

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on February 17, 2022;

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

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members present: William E. Reichert , President; Walter M.O. Steere III, Vice President; Stephen Arnold; William Worthy, Jr.; and David Laplante

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Iglizzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Chief Joseph Delprete; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Robert Shields, Recreation Director; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director; and Jessica Parker, Tax Assessor.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Special meeting of February 3, 2022 and Regular meeting of February 3, 2022
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements - January 2022
- C. Finance Directors Report - January 2022

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPROVE the Town Council Special Meeting minutes of February 3, 2022 and the Regular meeting minutes of February 3, 2022; to APPROVE the Abatements to the 2021 Tax Roll in the amount of \$273.73; No Additions to the 2021 Tax Roll; the Abatements to the 2021 Supplemental Tax Roll in the amount of \$909.22; Abatement to the 2020 Tax Roll in the amount of \$124.04; Abatement to the 2018 Tax Roll in the amount of \$23.69; Abatement to the 2017 Tax Roll in the amount of \$145.22; and the Abatement to the 2016 Tax Roll in the amount of \$49.11; and to APPROVE the Finance Director's Report for January 2022; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Unfinished Business

- a. Boards and Commissions
  - 1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action
    - a. Recreation Commission
      - 1. Position # 1- one unexpired term to expire 12/31/22

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation, Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission, Position #1 ; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the Council:

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

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Position # 5- one unexpired term to expire 12/31/22

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

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Laplante -Aye

Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

- b. Economic Development Commission
  - 1. Ad Hoc Non Voting member- term to expire 12/31/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation, Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Dennis Cipriano to the Economic Development Commission, Ad Hoc Non Voting Member position ; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: Councilor Steere inquired of D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, regarding D. Cipriano's ability to vote as he was the paid designer of the EDC website. D. Igliazzi stated that D. Cipriano would need to recuse himself from voting on any matter that could impact him, his family or anyone he does business with. Councilor Steere stated that D. Cipriano was a non voting member so that would not become an issue. Councilor Worthy stated that was one of the reasons he recommended D. Cipriano.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the Council:

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

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Position #2 - Two year term to expire 12/31/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Position #2, for a term to expire 12/31/2022 ; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the Council:

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

Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to move Agenda Item c. Conservation Commission to after Agenda Item g. Land Trust ; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the Council:

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

MOTION PASSED

d. Planning Board

1. Position # 4- One 5-year term to expire 3/31/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the Planning Board, position #4, for a term to expire 3/31/2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the Council:

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

MOTION PASSED

e. Budget Board

1. Position # 3- One unexpired term to end 12/31/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation Council can table.

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board, Position #3, for a term to expire 12/31/2023; seconded by Councilor Steere.

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the Council:

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

MOTION PASSED

- f. Parade Committee
3. Position #2

Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair has received a talent bank application for this position and recommends that appointment.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Kristy Bonoyer to the Parade Committee, Position #2, seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

1. Alternate #1
2. Alternate #2
4. Position # 8
5. Position # 9

Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair and the Clerk are working on advertising for volunteers for the rest of the vacancies on this board, but at this time the Chair has no further recommendations.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the open positions: Alternate 1 & 2; and Positions 8 & 9 on the Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

g. Land Trust

1. Position # 1- one 5 year term to expire 2/2027

Councilor Reichert stated that this is the expired term of Bruce Payton. Council has received a request from Bruce Payton to be reappointed. Councilor Reichert stated that this item was tabled last meeting for further review by Council.

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a memo, in Council packet, from another member of the Land Trust, on behalf of Mr. Payton.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to TABLE the appointment to the Land Trust, Position #1, for a five year term to expire 2/2027; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: Councilor Worthy asked the date the matter would be tabled to. Councilor Laplante stated the next Council meeting.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

**MOVED TO THIS LOCATION ON THE AGENDA:**

c. Conservation Commission

1. Alternate- One year term to expire 2/01/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair has recommended Bruce Payton to be the Alternate member

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to APPOINT Bruce Payton to the appointment on the

Conservation Commission for the Alternate, One year term to expire 2/01/2023; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

**(Back to regular agenda order)**

B. Social Media Policy-Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that there is an update from Clerk which includes everyone's input and it has been forwarded to the HR office and IT Director. Councilor Reichert stated that yesterday a final draft was received from HR and is now in Council's packet. Councilor Reichert stated that if Council would like time to read it thoroughly and present any questions Council can table to the first meeting of March, (the 3<sup>rd</sup>).

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the Social Media Policy to the Town Council meeting of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that there a couple of tweaks that need to be made. Councilor Arnold thanked all who have worked on this policy.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. New Business

A. Personnel

1. Discussion and/or Action- Previous Town Council/HR actions taken against employees. Per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(1) Personnel . (Both employees were notified of Executive Session and both chose Open Session)

Councilor W. Reichert stated that this item is to address actions previously taken regarding two employees. Councilor Reichert stated that both employees were notified of possible discussion regarding them and both have asked for an open session discussion this evening.

Councilor Reichert stated that Gary Treml, DPW, at the Town Council meeting of 2/6/2020 was given a three day suspension without pay .

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to rescind the three day suspension issued on 2/6/2020 to employee, Gary Treml, restore three days of lost compensation and to expunge the disciplinary action record from employees packet; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: Councilor Arnold stated he is a little uncomfortable with this because he wasn't around at that time but that he has great respect for G. Treml. Councilor S. Arnold stated, in his observation, past Councilor J. Fogue and G. Treml seemed to have put their differences behind them .

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Reichert stated that regarding Kathy Sorenson, Finance Clerk, a letter was placed in her personnel file and the employee was ordered to abide by some sort of no contact order with another department.

Discussion: J. Fecteau clarified that K. Sorenson is now known as K. Lamontagne.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to rescind the disciplinary action against employee, Kathy Sorenson (Lamontagne) and expunge the letter regarding this issue from her personnel file; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:



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

MOTION PASSED

2. Police Department - Discussion and/or Action
  - a. Status Report - Animal Control Shelter

Councilor Reichert asked if Chief Delprete or Captain Fague wished to update Council on current conditions at the Animal Control Shelter

Discussion: Chief Delprete stated that, since the DEM & R.I. SPCA inspections of October 2021, Captain Fague and animal control employees have done a great job at making changes and improvements at the Animal Control Shelter. Chief Delprete stated that a new heating/air conditioning unit has been installed, the kennels have been rearranged and that a new computerized management system has been initiated. The Chief explained the tracking capability of this new software system. Chief Delprete stated that the SPCA has been to visit and is happy with the changes in the building and the surrounding property. Chief Delprete is asking the Council to authorize the process to hire a new animal control officer.

- b. Authorization to seek replacement - Animal Control Officer

Councilor Reichert stated that the Chief would like to go forward with the process to fill the vacant position:

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to AUTHORIZE the Chief and the acting HR Director to begin the process to fill the position of Animal Control Officer; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Tax Assessor's Office - Discussion and/or Action
  - a. Authorization for flexibility of Salary classification when filling vacant Clerk position

Discussion: A. Muccino stated that Council received a memo from D. Zimmerman, acting HR Director. A. Muccino stated that D. Zimmerman and J. Parker, Tax Assessor, are asking for clarification as to the level of clerk to be use in the posting regarding this vacancy. Councilor Steere asked the level of the last posting for this position. A. Muccino stated it was a Clerk I. Councilor Steere stated that the Council needs to be mindful of the current union agreements as well as the employees and stated his opinion to not go higher than a Clerk II. J. Parker stated that she is seeking clarification as to the level to advertise in order to narrow the search pool down to seek more qualified individuals due to the work load at this time of year. J. Parker stated that she would like to hire someone who already knows how to do certain basic tasks and who can read a deed. J. Parker stated that she does not envision anyone coming in at higher than a Clerk II level. K. Lamontagne stated that in her opinion she does not believe the advertisement can be for a higher position and then pay at a lower position and she recommended checking with the union. J. Parker suggested that the position be advertised with a broader pay range and then the level would be determined based on the experience of the potential hire. Councilor Arnold stated he would not want to wait two more weeks to post and suggested flexibility in the posting. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the problem is that the job is posted internally and current employees would want to know the level. Councilor Steere suggested checking with the union contract as to any pertinent language in order to not have any problems. Councilor Laplante felt the town should be able to print at the agreed upon level. A. Muccino stated that the memo submitted by D. Zimmerman stated that there was nothing in the union contract that would prevent the town from advertising at a higher level and then bringing people in at a lower level. A. Muccino stated the last appointment to that position was at a Clerk I level. Councilor Arnold suggested putting both Clerk I and II in the advertisement and add the language that the level appointed would be based on experience. Councilor W. Steere stated his agreement with Councilor S. Arnold

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the HR Director to post the position of Tax Assessor Clerk at the classification of "Clerk I or Clerk II, dependent upon experience"; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Councilor Reichert request the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

## B. Proposed Policies

### 1. Liaison Policy - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated that a proposed policy is in Council's packet and that he feels that this policy could serve as a guide to explain the role of a liaison. Councilor Arnold stated that he has attended many meetings of boards both to ones he served as liaison as well as others. Councilor Arnold stated that the proposed policy does not handcuff a councilor from attending. Councilor S. Arnold stated he agrees that it is not a councilor's role to direct the course of a meeting or of the board or commission's work. Councilor's Steere agreed and stated the proposed policy is simply what was stated when he began as a Council member. Councilor W. Steere stated he has been questioned in the past about Council's attendance at meetings. Councilor W. Steere stated this is how Council and Boards communicate. Councilor W. Reichert stated his opinion that the role of the liaison is to listen to Department Heads and/or a board, if they have a problem, and then to bring those issues back to the Council. Councilor W. Reichert stated not getting too far involved and not interfering was how he was taught and that some things were getting too out of control. Councilor S. Arnold stated he hasn't seen anything out of control. Councilor Worthy stated tonight represents a failure due to an appointment the liaison recommended not being made. Councilor Worthy stated his opinion that a liaison has a more active role in aiding the board and commission to which he has been appointed. Councilor Worthy stated his opinion as to a matter of concern with a board he is liaison too that the Council approved it to be sent to HR. Councilor Steere stated that he has no knowledge of the outcome of that matter. Councilor Steere stated that the policy is that the board brings any issues to the liaison who then brings it to Council and as a group they discuss and handle. Councilor Laplante stated that as the new council member, he tabled the matter because he needed more time to be ready to make an informed recommendation. Councilor Laplante stated he also wanted to read talent bank applications because a member to the Land Trust needs certain qualifications in land management. Councilor Worthy stated his opinion that as the liaison he tries to solve problems for the board and feels that Council told him to bring the matter to HR which he did and then the matter sat unsolved for eleven months. Councilor Laplante stated again that he was not ready to make a recommendation so he tabled the matter and he hopes to be ready at the next meeting. Councilor Worthy stated it may be too late by the time this matter is handled and expressed that he will be resigning as the Land Trust liaison. Councilor Arnold stated his opinion that the entire Council needs to work together on the policy. Councilor Steere stated the process of a liaison is to bring a matter to Council that a dept., board or commission can not handle and then Council works on it together, as a group. Councilor Steere stated his intent in bringing the policy forth is to help people understand the role of a liaison. Councilor W. Steere stated everyone can take the proposal and then we can hash it out further at our next meeting.

L. Gaddis Barret voiced her opinion that she felt valued as a board member when councilors came to a meeting on which she was a board member.

Councilor Reichert stated that in the past there have been issues of intimidation and interference by Councilors in their position as liaisons with boards and department heads and reminded all that the town is governed by a charter. Councilor W. Reichert stated he has no business "hanging" around the town hall interfering with employees.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE consideration of the liaison policy to the first meeting in March; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Security Camera Policy - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Steere stated that he would like to table this matter to give all the time to review it including the Chief, IT Director and the Town Solicitor. Councilor Steere explained that the intent of the policy is to keep people out of trouble and to provide an explanation to employees as to why the cameras are present. Councilor Arnold stated that he has read through the policy and has some questions but that it is not a bad idea to have a policy. J. Fecteau asked if she could circulate the policy to all employees as it effects all employees. Councilor Reichert agreed. J. Fecteau also explained that the cameras were put in place because there had been vandalism in the town hall and not for viewing employees at work.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE consideration of the security camera policy to the first meeting in March; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert request the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Planning Department

1. Consideration of Approval for the hiring/retaining outside legal counsel for an active Planning Board application - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor Arnold asked who this topic applies to. Councilor Reichert explained that it applies to Attorney Angell on the advice of D. Igliazzi to table. Councilor Arnold stated he defers to D. Igliazzi but hopes it does not negatively impact Planning Board business.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE consideration of the approval for the hiring/retaining outside legal counsel for an active Planning Board application to the first meeting in March; seconded by

Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert request the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

- D. Award of Bids - Discussion and/or Action
  - 1. IFB 2022-01 Full Depth Pavement Reclamation

Councilor Reichert stated that the Finance Director has a recommendation from the Board of Contract and Purchases.

Discussion: A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that the Board of Contracts met and approved a recommendation for the Council to award IFB 2022-01 bid to Murray Paving and Reclamation at the price of \$1.89 per square yard for Full Depth Reclamation and \$0.65 per square yard for Liquid Calcium Chloride

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to AWARD IFB 2022-01 to Murray Paving and Reclamation for the bid award price of \$1.89 per square yard for Full Depth Reclamation and \$.65 per square yard for Liquid Calcium Chloride; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

2. RFP 2022-01 Redistricting/ Reapportionment Services

Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk does not have the recommendation from the Board of Contracts at this time because of a meeting scheduling error and was asking the Council to please table

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the Award of Bid, RFP 2022-01 Redistricting/Reapportionment Services to a future Town Council meeting; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

E. American Rescue Plan Act Funds - Discussion and/or Action

1. Review additional proposed use of funds

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a chart outlining additional proposals which he read as follows:

- Grant Program            Non profit entities - External Proposal by Councilor Steere Category: Assistance to Businesses
- Dams                        Upgrades to high hazard dams - External Proposal by EMA Category: Infrastructure
- Chepachet Village        Marketing - External Proposal by Town Planner \$25,000.00 Category: Assistance to Businesses
- Grant Program            Community Septic and/or Wells in Chep Village External Proposal by Town Planner \$400,000.00 Category: Assistance to Businesses

Discussion:

Councilor Arnold stated that these are suggestions for the Council to consider, all having value to the Town.

Councilor Steere stated that he brought forward the non profit suggestion as a way to possibly help non profit organizations in town who may have suffered a decrease in fund raising due to the pandemic.

Councilor Arnold stated that there are lots of bodies of water in town with different needs that may need help, in addition to the subject of dams . Councilor W. Reichert stated there are some issues with items in bodies of water, such as milfoil.

K. Scott, Town Planner, explained that the Chepachet Village marketing suggestion and the Community Septic and/or wells for the Chepachet village are both part of the Chepachet River Revitalization Plan . K. Scott stated that both the septic systems and wells would be considered infrastructure and that EDC has been working to market the Village. Councilor Arnold and K. Scott discussed the possibility of a loan program or a matching grant program for the village as a way to fix failed septic systems for businesses in the village. K. Scott stated public and private infrastructure would qualify.

Ashley Sarji, EDC, stated her board would welcome partnering with the Town Planner to discuss qualified uses.

Councilor Arnold discussed that advertising for resident input for the ARPA funds has been done and he is thinking having it on the agenda next time will be an invitation for any and all who may want to speak.

J. Fecteau stated the Council would need to commit funds to move forward.

J. Fecteau stated that the town has over \$400,000 set aside from CBDG funds to help residents with septic systems, wells and heating town wide. Discussion followed on future use of those funds.

G. Mosca stated that the state has a list of dams that have been designated unsafe and that a strategy needs to be put into place to handle these dams especially if it involves safety.

K. Scott suggested that the Council may want to put a ceiling on the amount the town might want to spend as to dams and for the non profits. K. Scott suggested the non profits be run as a grant program with a specific time period for application with definite criteria. Councilor Reichert suggested that the ARP suggestion include lakes with dams. K. Scott stated that dams are included in the ARPA funds because they are infrastructure but the lake issue may or may not be. K. Scott suggested that the council be specific as to what they want in order to try and determine what action to take. J. Fecteau suggested developing criteria before any type of application in regards to the non profits. K. Scott suggested that it would make a decision by the Council easier if an application with specific criteria and supporting information is in place . J. Fecteau suggested the option of setting limits and then if the limit is not reached for the money to go back into the grant fund. K. Scott stated that if there is an application that would be a way to qualify people. Discussion followed on steps to move forward.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the discussion of American Rescue Act Plan funds to March 3, 2022; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

#### MOTION PASSED

2. Seeking further Public Input or proposals for use of funds

Councilor Arnold stated that this item was covered in item 1 and that suggestions from people are still welcome.

3. Reallocate Revenue Replacement ARPA Grant reserve

Councilor Reichert stated that the Finance Director has submitted a memo regarding a set aside previously approved by Council which he read as follows:

To: Gloucester Town Council  
From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director  
Re: Reallocate Revenue Replacement ARPA Grant Reserve  
Date: 02/16/2022

In September 2021, the Council allocated \$500k of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to be utilized in the future under the revenue replacement tenet of allowable expenses under the US Department of Treasury guidance. Since then, the Treasury in their final rule indicated that for communities like Gloucester, receiving less than \$10 million in ARP funding, could consider all of the funding as revenue replacement. We are taking an additional step and allocating the funding to specific projects that also qualify on their own merit under the Treasury guidance, In removing the \$500k allocation, that amount merely goes back into the unallocated balance.

If approved this would change the allocated/approved total to \$893,225 and leave an unallocated ARP balance of \$1,652,113

Please note the attached table of ARP requests and allocations made Council to date.

Thank you,  
Adam Muccino, Finance Director  
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to RESCIND the set aside of \$500,000 for “Town Revenue, Replacement Loss” voted by Town Council on November 18, 2021, seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:



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

MOTION PASSED

F. Human Services Department - Proposed Program: Volunteer List for Snow Shoveling - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from the Human Services Department which he read as follows:

From: Department of Human Services  
John Luszcz, Director

To: Town Clerk, Jean Fecteau

Date: February 7, 2022

Subject: Town Council Agenda, Volunteer List for Snow Shoveling.

Distinguished Members of the Gloucester Town Council:

The Department of Human Services is attempting to assemble a volunteer list of people who want to serve as members of a snow shoveling team put together by my department as well as the Police Department and the Senior Center. Holly Duffany is the contact person at the Police Department and Melissa Bouvier is the contact at the Senior Center.

The last snow storm left us with a lot of snow and as such we have had many of our disabled and senior residents unable to deal with it. They have contacted my department and the police department for help. Holly Duffany took it upon herself, and with great success, to recruit people to help these people get shoveled out. If not for her action I don't know how these people would have made out. Many cannot afford snow removal on their own.

I contacted David Igliazzi, our lawyer, for direction on this matter. He suggested we talk to our insurance provider to see if we are covered for volunteers. Adam Muccino contacted Colleen Bodziony at The Trust and we are covered as long as the equipment used belongs to the town.

With this request I have enclosed communication with myself, Adam Muccino and The Trust for your consideration. We would like to get this up and running before the next snow storm so anything the council can do to expedite the process would be greatly appreciated. We respectfully request the council pass this request to assist our residents who are disabled or less fortunate than most.

Thanking You in Advance for your Consideration

John Luszcz

Director of Human Services

(end of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor Arnold stated that this is a great idea but there are a lot of questions. H. Duffanay, Gloucester Police Dept., stated that she researched other towns in terms of programs and this one would have certain requirements in terms of who could receive the benefit. Councilor Steere stated that the program would need to have structure and a central location so people can't take advantage. J. Luszczyk, Human Services Director, stated that he met with the high school and they are interested in trying to form a plan for the volunteers. J. Luszczyk stated that the Interlocal Trust is requiring the town to supply transportation and equipment otherwise the Trust won't cover the incident. J. Luszczyk has done some research into the cost of supplies and stated they are minimal and an approved driver will drive the town van. J. Luszczyk stated the driver will be included in his budget. A. Muccino, Finance Director, confirmed that as long as the town uses our own equipment and vets the workers in some way to make sure they are able then the Trust will cover as they are volunteers.

Chief Delprete suggested that perhaps the police station could direct people who need help to the appropriate service if the police kept a list of such contacts.

G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that EMA has a list of special needs people in town who they look after and the list comes from the Health Dept. G. Mosca stated that this list may be part of the criteria. G. Mosca stated that all volunteers for EMA at the COVID clinics fill out a volunteer sheet every time they volunteer as to their capabilities and offered this survey as an example. Councilor Worthy stated that the Burrillville snow shoveling policy is a good one and has a registration period and then described the policy. M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director, stated her opinion that the program being discussed to help residents in the community seems related to the volunteer based program called the Village Common which she brought up at a prior meeting. M. Bouvier stated she attended a zoom meeting today (meaning 2/17/2022) that explained more about the Village Common. M. Bouvier stated that the Village Common is a volunteer based program that helps people in the community with a variety of tasks like rides. M. Bouvier stated she will check into whether snow shoveling is one of those tasks and if it is covered under their umbrella of insurance. Councilor Steere stated that we all agree that we want to help but there are questions as to liability, insurance and the volunteers. Councilor Arnold stated he felt a narrow set of specifics needs to be determined. Chief Delprete stated that the police department will continue to help.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE to March 3 the Human Services Department "Volunteer List for Snow Shoveling" Program; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

G. Annual Fireworks Display 2022- Approval of Contract amendment & Dates - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated Council has received a memo from the Parade Committee Chair which he read as follows:

February 15, 2022

To: The Honorable Town Council of the Town of Gloucester.

From: Kathy La Montagne , Ancients and Horribles Parade Committee Chair.

Regarding : Annual Fireworks Display

I have contacted Ocean State Pyrotechnics regarding the extended contract for the Gloucester Fireworks display. The Town of Gloucester contract has been extended for the “ 2022” display. ( This would replace the booking for the 2020 display that was canceled due to Covid restrictions)

I have secured a display date of Saturday, June 25th 2022 and a rain date of Saturday July 9th 2022.

The Vendor will be forwarding a contract for the display in the near future and I request that the contract be signed by the Council President once received.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Thank you

Kathy La Montagne

Parade Committee Chair

(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Worthy asked about the dates. K. LaMontagne, Parade Chair, stated that these were the only dates available as the company was already booked. Councilor Laplante asked about the cost. K. LaMontagne stated that the cost was \$15,000 as it has been in the past and that the vendor has left the contract open to June 1<sup>st</sup> for her to inform them if she receives additional money . K. LaMontagne stated that she has requested an additional \$5000 from the Budget Board. Councilor Steere asked if the contract is the same but just extended to this date. K. LaMontagne stated in the affirmative. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor , stated he would be happy to look at the contract. K. LaMontagne stated that Chepachet Fire Department will provide the fire watch and bill her after the event.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPROVE the extended contract amendment to include 2022; said contract to be presented to Council for approval upon receipt and to set the display date for June 25, 2022 with a rain date of July 9, 2022 (safety plan to be submitted to police and fire prior to event ); seconded by Councilor Arnold

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye

Councilor Worthy -Aye

Councilor Laplante -Aye

Councilor Steere -Aye

Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion  
None

IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director, stated that Jackie Aellig would be retiring from her position in the Senior Center kitchen as of July 1,2022. M. Bouvier also informed the Council that AARP would be coming to the Senior Center to help seniors with their tax returns on March 19<sup>th</sup>, by appointment only.

X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion  
None

XI. Open Forum

Councilor Reichert stated that if anyone wishes to speak please raise your hand and Christine will ask you to unmute yourself in order.

Councilor Arnold suggested the Council change their March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting to March 16<sup>th</sup>. Council made a motion but did not vote on it. D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, stated that they could discuss their meeting schedule and change without a motion. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk stated that this change of the annual calendar would be advertised.

Councilor Reichert stated that Council needs a motion to adjourn to Closed Executive Session:

XII. MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(5) Land Acquisition - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council pertaining to land acquisition for municipal purposes
- B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Potential Litigation - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Reichert stated that Christine will now move everyone into the waiting room until Council reconvenes open session.

AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilor Reichert asked Christine to please let everyone back in to the open meeting.

XIII. MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Reconvene Open Session; Disclosure one (1) vote was taken in Executive Session & Seal the Minutes of Closed Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADJOURN at 10:54 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: Councilor Worthy stated he wanted to acknowledge the passing of John Lyman.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED

