At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Glocester on January 15, 2015:

I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call
Members Present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, President; George O. (Buster) Steere, Vice-President; William E. Reichert; Edward C. Burlingame; and Steven A. Sette.

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Assistant Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Tim Inacio, Town Planner; Kenneth Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Anthony Parrillo, Recreation Director and Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - Agenda Items
None.

V. Resolution - Discussion and/or action
A. Opposition to Proposed 2015 Legislation Re: “Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes”: Builders/Developers Exemption - Discussion and/or action
Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received information that legislation similar to legislation proposed in 2013 & 2014 will be introduced at the next legislative session. Council has discussed and again want to oppose the legislation. Councilor G. Steere read the following Resolution into the record:

Resolution #2015-01 Opposing 2015 Legislation
An Act Relating to Taxation – Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes

WHEREAS, for the last two legislative sessions bills were introduced that would prevent a municipality from taxing new construction single-family dwellings and residential condominium units at its full and fair cash value for as long as said new construction dwellings or condominium units are not occupied, has never been occupied and are actively for sale to the open market; and

WHEREAS, this legislation, as previously written, would also prohibit assessment of these structures when partially completed, as is the standard and equitable practice throughout Rhode Island and our neighboring states; and

WHEREAS, we believe this legislation would allow for unfair taxation to a property owner who wishes to custom build their own single-family home or condominium; and favors the owners of development properties, thus giving for-profit developers an inequitable advantage in the residential
market; and

WHEREAS, if introduced, this legislation would not be beneficial to the Town of Glocester as it would cause a reduction of growth in assessed valuations and therefore a loss of revenue negatively affecting the budget process and forcing taxpayers to shoulder the burden to the benefit of a single group; and we have opposed similar legislation for the last two years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Council of the Town of Glocester respectfully requests the Rhode Island General Assembly to “kill” any attempts to introduce similar legislation; and we ask all 39 R.I. cities & towns to support the opposition of this type of legislation.

ATTEST: By order of the Town Council

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Walter M. O. Steere, III,
Town Council President

Seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Michael Calenda

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council wants to recognize Ponaganset teacher, Michael Calenda, for his continued dedication and hard work to bring Wreaths Across America to Glocester. The following Resolution was read into the record by Councilor Sette:

Resolution # 2015-02
Community Achievement Award
In recognition of:
Mr. Michael A. Calenda

WHEREAS; Glocester School systems have shown outstanding success in surrounding our students with teachers and administrators that, in addition to teaching required curriculum, teach our students by their example the importance of community involvement and honoring the values that are important for our future; and

WHEREAS; Michael Calenda has worked diligently and with great commitment to his students and has successfully engaged these students in their lessons and their community; especially with their success in bringing Wreaths Across America to our Town; and

WHEREAS; Wreaths Across America at Ponaganset Middle School in 2014 was another great success fostering civic pride, respect, and bestowing lasting memories for our children, memories that will impact their lives always; and
WHEREAS; Mike Calenda’s dedication and achievements reflect the ability of an educator to utilize their skills, resources, and drive to give our students the best opportunities possible; and
WHEREAS; We thank you for the hard work you did for Wreaths Across America and for teaching our children about the sacrifices made by our veterans and their families to preserve the freedoms we hold dear; and
The Town Council and the Town Clerk represent all Glocester residents when we say we are proud of the spirit you bring, the example you set, and the leadership you show and we thank you for giving us WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA in Glocester.

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Walter M. O. Steere, III, President
Glocester Town Council

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor Burlingame stated that, as a Veteran, he particularly appreciates what Mike has done. After a round of applause, M. Calenda stated that it is an honor and a pleasure to teach at Ponaganset and that it is nice to be recognized. M. Calenda commented that the Wreaths Across America Program is an emotional event which could not take place without the support of teachers, administrators and students. M. Calenda stated that it is impressive to have something of this magnitude at Ponaganset Middle School.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

VI. Citation - Discussion and/or action
A. Appreciation: Glocester Police Department (for their assistance with Wreaths Across America)
Councilor W. Steere stated the Town Council, along with Mr. Calenda, want to express appreciation to the Glocester Police Department for their hard work during the 2014 Wreaths Across America celebration. The following Citation was read into the record by Councilor Burlingame:

The Town of Glocester
hereby presents
CITATION #2015-01

to:
The Glocester Police Department
In recognition of
your dedication and hard work to help bring
“Wreaths Across America” to our Town.

The Town Council is proud to recognize and thank the members of the Glocester Police
Department for their commitment to the
“Wreaths Across America” program and its participants.
The honor, protection and respect you bestowed upon our Veterans and the Escorts on their way to Arlington only served to enhance the program and make us proud.
The Town Council and the Town Clerk represent all Glocester residents when we say we thank you for the spirit you bring, the example you set, and the leadership you show in our Town and we honor you for your dedication to WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA in Glocester.

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC
Town Clerk

Walter M.O. Steere, III
President, Town Council

seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: Mike Calenda explained that it is important to have safety for the escorts, which are two (2) miles long. M. Calenda stated that without the help of the Police, Wreaths Across America would not be able to come to Glocester. M. Calenda expressed his appreciation to Chief DelPrete and the Glocester Police Department.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

VII. Public Hearing - Discussion and/or action
A. Proposed Amendment to Glocester Code of Ordinance: Chapter 350, Article 11
Comp. Permit for Low and Moderate Income Housing
   (To allow for corrections from amendments made in 2011)

Councilor W. Steere stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on December 24th, 31st, 2014 and January 7, 2015.

Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and stated that anyone wishing to speak this evening must come to the microphone and state their name for the record.

Hearing none, Councilor W. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

Discussion: Councilor Sette noted that much of this proposed amendment is to change references from the Zoning Board to the Planning Board and other corrections to make the Ordinance consistent with the procedure by which these applications will be presented.

MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to GRANT the amendments to the Glocester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 350 Article XI, Comprehensive Permit for Low and Moderate Income Housing, to correct by changing all references from Zoning Board to Planning Board as the Amendment passed on December 15, 2011 intended; seconded by Councilor Reichert.
Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

VIII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action
A. Approval of Town Council Minutes of Dec. 18, 2014; and January 5th, 2015
B. Tax Assessor’s Additions & Abatements
C. Finance Director’s Report
MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE the Town Council Minutes of December 18, 2014 and January 5, 2015; to APPROVE the Tax Assessors additions to the 2014 Tax Roll in the amount of $536.46 and the Abatements to the 2014 Tax Roll in the amount of $842.50 and to APPROVE the Finance Director’s Report for December 2014: seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor Sette noted that he was not in attendance at the Town Council meeting of January 5, 2015 and must abstain from the approval of the minutes.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette (abstained from approval of Town Council minutes of January 5, 2015.)
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

IX. Unfinished Business
A. Bds. & Commissions
1. Appointments - Discussion and/or action
   a. Senior Center Board of Directors
      One five year expired term to expire 11/2019
MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Ann Glew to the Senior Center Board of Directors for the unexpired five year term to expire 11/2019; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

b. Parade Committee: Position #6 & #7
MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the appointment to the Parade Committee Position #6; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.
VOTE:  AYES:  W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.  
NAYS:  0  
MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the appointment to the Parade Committee Position #7; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:  AYES:  W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.  
NAYS:  0  
MOTION PASSED

X. New Business
   A. DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS- Terms Concurrent with Town Council
      1. Chief of Police
      2. Director of Finance
      3. Director of Public Works
      4. Tax Collector
      5. Deputy Town Treasurer
      6. Building/Zoning Inspector
      7. Deputy Town Clerk
      8. Town Planner
      9. Director of Human Resources
     10. Town Solicitor
     11. Assistant Town Solicitor
     12. Electrical Inspector
     13. Plumbing Inspector
     14. Mechanical Inspector
     15. Animal Control Officer
     16. Appraiser of Dog Damage
     17. Asst. Animal Control Officers
     18. Director of Emergency Management
     19. Probate Judge
     20. Recreation Director
     21. Deputy Tree Warden
     22. Sealer of Weights & Measures
     23. Honorary Town Historian

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT the following for a two year term to run concurrent with the Town Council:  1. Chief of Police: Joseph DelPrete;  2. Director of Finance: Diane Brennan;  3. Director of Public Works: Gary Treml;  4. Tax Collector: Jane

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

B. Town Council Liaisons for Boards, Comm. & Depts.- Discussion and/or Action

Affordable Housing Advisory Board
Budget Board
Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission
Conservation Commission
Economic Development (when applicable)
Finance
Harmony Hill School
Historic District Commission
Honorary Town Historian
Housing Authority
Human Resources (Personnel
Human Services
Land Trust Trustees
Parade Committee
Planning Office & Planning Board
Public Safety: to include Police, Fire Safety Commission, Animal Control, Emergency Management

Public Works
Recreation Director & Commission
School Department
Scituate Watershed Commission
Sealer of Weights & Measures
Senior Center
Town Clerk
Zoning Office & Zoning Board
Additional Bds., Comm., or Depts.
Discussion: Councilor W. Steere noted that Glocester Home Repair, formerly Western RI Home Repair, must be included. Councilor W. Steere stated that, after discussion, the Council has decided to stay status-quo with the Town Council liaison appointments.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT the following liaisons:

Councilor W. Steere:
- Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission
- Harmony Hill School
- Honorary Town Historian
- Public Safety
- Recreation Director and Commission

Councilor G. Steere:
- Economic Development
- Housing Authority
- Human Services
- Parade Committee
- Zoning Official/Zoning Board

Councilor Burlingame:
- Affordable Housing Advisory Board
- Historic District Commission
- Human Resources (Personnel)
- Senior Center
- Glocester Home Repair Program

Councilor Reichert:
- Conservation Commission
- Public Works
- Planning Office and Planning Board
- Sealer of Weights and Measures
- Scituate Watershed Commission

Councilor Sette:
- Budget Board
- Finance
- Land Trust
- School Department
- Town Clerk/Town Hall

seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.
VOTE:   AYES:   W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
       NAYS:   0
MOTION PASSED

C. Appointments - Boards & Commissions - Terms concurrent with Town Council
   Discussion and/or Action
   1. Board of Contracts & Purchases to 01/2017
      Two (2) expired terms
      One (1) expired Ad Hoc term
MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to APPOINT: Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Jean
      Fecteau, Town Clerk; and as ad hoc member a Town of Glocester Department Head (not soliciting
      bid); to the Board of Contracts and Purchases for a two year term to expire 01/2017; seconded by
      Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:   AYES:   W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
       NAYS:   0
MOTION PASSED

    2. Personnel Board to 01/2017
       Three (3) expired terms
MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT David Piccirillo, Russell Gross and
       Steven St. Pierre to the Personnel Board for a two year term to expire 01/2017; seconded by
       Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion:

VOTE:   AYES:   W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
       NAYS:   0
MOTION PASSED

    3. Recreation Commission to 01/2017
       Five (5) expired terms
MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT 1. Stephen Alexander, 2. William
       Elderkin, 3.Kevin Leahy, 4. Martha Huston and to TABLE appointment #5 to the Recreation
       Commission for a two year term to expire 01/2017; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:   AYES:   W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
       NAYS:   0
MOTION PASSED

    4. Safety Commission to 01/2017
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Seven (7) expired terms
Three (3) expired At Large Members
MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Joseph DelPrete, Police Chief; Jason Rhodes, Emergency Management Director; Gary Treml, Public Works Director; Stuart Pearson, Harmony Fire Chief; Robert Dauphinais, Chepachet Fire Chief; Christopher Labutti, West Glocester Fire Chief; Lisa Santamaria, School Bus Coordinator; Members at Large; 1. Earl Newman; 2. Russell Gross and to TABLE Alternate #3 for a term to expire 1/2017; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
      NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

5. Scituate Watershed Commission to 01/2017
Two (2) expired terms
MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Tim Inacio and REAPPOINT Roy Najecki to the Scituate Watershed Commission for a term to expire 01/2017; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
      NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

6. Blackstone Valley Watershed Commission to 01/2017
One (1) expired term
MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to REAPPOINT Elizabeth Tetreault to the Blackstone Valley Watershed Commission for a term to expire 01/2017; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
      NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

7. Woonasquatucket River Committee to 01/2017
One (1) expired term
MOTION was made by Councilor Sette to APPOINT Tim Inacio to the Woonasquatucket River Committee for a term to expire 01/2017; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.
VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

8. Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission to 01/2017
    Seven (7) expired terms
    One (1) Alternate term

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Lauri Archambault; Linda Laliberte; Jena Degre; Linda Nichols; Roy Anderton; Stephanie Westgate; and Joel Niedel-Gresh and to TABLE One Regular Position & One Alternate member position to the Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission for a term to expire 01/2017; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

9. Affordable Housing Advisory Board to 01/2017
    Five (5) expired terms

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to REAPPOINT Daniel Nardelli; Michael Kopeski; Kevin Kitson; Cathleen Griffeth; Susan Monaghan to the Affordable Housing Advisory Board for a term to expire 01/2017; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

10. Kent Property Oversight Committee to 01/2017
    Seven (7) expired terms

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to REAPPOINT Mike DeGrange; Charlie Wilson; Edna Kent; Tim Inacio; Doug Folcarelli; George Charette and Ken Johnson as ex-officio to the Kent Property Oversight Committee for a term to expire 01/2017; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES: W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
NAYS: 0
MOTION PASSED

D. Boards & Commission- Discussion and/or Action
   1. Appointments
a. Budget Board
   1. Two (2) expired Terms to 1/2018

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to REAPPOINT Greg Agnone and to APPOINT Pat Henry (formerly Pat Bowie) to the Budget Board for three year terms to expire 1/2018; seconded by Councilor Sette.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

Lauren Niedel-Gresh stated that her son, Joel, was reappointed to the Community Resource Commission, however he is away at college and will not be back until the summer. L. Niedel-Gresh offered to fill his position on the Commission. Councilor W. Steere asked Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, if this must wait until the next meeting. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, commented that Joel Niedel-Gresh could send an email indicating that he wishes to give up the position. T. Kane stated that Lauren Niedel-Gresh could then be appointed at the next Town Council meeting.

b. Conservation Commission
   (3) Three year expired terms to expire 1/2018
   (1) Three year term to expire 1/2016
   (1) Alternate one year term to expire 2/2015

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to REAPPOINT Albert Aubin and Roy Najecki for three year terms to expire 1/2018; to TABLE the appointment for a three year term to expire 1/2018; to TABLE the appointment for a three year term to expire 1/2016; and to TABLE the appointment for an Alternate one year term to expire 2/2015; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

c. Zoning Board of Review
   (2) Alternate One year terms to expire 1/2016

MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to REAPPOINT Cyril Crawley & Tracey Donnelly to the Zoning Board of Review for alternate one terms to expire 01/2016; seconded by Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED
E. Annual Appointment
   1. Tree Warden - 2015
   Councilor W. Steere explained that this is the annual appointment required by RI State Law. Sandra Shepard has expressed an interest in continuing in this position.

   MOTION was made by Councilor G. Steere to REAPPOINT Sandra Shepard to the position of Glocester Tree Warden for a term to expire January 2016; seconded by Councilor Sette.

   Discussion: None.

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

   MOTION PASSED

F. Solar Energy Projects - Taxation - Discussion and/or action
   Councilor W. Steere stated that the Tax Assessor has submitted information for the Council regarding the taxation of solar projects within the Town.

   Discussion: Councilor Burlingame stated that this subject came up at the Department Head meeting and several options were discussed. Councilor Burlingame suggested coming up with some type of incentive for people to have solar projects without being taxed 100% as if it were purely commercial. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Tax Assessor has begun research to determine what other cities and towns are doing with regard to solar projects.

   Councilor Sette stated that in some communities in Massachusetts, any energy which is being sold is subject to taxation; however if the solar project is used for the owner’s personal use, it is exempt. Councilor Sette stated that he agrees with this concept.

   Councilor G. Steere noted that he must recuse himself from voting on this matter because his brother has a solar project which is almost completed. Councilor G. Steere referred to the Tax Assessor’s memo and stated that people do not understand that a large system cannot be run through a house meter and National Grid is only obligated to pay for 25% more than what is actually used. Councilor G. Steere stated that the owner would not make enough money to offset the taxes. Secondly, Councilor G. Steere stated that many of these projects are for three-phase power, which we do not use and cannot be run through the meter. Councilor G. Steere stated that this type of system, whether it is a local business or a property owner, is different from a group of millionaire investors who come to town and put in a huge project on leased land.

   Councilor Reichert stated that he must also recuse himself from voting on this matter because he is going to be renting his land for this purpose.

   Councilor W. Steere commented that the Tax Assessor is looking for guidance and whatever decision the Council makes should be made fairly soon. Councilor Sette stated that he feels that more research should be done. Councilor G. Steere agreed and stated that there are many different categories of these projects and it is important to understand them before making a decision.
Scott Milnes of the Econox Group stated that he is a solar builder in Rhode Island. S. Milnes stated that each town has the right to tax these projects however they want. S. Milnes spoke about different scenarios, such as payment in lieu of taxes, where the developer does not pay the full amount but the town still makes money. S. Milnes stated that if tangible taxes are assessed on the systems, they will not be built in this town.

Councilor Burlingame asked how much acreage is needed for a large solar project. S. Milnes replied that five (5) acres per megawatt is required.

Councilor W. Steere asked if the revenue generated from a system would be taxed on the Federal level as regular income. S. Milnes replied in the affirmative. Councilor W. Steere asked how this would benefit the Town. S. Milnes stated that there are many large parcels of land and businesses and farmers would stay here if they could generate revenue from the sun and a piece of land.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he would like to see people within the community have an advantage to putting in these green systems as opposed to a developer coming in and putting in a large commercial operation.

Doug Folcarelli spoke but was inaudible.

Steve Kopeski stated that he is interested in how the Council feels about renewable energy because he owns a supermarket in Town which he would like to run partially on solar power. However, S. Kopeski added that if he were taxed on it, it would not be worthwhile.

Rose LaVoie stated that it would be nice if Glocester was the first town to promote and try to induce people to bring in alternative energy.

There was Council consensus to direct the Tax Assessor and Town Solicitor to research the matter and bring their findings back to the Council.

G. Board of Contracts & Purchases -
1. Award of IFB 2015-03 Road Sand - Discussion and/or action

Council has received a recommendation from the Finance Director:

To: Town Council
From: Board of Contracts & Purchase
Re: Award of IFB 2015-03 Road Sand
Date: January 6, 2015

1. IFB 2015-03 was advertised in the Providence Journal on December 14, 2014.
2. Five (5) bids were received. The bids were as follows:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Price per ton Delivered</th>
<th>Price per ton Picked up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greenville Concrete Products</td>
<td>13.75</td>
<td>10.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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3. The board recommends the award to the lowest bidder Barnes Concrete at the amount of $12.95 per ton delivered and $9.45 per ton picked up. The contract period is from January 12, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk
Jane A. Steere, Tax Collector
Diane L. Brennan, Director of Finance
(end of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AWARD IFB 2015-03 Road Sand to Barnes Concrete at the bid award of $12.95 per ton delivered and $9.45 per ton picked up, said contract period is from January 12, 2015 to December 31, 2015; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

H. Meeting Calendar - 2015 - Discussion and/or action
Discussion: Councilor Sette stated that we are now in the process of formulating the Budget and suggested that the Council hold a workshop with the Budget Board. Councilor Sette stated that this would be an opportunity for the Council to make changes prior to the Public Hearing. Councilor Sette noted that this will become even more important when we change from the Town Financial Meeting to an all-day referendum. Councilor Sette stated that the last scheduled meeting of the Budget Board is February 2nd and suggested that a workshop be scheduled after that date.
David Steere, Budget Board chair, stated that the Council and Budget Board used to have those meetings, but the last one was not very productive, therefore D. Steere stated that he has not scheduled any workshops with the Council. D. Steere stated that we can try again, but pointed out that it is the Budget Board’s budget until it gets to the Town Council. Councilor Sette stated that if the Council is going to make changes to the Budget, he would prefer to do it at a workshop as opposed to the Public Hearing. Councilor W. Steere stated that he is in favor of having a workshop. Councilor Burlingame agreed, adding that if the Council makes suggestions which the Budget Board does not agree with, the Council can exercise their prerogative to make the changes anyway. Councilor W. Steere commented that if the Budget Board disagrees with the Council’s suggestions, they would be able to give an explanation. Councilor W. Steere noted that the Budget Board has done a fantastic job over the years. Councilor Sette agreed and stated that a workshop would be a good opportunity to have discussion if there is any difference of opinion.

Councilor G. Steere asked D. Steere if the members would be willing to try again. D. Steere replied in the affirmative and stated that their last meeting is scheduled for Feb. 2nd. There was Council consensus to hold a workshop on Wednesday, February 4th.

Diane Brennan, Finance Director, explained that the Budget Board meetings consist of each department presenting their proposed budget, and the Board will need to meet to compile the information and arrive at a bottom line. Councilor Sette stated that the workshop should take place after the budget is compiled because there is plenty of time before the Town Financial Meeting in May. Councilor W. Steere directed D. Brennan to contact the Council when she and the Budget Board are ready to meet with the Council.

I. Personnel

1. Assistant Animal Control Officers: Vacancies - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council has received the following request from the Chief of Police:

To: Honorable Town Council  
From: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police  
Date: January 12, 2015  
Subj: Assistant Animal Control Officer Position

I would respectfully request to advertise in local newspapers the current vacancy position including brief job description for a new Assistant Animal Control Officer. AACO Penny Silvia has a new full time position in the City of Cranston and will be unable to fulfill the hours and commitment required of the Assistant Animal Control position. However she will be retained on a part time basis as needed for the weekend scheduled pound maintenance hours or on call service when available.

This assistant animal control officer works between 8 and 12 hours a week and replaces Animal Control Officer Merchant up to 30 hours a week when he is on vacation and sick leave including call outs on weekends when needed.
Respectfully,
Joseph DelPrete  
(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Personnel Director to advertise and begin the process to fill the position of Assistant Animal Control Officer; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:  AYES:  W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.  
NAYS:  0
MOTION PASSED

J.  New England Grassroots Environmental Fund - Discussion and/or action
Councilor W. Steere explained that this item pertains to a grant which was applied for by the Community Resource and Wastewater Advisory Commission. Councilor W. Steere stated that the grant was awarded and the Council must sign off. Councilor W. Steere commented that Linda Nichols and her group have been doing an excellent job in securing grant funding such as this.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Acceptance of Grant for the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund dated December 28, 2014; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:  AYES:  W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.  
NAYS:  0
MOTION PASSED

XI.  Council Correspondence/Discussion
A.  Councilor Sette stated that a response was received from the Regional School District regarding the Council’s request for a joint meeting. A date of January 20th was set for the meeting. Councilor Sette commented that it is important that the Foster Town Council also attend the meeting. Councilor G. Steere noted that Foster is not mentioned in the letter from the Region. Dr. Michael Barnes, Superintendent, stated that a separate letter was sent to the Foster Town Council requesting a meeting on Thursday after their Town Council meeting. Councilor Sette stated that he does not understand why the Region does not want to meet with both Town Councils at the same time. Councilor Sette stated his opinion that it is important that both Towns hear at the same time what the financial impact will be. Councilor Sette stated that he feels that if a 4% increase is approved, there will be issues within a year or two.
Dr. Barnes stated that of the School District’s 24 million dollar budget, the local appropriation is approximately 14 million dollars, which is what the 4% is based on.

Councilor G. Steere asked what is the big deal about having a joint meeting with Foster? Councilor G. Steere stated that we have been asking for this for six to eight months. Councilor G. Steere asked if there will be two different presentations, one for Glocester and another for Foster. Councilor G. Steere stated that he would prefer to all sit in the same room and hear the same information at the same time. Dr. Barnes replied that the towns of Foster and Glocester are different entities and have different needs.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he is disappointed that the Foster Town Council will not be in attendance. Councilor Burlingame stated that he is disappointed that the co-chair of the Regional School Committee would rather have discussions with the two towns individually instead of a joint meeting. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Glocester Town Council members plan on attending on Tuesday.

Dr. Barnes stated that the numbers are the numbers and they have always been open and transparent in that regard. In response to the question of whether there will be two different presentations, Dr. Barnes stated that the answer is emphatically no.

Councilor G. Steere stated that it is disappointing because the Council has had conversations with Walt Steere and Anne Ejnes, members of the School Committee, and have requested a joint meeting. Councilor G. Steere stated that Ron Cervasio, co-chair of the Regional School Committee, was also aware that the Council wanted a joint meeting. Councilor G. Steere further stated that after last year’s Financial Meeting, R. Cervasio stated that the Committee would request a 4% increase each year going forward, whether they need it or not. Dr. Barnes pointed out that there are nine people on the committee and they build a budget which represents the needs of the students.

Dave Steere, Budget Board chair, asked where the meeting will take place on the 20th. Councilor W. Steere replied that it will be held in conjunction with the School Committee’s regular meeting which takes place at the Ponaganset High School library.

B. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received from George Charette requesting a 3-month leave from his duties on boards and commissions due to health issues.

C. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received regarding street light bills.

D. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Department Head Meeting Report from January 12th was submitted.
E. Councilor W. Steere stated that a memo was received from the Tax Assessor with regard to taxation of renewable energy projects.

F. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council received a letter of concern from a resident of Absalona Hill Road.

G. Councilor W. Steere stated that a letter was received concerning litter on Town roads, particularly Chestnut Hill Road and Brown School Road.

H. Councilor W. Steere stated that a request for tax exemption was received. Councilor W. Steere stated that this will be addressed at the next meeting.

I. Councilor W. Steere stated that correspondence was received from the Town of Smithfield with regard to the possibility of a regional EMA Director.

XII. Department Head Report/Discussion
A. Councilor Burlingame commented that Anthony Parrillo, Recreation Director, has put together information regarding policies and procedures pertaining to Glocester Memorial Park. Councilor Burlingame noted that everything seems to be good to go for the upcoming season.

XIII. Bds. and Commissions/ Discussion
None.

XIV. Open Forum
A. Rose LaVoie stated that she had a contract with the Land Trust regarding property on Elbow Rock Road, but the Land Trust reneged on the deal. R. LaVoie stated that she had received a $5,000 deposit and after 2½ years of dispute, she paid back half of it under protest. R. LaVoie expressed her opinion that this was unfair as she entered into the contract in good faith.

R. LaVoie requested that lighting be installed in the small parking area in the Village.

R. LaVoie stated that she wishes somebody would step forth and clean up the river bank. Councilor Burlingame stated that a letter has been directed to Rep. Chippendale asking him to intervene with DEM to allow relief from the permitting process.

B. Ericka Dauphinais spoke regarding her mother, a former resident of Glocester who recently moved back to Town. E. Dauphinais stated that her mother is not eligible for the elderly tax exemption which is available to residents of five (5) years or longer, but pointed out that her mother was previously a resident for 23 years. Councilor W. Steere noted that the Council is unable to discuss this matter, as it is
not on the agenda, and asked Ms. Dauphinais to attend the next Council meeting for further discussion.

C. Marie Sweet of Chestnut Hill Road spoke about the conference which is scheduled to take place in Chepachet on April 25th. Marie Sweet stated that she was asked to extend an invitation to Council President W. Steere to make opening statements at the conference.

D. Dr. Michael Barnes, Superintendent, stated that the School Department owns a large L-shaped piece of property across the street from the Middle School which would be suitable for recreational purposes.

E. Lauren Niedel-Gresh spoke about the river clean-up and asked if we could take it upon ourselves to conduct a community clean-up for Earth Day. Councilor W. Steere stated that DEM will only allow us to do certain things and it would be costly to obtain the necessary permits. It was stated that Rep. Chippendale has been contacted and his assistance has been requested.

XV. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:
MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to Convene to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5a5 Land Acquisition & R.I.G.L. 42-46-5a2 Potential Litigation Pension Suit; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:       AYES:       W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
            NAYS:        0
MOTION PASSED

XVI. Reconvene Open Session
MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to SEAL the minutes of Executive Session and to Disclose that one (1) vote was taken on Pension Litigation; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:       AYES:       W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
            NAYS:        0
MOTION PASSED

XVII. Adjourn
MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 10:12 p.m.; seconded by Councilor G. Steere.

Discussion: None.
VOTE:       AYES:   W. Steere, G. Steere, Reichert, Burlingame and Sette.
            NAYS:   0
MOTION PASSED