

At a Special meeting of the Town Council in and for the Town of Gloucester on June 11, 2025

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Councilor W. Worthy, President

II. Roll Call

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

Also present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliozi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Elizabeth Beltram, Finance Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. A. Seek to Convene to EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed Session) FOR DISCUSSION ONLY by Town Council, Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or potential litigation.

1. Potential Litigation

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council needs a motion to convene into executive session.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Seek to Convene to EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed Session) FOR DISCUSSION ONLY by Town Council, Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or potential litigation.

2. Potential Litigation  
seconded by Councilor S. Calise

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

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Worthy stated that all would be welcome back after Executive Session.

Executive Session

Councilor W. Worthy invited all back into the room after Executive Session.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council needs a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

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

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to Reconvene Open Session, Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session & Seal the minutes of Closed Executive Session; Seconded by Councilor S. Calise

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

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Calise to amend item #2 from not to exceed 2.7% to read not to exceed 3.0%; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there would be no public comment.

VI. Discussion by Council vote or Other Action On:

1. Additional funding to the Gloucester School Department for fiscal 2026 that may prevent certain lay-offs and prevent a reduction in critical student services.

No Discussion or Action taken by Council

2. Resolution in support of the introduction and passage of legislation in the Rhode Island General Assembly that will: (1) allow the Town of Gloucester a one-year levy cap exception for fiscal year 2026 with a maximum total levy increase not to exceed 3.0% ; and (2) allow the Town of Gloucester to adopt a supplemental tax levy for Fiscal Year 2026 pursuant to a Special Financial Town Referendum.

Councilor W. Steere read the Resolution as follows:

**GLOCESTER TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
FOR TAX LEVY INCREASE LIMIT AND SUPPLEMENTAL TAX FOR  
2026**

WHEREAS: Rhode Island General laws Section 44-5-2 only allows municipalities to increase their levy by a maximum of 4% each year, barring special conditions.

WHEREAS: On May 20, 2025, the Town of Gloucester (Town) approved a budget referendum with a 4% increase for fiscal year 2026 that included an increase of 6% for the Gloucester School Department (School Department).

WHEREAS: Notwithstanding the increase in funding, the School Department in fiscal year 2026 will face a significant budget shortfall that will require the School Department to lay off teachers and teacher assistants and significantly reduce critical student services. The proposed School Department layoffs and the reduction of student services will have a significant impact on student achievement, disciplinary behavior, and the broader educational environment.

WHEREAS: Notwithstanding the increase in funding, the Gloucester School Committee has notified the Town of a potential claim for lack of maintenance of effort.

WHEREAS: To provide additional funding for the School Department, state legislation is required to authorize the Town of Gloucester to levy a supplemental tax, by voter referendum, that exceeds the current tax cap by not more than three percent (3%) for fiscal year 2026, in order to fund School Department operations and avoid a loss of critical town services.

NOW THEREFORE, to appropriate additional funding for the School Department in order to fund the School Department operations and avoid a loss of critical town services.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Gloucester Town Council supports **House Bill 2025-H 6409** that will authorize the Town of Gloucester to levy a supplemental tax, by voter referendum, that exceeds the current tax cap by not more than three percent (3%) for fiscal year 2026, in order to fund School Department operations and to avoid loss of critical town services.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED that the Gloucester Town Council supports the introduction and passage of additional, substitute and/or companion legislation in the Rhode Island General Assembly that will authorize the Town of Gloucester to levy a supplemental tax, by voter referendum, that exceeds the current tax cap by not more than three percent (3%) for fiscal year 2026, in order to fund School Department operations and avoid a loss of critical town services.

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Councilor William A. Worthy, Jr. President **ADOPTED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025**

Representing Town Council members:

Councilor Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice President House bill no: H6409

Councilor Jonathan E. Burlingame Senate bill no:

Councilor Stephanie L. Calise

Councilor Cheryl A. Greathouse

Seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

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

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Calise- Aye

Councilor Greathouse- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye

Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

3. Any additional discussion and/or actions necessary to assist the Gloucester School Department to adopt a 2025/26 budget.

No Discussion or Action taken by Council

VII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to Adjourn at 8:25 PM; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED