

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on March 15, 2018:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: George O. (Buster) Steere, Jr., President; Edward C. Burlingame, Vice-President; Walter M. O. Steere, III; William E. Reichert and Patricia Henry.

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Nichole Carroll, representing the Town Solicitor; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Lori DeSantis, Tax Assessor; Judy Branch, Human Services Director; Gerald Mosca, EMA Director; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director; and Robert Shields, Recreation Director.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Resolution

- A. #2018-03 Ponaganset Wrestling Team - Division 1 State Championship & New England Championship

Councilor W. Steere asked to table this item until the next Town Council meeting because the wrestling team was unable to attend tonight. Councilor G. Steere noted that they are preparing to travel to Tennessee to compete in the Regionals.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE Resolution #2018-03 Ponaganset Wrestling Team - Division 1 State Championship & New England Championship until the first meeting in April; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. #2018-04 Support of House Bill-7241 “The Gold Star Family Highway”  
Councilor G. Steere stated that Reps. Winfield and Chippendale have requested Council’s support of a bill that will designate a portion of Route 102 “The Gold Star Family Highway”. Councilor Henry stated that she would like to make sure that it is noted in our Resolution that the renaming of the highway will not incur any address changes for anybody who lives on that highway. Councilor Burlingame stated that he spoke to the Representatives today and they want to make sure that it will be a designation only. Councilor Henry replied that it should be spelled out in our Resolution so that it doesn’t get assumed.

Councilor Henry read the following into the record:

**RESOLUTION 2018-04**  
**Support of House Bill #7241 Gold Star Family Highway**

**WHEREAS:** the term Gold Star was first used in World War I when families flew service flags. These flags included a blue star for every family member serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. If that loved one died the blue star was replaced by a gold star. This allowed members of the community to know the price that the family had paid in the cause of freedom; and

**WHEREAS:** Gold Star Families are immediate relatives of U.S. Armed Forces Members who died in battle or in support of certain military activities; and

**WHEREAS:** the purpose of Gold Star Family designations or memorials is to honor our Gold Star Families, to preserve the memory of those that have fallen, and remind us that Freedom is not free; and

**WHEREAS:** Representatives Winfield and Chippendale submitted proposed legislation that, if passed, would designate a section of Chopmist Hill Road, from Route 44 in Chepachet to Route 6 in Scituate, as the “Gold Star Family Highway”; and said designation would be in name only and not require address changes for residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Town Council, of the Town of Glocester, hereby supports the passage of House Bill #7241 and any matching Senate Bill proposed, and requests all R.I. Senators and Representatives to support this legislation.

George O. Steere, Jr.  
Glocester Town Council President

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018

Seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry

NAYS-0  
MOTION PASSED

VI. Public Hearings

A. Renewal of Earth Removal Licenses - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that these public hearings were advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on March 1, 2018 and abutters were notified.

1. **Applicant: Adler Brothers Construction, Inc.**

Location of Business: Putnam Pike, further described as AP 14, Lots 18, 19 & 20

Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Open and asked if anybody wished to speak for or against his application.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, if he has received any phone calls recently regarding Adler's operation. K. Johnson replied that Adler is doing the site work for FM Global and he got a couple of calls regarding the storage of subsoil on their property. K. Johnson stated that there is no place to store it onsite, but it is only there temporarily until Spring when the landscaping is done. Councilor W. Steere asked if there is specific timing. K. Johnson replied that it is tied in to when they finish the building on the FM Global campus. Councilor W. Steere asked if any more will be added. K. Johnson replied he does not believe so. Councilor G. Steere stated that they chose to dump it there instead of chewing up the roadway to remove it. Councilor W. Steere stated that he just wanted to make sure that it is not a permanent fixture.

Councilor G. Steere asked if anyone else wished to be heard. Hearing none, Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to GRANT the renewal of an Earth Removal License to: Applicant: Adler Brothers Construction, Inc.; Location of Business: Putnam Pike, further described as AP 14, Lots 18, 19 and 20; contingent upon : 1) Building/Zoning approval; 2) all Town fees being paid; 3) current bonding secured; said license to be valid April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Applicant: George O. Steere, Jr. et als

Location of Business: Route 102, further described as AP 13,  
Lot 2

Councilor G. Steere recused himself from this item and left the chambers.

Councilor Burlingame DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if anyone had any comments.

Discussion: None.

Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to GRANT the renewal of an Earth Removal License to: Applicant: George O. Steere, Jr. et al, Location of Business: Route 102, further described as AP 13, Lot 2; contingent upon : 1) Building/Zoning approval; 2) all Town fees being paid; 3) current bonding secured; said license to be valid April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020, seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

VOTE:           AYES- Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry  
                  NAYS-0  
                  RECUSAL - G. Steere

MOTION PASSED

Councilor G. Steere returned as President/Chairman

3.       Applicant:               Stephen E. Hopkins, Trustee  
          Location of Business: Keach Dam Road, further described as  
  AP 12, Lot 134

Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN and asked if anyone wished to be heard.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that he has a question regarding both this and the first applicant. Councilor W. Steere stated that there are proposed developments at both locations and asked if these licenses only go until the development starts. Councilor G. Steere stated that he has spoken to this applicant about it because it is getting close. The applicant stated that he would like to keep it intact until he is done because they may need to haul material out during development. Nichole Carroll, representing the Town Solicitor, stated that the license will remain in effect for the two-year period.

Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official, stated that Mr. Hopkins' approvals are close but if they do not go through, he would still like to use the property as a gravel bank. K. Johnson stated that the applicant's intention is that once he starts development, it will no longer be used as a gravel operation.

Councilor G. Steere again asked if anyone wished to speak regarding this application. Hearing none, Councilor G. Steere DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to GRANT the renewal of an Earth Removal License to: Applicant: Stephen E. Hopkins, Trustee , Location of Business: Keach Dam Road, further described as AP 12, Lot 134, contingent upon : 1) Building/Zoning approval; 2) all Town fees

being paid; 3) current bonding secured; said license to be valid April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

- A. Approval of Town Council Workshop meeting minutes of February 26, 2018 & Town Council Regular meeting of March 1, 2018
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements - February 2018
- C. Abatement of 2007 Receivables & 2007 Tax Sale Fees
- D. Finance Director's Report - February 2018

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council meeting minutes of February 26<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018; to APPROVE the Tax Assessor's ADDITIONS to the 2017 Tax Roll in the amount of \$436.51; the ABATEMENTS to the 2016 Tax Roll in the amount of \$40.94 and the 2017 Tax Roll in the amount of \$355.60; to APPROVE the ABATEMENT to the 2007 Receivables Tax Roll in the amount of \$27,072.53 and the 2007 Tax Sale Fees in the amount of \$507.24; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for February 2018; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade: Discussion and/or action regarding funding & future plans  
Councilor G. Steere stated that this was discussed at the last meeting and everybody went home to think about it. Councilor G. Steere stated that Mike DeGrange, Parade Committee chair, is present.

Discussion: Councilor G. Steere stated that as it stands, there is not enough money in the Parade Committee account to have a parade. Councilor Burlingame stated that there is \$23,000 and we have a breakdown of all the expenses over the past several years. Councilor Burlingame stated that he does not want to be a Council member that says we will not fund the parade because it puts a lot of work on the volunteers to get donations. Councilor Burlingame recommended that they scale down the number of bands to ensure that they have sufficient money to have the parade, which would put it at around \$25,000. Councilor Burlingame stated that this would give them startup money for before July 1, then they would have money to carry over to start up the following year. Councilor Burlingame stated that \$25,000 seems to be the right number, without the fireworks. Councilor Burlingame stated that if they want the fireworks, they could get additional contributions from people, because another \$15,000 would push it up to \$40,000.

Councilor G. Steere stated that at the last meeting it was stated that it should be funded as a line item. Councilor W. Steere agreed and stated that fund-raising is problematic. Mike DeGrange concurred and stated that his crew of people have put a lot of time and effort to raise funds but it is always the same few people who attend the events. M. DeGrange stated that if you break it down, \$40,000 divided by the number of people we have in Town, it is not that much money. M. DeGrange commented that it is a great event which provides community spirit.

M. DeGrange stated that there are many things in the parade budget that we have no control over and the committee doesn't have much discretion over what we spend the money on. M. DeGrange stated that a little amount of money impacts many people positively and it would be sad for us not to be able to do the whole thing.

Councilor G. Steere stated that he attended the last meeting of the Parade Committee and there was discussion about having something, such as a carnival, at a different time of year, perhaps in conjunction with the GBA. M. DeGrange stated that a tremendous amount of effort is needed for just the parade and the fireworks, and it is difficult to find a good carnival company at that time of the year because everybody is booked. M. DeGrange stated that they are considering doing a Harvest Festival in the Fall, in conjunction with the GBA. M. DeGrange noted that location is important because if people do not see it, they will not know it's there. M. DeGrange stated that the Committee will discuss this further and come up with ideas to raise revenue to decrease the amount of money they request from the Town.

Councilor W. Steere stated that there is approximately \$23,000 right now, and if we were to fund \$25,000 it would be \$48,000. Councilor W. Steere stated that if it costs \$38,000 for the fireworks and the parade, there would be \$10,000 left over to start the next year. Councilor W. Steere further stated that if we add another \$25,000 each year, it would significantly cut down the amount of funds the Committee would have to raise. M. DeGrange stated that they receive several grants and contributions but the problem, with most grants, is that the Parade Committee is part of the Town and not a 501(c)3 organization. M. DeGrange stated, again, his volunteers couldn't work harder on this parade including the fundraising.

Councilor W. Steere stated that historically, we were able to fund the parade, even in the worst times, to keep the parade going. Councilor W. Steere stated that since he has been on the Council, we have contributed between \$8,000 and \$14,000 and if we are going to raise that, it is a sound way to go if we're going to continue to have the parade.

Councilor Burlingame commented that the fireworks is a huge draw and he wants to make sure we provide the Parade Committee with sufficient funds, adding that he would not object to another \$15,000 out of a \$20 million budget for something that the Town can celebrate in the course of the year. Councilor Burlingame stated that some people may object to spending that money, but in the larger scheme of things, the parade is an asset that the Town has had for 80 years or more.

Councilor Henry asked how many people are currently on the Parade Committee. M. DeGrange replied approximately 10 people. Councilor Henry asked if anything has been done at the middle and high school to try to get teachers and classrooms to support floats and things like that. M. DeGrange replied nothing formally, but they have reached out through the news and social media.

Councilor W. Steere stated that if this becomes a line item, perhaps a more formal organization should be part of the Recreation Department, and the Recreation Committee could help out as well.

Councilor G. Steere noted that M. DeGrange was sick the day he was scheduled to appear before the Budget Board, which is why the Council put it on the last agenda and again tonight. Councilor G. Steere asked Dave Steere, Budget Board chair, if he had any comments.

Dave Steere, Budget Board chair, asked what the Council means by “line item”, because the Parade Committee does have a line item in the Budget. Councilor G. Steere replied that this is correct; the Parade Committee was funded at \$14,000 last year. D. Steere also asked why the Parade Committee is not required to submit a budget request like all other department heads, boards and commissions. Councilor Henry replied that they are required to. D. Steere asked why haven’t they submitted. Councilor G. Steere stated that M. DeGrange should have submitted a request. D. Steere stated that if he had, it would not have gotten to the Council and they wouldn’t have to have this conversation because it would have already been taken care of. D. Steere stated that they are not against the parade, everyone is for the parade, but if they keep getting the money from the Council, department heads, boards and commissions would rather come right to the Council instead going before the Budget Board.

Councilor G. Steere stated that we received the itemized expenses from the Finance Director and maybe M. DeGrange should have asked for that to present to the Budget Board. M. DeGrange stated that the parade numbers have been status quo for the six (6) years he has been involved. M. DeGrange stated he has no control of the spending of the funds he asks for every year. M. DeGrange noted that many of the people who have to come in and present budgets are paid employees, which he is not. M. DeGrange stated that he has put many hours into budget proposals, spreadsheets, etc., which were not even looked at by the Budget Board and so he has stopped doing all that work. M. DeGrange stated all that effort was not worth it and he chooses to use his energy where it will best benefit the parade. M. DeGrange stated that, even if he wanted to do that presentation, he couldn’t get “good” starting numbers and he was ill the night of the hearing.

Councilor Henry stated that everyone certainly understands all the time M. DeGrange puts in, but the Budget Board is also a volunteer organization, which she served on for over 15 years. Councilor Henry noted that they meet twice a week, every week, for four (4) months. Councilor Henry stated that the Budget Board is just asking that every committee respect the process and the transparency of the process. M. DeGrange stated that he put all the effort in and the Budget Board did not open it and look at it, so why would he put the effort in again.

Councilor Burlingame commented that we have a baseline now for costs and expenses, so the Committee can go forward and ask what will change in the new year; will they require more or less. Councilor Burlingame stated that the decision the Council must make is whether to put a line item of \$25,000 for the parade, \$40,000 to include the fireworks, or \$35,000 if we are certain to receive some grants to offset the fireworks.

Councilor Henry pointed out that we always funded it at \$14,000 and if we need another \$15,000 for fireworks, that’s \$29,000. Councilor Henry stated her opinion that to have the parade and not

the fireworks is not a good idea. Councilor Burlingame agreed. Councilor W. Steere agreed, but stated that it does not have to be funded at \$40,000 every year. Councilor Henry proposed that we fund \$30,000. Councilor G. Steere stated that he would think \$25,000 because there is \$23,000 in there now and we will receive donations and grants. Councilor Henry stated that we still have to go out to bid for the fireworks and we don't know how much that will be. M. DeGrange stated that he is fairly certain that Ocean State Pyrotechnics, last year's fireworks vendor, will renew his contract at \$15,000. Councilor Henry asked M. DeGrange how much he thinks he will need. M. DeGrange replied that they have \$23,000 now and he would be happy with \$20,000, bringing it to \$43,000. Councilor Burlingame stated that he is willing to go with \$25,000, but would also like to see the Committee cut down on some of the expenses that they have control over, such as the number of bands.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADD a line item of \$25,000 for the parade; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere questioned if this amount is instead of the \$14,000 we have allocated in the past. Councilor G. Steere replied that there is nothing in the Budget now for this year so this would reinstate it at \$25,000.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Statewide E-Permitting: Authorization to move forward - Discussion and/or action  
Councilor G. Steere stated that this was discussed at the last meeting. Councilor W. Steere stated that he does not have a lot of faith in State programs right now and he has heard that this program is not working in the most efficient way. Councilor Henry expressed her opinion that until we get written information or a presentation by the State, the Council does not have enough information to make a decision.

Lori DeSantis, Tax Assessor, stated that at the last Assessors' meeting, it was stated that the State will not renew any contracts with Viewpoint regarding fees and reports that do not work. Councilor G. Steere asked if they are going to change software providers. L. DeSantis stated that they want the towns to pick up those additional costs. Councilor W. Steere asked if this would be an unfunded mandate, stating that the Lt. Governor is very concerned about unfunded mandates. There was Council consensus that the Council does not want to jump on board with this at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to REMOVE FROM THE TABLE Statewide E-Permitting: Authorization to move forward - Discussion and/or action; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

## MOTION PASSED

### C. Gloucester Memorial Park -Potential plans for park enhancements- Discussion and/or action

Bob Shields, Recreation Director, stated he would try to clarify what is currently happening. B. Shields explained that there is \$10,000 left over from tennis court project which could fund half of what we are working on. B. Shields stated that Karen Scott, Town Planner, is helping him apply for a R.I. Foundation grant in the amount of \$10,000. B. Shields stated they asked for \$5,000 for replacing signage, the curbing project, which was modified at the last Council meeting, to \$3,000 and plants and miscellaneous pieces for \$2,000. B. Shields stated that with the grant and modifications \$1,600 would remain unfunded if we go ahead with the project as described. B. Shields stated he still has \$8,000 remaining in the current budget in the “Recreational Materials & Equipment” line item, so we may not need additional funds, at this time, if we receive the grant.

Councilor G. Steere asked if that was the guardrails and plantings. B. Shields stated yes, and the paving of the west parking lot. B. Shields stated we would be using the \$10,000 (with Gary Trembl’s help) as follows: \$6,800 for paving the lot and \$4,800 to put up the guardrails. B. Shields stated the only curbing we would be putting in at the planting area separating the road and that parking area. B. Shields stated over the next couple of years he would like to put in elements, such as guardrails, which will prevent damage of areas we have already worked on.

B. Shields stated he sees this as a keystone project. B. Shields stated if we continue on this course we also have \$22,000 set aside for playground equipment which we could probably double with matching grants and possibly replace all the playground equipment.

Councilor Burlingame asked for year ending 2019, what is the total expense projection. B. Shields stated \$21,600. B. Shields stated in the year ending 2020 we are looking to go ahead and renovate our playground area and create a multi-purpose field to better serve our populace than the softball field. Councilor Burlingame asked if these costs have been determined yet. B. Shields stated they have not and he will be looking for Public Works assistance with some of that project. Councilor Burlingame stated we try to look 2-3 years ahead with capital projects, so B. Shields could look to see how much money we would have to outlay that would not be DPW money. Councilor Burlingame also asked B. Shields to identify grants coming in for 2019, 2020 and 2021 to give us a three year visibility.

Councilor Henry asked if any additional funding is needed for 2019. B. Shields replied that if everything goes according to plan, there should be enough. However, B. Shields stated that if we are not successful in obtaining the RI Foundation Grant, he would not want to put that burden on the Town, and would suggest taking the \$10,000 remaining from the tennis courts and place it in an account to move forward at a later date. B. Shields stated that it won’t be done over night.

Councilor W. Steere commented that there are a lot of good ideas here but we also have the basketball courts which are the most utilized part of the park, according to the Recreation Commission. Councilor W. Steere suggested that before we “pretty up” the area, we should do the

heavy work first. Councilor W. Steere stated he understands that thought slows things down. Councilor W. Steere asked if the courts are currently useable. Discussion followed on what can be done at the basketball courts. B. Shields stated that he has had requests to use the courts for a Recreation Basketball night so that would be an expense that we would be willing to take on.

Councilor W. Steere questioned if there is \$22,000 available to replace the playground equipment and that is a project that could be undertaken. B. Shields noted that there will be some matching grants available in the Fall and we might want to wait for that opportunity, because \$22,000 seems like a lot of money, but swing sets are pricey. B. Shields also stated that some aspects of the existing equipment, such as the uprights, could be powder coated and re-purposed.

Councilor Henry asked if there will be benches at the new tennis courts. B. Shields replied that they plan to potentially install those items after the Public Works Department completes their work. Councilor Henry stated that we have money for the swing set and there may be funds left over to pave a parking area, and that would be it for the year. Councilor W. Steere suggested that if we have money left over, it could be put aside for the basketball courts.

Councilor G. Steere asked Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, if he just paves the tennis courts without the special coating, does he expect to have that \$10,000 left over. G. Treml replied in the affirmative. Councilor G. Steere spoke regarding the basketball courts and asked if it would be a waste of money to patch the cracks with asphalt. G. Treml replied that he does not know if it could be narrowed down to just the cracks and not straight seams. G. Treml spoke further but was inaudible on the recording.

Councilor Henry suggested proceeding with getting signage for GMP because people who are new to Town do not know how to get there. Councilor Henry stated that we need a sign on Route 44 at Adelaide Road.

B. Shields spoke about splitting up the playground equipment into areas by age, such as 2 to 6 and 6 to 12.

Councilor G. Steere again asked G. Treml if it is feasible to patch the cracks with asphalt. G. Treml replied in the negative.

Councilor Henry stated that it doesn't seem like we have to appropriate funds; we just need to give Recreation permission to move forward on some of these ideas. Councilor Burlingame stated that we have a master plan for Gloucester Memorial Park projects to be completed year ending 2019 and the Council's action should be to approve the plan as proposed. Councilor W. Steere noted that some of the items have been eliminated. B. Shields listed the projects to be completed in 2019.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to give permission to the Recreation Director to move forward on the Gloucester Memorial Park Master Improvement Plan for a project to be completed year ending 2019 including:

- Create a planting island separating roadway from west parking lot at GMP
- Install a wooden guardrail around west parking lot at GMP

Install two new signs at Gloucester Memorial Park, one within the park and one on Route 44. New signage should be consistent with existing signs in town.

Continue with the playground/swing sets.

Seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Henry stated that she would like to personally thank Bob Shields for all the time and effort he has put into this plan.

#### IX. New Business

A. Full Regionalization Presentation - F/G School Comm.- Discussion and/or action  
Councilor Henry noted that Anthony Autiello, School Committee member, asked for this to be on the agenda.

Anthony Autiello stated that the Regional School Committee has put together a sub-committee to explore the possibility of regionalization of grades K through 12. A. Autiello stated that this has been looked at before, but it is felt that with the dwindling State aid and rising costs, it is the Committee's duty to explore any possibility that would improve the efficiency of our education system. A. Autiello stated that there is the feeling that consolidation of our education system will produce more positive aspects in the way we operate our school system. A. Autiello stated that in order to make an accurate assessment and recommendation, they would like the Town Councils of both Towns to provide input, concerns and suggestions.

A. Autiello stated that he is a first year member of the School Committee and also serves on the sub-committee for contract negotiations and capital building program, and some of the things that happen among the three (3) entities, Foster, Gloucester and the Region, have worked against us in our ability to get the "biggest bang for our buck". A. Autiello noted that our State tax dollars are not coming to us; it's going to the urban areas, but if we regionalize K through 5, we would receive a higher percentage on housing aid. A. Autiello stated that this is preliminary and he knows there are issues, but expressed hope that everybody could get together and have discussion.

Councilor Burlingame asked what is the financial benefit of full regionalization and where would those cost savings come from. Councilor Burlingame also inquired what is the projection for the improvement of the academic performance of the students. Councilor Burlingame stated that two (2) years ago, the Gloucester Council and the Gloucester School Committee agreed to participate in a reconstruction program for Fogarty and West Gloucester Elementary schools. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council and the School Committee each committed \$1.5 million from their surplus toward a reimbursement program from the State that could be anywhere from 30% to 40% to rehab these two (2) schools. Councilor Burlingame stated that this is a huge investment of Gloucester taxpayer money, and they may ask why we would want to turn these capital improvements over to the Region. Councilor Burlingame stated that the sub-committee needs to

look at these questions. Councilor Burlingame expressed concern that with full regionalization, K through 5 would be a “stepchild” with the higher level grades consuming a higher percentage of the dollars.

A. Autiello stated that they want to know the Council’s concerns. A. Autiello pointed out that he is a Gloucester resident and taxpayer and he wants to make sure that this is not a short-term fix, but a long-term improvement that will save us money and improve our education curriculum.

Councilor Burlingame stated that on June 21, 2006, there was a special meeting with the Gloucester School Committee, Regional School Committee and the Council at which concerns and issues, regarding full regionalization, were discussed. Councilor Burlingame commented that many of those issues are still on the table and suggested that the sub-committee take each of these issues and ask if they are relevant to today and can they be addressed in a positive way.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he knows that A. Autiello is earnest and sincere, but this needs to be a partnership, not a sub-committee of the Regional School Committee to come up with ideas. Councilor W. Steere stated that if anything is to happen, the Foster and Gloucester Town Councils would have to be involved, working with the Regional School Committee because otherwise, trust and honesty would be an issue. Councilor W. Steere stated that another thing to look at is tearing up the Charter and starting over because the way it is written now would not sit well with running the elementary schools. Councilor W. Steere stated that he feels there would not be a need for all three (3) elementary schools if we are regionalized. Councilor W. Steere noted that when Foster’s elementary school was being repaired, Gloucester took Foster’s students in both of our schools. Councilor W. Steere stated that there are some good aspects to the concept, but if we are serious about it, there needs to be a partnership among all three (3) entities.

A. Autiello agreed, stating that this is not something that would happen overnight, and a lot of thought has to be put into it. A. Autiello stated that input is needed from the Council and all the departments in Town.

Councilor G. Steere pointed out that the test scores at the Gloucester schools are much higher than the Region or Foster’s elementary school. Councilor G. Steere further noted that the teachers in the union at the Region are in turmoil, arguing and fighting, but that does not exist at our local level. Councilor G. Steere stated that it seems like they are after this just to get a “bigger bite of the apple” with regard to the percentage of State reimbursement. Councilor G. Steere stated that at the Region, the test scores are low, expenses and overhead are high, and administration is top-heavy. Councilor G. Steere stated that he feels that the Town Council and the Gloucester School Committee made a good faith effort and judgment to spend money on renovating the elementary schools when we could have easily said no and go out to bond to borrow \$5 million, spending out of our surplus every year just on interest payments, like they do at the Region. Councilor G. Steere stated that A. Autiello has not shown him any good reason for Gloucester to get involved.

A. Autiello replied that he is not here to give a reason, but to listen to the concerns of the Council. A. Autiello commented that he does not have the experience, with only one year on the School Committee, to answer all of the Council’s questions. Councilor Burlingame asked if A. Autiello would like to get the Council’s comments individually. A. Autiello replied that the Council can get

their comments together and Councilor Henry can sit down with the sub-committee. Councilor Henry stated that she has attended some of their meetings and she would be glad to continue to do that. Councilor Henry asked the Council members to forward their concerns to her in writing and she will bring them forward.

Councilor Henry applauded the sub-committee's optimism and agreed that it is their responsibility to explore the options. Councilor Henry stated that if it moves forward, there should be some community members, Council members and School Committee members on the sub-committee.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Councils and the Regional School Committee are the people who have been elected to make decisions. Councilor W. Steere stated that this would change the landscapes of the Towns of Foster and Gloucester. Councilor W. Steere stated that the municipalities are capped at a limit of how much they can go over each year's expenditures, which is 4%, and maybe the Regional School District would have to go by that also.

Shelley Pezza, chair of the Foster School Committee, spoke regarding the financial aspect, stating that Gloucester is now at 35% capital reimbursement, but if we regionalize K through 12, it would be more than 50%. S. Pezza stated that there would also be an increase in the transportation reimbursement. S. Pezza also mentioned that we now pay for three (3) separate audits. Regarding the Charter, S. Pezza expressed agreement that it is outdated and should be done over.

S. Pezza stated that each town should be in the care and control of their own elementary schools, but right now students are entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade with two (2) different curriculums. Councilor Henry asked if it is already mandated that curriculums are all across the State. S. Pezza replied that there are different teaching methods. Councilor Henry stated that teaching technique is different but the mandate on curriculum is already current at the State level.

S. Pezza expressed agreement that a partnership is necessary and stated that the sub-committee meets prior to the Region's meetings at the high school and invited the Council members to attend. S. Pezza stated that she appreciates the Council taking the time to hear them out.

Councilor G. Steere stated, in the interest of transparency, rumor has it that the School Committee is considering getting enough signatures on a petition to put this on the ballot in November. S. Pezza stated that is not accurate and they have said that if they do not have the support of the Town Councils, it is not something they want to do.

Councilor Henry commented that this is not something that can be rushed and is a process that will take a lot of due diligence. S. Pezza stated that she has been trying to push this for eight (8) years because there are savings and it would benefit the students.

Councilor W. Steere asked what would be the benefit of Gloucester elementary schools being taken over by the Region. Councilor W. Steere mentioned test scores, stating that the numbers say that Gloucester's are better than Foster. Councilor Burlingame spoke about the cost benefit, stating that we have very low overhead in the Gloucester school system compared to that of the Region. Councilor Burlingame stated that we have not had to increase Gloucester's appropriation for several years due to good fiscal management, and he would not want to give that up.

Councilor W. Steere stated that is why it needs to be a partnership, with people from both Councils in the same room with the Regional School Committee to have these conversations. S. Pezza stated that if any of the Council members would like to participate on the sub-committee, she could change the meeting dates if necessary.

Councilor G. Steere stated that they have requested a joint meeting many times with the Foster School Committee, Foster Town Council and the Regional School Committee and have been denied.

Regarding teaching approach, Councilor G. Steere stated that Gloucester elementary's test scores are better and suggested that Foster's Superintendent get in touch with Gloucester's to get the same teaching method going. S. Pezza replied that Foster has made a decision not to teach to test and they have received numerous accolades this current year. S. Pezza stated that many colleges are not going by SAT scores any more because not all kids test well.

Councilor W. Steere asked if the Region also does not teach to test. Mike Barnes, Regional Superintendent, stated that this is a conversation about regionalization, not test scores, but the test has been changed multiple times in the State and usually there is an opportunity to adjust the curriculum on the K to 5 level. M. Barnes stated that they have not had a single group of students starting Kindergarten to go all the way through Grade 12 with the same test or the same assessment. M. Barnes stated that the standards and assessments have changed and we are continuously trying to readjust the curriculum. M. Barnes stated that they have chosen to focus on SAT preparation and preparation for college and careers and not to chase the State test. M. Barnes stated that, by contrast, Massachusetts set their standards 25 years ago and have continued to teach the exact same set of standards for 25 years. Councilor Henry commented that Rhode Island does not have a consistent track record with maintaining any program.

Councilor W. Steere asked if test scores are tied to the amount of funding received. M. Barnes replied in the negative. M. Barnes stated that the State gives a reimbursement to the towns for transportation because regional districts are more geographically spread out. M. Barnes stated that we only receive reimbursement on transportation expenses for grades 6 to 12, but not on K to 5, which would be several hundred thousand dollars a year. Regarding the \$3 million dollars set aside for capital projects at the elementary level, M. Barnes stated that we are receiving a reimbursement of 35 cents on the dollar, but at the Region, they currently receive 54 cents on the dollar. M. Barnes further stated that if we were regionalized K through 12, the percentage would be in the mid-sixties, which would mean an additional \$1.2 million dollars from the State toward improving our elementary schools. M. Barnes stated that there are some financial benefits that can be discussed when the three (3) bodies meet.

Councilor W. Steere stated that if the Regional School Committee wants to entertain having a full committee, meaning sub-committees from each town as well as the sub-committee from the Region, he would support having discussions on the issues that were brought up. Councilor W. Steere stated that there are many things to consider, such as busing contracts and teacher contracts, and this is not something that can happen overnight. Councilor W. Steere noted that when people vote for School Committee, they don't realize that they are voting for people who will be responsible for 75% to 80% of the municipal budget. Councilor W. Steere suggested looking at

other regional school districts to see how it is done and noted that Chariho has an all-day referendum where people can vote on the budget, following a series of meetings.

Councilor Henry stated that the Region had a Public Hearing on their budget last week and she was one of two (2) people in attendance. Councilor W. Steere pointed out that the Budget Board does not have any say in the School Budget because the Region tells them what it is.

There was Council consensus to get their thoughts to Councilor Henry for her to share with the Region. Councilor Henry stated that when she receives notice of the date of the next meeting of the sub-committee, she will have the Town Clerk inform the Council members.

Shelley Pezza stated that if the Council wants to have two (2) sub-committees, she will reach out to Foster. S. Pezza noted that the meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month, but if that is not good for the Council, a different day could be arranged. Councilor W. Steere stated that we need a scope of what we want to accomplish; otherwise there will be arguments and it will fall apart.

Councilor G. Steere suggested prioritizing the Council's concerns to be brought forward. It was stated that the next meeting is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

The Council thanked S. Pezza, A. Autiello and Mike Barnes for their presentation.

B. Recreation Department: Spring Grove Pond - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Henry stated that Bob Shields, Recreation Director, has brought forth an issue regarding our swimming area at Spring Grove. Councilor Henry stated that there is a problem with growth (milfoil and blatwart) which will have to be addressed if we wish to continue using the pond as a swimming area.

Bob Shields stated that he has received new information, from the Town Clerk, that may provide an alternative to some of the items he has researched to this point. B. Shields asked that the matter be tabled to a future Council meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to TABLE Recreation Department: Spring Grove Pond - Discussion and/or action; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Budget 2018/2019- Discussion and/or action

1. Presented by Budget Board and/or Finance Director

David Steere, Budget Board chair, presented the Council with the Budget Board recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2019, as well as a letter highlighting what is in the Budget. D. Steere noted that the Budget is not much different than the one that was discussed at the meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

D. Steere stated that he now has the number for the Region, which is very favorable for this year. D. Steere commented that it probably won't be that way every year. D. Steere stated that we have put funds away for student proration and that shows up under "Special Appropriations".

D. Steere stated that he attended the Regional Public Hearing to get a budget and it was a waste of time. D. Steere noted that the Budget was 75 pages and was not available prior to the Public Hearing. D. Steere suggested that the Charter require that the Budget is at least put on their website so residents can go to the Public Hearing and ask intelligent questions. D. Steere stated at the Regional Financial meeting you can't get your question across in the limited two minutes.

2. Discussion/Adjustments/Additions by Council and/or Finance Director

Councilor Henry asked if the Council is adopting the Budget tonight. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the Council is just accepting the Budget for Public Hearing to allow the Finance Director to begin the advertising process. Councilor Henry asked until what date does the Council have to make any additions to the Budget. J. Fecteau replied that the Council must adopt the Budget by April 30<sup>th</sup>. J. Fecteau stated that if the Public Hearing is held early enough, the Council could adopt any changes at their meeting of April 19<sup>th</sup>. J. Fecteau stated that we have to have a final number, tonight, for the Public Hearing. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council put one change in tonight for the Parade. J. Fecteau stated that the Council can make a motion to include any Town Council amendment voted on tonight. J. Fecteau also noted that in last year's motion, there was something to allow an adjustment after the Foster-Glocester Regional Financial Meeting, if necessary, for operations and debt service. J. Fecteau stated that due to the impending weather forecasted for that night, she worded the motion as the meeting "convened on March 20, 2018", in the event that the meeting is continued.

3. Set Public Hearing Date

Discussion: After discussion, the Council decided on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 as the date of the Public Hearing.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ACCEPT the FY 2018/2019 budget as submitted by the Budget Board, with Town Council amendments voted on March 15, 2018, for Public Hearing to be held on April 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.; any further adjustments of the "Foster-Glocester Region Operations and/or Debt Service" line item may be made following the vote taken by the Foster/Glocester Regional Financial Meeting convened on March 20, 2018; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere, Reichert and Henry

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Personnel

1. Police Department

- a. Begin process to fill position to be vacated - Discussion and/or action

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that he expects a full time/part time position to become vacant in the next several weeks and he has spoken to the Personnel Director regarding advertising for a replacement. Chief DelPrete stated this is a 16 hour per week position. Councilor W. Steere asked if the resignation is going to happen. Chief DelPrete replied that he is 99.9% sure, but if not, and we get a good candidate, we can put him into a part-time pool until that does happen. Chief DelPrete stated that he is looking for someone experienced from another Police Department but if training is required, it will take several weeks to get that going. Chief DelPrete stated this void will create a lot of overtime for his department.

Councilor Henry asked if this position is a dispatcher or a police officer. Chief DelPrete replied that it is a dispatcher position currently held by Chris DeCesare, who will be leaving shortly.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to have the Finance Director begin the process of filling the vacated position of a full-time/part-time dispatcher; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Land Trust Annual Report: Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that Steve Mitchell, Land Trust Chair, requested this agenda item to review the Land Trust report.

Steve Mitchell gave a brief overview of the Land Trust's activities over the last year. S. Mitchell highlighted the collaboration they have with Boy Scout Troop 44 and described the three (3) Eagle Scout projects on Land Trust properties this year.

S. Mitchell stated that in October, a dedication ceremony was held at Steere Hill to recognize Tateos Heditsian, whose family bought the property in 1960. S. Mitchell stated that Tateos was a tailor who emigrated from Armenia prior to the First World War, in which he served, and later was involved in designing and hand-tailoring the RI State Police uniform. S. Mitchell noted that Tateos's son, who is 96 years old, attended the dedication.

S. Mitchell stated that the Land Trust works with other boards and commissions. S. Mitchell gave an example of the Public Works Department harvesting granite from Land Trust property to use to help build the wall on the former Kent Property. S. Mitchell stated that he asked G. Trembl to find a couple of slabs to use for the dedication ceremony at Steere Hill, which he did with his crew, finding a beautiful slab perfect for the bronze plaque. S. Mitchell noted that the Public Works crew also delivered and installed the granite. S. Mitchell stated that this is an example of what we can accomplish when we work together in a collaborative sort of way.

S. Mitchell stated that the next report is one he wishes he did not have to present. S. Mitchell stated that an inspection and evaluation report was received concerning the Hawkins Dam. S. Mitchell stated that the inspection was done in July of 2016 and the Land Trust received the report in the

summer of 2017. S. Mitchell stated that the dam is classified as high hazard, meaning that if the dam failed, it would result in probable loss of human life. S. Mitchell noted that the dam is close to Route 44 as well as a number of homes. S. Mitchell stated that we need to develop a plan to respond to this report and hire a physical engineer to inspect the area and give us a cost analysis of what it would take to bring the dam back up to the standard of where it should be. S. Mitchell stated that they have decided to go out to bid for the services of a physical engineer and it will be discussed at the Land Trust meeting of March 27<sup>th</sup>. S. Mitchell stated that the Land Trust will need to know how they will finance this project because they do not have the amount of money necessary to resolve this issue. S. Mitchell stated that a “ball park figure” is probably a half-million dollars to address the issues of the dam and the surrounding areas. S. Mitchell stated that once they receive the report from the engineer, they will schedule a meeting with the Town Council. S. Mitchell commented that it is a major undertaking, but one that must be acted upon to preserve life and lessen the exposure to liability.

S. Mitchell again thanked G. Treml, Public Works Director, for his help and also commended the Finance Office, particularly Jeanne Carcieri, for processing their requisitions and issuing checks. Lastly, S. Mitchell expressed gratitude to the Trustees, stating that they expend hundreds of hours doing various projects on the properties.

S. Mitchell reviewed the work of trail inspection, work on properties and further stated the board is working on revising their strategic plan.

Councilor G. Steere asked S. Mitchell if he was on the Land Trust when the DPW did a job at the dam a few years ago. S. Mitchell replied in the negative. Councilor G. Steere stated that an engineer was hired at that time but his ideas and suggestions were not feasible. Councilor G. Steere cautioned the Land Trust regarding whom they will hire. S. Mitchell stated that the RFP will be very tight and the ground rules for the prospective engineer will be to address those conditions outlined in the report, and nothing else. S. Mitchell stated the board will be seeking G. Treml’s input. G. Treml asked what the deficiencies were at the dam. S. Mitchell stated that the retaining wall is deteriorating and parts of the causeway, with stumpage, need to be addressed. G. Treml suggested some ways to fix these issues.

Councilor Henry asked if there is still a problem up there with beavers and beaver dams. S. Mitchell replied in the negative, stating that the beavers are gone. Councilor Henry stated that she often walks the Land Trust properties and commented that they are wonderful. Councilor Henry commended the new signage done by the Boy Scouts.

F. R.I. Foundation Grant Application: Improvements to Gloucester Memorial Park - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere read the following request from Karen Scott, Planner:

To: Town Council  
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner  
Date: March 14, 2018  
Re: Rhode Island Foundation – Community Grants

The Rhode Island Foundation has announced the availability of a new round of Community Grants. These grants of up to \$10,000 will be made to improve the quality of life, promote collaboration, and increase community engagement within a neighborhood or municipality. Glocester previously received a community grant in 2016 for improvements to Leja Field. I have worked with Bob Shields, Recreation Director to come up with a potential grant application.

We are proposing to request \$10,000 for improvements to Glocester Memorial Park to include installation of a new sign on Route 44, installation of curbing between the roadway and parking area to create a planting bed, and partnership with the Ponaganset FFA to design and create a planting island. Although a match is not required, we will show the \$10,000 planned to upgrade the parking area as leverage to the requested funds.

Grant applications are due by April 6, 2018. Decisions will be made by June 1, 2018. Grant funds must be expended no later than June 30, 2019.

I respectfully request that the Town Council authorize application for these grant funds. Both Bob Shields and I will be at the meeting on March 15, 2018 to provide additional detail on the project.  
(End of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Rhode Island Foundation – Community Grant application for 2018, said grant application to request funds to be used towards Glocester Memorial Park improvements, as outlined; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

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

MOTION PASSED

X. Town Council Correspondence /Discussion

- A. Councilor G. Steere stated that a request was received for support of House Bill 7591 and Senate Bill 2289, which would prohibit guns on school grounds, even with a carry permit, unless the Police and school officials are notified.
- B. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council received a Resolution in support of the \$250 million bond that the Governor has proposed for renovations of existing schools and construction of new schools.
- C. Councilor G. Steere stated that an invitation was received from Lt. Governor Dan McKee to a forum on opioid addiction which will take place on Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

- D. Councilor G. Steere stated that an invitation to the Newport St. Patrick's Day Parade was received.
- E. Councilor G. Steere stated that a request was received from DEM regarding the priority list for water pollution abatement projects.
- F. Councilor W. Steere stated that there is proposed legislation to remove all voter ID requirements. Councilor W. Steere stated that this would repeal the law that was passed in 2011.
- G. Councilor Henry stated that she received a phone call from Judy Colaluca asking to meet with her to discuss doing a town-wide cleanup, possibly on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- H. Councilor W. Steere expressed appreciation to Town employees for getting the Town through the last few storms. Councilor W. Steere noted that he heard a lot of compliments from residents regarding the Town's response.

XI. Department Head Reports/Discussion

- A. Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, requested a first reading to amend the Code of Ordinance. J. Fecteau stated that we will be having a Public Hearing for the Comp Plan at the second meeting in April. J. Fecteau stated that in the criteria given by the Town Planner, it says the adoption of the Comp Plan would not become effective until it is reference by Ordinance. J. Fecteau stated that she has written an Ordinance that can be used, but there needs to be a first reading before moving forward. J. Fecteau further stated that at the same time, we could amend the Ordinance to eliminate the CCPCC, which was put together when the Comp Plan was first formulated, and has since been disbanded. There was consensus to place a first reading on the next agenda.

- B. Diane Brennan, Finance Director, gave an update on the school renovation project. D. Brennan stated that the School Committee approved the renovations to Fogarty Memorial School in the amount of \$1.6 million.

D. Brennan mentioned that the School Committee is concerned with regard to the Budget as proposed. D. Brennan stated that \$200,000 has been set aside for Gloucester School Operations and the Committee feels that it should be part of the Maintenance of Effort.

Councilor Henry stated that she was at that meeting and School Committeewoman Carroll was concerned that it was problematic the way it was appropriated. Councilor Burlingame stated that the Council understands that but feels that at this point, we feel we are okay the way we have it set aside and will go forward with it the way it is.

- C. The Council members thanked Gerry Mosca, EMA Director, for his efforts during the storms.

## XII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

- A. Walter Steere, Jr., School Committee member, updated the Council regarding student proration. W. Steere, Jr. stated that Foster is taking a big hit this year and noted that during the course of the year, Foster gained 2 students and Glocester lost 25 students. W. Steere, Jr. stated that this will cost Foster \$215,000. W. Steere, Jr. stated that a count was taken in October indicating that Foster gained 16 students and Glocester gained 41. W. Steere, Jr. commented that if this continues the rest of the year, the big hit will turn to Glocester next year. W. Steere, Jr. suggested that we put aside as much of this year's savings as we can for next year. Councilor Burlingame noted that we have already set aside \$100,000 for this reason.

Regarding full regionalization, W. Steere, Jr. stated that we should ask when they want to have this happen. W. Steere, Jr. questioned what would happen to the surpluses that the Glocester School Department has and who would maintain the schools. W. Steere, Jr. commented that there are many questions to be answered and things to be worked out. W. Steere, Jr. stated that it has been a slow process so far and if it doesn't pick up, it will be long time before we get anywhere. W. Steere, Jr. noted that at this time, the majority of the Glocester School Committee is not in favor of full regionalization due to concerns that more funds will be spent on the middle and high schools and not the lower grades. W. Steere, Jr. stated the elementary schools have not had a rise in Maintenance of Effort in a long time.

## XIII. Open Forum

- A. Ellen Kellner, Glocester resident, stated that she submitted correspondence to the Council regarding the Safe Schools Act. E. Kellner stated that she and other residents have been active with the RI Coalition Against Gun Violence for the last few years. E. Kellner stated that they are in favor of basic common sense gun laws, one of which is the Safe Schools Act, which states that no one is allowed on school grounds with a concealed permit to carry unless it is a peace officer, policeman or security officer which are exempt. E. Kellner noted that you cannot go to a sporting event or a courthouse, a number of places, without going through a metal detector and it is a mystery to her why weapons are not banned on public school grounds. E. Kellner also noted that Rhode Island is one of four (4) states that allow concealed carry on public school grounds without restrictions. E. Kellner stated other states allow a person to carry with permission from the school administrator.

E. Kellner stated that she sent the correspondence to the Council to ask that this be put on the agenda for the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting because she would like to see the School Committee and Town Council pass Resolutions endorsing the two (2) bills, House Bill 7591 and Senate Bill 2289, that are before our State House. E. Kellner stated that this is a good year for it due to what happened on February 14<sup>th</sup> in Parkland, Florida. E. Kellner stated there is a lot of interest in our state right now, including

students, our future voters. E. Kellner stated she feels that we have to start taking our students seriously and further that she would like her Town Council members to have a discussion about it.

E. Kellner thanked the Council for their consideration.

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 10:14 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

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

MOTION PASSED