher - Discussion and/or Action

1. Amend effective date of recently appointed Dispatcher

Councilor Forgue stated that Council appointed Tracy Cook to the position of full time Police Dispatcher on June 2, 2021. Councilor Forgue stated that Tracy's start date was to be begin when Dispatcher Paul Desnoyers' retirement began, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Councilor Forgue stated that due to a change in that retirement date, that date needs to be changed to August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AMEND the start date for newly appointed Police Department Dispatcher, Tracy Cook, from August 24<sup>th</sup> to August 8, 2021, all other terms of said employment as stated in the Town Council motion of June 2, 2021 remain effective; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

d. Tax Assessor - Discussion and/or Action

1. Appointment and/or Seek to Fill Position

Councilor Forgue stated that if Council chooses, a motion can be made to authorize the acting HR Director to start the process of filling this position by posting and advertising.

Councilor Forgue stated that per the "Hiring a department head policy" the Council needs to determine:

Who will assist the following staff in interviewing prospective employees:

This staff will include the HR Director and the Council liaison to HR

and at least one additional department head, council person, or designee.

Councilor Forgue stated that it probably should be the Finance Director in this case

and the number of candidates the HR/Finance Director will bring forward to Council for final interviews.

Discussion: Councilor Arnold stated that A. Muccino, Finance Director, would be a good candidate for the committee and that it makes sense to post the position. Councilor Forgue asked A. Muccino if he would be on the committee and he stated he would.



MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the acting HR Director to work with the Finance Director to update the current job description, as needed, and advertise the position of Tax Assessor; staff shall interview qualified candidates and refer the top 4 candidates to the Town Council for a final interview; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Sand Dam Reservoir Association - Trash complaints- Discussion and/or Action

J. Colaluca, 61 Wood Road, Gloucester resident, stated her opinion that it was important to continue to work together to decrease litter in town. J. Colaluca offered two recommendations: 1) Sand Dam Reservoir Association will organize an Adopt the Spot program from Wilmarth Road to the dam; and, 2) she asked for police help in giving warnings to people who do not have their trash covered as she cited in RIGL 31-25-10. J. Colaluca stated that the suggestions do not have anything to do with the fine job being done by the DPW. Councilor Forgue thanked J. Colaluca for all her work. Councilor Arnold stated that the Adopt a Spot is a neat idea and worth exploring. Councilor Reichert suggested signs to be placed at the transfer station to let people know about the penalties of uncovered trash. J. Colaluca stated that signs had been put up in the past and worked for a bit. Councilor Forgue requested the Adopt a Spot be placed on the next agenda.

E. Authorization - Community Septic Loan Program  
Waiver of Debt to Income Ratio: for 380 Saw Mill Road

Councilor Forgue stated that the Finance Director has received a request from Rhode Island Housing asking the Town if they would like to make an exception to the debt to income ratio for a potential Community Septic Loan program participant. Councilor Forgue stated that all information is in Council's packet for consideration and the Finance Director has submitted a memo which Councilor Worthy read as follows:

To: The Honorable Gloucester Town Council, Jay Forgue, President  
From: Adam R. Muccino, Finance Director  
Date: 07/30/2021  
Re: Septic Program - Forgetta Exception Request

The Council has received an exception request from Richard and Patricia Forgetta of 380 Saw Mill Road.

As noted in the attached memorandum from RI Housing, the borrowers Debt to Income ratio is at 69%, where the guidelines for the program set the DTI limit at 45%. The Town has previously approved exception requests from borrowers with much higher Debt to Income ratios and those borrowers have remained in the program and not defaulted on their obligation. Additionally, the Forgetta's are 27 years residents of the Town having owned the property since 1994.

Considering all of this, it is my humble recommendation to the Council that this exception be approved, allowing the Forgetta's to move forward obtaining financing through the Town of Gloucester's Community Septic Loan Program through Rhode Island Housing.

Respectfully,

Adam R. Muccino  
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the exception of debt to income ratio on a current Rhode Island Housing loan application for the Gloucester Community Septic Loan Program, for property located at 380 Saw Mill Road, owned by Richard & Patricia Forgetta; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

F. Economic Development Commission - Town Council approval of website content - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that the Chair of the EDC would like Council to review the website set up by the EDC and consider approval of the website content.

A. Sarje, EDC Chair, described the website and the additional information that may be added as well and stated that the developer, Dennis Cipriano of Midfield Technologies, has been wonderful to work with. After a discussion, by multiple people, as to how to make the website available for viewing by all in attendance, it was recommended and approved by D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, that the website be shared with the audience to access on their devices and the Council could access the website on their laptops and turn them to face the audience for viewing. The Council members also offered for anyone in the audience to come up closer to their laptops to view if needed. Councilor Arnold stated the content was great. D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, requested that the memo regarding Facebook be sent to him as he did not receive it for review.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPROVE the website “stay up” (remain live) and for the Council to consider approving the content of the Economic Development website at the Town Council meeting of September 2, 2021; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

G. Gloucester Veterans Memorial Recreation Area - Discussion and/or Action  
1. Consideration of Use of Town Property: Property located at Snake Hill Road & Stone Dam Road, AP. 12, Lots 71A, 92 & 93

Councilor Forgue stated that has received a memo from the Chief which he read as follows:

To: Honorable Town Council  
From: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police

Date: July 23, 2021  
Subj: Police Department Outdoor Range Facility

Dear Council Members:

This correspondence is to respectfully request permission and consensus for the Police Department to utilize an 88 Acre parcel 12-92/93 of town owned land east of Stone Dam Road and South of Snake Hill Road to construct a semi-permanent outdoor firing range facility.

The police department has never had a firing range, and has relied exclusively on private property owners for the police department state mandated firearms qualifications and training.

This proposed firing range location has a natural 20 foot southerly berm that meets or exceeds national standards, with the outer perimeters secured by a natural barrier. The project would further add a second sand impact berm to environmentally protect the natural landscape and add concrete block side berms to protect any misdirected rounds along while constructing a gravel base and roadway for parking.

The outdoor range will be insured under the Town of Gloucester RI Interlocal-Trust insurance umbrella policy. Signage will be posted throughout the property with a locked gate into the general range area. This range will be utilized six to eight times a year by Police Department members for qualifications/training and at least one night time training per year.

Any construction materials/costs will be funded through the police department asset forfeiture accounts.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joseph DelPrete  
(End of memo)

Discussion: Attorney Igliazzi requested the Council table this matter to the next Council meeting in order to check the three issues of zoning compliance, DEM compliance and the requirements, if any, as to a public hearing.

2. Set Public Hearing Date for Public Input

Discussion: Council discussed tabling the public hearing until they get more information.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the consideration of a Public Hearing pending additional data, from the involved parties, until the Town Council meeting of September 2, 2021; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

H. D.O.T. Correspondence Update: Re: Route 94 improvements (FY23-31 TIP) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that the Town Planner has sent correspondence to our legislators regarding the schedule of the state Transportation Improvement Program regarding badly needed improvements to Route 94

Discussion: K. Scott, Town Planner described the issues of the roadway and trying to keep the upkeep/repair on schedule. K. Scott stated that this road has been on the state's list to be improved for about 10 years and that the improvements are currently scheduled for 2022. K. Scott stated she will keep the Council up to date. Councilor Reichert described what has been done in the past and the poor condition of such a heavily traveled road. K. Scott stated our legislators have been supportive of trying to get the road improved.

No Action taken by Council

I. Authorization for Execution and Signature- Deed of Conservation Easement, Restrictions and Development Rights, Between: Stephen E. Hopkins, Town of Gloucester, Waterview Acres Homeowners Association; and Sand Dam Reservoir Association- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that the Town Planner has submitted the following memo to Council which Councilor Arnold read as follows:

To: Town Council Members  
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner  
Date: July 12, 2021  
Re: Deed of Conservation Easements and Restrictions and Development Rights – Waterview Acres

On June 22, 2021, property owner Stephen Hopkins was granted final approval for a major subdivision. This major subdivision was approved as a conservation subdivision, dividing AP 12, Lot 134, presently consisting of 45.82 acres into 15 lots. Because the development is a conservation development, the minimum lot area for a single family dwelling is reduced down to one (1) acre; however a significant portion of the property must be preserved as open space. For this development there will be 14 single family house lots and one open space lot totaling 30.62 acres.

According to Section 350-105 A (7) of the Gloucester Zoning Ordinance, which addresses conservation subdivisions, "All open space, regardless of whether it is conveyed to the Town, shall be protected against further development and unauthorized alteration in perpetuity by appropriate deed restrictions, and by the grant of a conservation or preservation restriction pursuant to Title 34, Chapter 39, of the Rhode Island General Laws, as amended, to at least three separate entities, one of which entities shall be the Town, one of which shall be a nonprofit organization, the principal purpose of which is the conservation of open space or resource protection, and one of which shall be an association of owners of lots or units within the development. If no such owners' association is created, then at least two entities shall be nonprofit conservation organizations."

This development proposes a Homeowner's Association. The applicant is requesting Town Council approval for the President to sign the attached Deed of Conservation Easements and Restrictions and Development Rights to preserve the open space in its natural form for this development. The HOA and the Sand Dam Reservoir Association are the other signatories on the document. The HOA will

maintain and pay taxes on the property. David Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, has reviewed the document and found it to be satisfactory.

Karen  
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to Execute, with his signature, the Deed of Conservation Easement, Restrictions and Development Rights, Between: Stephen E. Hopkins, Town of Gloucester, Waterview Acres Homeowners Association; and Sand Dam Reservoir Association; to be dated August 5, 2021; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: Councilor Reichert asked as to the owners of the 42 acres. K. Scott stated that the Homeowners Association would own the land. Councilor Reichert described another property in town that he alleged had a conservation easement broken. Council members discussed the difference between an open space agreement and a conservation easement. Councilor Reichert had concerns as to future issues if the conservation easement was ever broken.

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

J. Plan for 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony for 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that Councilor Steere submitted his ideas for a town ceremony for Council and others to consider. Councilor Forgue stated that if Council would like to proceed we will need someone to coordinate and plan, perhaps another Councilor and Councilor Steere.

Discussion: Councilor Arnold stated that he read the memo that was sent to the Town Clerk and feels it is very appropriate to do something to recognize 9/11. Councilor Forgue asked if Councilor Arnold would read the memo sent by Councilor Steere into the record. Councilor Arnold read as follows:

Hi Jean,

I wanted to put this on the agenda for discussion/action. Also, please forward this to rest of council so they can think about this prior to meeting. This will be, hard to believe, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. I was thinking that we can have some type of remembrance ceremony for this somber but important occasion at Town Hall on Saturday, 9/11/21. We should reach out to the Fire Department to see if they have anything planned. If not, what I was thinking was:

1. Start around 8:15-8:30 am (depending who attends) welcome folks who attend say a little about why we are there/national anthem
2. At 8:46 AM we could coordinate with the churches in town to see if they will ring their bell once signifying the first plane. Then we all would observe a moment of silence
3. We could say a few more words play "God Bless America".
4. At 9:02 we could then have the bells ring once again to mark the second plane/ Observe a moment of silence
5. Explain that we want to observe the Pentagon and Pennsylvania crashes and then shortly after this we could have the church(s) ring twice more to mark those two events.

6. Shortly after this we could say a few words to thank our law enforcement/fire and ems/ and military for working tirelessly to keep us safe and have the bell ring 4 more times to salute them
7. End the ceremony around 9:15 -9:20

Councilor Arnold paraphrased the rest of the memo wherein it states a question of whether the Town Hall bell works; and that (Councilor Steere) welcomes any additions ... proposing something ...to make sure to do something simple but appropriate.

(End of memo)

No action taken by council

K. Authorization for Signature:

1. One Year (Sole source contract) Agreement for Information Technology Products & Services (Land Evidence) Between Avenu Enterprise Solutions, LLC & Town of Gloucester - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that the Clerk is requesting the Council authorize a one year contract to extend their current land evidence records provider. Councilor Forgue stated that the Clerk is working on bid specs and will go out to bid shortly to ensure the best price and services for the town, with a longer contract, going forward. Councilor Forgue stated that the Solicitor has reviewed the contract and feels the contract is acceptable as a one-year sole source contract.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the one year (Sole source contract) Agreement for Information Technology Products & Services (Land Evidence) Between Avenu Enterprise Solutions, LLC & Town of Gloucester, said contract in effect until February 2022; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Grant Agreements for the Chepachet Village National Register District Historic Revitalization Sub-grant Program - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received a memo from the Town Planner which Councilor Worthy read as follows

To: Town Council Members

From: Karen Scott, Town Planner

Date: July 21, 2021

Re: Chepachet Village National Register District Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program

Back in late 2019, the National Park Service (NPS) announced a \$250,000 grant to the Town of Gloucester from the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program to launch a local grant program for contributing structures to the Chepachet Village National Register District. Gloucester was one of

only nine applicants and the only municipality to receive a 2019 award from the \$5 million program.

In late 2020, the Town invited owners of commercial and mixed use buildings that are contributing structures to the Chepachet Village National Register District to submit proposals for grants for exterior building improvements with the objective of rehabilitating historic properties in order to protect and foster economic development.

We received 11 applications requesting funds far exceeding the amount of grant funding available. The Chepachet Village Historic Revitalization Subgrant Committee, appointed by Town Council was charged with reviewing the applications and scoring them according to the criteria that was outlined in the Request for Proposals. The Committee worked to refine the scopes of work for the top three scoring applications to fit within the available grant funds. The Town's consulting architect wrote bid specifications, which were provided to the property owners. The property owners were directed to obtain two (2) quotes from contractors qualified in historic preservation and submit their preferred quote to the Town for review. The bids that were submitted still exceeded the available funds so the Committee refined the scopes further and the property owners obtained new bids, which were within the available grant funds, leaving a reasonable contingency.

The Grant Agreements that are before the Town Council have a valid bid from a qualified contractor and are currently being reviewed for approval by the National Park Service. Once the National Park Service gives their approval, the projects will be ready to begin construction once the agreements have been executed. The award of the grants was significantly delayed as the Committee felt that with the volatility in the construction industry, it was important to have valid bids for the completion of all work in the grant project rather than just awarding a dollar amount with the hopes that the work could be completed within that budget.

The grant awards are as follows:

1. 1157 Putnam Pike (Cyrus Cooke Inn) - Tavern on Main - \$112,353
2. 1169 Putnam Pike (Lawton-Owens Mill) - Stone Mill – \$66,715
3. 1191 Putnam Pike (Jeremiah Sheldon Tavern and Barn) - \$50,926

This leaves a total contingency of \$20,006.

The request before the Town Council is to authorize the Town Council President to sign the Grant Agreements on behalf of the Town for the properties and amounts noted above. The Town Solicitor, the Rhode Island Inter-Local Risk Management Trust, the National Park Service and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission have all reviewed the Grant Agreements and are in agreement that they are ready for signature.

(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Forgue thanked K. Scott, Town Planner for all her hard work and diligence. Councilor Forgue stated he feels she made good decisions and is happy that money has been set aside for contingencies. K. Scott stated she is very excited about the project.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program Grant Agreements for the following projects:

1. 1157 Putnam Pike (Cyrus Cooke Inn) - Tavern on Main for the amount of \$112,353
2. 1169 Putnam Pike (Lawton-Owens Mill) - Stone Mill for the amount of \$66,715
3. 1191 Putnam Pike (Jeremiah Sheldon Tavern and Barn) for the amount of \$50,926

seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: K. Scott wanted to make it known that although it was a committee effort, that committee member, C. Wilson , went above and beyond and was a fantastic help and should be recognized.

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

L. Award of Bid: RFP 2021-02 Professional Payroll Services - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received a request to award a bid for payroll services from the Finance Director .

Discussion: Councilor Forgue asked the Finance Director for his input. A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that the proposed request will allow the town to get rid of paper , become more efficient and bring the department into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AWARD RFP 2021-02 for Professional Payroll Services, to Ceridian for a three year contract as follows: Year 1 - Not to exceed \$ 40, 280.80; Year 2 &3 - Not to exceed \$ 35,930.80 for payroll services for Town of Glocester employees and Glocester School employees; said contract will be forwarded to Council for approval upon receipt; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: Councilor Worthy asked about savings . A. Muccino stated that they will be able to add modules that would be at incremental expense with the current vendor; they will be able to do that with the new vendor, Ceridian, for the same money; and, he is forecasting to spend the same as with our current vendor over the next three years.

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

M. Consideration of Amendment to Terms: 2009 CDBG through Western R.I. Home Repair - Interest Rate on Loan Program # 822G - Discussion and/or Action

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

To: The Honorable Glocester Town Council, Jay Forgue, President  
From: Adam R. Muccino, Finance Director  
Date: 07/31/2021  
Re: Western RI Home Repair Program- Hesford, Paula Request

On Friday, 7/30/2021 I received the attached communication from Town resident Paula Hesford expressing financial hardship and requests that the Council reduce the interest rate on her Western RI Home Repair Loan from 3% to 0%. Mrs. Hesford purchased a mobile home in the Village on



Chopmist Hill in August of 2009 for \$55,503.76. The current balance as of July 2021 is \$55,338.57. I have researched the history of this program as well as the status of the loans the Town is still servicing since the programs end. Of the nine Western RI Home Repair loans still active, six are 0.00% loans. One of those six was previously at 3% interest but was reduced to 0%. Two of those six loans have never received a payment. The remaining three loans are at 3% interest.

Given that the Western RI Home Repair Program was intended to assist residents purchase affordable housing or make repairs to their home and that this program was not intended to be a revenue generator for the Town. Also, given the hardship Ms. Hesford is experiencing it is my recommendation that the Council reduce the interest rate on the loan from 3% to 0%.

Respectfully,  
Adam R. Muccino  
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ADJUST the interest rate on Community Development Block Grant Loan, #822G, (granted in 2009), from a 3% interest rate to a 0% interest rate; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

N. Consideration of Special Event - (Reoccurring Event)- Discussion and/or Action

1. Applicant: Mark Rechter & Chepachet Grange  
Location: Chepachet "Village"  
Event Proposed: Scarecrow Festival 2021

Councilor Forgue stated that this application was submitted and reviewed by the Clerk, Council, and others to ensure the scope was consistent with past years events.

Councilor Forgue stated that the applicant may be present to discuss the event and asked if either was present.

Discussion: M. Rechter, 1218 Putnam Pike, Glocester resident, asked that Glocester Libraries be included as they are an applicant. Councilor Forgue asked if the event is basically the same as 2 years ago to which M. Rechter stated it was. M. Rechter stated that the full schedule was submitted to the police; that the festival is all planned and they are looking for donations; described a few of the events and stated that 40 people have already signed up. M. Rechter added that the Scarecrow Festival is separate from the Scarecrow Marketplace which is put on by the Recreation Department.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Special Event, Applicant: Chepachet Grange #38 and Glocester Libraries for the Glocester Scarecrow Festival 2021, to be held on Saturday, October 16, 2021, 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 food applicable food safety state guidelines will be observed.

2. Cleanup and trash removal will be the responsibility of the Applicant, Chepachet Grange #38 and Glocester Libraries.
3. All stipulations for use of the Town Pavilion, in the Code of Ordinance, Chapter. 221-18, shall be followed unless waived prior to event.
4. The applicant, Chepachet Grange #38 and Glocester Libraries, will work with the Chief of Police regarding a Police presence for safety. The hours and number of officers needed will be at the Chief's discretion.
5. The applicant, Chepachet Grange #38 and Glocester Libraries, will work with the Chepachet Fire Chief to ensure all safety measures are observed and all areas are accessible by emergency vehicles.

Seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

O. Public comment on mask choice policy -Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Arnold stated his opinion that there is support in the community for mask choice and thanked residents, K. Iacobbo and C. Greathouse for their efforts as well as stating his hope that the Glocester School Committee will follow the lead of the Foster/Glocester School Committee regarding mask policy.

Councilor Arnold stated that Council has received correspondence from a resident regarding mask choice policy which he read as follows:

To whom it may concern,

I am a Glocester RI resident and parent of two school age children. I am writing in support of mask choice for students next year and to express my disapproval of the restrictions that continue to be in place in our schools.

Our family decided to home school for the 2020-2021 school year as a direct result of the overzealous restrictions that were implemented in schools not only in our state but across the country. It is illogical to quarantine the healthy and put masks on children with a zero percent risk of covid morbidity and mortality. But we did it anyway for fear of "asymptomatic" children spreading a virus to vulnerable unvaccinated adults and their families. Believers have had the opportunity to be vaccinated and yet we continue to mask our children. This is physical and psychological abuse.

Two weeks to "slow the spread" has turned into a year and a half with no clear end in sight especially for our children. From the beginning of the pandemic the position of the federal government was to count "all suspected and presumed cases." This is bad data collection at best and outright deception at worst. Throughout the 18 months to follow they employed bad data collection and testing practices, bad use of therapeutics and ventilators, and misuse of government agencies and their emergency order powers. Meanwhile doctors and citizens who do not agree with this agenda are being censored and brought before local medical review boards. People were essentially forced to stay in their homes, wear masks and socially distance complete with daily "briefings" and DOT

signs promoting the covid agenda. Now they'll be coming "door to door" to spread the word about the vaccine. Sounds like covid-1984.

People have followed the "rules" for long enough, I am at the point where I draw the line. It has become clear that the agenda is to get everyone to get the vaccine, while openly admitting that they don't prevent the spread and are likely contributing to the "variant" situation. This vaccine has emergency use authorization, not FDA approval. While I don't believe that FDA approval holds much weight anymore, it's better than EUA. I don't believe EUA is warranted for a virus with a virtually zero percent mortality rate even with obviously padded numbers. An interesting fact about emergency use authorization is that pharmaceutical companies can't get one if there are available therapeutics or treatments. There have been several promising therapeutics, readily available, that have been squashed over the past year. I can't help but think this was due to the mission of putting the untested vaccine at the forefront of covid mitigation options. Also, let's not forget the fact that vaccine manufacturers are free from liability as it pertains to their vaccine products by way of the prep act and the 1986 vaccine injury act. Pharma companies do not have indemnity for their other products, and have faced legal action and paid out billions for the harm that many of their products have caused. Most disturbingly, products that they have known to cause harm and continued to market and sell to the consumer.

1

I am extremely concerned about the situation we are in. We are at a point where the burden of responsibility for individual health has been placed on the actions of others. Wear a mask, take the shot etc. To this I say, "if your vaccine works then I shouldn't be a threat to you and if you're concerned, you wear a mask." I am afraid that vaccine mandates and passports are in our near future. This is unsafe, unconstitutional and anti civil liberties.

I seriously question that this is a "pandemic" at all and certainly not to the degree that it has been made out to be. There will be viruses forever circulating and evolving are we going to mask our children forever?

I understand that this is a unique and difficult situation to be in. Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,  
Aimee Sayers (end of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor Worthy stated his opinion in favor of the sentiments of the letter.

Councilor Arnold stated his opinion that the letter mimics the letters he has been receiving as well as his own personal opinion.

Walter Steere, 1318 Putnam Pike , Gloucester resident and School Committee member stated that the committee is following the Department of Health (DOH) policy that highly recommends masks but there is no mandate. W. Steere stated that the committee had a "first reading" but the situation

may change by the time of the second reading. W. Steere stated that the Gloucester School Committee received an opinion from their attorney that stated the committee has a few options regarding mask mandates and their policy. W. Steere stated that the School Committee must follow the dictates of the DOH with the only requirement being that the School Committee inform the public.

Councilor Arnold stated that the School Committee voted unanimously to not have a mask mandate which can only be overridden by DOH.

G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that the state is leaving it up to each municipality to decide a policy as to masks. G. Mosca stated that the current DOH policy is to recommend non vaccinated people to wear masks. G. Mosca stated that the state is requiring two town clinics in September to try and get more 12-18 year olds vaccinated. Councilor Arnold asked about parental consent. G. Mosca stated that anyone over 16 years old can give their own consent.

K. Iacobbo, 58 Granby Street, inquired if “informed consent” would be given as the vaccine is experimental. Ms. Iacobbo inquired if the police or Council were concerned about the possibility of people going door to door asking people as to their vaccine status and making a list of people who chose not to respond.

Councilor Worthy stated his recommendation that if someone comes to your door that you do not know do not give them the option, go inside.

No Action taken by Council

P. Appointment

1. Temporary Mechanical Inspector- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgeue stated that Council has received the following request from the Building Official which he read as follows:

As you may know, Al Danti, our Mechanical inspector is out temporarily due to illness. I would like to have Roland Belanger, the Burrillville Mechanical inspector fill in while Al is out.

Mr. Belanger will be paid on a per inspection basis at the same rate the Town of Gloucester currently pays for our inspections.

Thank you,

K. Johnson

(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Roland Belanger to the position of Temporary Mechanical Inspector, on an as needed basis during the period Gloucester’s Mechanical Inspector is unavailable to work, compensated shall be on a per inspection basis at the current

inspection rate; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Councilor Arnold stated that Council received correspondence from the Black forest Café which he read as follows:

Black Forest Café  
Susanne Haubrich  
1195 Putnam Pike, Unit B  
Chepachet, RI 02814

Via Email to:  
Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk  
July 26, 2021  
RE: Limited Liquor Licence – Inquiry to the Town Council

To the Town Council  
Dear Sir/Madam:

My name is Susanne Haubrich and I am the owner/operator of the Black Forest Café in our beautiful village of Chepachet. I have inquired about the availability of a limited liquor licence for my establishment and was advised that currently only one limited liquor license is in existence and occupied.

With that said, I am writing you today as I would like to ask if you would be open to add a second limited liquor licence to the district as I would be very interested to obtain such license for my establishment.

Kindly review and let me know if this is something you would be able to implement.

Your consideration is much appreciated.

Kind Regards,  
Susanne Haubrich  
Black Forest Café

Councilor Reichert gave a brief history of the town's past limited liquor licenses. Attorney Igliazzi stated that under state law a town has a limited number of these licenses. Attorney Igliazzi stated he needs to check . Councilor Forgue asked for this to be put on the next agenda.

X. Department Head Reports/Discussion

1. J. Luszc, Human Services Director, stated that shopping trips will begin soon to Dino's, CVS and the Dollar Store and described the requirements for a senior to participate in the homebound program. J. Luszc added that Ellie ( who was in attendance at the meeting) is his number one driver and has been outstanding. J. Luszc stated she was a real asset to the department.
2. M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director , stated that all is going well at the Senior Center. (Inaudible, not at microphone)

XI. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

None

XII. Open Forum

1. G. Steere , 96 John Steere Road, and Councilor Reichert spoke as to the conservation easement given to Terry Clark in the past and their recollection as to what happened. D. Igliazzi stated that the conservation easement approved tonight by the council runs in perpetuity.
2. G. Steere, 96 John Steere Road, stated what a great job the assistant tax assessor has done in the absence of the tax assessor. G. Steere stated she is a local and has has taken all the classes she can to improve her education and hopes the Council will take her into consideration.
3. A. Muccino, 193 Stone Dam Road, stated that at the March 2020 Council meeting the Council approved no hunting at the Veterans Memorial Park . A. Muccino stated that he is confused as to whether or not hunting may still be on the books. A. Muccino asked if Attorney Igliazzi could look into this matter and requests that the council consider removing this area from hunting completely.

XIII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADJOURN at 9:35 pm; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Reichert, Forgue,  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED