

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on April 17, 2025

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M. by William A. Worthy, Jr., President.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Jonathan E. Burlingame, Stephanie L. Calise; Cheryl A. Greathouse; Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice President; William A. Worthy, Jr., President

Also Present: David Igliozi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Gary Treml, Director Public Works; Karen Scott, Town Planner

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor W. Worthy asked all to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

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

1. M. Sweet, resident, asked about the creation of the 250 Commission that was on the agenda for a public hearing.

V. **Resolution #2025-05**

2025 State Champions - Lady Chieftains Basketball Team

The Town Council on behalf of the Town of Gloucester wishes to congratulate the Ponaganset Lady Chieftains for achieving the 2025 State Championship with a Town Council Resolution .

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the Resolution to the Town Council meeting of May 1, 2025; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Public Hearing

A. Code of Ordinances - Amendment Discussion and/or Action

1. Public Hearing: Part 2: Boards, Commissions, Committees and Positions

Chapter 80 Gloucester 250 Commission - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze the week of April 10, 2025 and a first reading was held on April 3, 2025.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this proposed ordinance is to adopt an ordinance to create a new board for the town, the “Glocester 250 Commission”

Councilor W. Worthy stated that anyone wishing to speak to please step to the microphone when called on and state your name for the record.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated this proposed item creates the commission. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the proposal looked good to him. Councilors S. Calise and J. Burlingame stated their agreement.

Councilor W. Worthy asked again, if anyone else wishes to speak for or against the proposed ordinance.

Discussion: None

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

2. Consideration of Adoption to proposed Ordinance - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADOPT the proposed amendment to the Code of Ordinance, with the addition of: Part 2: Boards, Commissions, Committees and Positions, Chapter 80 Glocester 250 Commission; effective upon passage; seconded by Councilor S. Calise.

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to call the roll:

Councilor Burlingame- Aye
Councilor Calise- Aye
Councilor Greathouse- Aye
Councilor Steere- Aye
Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of April 3, 2025
- B. Tax Assessor’s Additions & Abatements - March 2025
- C. Finance Director’s Report - March 2025

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of April 3, 2025; NO Additions or Abatements for the 2024 Tax Roll; and to APPROVE the Finance Director’s Report for March 2025; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards and Commissions - Discussion and/or Action
 - 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Parade Committee (continued from 9/5/2024)
 - 1. Alternate #2, Alternate #3

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Councilor Calise will speak to this item.

Discussion: Councilor Calise stated that the chair has asked for this item to be removed from the table for now. Councilor Calise stated that this would allow for an ad to be run for these important voting positions and would table to June 5th.

Councilor S. Calise stated she would ask the Town Clerk to run an ad.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Calise to TABLE the appointments, Alt. 2 & Alt. 3 to the Parade Committee to the Town Council meeting of June 5th, 2025; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

- b. Land Trust - Member at Large from Planning Board
One Term to expire 1/31/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there are no recommendations from the chair at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointment to the Member-at-Large Position to the Land Trust from the Planning Board to the May 15th, 2025 Town Council meeting; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that the position is part of the town charter and needs to be filled from the existing members of the Planning Board. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Planning Board needs one more month to be able to recommend a member.

K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that the liaison had resigned from the Planning Board. K. Scott stated that there has been one meeting a month for the Planning Board as opposed to the two meetings a month for the Council. K. Scott stated that the board is now full as the vacancy was filled. K. Scott is hopeful that a member will be appointed soon.

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

- B. Board & Commission Appointments - Terms concurrent with Town Council, to

expire 12/31/2026 - Discussion and/or Action

1. Economic Development Commission
 - a. One ad-hoc non voting member #1, term to expire 12/31/2026
 - b. One ad-hoc non voting member #2, term to expire 12/31/2026

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Chair doesn't have a recommendation yet, but they are hoping to have a potential recommendation for next month

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointments to the Economic Development Commission, ad-hoc #1 & ad-hoc #2; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

- A. Opioid Litigation- Ratify Action to Withdraw Motion against PBM Defendants - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town Solicitor signed a document, due to a deadline, relating to the Opioid Litigation to withdraw the town's motion against certain PBM Defendants. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town Council can now ratify the document with their authority.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to RATIFY the Town of Gloucester's "Withdrawal from Motion for Leave to Amend Select Defendants" in regards to the National Prescription Opiate Litigation, signed by the Town Solicitor on April 4, 2025; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- B. Personnel:
 1. Dept. of Public Works - Transfer Station - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Resignation - Part time Transfer Station Monitor

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the following from the DPW Director which he read:

April 14, 2025

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Gary Trembl
Public Works Director
Re: Transfer Station Monitor

The Transfer Station Monitor that works on Sundays at the Transfer Station has notified me that April 27, 2025 will be his last day of employment. I am requesting permission to advertise to fill this position.

Respectfully,

Gary S. Trembl
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ACCEPT the resignation of Steven Beaulieu from the position of Transfer Station Monitor as of April 27, 2025; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

b. Authorization to seek to fill position

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the DPW Director to seek to fill the position of Transfer Station Monitor; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

C. Authorization for signature - Discussion and/or Action

1. Grant agreement for 2025 Southern New England Program Restoration
Capital Mini-Grants

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town Planner can explain this grant.

Discussion: K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that this \$ 8,000 no match grant is the one for the trees to be planted at the transfer station to help with littering.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Calise to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Federal Contractors Agreement by and between Town of Gloucester, ("Contractor") and Restore America's Estuaries for the SNEP 17 Equipment and Supplies Project; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

2. Letter of support - Grant for mountain bike trails

To: International Mountain Bike Association Trail Accelerator Program by the
RI Chapter of New England Mountain Bike Association Location: RIDEM
campground - Echo Lake in Burrillville

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town Planner is requesting a letter of support to be signed by the Council President which he read as follows:

April 17, 2025

International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA)

Dear Grant Selection Committee,

On behalf of the Town of Gloucester, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Echo

Lake Trailbuilding Project, located on the shores of the Pascoag Reservoir (Echo Lake) in Burrillville, Rhode Island. We fully endorse the Rhode Island Chapter of New England Mountain Biking Association (RINEMBA) application for an IMBA Trail Accelerator Grant, which will enable the planning and construction of sustainable, multi-use trails that enhance public access, promote healthy outdoor recreation, and build community.

As a neighboring municipality, we recognize the transformative potential of this trail system. The Echo Lake trails will provide accessible recreational opportunities for a wide range of users, including walkers, runners, mountain bikers, and nature enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. In addition to increasing the quality and connectivity of outdoor infrastructure in northern Rhode Island, this project will promote environmental stewardship through professional trail design that protects sensitive natural resources.

We are particularly excited about the collaborative nature of this project. RINEMBA has demonstrated a strong commitment to equitable access, community engagement, and long-term trail maintenance. This will be a valuable recreational resource for all Glocester residents and we are happy to promote the trail once complete on our website. We believe the Echo Lake Trailbuilding Project is a strong candidate for the Trail Accelerator Grant and will serve as a model for community-driven outdoor recreation in our region. We hope IMBA will consider this project favorably and offer your support in bringing this shared vision to life.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

William A. Worthy, Jr.

Town Council President

(End of letter)

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked if the Town of Burrillville was on board with this project. K. Scott stated that she spoke with the Burrillville Town Planner and they are excited about the project. K. Scott stated that there is no cost to Glocester and that the trails are accessible to both towns. K. Scott stated that the trails are in partnership with DEM. Councilor W. Worthy stated that this association self cleans the trails.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the letter of support to the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) for a grant for mountain bike trails at RIDEM campground - Echo Lake in Burrillville; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. West Glocester LLC & Factory Mutual Insurance Company - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town has been involved in establishing a fair assessment of Factory Mutual since our taxation PILOT agreement ended.

1. Taxation Update

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town Solicitor can give everyone an update.

D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that as of Monday, West Glocester, LLC and Factory Mutual

Insurance Co. appealed in Superior Court the tax assessment that was levied. D. Iglioizzi stated that the appeal is the third step in the appeal process. D. Iglioizzi stated that the first step is to file an appeal with the Tax Assessor. D. Iglioizzi stated that the second step is to file an appeal to the Board of Assessment Review. D. Iglioizzi stated that both the Tax Assessor and the Board denied the appeals. D. Iglioizzi stated that the third step is to file an appeal to Superior Court.

D. Iglioizzi stated that Council has retained special counsel with regard to this litigation using ARPA funds approved by Council. D. Iglioizzi stated that Council has retained the services of Sansoucy Associates who are expert engineers and appraisers. D. Iglioizzi stated that Sansoucy specialized in municipal and government special tax assessment appeals of special purpose properties. D. Iglioizzi stated that Sansoucy only represents municipalities. D. Iglioizzi stated that Attorney L. Fries will be answering the complaint.

D. Iglioizzi stated that this matter will play out in court but that there will be no hearings any time soon. D. Iglioizzi stated that typical cases like this take about 12-18 months to go to trial. D. Iglioizzi stated that normally, each year's bill also gets appealed so that the cases then get combined after 2-3 years.

D. Iglioizzi stated that the tax assessor and tax attorney have sent notice of the clawback bill which he anticipates will also be appealed.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the clawback bill is the amount the bill is short from the assessment. Councilor W. Worthy stated that when FM went from a 3 million payment to a 2.3 million payment that the \$700,000 is the clawback amount the town is requesting payment. D. Iglioizzi stated that there are different strengths and weaknesses of the individual claims which will be litigated.

No Action Taken by Council

2. Funding Update (includes ARPA Project #31 & Budget Funds)

D. Iglioizzi stated that Sansoucy was retained and paid out of ARPA funds up to day.

D. Iglioizzi stated that going forward, the Council will need to budget about \$50,000 per year to cover the annual assessment report from Sansoucy as there is a five year contract. D. Iglioizzi stated a recommendation for Council to also set aside funds on a yearly basis to cover future litigation expenses.

D. Iglioizzi stated that Attorney Fries was retained using ARPA funds and recommended also setting aside funds each year to cover any future litigation expenses.

No Action Taken by Council

E. Board of Contracts & Purchases

1. Consideration of Award of Bids - Discussion and/or Action

a. #IFB 2025-02 Full Depth Pavement Reclamation

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Finance Director has submitted the following:

Memo: Honorable Town Council
From: Elizabeth A. Beltram, Finance Director
Re: IFB2025-02 Full Depth Pavement Reclamation
Date: April 17, 2025

The Gloucester Board of Contracts met on Thursday, April 17, 2025 and *voted* to recommend award as requested, please see attached.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth A. Beltram
(end of memo)

Councilor W. Worthy stated that a memo was also received from the DPW Director which he read as follows:

April 16, 2025

To: Board of Contracts and Purchases
From: Gary S. Trembl
Public Works Director
Re: Bid for Full Depth Reclamation

On April 15th, 2025 the bid opening for Full Depth Pavement Reclamation was opened at Town Hall. Three bids were received.

1. All States \$1.90/ sq. yd. \$1.44/ sq. yd. calcium \$3.34 total
2. Murray \$2.62/ sq. yd. \$.75/ sq. yd. calcium \$3.37 total
3. Olympia \$3.63/ sq. yd. \$2.09/ sq. yd. calcium \$5.72 total

The difference between the first and second bidders is \$.03 per sq. yd.

Murray Paving and Reclamation has been providing this service to the Town of Gloucester since 2011. They never raised their pricing for three consecutive years 2021, 2022, 2023. Murray also performs work for our paving contractor Peckham Industries Inc.

This close working relationship makes scheduling the two processes seamless. Murray's grading operation is exceptional. We have no problems with puddles or water exiting the roadway in the wrong places.

I am requesting this bid be awarded to Murray Paving and Reclamation.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary S. Trembl
(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AWARD IFB 2025-02 Full Depth Pavement Reclamation to: Murray Paving and Reclamation for the bid price of \$2.62/ sq. yd. \$.75/ sq. yd. calcium \$3.37 total ; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

b. #IFB 2025-03 Storage Shed for Senior Center

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the bid process was followed and no bids were received by the Board of Contracts and Purchases.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Finance Director has submitted a memo which he read as

follows:

Memo: Honorable Town Council
From: Elizabeth A. Beltram, Finance Director
Re: IFB2025-02 Full Depth Pavement Reclamation
Date: April 17, 2025

The Gloucester Board of Contracts met on Thursday, April 17, 2025 and voted to recommend award as requested, please see attached.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth A. Beltram
(end of memo)

Request from DPW Director:

April 16, 2025

To: Elizabeth Beltram
Finance Director
From: Gary S. Trembl
Public Works Director
Re: Storage Shed/ Senior Center

Currently the Sr. Ctr. has \$15,000 in a capital account for a new storage shed. They are looking for a 10' X 20' shed to replace the two aging sheds to the rear of the building. They also requested the shed be located on a concrete slab to prevent settling and rot to the new shed. A new concrete slab was poured on April 15, 2025 by Public Works.

Home Depot has several kits from a third party vendors. They are pre-cut kits that require complete assembly. They come with siding and no roof system. The siding is warrantied by the manufacturer but the shed is not. The shed was priced at \$6,305.97 without the roof and multiple hours of labor to construct it.

Reed's Ferry Shed was contacted to give a quote on the same size shed. Their price was \$9,946.50. This included the complete shed, roof system, assembly on our slab, and a 30 yr. warranty.

A local contractor was contacted, Gilmore Construction., to give a quote on stick building a shed on our slab. The quote was \$12,875.00 back on March 3, 2025.

Due to the dollar amount of the shed, it was determined the shed would have to go out to bid. The shed was posted by the Town for competitive bid. The bid opening was held on April 15, 2025 at 1:15 P.M.. No one submitted a bid.

I am requesting the shed be purchased from Reeds Ferry for the current price of \$ 9,946.50.

Respectfully,
Gary Trembl
DPW Director
(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the DPW Director to purchase

a 10' X 20' shed from Reed's Ferry Shed for the price of approximately \$9,946.50; to include the complete shed, roof system, assembly on our slab, and a 30 year warranty; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

X. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any councilors had any updates. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that he is disappointed in the RI League of Cities and Towns as they are not supporting any of the concerns sent to them especially when it comes to zoning. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that a discussion may be good to have with the Director and/or perhaps council should consider not being part of the League.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Smithfield is proposing a bill to combat density as well as appealing the affordable housing act so it will be interesting to see how that plays out.

Councilor W. Steere stated he saw that proposal and asked K. Scott if she knew any information to add and if she could report back about this matter next week. Councilor S. Calise stated her opinion that the proposal is more appropriate to Smithfield and not necessarily Glocester. Councilor W. Steere stated his frustration that Glocester sent several proposals to the League and nothing has been done. Councilor S. Calise stated the League has the ability and manpower to effect change .

XI. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Council received the following correspondence:

1. A request from the US Small Business Administration to provide a proclamation in support of 2025 National Small Business Week. Must be submitted by May 2, 2025, if Council wants to place on next agenda.
2. A request for support from Verizon re: RI Urgent Request for BEAD Letter of Support: Verizon Fios Broadband Expansion due by April 25th.
3. Notice from Burrillville of a public hearing, on April 28, 2025, for a major land redevelopment project at Gledhill Athletic Field

Councilor W. Worthy stated that he would like to put the Small Business Administration Proclamation request on the next Council agenda.

XII. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Department heads had anything to report or if any Councilors had any questions for Department heads.

K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that she has received two awards . K. Scott stated that one award was for the Chepachet Village Revitalization Plan from the RI Planners Association. K. Scott stated that the award ceremony is April 24, 2025 at Governor Notte Park . K. Scott stated that if any councilors would like to attend to let her know.

K. Scott stated that the second award is from Grow Smart RI regarding the Chepachet Village Revitalization Plan . K. Scott stated the awards ceremony is May 18, 2025 at the Providence Athenaeum. K. Scott stated that if any Councilors want to attend to let her know.

K. Scott stated that both awards are exciting news for the town to be recognized by the state. K. Scott stated that Grow smart RI also did a video of before and after that she would like to obtain the video and show at a future council meeting.

Councilor W. Steere stated his thanks to K. Scott for all her efforts.

XIII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Boards and Commissions had anything to report or if any Councilors had any questions for any of the Boards and Commissions.

None

XIV. Open Forum

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

Edna Kent, resident and Town Historian, stated an introduction to Lawrence Owen.

L. Owen stated a proposal to be sponsored by the Owen family to place a memorial rock on town hall premises honoring his family's ancestor, Lieutenant Governor Daniel Owen. L. Owen presented a power point and gave a handout of the power point to each councilor describing the project.

Councilor W. Steere stated that no action can be taken by Council tonight but asked L. Owen to leave his contact information.

No Action Taken by Council

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we now need a motion to convene to closed session.

XV. Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:
 - 1. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action re: Negotiations for successor union contracts

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session (Closed Session) Pursuant to:

- A. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:
 - 1. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action re: Negotiations for successor union contracts

seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Deputy Clerk to call the roll:

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Calise- Aye
Councilor Greathouse- Aye
Councilor Steere- Aye
Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

All were invited back into the room after Executive Session

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

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Reconvene Open Session, Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session & to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Deputy Clerk to call the roll:

Councilor Burlingame- Aye
Councilor Calise- Aye
Councilor Greathouse- Aye
Councilor Steere- Aye
Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

XVII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to ADJOURN at 8:57 p.m.; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED