

At a meeting of the Town Council held in and for the Town of Gloucester on
October 1, 2026

I. Call to Order

Councilor W. Worthy called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Gary Trembl, DPW Director; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Chief J. Jenison

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor W. Worthy asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

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

None

V. Citations – Eagle Scouts

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this item will be moved to the meeting of October 15, 2026.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the Eagle Scout citations to the Town Council meeting of October 15, 2026; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Public Hearings – Discussion and/or Action

A. CONTINUED FROM SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

Glocester Code of Ordinance – Proposed Amendment

1. Part 3 General Legislation, Chapter 247 – Taxation, Article III
Exemption for Elderly & Disabled Persons

The proposed amendment would annually adjust the base exemption amount for qualified owners on a non-compounded basis using the Consumer Price Index and with no income eligibility limitation beginning with the assessment date of December 31, 2025 for use in the tax roll for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 for qualifying.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this hearing was continued on September 17, 2026 and remains open for discussion.

Discussion:

D. Iglioizzi, Town Solicitor, stated that he made the following proposed changes based upon the public comments from Sept. 17, 2026: 1) the start date would be as of the July 2027 tax bill, 2) the publication date for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) comes out in January for the prior year so for example, the Consumer Price Index number in January 2027 is for 2026 and is applied to the 2027-2028 year; 3) the notice that has traditionally been sent in December for compliance in March can be sent in January once the CPI number is received as there is no statutory requirement that it be sent out in December; and, 4) the Northeast number is the one to be used in calculating CPI.

D. Iglioizzi stated that he has prepared two new proposals for consideration by Council: 1) 1A – non-cumulative and non-compounded (single year change only) and 2) 1B-cumulative, non-compounded. D. Iglioizzi stated an example of each proposal.

D. Iglioizzi stated that the example for 1A would be the addition of the base of \$2070 plus whatever the percent is for the CPI for that year. D. Iglioizzi stated this process would be the same for the next year in that the \$2070 would have the CPI percent for that year only added.

D. Iglioizzi stated that the example for 1B would be the addition of the base of \$2070 plus whatever the percent for that year. D. Iglioizzi stated that the next year would be the addition of the \$2070 plus the percent from year one and the percent from year two. D. Iglioizzi stated the CPI percentages accumulate each year to be added to the base amount of \$2070.

D. Iglioizzi stated a recommendation that Council needs to decide which proposal and then continue the public hearing in order for the public to get copies of these new proposals.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone would like to speak and if so to state your name when you come to the podium.

1. P. Fiore, resident, stated his opinion that the 4% cap on the budget does not work in reality as his taxes have increased by more than 50 percent.

D. Iglioizzi stated that the focus of this matter is on the senior exemption to assessed value. D. Iglioizzi stated that the assessed value change during a revaluation.

2. G. Steere, John Steere Rd., stated his opinion that the town is not the Social Security Administration which is where the cost of living increase comes from and not the Town of Glocester. G. Steere stated his opinion that Glocester has one of the best senior exemptions in the state and the town can't afford the proposed change so leave it as is. G. Steere stated his opinion that Plan A would be bad enough but Plan B that accumulates would be a train wreck. G. Steere stated that the small amount that he would get in this proposal does not help with the 4 % increase he gets each year on his property's tax bill. G. Steere stated his opinion to not change this ordinance.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that the intent was to make the value over the course of time the same as it shifts the burden.

3. B. Hodgkinson, Snake Hill Rd., stated that the current exemption has been a godsend for her and she is thankful for it. B. Hodgkinson asked about income eligibility. D. Iglioizzi stated that this exemption is not income based.

4. J. Steere, 1311 Putnam Pike, retired Glocester Tax Collector, asked the total amount of exemptions being transferred to those residents under 65 years. J. Steere stated her opinion that the exemptions being given get transferred to the rest of the taxpayers. J. Steere stated that when she was the tax collector there was about a total of 3 million given away in exemptions.

J. Steere stated a history of how the exemption changed over time from \$500 to the current \$2070. J. Steere stated her opinion people moved into town just to be able to receive this exemption. J. Steere stated her opinion that tax revenue depends on the value of homes and exemptions.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any one else would like to speak and if so to come to the podium and state your name.

None

Councilor W. Worthy stated that he has received calls from residents who do not get exemptions and they do not like the fact that they do not get any exemption for paying taxes. Councilor W. Worthy stated his opinion as to some financial burdens especially from the school so he feels that the current exemption amount is one of the best in the state.

Councilor W. Steere stated that in the past, the exemption became a burden so the town tried to find an equitable way to help people without burdening the rest of the taxpayers. Councilor W. Steere stated Gloucester has one of the best exemptions in the state.

Councilor S. Westgate stated that maybe Council needs hard numbers from the Tax Assessor before any decision is made. Councilor S. Westgate stated her opinion that the burden gets shifted and this shift does affect the rest of the taxpayers. Councilor J. Burlingame stated his opinion by an example as to the proposed burden on the taxpayers not getting the exemption as being \$4-5 dollars. Councilor S. Westgate asked for hard numbers from the Tax Assessor to help make a decision.

Councilor C. Greathouse stated that she does receive the exemption and is grateful for it but she said that adding the \$50 or so would have a minimal effect overall on her total tax bill. Councilor C. Greathouse stated the taxpayers not getting the exemption are burdened. Councilor C. Greathouse stated that the perception of this concept is that seniors will get an increased exemption and the rest of the taxpayers are getting nothing.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he presented this proposal as an option to make the value more consistent over time.

Councilor S. Westgate stated that maybe now is not the time to change the senior exemption especially as the town does not have extra money and we have a very tight budget. Councilor S. Westgate stated her opinion that if Council is not lowering the residents taxes then we are not reducing their burden.

G. Steere, John Steere Rd., stated his opinion that the town had an 18% surplus years ago and that each year the budget increases by 4 %. G. Steere stated his opinion to leave the exemption amount alone.

Councilor S. Westgate stated her opinion that this proposal was well intentioned but after hearing from residents and learning more, she feels that it is not the right time to make a change.

Councilor C. Greathouse stated that CPI numbers are not in Council's control and that the town cannot absorb this burden.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that this proposal was just a suggestion and if Council does not want to do then that's okay.

D. Iglioizzi stated that Council may continue to a date certain or take no action.

V. Valentine, resident and retired Gloucester Tax Assessor, asked if Council could ask the current Tax Assessor for concrete numbers as to the effect of the proposals.

D. Iglioizzi stated a recommendation for Council to continue the public hearing and to then make the amendment proposals available to the public as well as to ask the Tax Assessor for a fiscal impact statement.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to CONTINUE this Public Hearing to October 15, 2026; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular Meeting of September 17, 2026

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of September 17, 2026; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business- Discussion and/or Action

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action

a. Board of Canvassers - Discussion and/or Action

1. Alternate #2, One unexpired term to expire 2/28/2030

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there is no recommendation by the Chair at this Time. Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilor had a recommendation for appointment or a motion to table.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to TABLE the appointment of an Alternate #2 member to the Board of Canvassers; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Recreation

1. Position #3 – Term to Expire 12/31/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council does not have a recommendation at this time. Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilor had a recommendation for appointment or a motion to table.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission, Position #3, seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

c. Parade Committee (continued from 8/6/2026)

1. Position #6, #7, Alt. #2 and Alt. #3

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we have three new names on the talent bank list, all three are qualified. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the applicants filed their applications in the following order: Joycelin Vachon, Meagen Chilinski

and Kyle Cunningham. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can appoint or table.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Joycelin Vachon to the Parade Committee to fill Position #6; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Meagan Chilinski the Parade Committee to fill Position #7; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Kyle Cunningham to the Parade Committee to fill the Alternate #2 Position; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. High Hazard Dam Emergency Action Plans - Discussion and/or Action

1. Authorization for volunteer to work with previously authorized group

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there was no action taken on this item last meeting. Councilor W. Worthy stated that if it has been determined we can't do what the EMA Director is asking, then we need to remove this item from the table.

Discussion: G. Mosca, EMA Director asked for this matter to be continued as he is waiting on information.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to TABLE High Hazard Dam Emergency Action Plan to October 15, 2026; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. Authorize the signing of a letter of support Re: Old Killingly Pond dam (located in Connecticut) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Solicitor has amended the letter of support. Councilor W. Worthy read the letter into the record as follows:

October 1, 2026

Acting Commissioner Emma Cimino
Connecticut Department of Energy and
Environmental

Re: Old Killingly Pond Dam - Statement of Support for Repair and Restoration

Dear Acting Commissioner Cimino:

On behalf of the Town of Glocester, Rhode Island, the Glocester Town Council writes regarding Old Killingly Pond and its privately-owned dam in Killingly, Connecticut. Because the pond crosses the state line and a substantial part of the pond and surrounding protected land lies in Rhode Island, its future is of genuine interest to Glocester's residents and to the region.

The Council appreciates Connecticut DEEP's September 1, 2026 action sending a draft consent order to Wright Investors' Service Holdings, Inc. (WISH). We understand that the draft calls for repair of the dam and restoration of the pond to its pre-drawdown level because continued drawdown would adversely affect protected species and habitats. This is an important and encouraging step.

The Town of Glocester expresses its support for a repair-first, restoration-focused resolution that protects public safety and satisfies all engineering and dam-safety requirements. In the Council's view, a prolonged or permanent drawdown should not become a substitute for the owner's responsibility to provide a safe, lasting repair and proper long-term maintenance.

Consistent with that view, the Council encourages Connecticut DEEP to:

- Continue negotiations promptly and, if necessary, use its available enforcement authority to secure compliance from WISH;

- Require an enforceable repair and restoration plan with clear engineering submittals, financial responsibility, milestones and completion deadlines;

- Require restoration toward the pond's pre-drawdown water level as soon as the dam can safely support it;

- Keep the Towns of Glocester and Killingly and Rhode Island DEM informed as the process advances; and

- Provide periodic public status updates so residents of both states can follow the negotiations, permitting, repair and restoration work.

Old Killingly Pond is a shared interstate resource supporting habitat, wetlands, recreation, groundwater functions and the connected downstream pond system, and the Council values continued communication among the agencies and communities involved.

This letter is a statement of support only. It does not commit the Town of Glocester to any expenditure of funds, provision of staff or resources, or other action, and it does not constitute an assumption of ownership, legal responsibility or liability of any kind with respect to the dam or the pond.

Thank you for your leadership and for recognizing that public safety, environmental protection and restoration must move forward together.

Respectfully,

William A. Worthy Jr., President
Glocester Town Council
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the signing of the letter of support re: Old Killingly Pond dam located in Connecticut; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

A. West Glocester Intensive Special Education Program – Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor C. Greathouse stated that she requested this item to be on the agenda as she received many questions regarding this item. Councilor C. Greathouse stated that she hoped the superintendent would be in attendance tonight but she was not.

Councilor C. Greathouse stated that at the joint council/school committee meeting in July, the Superintendent stated that she had a hypothetical idea to create a special education classroom in the hopes of bringing town students back to save money.

Councilor C. Greathouse stated that the program is currently in place at West Glocester and that Council has no information about it. Councilor C. Greathouse stated that a new teacher was hired as well as additional behavioral specialists, questioned the inclusion or seclusion of these students, and questioned what other costs are associated with this new program. Councilor C. Greathouse stated her opinion that this has been done in a secretive manner and she would like it to be known to the public.

1. G. King, Blackinton Drive, asked if Council received any information from the school committee and stated his opinion that he has heard disturbing things about this classroom. G. King stated his opinion that something needs to be done. G. King asked how many of the students are local as he does not mind spending money on local students but he does not agree with spending money on non local students. G. King questioned the amount of costs with this program as he doubts it would be a revenue source.

2. H. Andrews, Lees Lane, stated that this program went from a hypothetical idea to a full blown program in one month. H. Andrews stated there still is no school budget that the school is working off of.

H. Andrews stated her many concerns regarding this program including costs of the

program versus savings, size of class, is it the right placement for these students, safety concerns, and the extra staffing required. H. Andrews stated her opinion as to some information she obtained regarding this new program as to the number of students, staff, use of multiple rooms including a former staff bathroom and that this new program is a separate one from the intensive care special education classroom at West Gloucester.

H. Andrews stated her concerns as to the type of students in the program and the possible extensive care they need. H. Andrews also raised the issue of whether or not these students are or will be integrated into the student population and if so the potential impact on the rest of the school population. H. Andrews stated her opinion that this could be a good program but more information is needed to determine if it should be done and if it is sustainable.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that a meeting was held with the auditor general last week to discuss school concerns and that the superintendent and school committee chair do not have the numbers as to the cost for this program. Councilor W. Worthy stated his opinion that the school is still about \$300,000 in the hole from last year.

No Action Taken

B. Finance Department – Authorization to Seek Temporary Accounting Personnel (as needed) Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that due to a staffing shortage in the Finance Department, the acting Finance Director submitted a request which he read as follows:

10/1/26

To: Town Council

From: Lori A. Chirico-Interim Finance Director

I am requesting Town Council approval to provide funding for vacancies within the Finance Department to assist with maintaining the day to day operations of the department, as previously presented and discussed with the Council.

This request would be for temporary outside labor. I met with Robert Half last week regarding a temporary candidate to help with catching up on the daily responsibilities. As of 8/31/26 the Finance Department has an approximate surplus of 13,500, and expected estimated surplus of 21,000 by the end of September. My thought would be to cap the cost of outside labor at 15,000 through 12/31/26, and utilize as needed. This would keep us far below our budget mid-year.

(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the hiring of temporary accounting personnel, as needed, to assist in the Finance Department; at a cost not to exceed \$ 15,000 through 12/31/2026; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- C. Annual Calendar 2027: Consider change of time for Town Council Meetings and/or meetings of any other town board or commission - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council may want to consider a 7:00 p.m. start time going forward as meetings have been very long. Councilor W. Worthy stated a suggestion that perhaps a limit on an end time or an earlier start would be helpful.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AMEND the 2027 annual meeting calendar to change the Town Council meeting start time to 7:00 p.m., effective in January 2027; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- D. Authorization of Signature – Discussion and/or Action

1. Amendment to Contract (approved by Town Council 9/17/2026) between Town of Gloucester & Beta, Inc. for engineering and construction services at GMP

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the contract was approved by Town Council on 9/17/2026 pending review by the Town Solicitor. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town Solicitor can now explain the situation. Councilor W. Worthy stated that we have a new contract reflecting amendments.

Discussion: D. Igliozi, Town Solicitor, stated that he consulted the RI Interlocal Trust as to this contract. D. Igliozi stated that the Trust had seven (7) items they wanted to change. D. Igliozi stated that all but 1 was agreed upon by Beta until

today when the Beta agreed to the last remaining item. D. Iglioizzi stated he supported a motion to approve.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPROVE the Contract, as amended as of 10/1/2026, between the Town of Glocester & Beta, Inc. for engineering and construction services at GMP; said contract replaces the contract approved for signature on 9/17/2026; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Cooperative agreement for Rural Community Health Networks funding with Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services “GC Addendum F – Supplemental Terms and Conditions” – Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has a memo in the packet from the Planner which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner
Date: September 29, 2026

Re: Rural Community Health Networks Initiative

On July 4, 2025, H.R. 1 was signed into law, establishing the federal \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) to improve rural healthcare across all fifty states. The program provides federal funding from federal fiscal years 2026-2030 to improve access, quality, and sustainability of rural healthcare.

In December 2025, CMS awarded Rhode Island over \$156 million for the first year of this program. The state’s year 2 request of an additional \$156 million is expected in the coming months and there is potential for an additional \$486 million or more in years 3-5. There are 18 rural communities in Rhode Island eligible for this funding, including Glocester.

At a high-level, Rhode Island's application seeks funding within 5 goals:

- Improve the Health of Rural Resident

- Expand Access to Comprehensive, Quality, Low-Cost Care
- Strengthen the Rural Health Workforce.
- Accelerate Value-Based and Affordable Care Models
- Integrate Technology into Rural Practice including strengthening digital and Health Information Technology (HIT) infrastructure across Rhode Island's rural health system.

Locally, the purpose of Phase 1, Year 1 and this grant agreement is to establish a connection between the RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services and Glocester to ensure that the next 5 years of rural health transformation grant implementation is aligned with the needs Glocester by investing directly into the capacity of each community to establish and further develop that relationship.

Scope of Work for Phase 1, Year 1:

1. Stakeholders and staffing- \$125,000 is available this year (and planned for years 2-5) to build the local infrastructure that is needed to support achieving the goal of connecting RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services with Glocester and planning for phase 2. Examples may include hiring a new person as an employee or contractor or adding funding to existing part time staff who have the capacity to add more hours - \$125,000
2. Supply plan- This funding is meant to fill an immediate need to purchase health care supplies to be determined by the municipality to be distributed as determined by the municipality - \$30,000. Examples could include adding first aid kits and AEDs to sports teams/fields, supplies for the school nurses, equipment for the gyms to promote physical activity, shelves or a fridge for the food pantry, etc.
3. Create a Plan and Budget for Years 2-5 of the Rural Community Health Network.

The request is authorization for the Town Council President to sign the Year 1 Rural Community Health Network funding agreement.
(end of memo)

Discussion:

K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that this initiative is a very large undertaking that is coming from the federal government to Rhode Island and then being funneled down into 18 rural communities. K. Scott stated that several hundreds of millions of dollars will be coming into the state. K. Scott stated that as far as she has been told, there is no match involved. K. Scott stated that the town can opt out of the initiative at any

time.

K. Scott stated that this is a very broad reaching project to improve the health of rural residents and can be anything like supplies all the way through to things like ways to address childhood obesity or access to primary care.

K. Scott stated that the first year is meant to set up the infrastructure for all the money to be funneled through and then out to the different stakeholders. K. Scott stated that there will be coordination required from different topic areas for funding from entities like the Dept. of Health, FEMA, RIDE as well as others.

K. Scott stated that the first year is to set up staffing for which \$125,000 is designated and that \$30,000 is designated for supplies.

Councilor W. Worthy stated an example a neighboring town has set up in their program. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that this is a great opportunity, that Gloucester can opt out, that this initiative will require a lot of work to run and that it could really make a difference.

K. Scott stated that tonight is just the opportunity to sign the agreement that Gloucester wants to opt in. K. Scott stated that she can come back at a future meeting with potential ideas as to how to staff this program. K. Scott stated that this is a 5-year program with the intent to support staff for the 5 years. Councilor C. Greathouse asked what happens at the end of 5 years. K. Scott stated that any employee contracts hired for those 5 years would end. Councilor S. Westgate stated her opinion that she likes being able to opt out if needed.

K. Scott stated that she has been following this initiative proposal from the beginning and there have been a lot of workshops and meetings. K. Scott stated her opinion that this funding is available for a wide berth of different types of projects. K. Scott stated that some potential projects may be ones the town is already trying to fund and some may be for opportunities that have not been thought of yet.

Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that there will be a lot of opportunities with this grant. K. Scott stated that even the Health and Human Services Dept has stated that there will be specific categories for projects but that they are open to others if the project fits within the goals.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if the person who was hired would be bringing ideas to council for approval. K. Scott stated that this grant would work like other grants where proposals would come before Council for approval.

Councilor W. Steere stated the money is there for the 18 rural communities.

C. Mathieu, Long Entry Rd., stated her opinion that this sounds wonderful and it is a lot of money so asked the reporting requirements or other obligations on the town to receive the money for year 2 and subsequent years. K. Scott stated that this grant will require a lot of reporting. C. Mathieu stated her opinion that it may require full time staff and asked if the Town Solicitor has reviewed. K. Scott stated that the initial funding is the only thing being agreed upon and that the reporting is similar to other federal grants.

C. Mathieu stated that the first year seems to involve a lot of research and planning so what are the requirements to renew and is renewal guaranteed. K. Scott stated that if the performance is in accord with the parameters then the town will get the money for year 2 provided the money keeps coming to the state and the federal government does not change the parameters to the program.

C. Mathieu asked if the Office of Health and Human Services could determine the town did not perform adequately and not award the funding year 2. K. Scott stated that was true. K. Scott stated that she has spent a lot of time to understand this grant and what it is trying to accomplish including the responsibilities of the town but that she appreciates the questions. K. Scott stated that she would not have brought this to council if she did not think it was a good opportunity and she does feel good about it.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to authorize the Town Council President to sign the year 1 Rural Community Health Network funding agreement; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Municipal Road and Bridge Program State Funds Agreement for FY 2027 –Eligibility to utilize available funds on road construction projects - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a request from the Planner which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members

From: Karen Scott, Town Planner
Gary Treml, DPW Director
Date: September 29, 2026

Re: RIDOT Municipal Road and Bridge Program

In July 2023, RIDOT introduced the Municipal Road and Bridge Program. This Program provided \$20 million in funding for municipal roads, sidewalks and bridges.

This program requires a 67% local contribution with a 33% contribution from the state.

The program was renewed for FY 25 and again in FY 26. In FY 27, the Town of Glocester is eligible to receive \$145,196 in state funds but required to match that amount with \$223,379.74 in local funds, which can include personnel that work on the identified road construction projects. The total roadway investment would be \$670,139.22. Construction projects must be completed by October 31, 2029.

The request is authorization for the Town Council President, Finance Director, and Town Solicitor to sign the RIDOT Municipal Road and Bridge Agreement in order for Glocester to be eligible to utilize these funds on road construction projects.
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President, the Acting Finance Director, and the Town Solicitor to sign the RIDOT Municipal Road and Bridge Agreement for FY 2027 to receive state funds to use towards identified road construction projects; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: Councilor C. Greathouse asked where the money for the match was coming from. K. Scott, Town Planner, stated an explanation of how the funding for match is by reimbursement process from the state.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- E. US Dept. of Agriculture - Rural Development Grant - Discussion and/or Action
 - 1. Ratification of Police Dept. Grant Application

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chief asked for authorization of Town Council President signature on a grant application prior to this meeting due to time constraints. Councilor W. Worthy stated that this application now needs to be ratified.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to RATIFY the grant application for the US Dept. of Agriculture – Rural Development Grant OMB #4040-0009 in the grant amount of \$45,000 plus local share of \$37,000; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Authorization to Sign – Community Facilities Grant Agreement, OMB #0575-0173

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the funds for above grant were granted. Councilor W. Worthy stated that this item is for the authorization to sign the Community Facilities Grant agreement.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Community Facilities Grant Agreement between the US Dept. of Agriculture and the Town of Gloucester for the Federal Funding amount of \$45,000 and a town match of \$37,000; by signing the Town of Gloucester acknowledges and agrees to all conditions of the Community Facilities Grant, CFDA #10.766; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that the \$37,000 funds came from forfeiture money.

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

MOTION PASSED

F. Authorize Building/Zoning Official to NFIT (National Flood Insurance Program) Administrator for the Town of Gloucester - Discussion and/or Action

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

September 29, 2026

TO: Town Council

FROM: Dennis Begin, Building & Zoning Official

RE: Appointment of NFIP Administrator for the Town of Gloucester

The following is a request for Dennis Begin, Gloucester's Building & Zoning Official, to be appointed the NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) Administrator for the Town of Gloucester.

William A. Worthy, President
Gloucester Town Council
(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame asked what this appointment would mean. K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that the Building Official has been the administrator of the flood plain as it is stated within the Zoning Ordinance. K. Scott stated that the appointment letter is required by RI Emergency Management. J. Fecteau, resident, asked if this appointment meant additional salary to D. Begin. K. Scott stated this has always been part of the building official's job responsibilities and is not a new one.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Dennis Begin, Building & Zoning Official for the Town of Gloucester, to the position of NFIP Administrator for the Town of Gloucester; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion

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

MOTION PASSED

G. Consideration of Resolution Re: Affordable Housing Laws & Joint Statement – Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor S. Westgate stated she would like information as to the potential cost for joining this lawsuit before Council makes any decision. D. Iglioizzi stated he would inquire about an updated letter and report back to Council at the next meeting.

X. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilors had updates on legislation.

None

XI. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Councilor W. Worthy stated that we have a RIDOT update regarding the intersection of Route 101 and Route 94.

2. Councilor W. Steere asked when early voting starts. J. Fecteau stated that it Starts Oct.14th; that her office has been advertising the early voting and voter registration; and that Sunday, Oct.4th the town hall will be open from 1 pm to 4 pm for voter registration.

Councilor W. Steere stated that Council needs to get the ballot questions explanation ad for the public. Councilor W. Worthy stated he could make a mock example and send to Councilors.

XII. Dept. 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.

None

XIII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Boards or Commissions had anything to report or if any Councilors had questions for any Board or Commission.

None

XIV. Open Forum

Councilor W. Worthy stated that anyone wishing to speak on any item to please state your name when you come to the microphone.

1. G. King, Blackinton Drive, stated he wanted Council to know that the Foster/Glocester Regional School had a problem getting fuel from the tanks to the school for use in the new boiler. G. King stated the solution was to place steel pipe on top of the ground. G. King stated that no application for a permit had been made.

G. King stated his opinion that the safety concern is that the pipe will stay in place till the spring of 2027.

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

- A. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:
 - 1. R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2), Potential Litigation. Discussion, and possible vote or other action, regarding a potential claim by the Glocester School Department or Foster Glocester Regional School Department.
- B. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action pursuant to:
 - 1. R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1), Personnel. Discussion, and possible vote or other action, regarding the employment benefits of the [Police/Fire] Chief. *(The affected employee has been notified in advance in writing as required by § 42-46-5(a)(1).)*

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

- A. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:
 - 1. R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2), Potential Litigation. Discussion, and possible vote or other action, regarding a potential claim by the Glocester School Department or Foster Glocester Regional School Department.
- B. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action pursuant to:
 - 1. R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1), Personnel. Discussion, and possible vote or other action, regarding the employment benefits of the [Police/Fire] Chief. *(The affected employee has been notified in advance in writing as required by § 42-46-5(a)(1).)*

seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

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

Councilor Burlingame- Aye
Councilor Westgate- Aye
Councilor Greathouse- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye
Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

All were asked to leave the room and told they would be invited back into the room once Executive session was over.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

All were invited back into the room.

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 Clerk to call the roll:

Councilor Burlingame- Aye
Councilor Westgate- Aye
Councilor Greathouse- Aye
Councilor Steere- Aye
Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

XVII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 11:00 p.m.; Seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

