

At a meeting of the Town Council in and for the Town of Gloucester on March 5, 2026:

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

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

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Chief Joseph Delprete

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor W. Worthy stated that if anyone wishes to speak on any issues to please step to the microphone and state your name when called on.

None

V. Citation 2026-01- Captain Matthew J. Fague- Gloucester Police Department

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Captain Fague is retiring from the Police Department. Councilor W. Worthy stated that we would like to honor Captain Fague with a Citation for his exceptional service to the Town of Gloucester which he read as follows:

State of Rhode Island  
Town of Gloucester

Citation  
Captain Matthew J. Fague  
Gloucester Police Department

Given in recognition of and with deep gratitude and appreciation of your 32 years of service to our Town as a member of the Gloucester Police Department.

You began your service to the Town of Gloucester on February 13, 1994 earning promotions during your years of service rising from Sergeant in October 2000, Lieutenant in September 2006, and finally to Captain in 2018.

Under your care and dedication, you have served all the residents of Gloucester with professionalism, honesty, integrity, patience, kindness and humor.

You have successfully undertaken many administrative, training and operational assignments throughout your career such as the Bullet Proof Vest Grant, the Highway Safety Grant and the Firearms Program. You have been invaluable in the training of CERT team members and supporting the Gloucester EMA during emergencies and special security events.

Your care and dedication to the town was especially apparent and important during the COVID pandemic where you were instrumental in the success of the COVID clinics by supervising security and assisting with clinic operations.

Your exceptional service to the Town of Gloucester is evidenced by the numerous commendations and letters of recognition you have received during your career.

The Town Council, Town Clerk, and Deputy Town Clerk wholeheartedly represents the administration and all Gloucester residents when we say “Thank You” for your commitment and never ending service to our community.

William A. Worthy, Jr., President  
Jonathan E. Burlingame, Councilor  
Stephanie L. Calise-Westgate, Councilor

Walter M. O. Steere, III, Vice. President  
Cheryl A. Greathouse, Councilor  
David V. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Christine D. Mathieu, CMC  
Deputy Town Clerk

Adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026

Seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: Captain M. Fague stated his thanks to Chief Delprete, the officers, the Council, his family and especially his wife. Captain Fague stated his opinion that there are great people in town that support the police. Captain Fague stated that he will miss the camaraderie of the family at the police department. Captain Fague also stated his thanks to the DPW, EMA and EMA Director.

Chief J. Delprete stated that Captain Fague has been his right-hand man and been a great # 2 in the department. Chief Delprete stated that Captain Fague is compassionate and community service focused as evident by the many food drives and blood drives he has organized. Chief Delprete thanked Captain Fague for his service and friendship.

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated her thanks to Captain Fague but also to Captain Fague’s wife for all her support during his years of service.

Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that Captain Fague always put the community first, and is a caring and empathetic person. Councilor W. Steere stated that Captain Fague will be missed but he is happy for Captain Fague. Councilor W. Steere stated that Captain Fague has left the department in good shape going forward because of what he has done.

Councilor W. Worthy stated his description of how helpful Captain Fague was when he first moved to town and opened his store.

VI. Resolution 2026-02

In Support of Rhode Island Proposed Legislation: House Bill 7356 and Senate Bill 2216-  
“School Employee Background Checks”- Discussion and or Action

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council discussed this subject at their last meeting and voted to have the Solicitor prepare a resolution which he read as follows:

**State of Rhode Island  
Town of Glocester  
Resolution #2026-02  
IN SUPPORT OF RHODE ISLAND HOUSE BILL 7356 AND SENATE BILL 2216  
“SCHOOL EMPLOYEE BACKGROUND CHECKS”**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Glocester recognizes the importance of maintaining the highest standards of safety and care within all schools, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to learn in a secure and nurturing environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Glocester Town Council acknowledges that protecting students from potential harm, abuse, or misconduct is a paramount responsibility of every educational institution, whether public, charter, or nonpublic; and

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island House Bill 7356 and Senate Bill 2216, entitled “School Employee Background Checks,” propose an act relating to education that codifies a comprehensive system of criminal and employment background checks for all school employees, consistent with §16-21.9 of the Rhode Island General Laws; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed legislation requires all school districts, charter schools, nonpublic schools, and contracted service providers to obtain detailed employment histories, conduct rigorous reviews of all prior educational and child-related employment, and verify disclosures regarding any prior investigations, disciplinary actions, or misconduct allegations; and

**WHEREAS**, these Bills strengthen Rhode Island’s statutory framework by ensuring that all school employment decisions are informed by complete and verified information, reducing the potential for individuals with a history of abuse, inappropriate conduct, or false credentials to gain employment in positions involving regular contact with children; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly’s proposed act complements existing laws under §16-2-18.1 by enhancing the depth and reliability of criminal background checks and requiring timely employer cooperation in providing prior employment information; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 7356 and Senate Bill 2216 also introduce accountability measures that include civil penalties for applicants who willfully falsify or omit information, and establish clear duties for both in-state and out-of-state employers to respond promptly—ensuring that hiring entities have accurate, verified information needed to make safe decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Glocester supports legislation that promotes transparency, integrity, and accountability in education, and aligns directly with the Town’s long-standing commitment to student welfare and the protection of youth in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council further recognizes that the enactment of House Bill 7356 and Senate Bill 2216 would not only enhance public trust in Rhode Island’s school systems but also provide parents, educators, and residents with greater confidence in the safety of local educational institutions;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the Town Council of the Town of Glocester hereby expresses its strong and unequivocal support for Rhode Island House Bill 7356 and Senate Bill 2216, “School Employee Background Checks.”

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the Glocester Town Council urges the Rhode Island General Assembly and the Governor to enact this legislation promptly upon passage, recognizing it as a necessary and proactive measure to safeguard children throughout the State of Rhode Island.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to:

- The Honorable Members of the Rhode Island Senate and House of Representatives
- The Governor of the State of Rhode Island
- The Rhode Island Department of Education
- The Superintendent of Foster-Glocester Regional School District
- The Superintendent of Glocester School District

Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Glocester this 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2026.

**TOWN OF GLOCESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

William A. Worthy, Jr. Council President

Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk

Seconded by Councilor W. Steere

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

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

Discussion: None

**MOTION PASSED**

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to MOVE Item E. Discussion, Vote or Other Action to send correspondence to the F/G Regional School Committee to consider investigating a prior alleged incident to be heard at this point; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

**MOTION PASSED**

**MOVED TO THIS LOCATION**

- E. Discussion, Vote , or Other Action to send correspondence requesting the F/G Regional School Committee to consider conducting an investigation into a prior alleged incident

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that he had spoken with three attorneys to learn how these types of investigations are carried out and the cost. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the cost can be tens of thousands of dollars and such investigations are usually initiated by the town's school committee. Councilor W. Worthy stated the examples of North Kingstown, Barrington, and Newport. Councilor W. Worthy stated his opinion that the town should expect the school committee to follow what other communities have done because that is proper.

Councilor W. Worthy stated his opinion that the school committee should follow the Charter and be transparent and accountable as that is essential to trust. Councilor W. Worthy stated his opinion that he hopes Foster will join and ask the school committee to conduct a private investigation.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that a member of the Foster Town Council was present and would like to speak.

Heidi Rogers, Foster Town Council member, stated her opinion that an investigation needs to be done as the job of the school committee is to ethically and morally protect children. H. Rogers stated that now is the time to end this behavior and will bring it to her Council. H. Rogers also stated her thanks in support of the Resolution.

Councilor S. Westgate stated her opinion in favor of the school committee conducting an investigation as without such investigation it is telling the children that this does not matter and that they don't care about them.

Councilor J. Burlingame asked as to what was being asked of the Council.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the first step is to demand the school committee do something. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that the town Charter states that it is the school committee that conducts investigations. Councilor W. Steere stated that the school committee is responsible by Charter to conduct investigations so they need to take action.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that an investigation would see how, why, when; and, if the administration knew about the alleged incident so protections could be put into place.

D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, advised that the Council could do a resolution which would lay out all aspects that the Council then could consider and vote upon.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to have a resolution drafted by J. Fecteau, Town Clerk and D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor which would request the Foster/Glocester Regional School Committee to conduct an investigation into a prior alleged incident; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

## **RETURN TO REGULAR AGENDA**

### **VII. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action**

#### **A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of February 19, 2026**

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the Town Council minutes of February 19, 2026; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

### **VIII. Unfinished Business- Discussion and/or Action**

#### **A. Boards and Commissions**

##### **1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action**

##### **a. Budget Board**

##### **1. Position # 3- unexpired term to expire 12/31/2028**

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair does not have a recommendation at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board, Position #3, to the Town Council meeting of March 19, 2026; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Personnel- Discussion and/or Action

1. Determine the process for hiring a new Chief of Police- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the question had been asked who was chosen for the Committee the last time a chief was chosen. Councilor W. Worthy stated that it appears that the last time Council chose names and some employees were asked.

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated that J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, sent out an email answering Council's question from the last meeting as to who was on the last hiring committee. Councilor J. Burlingame stated his recommendation to have Council narrow down the applicants for interviews and that the screening panel could include Chief Delprete and G. Treml. Councilor W. Steere stated that last time there were over 40 applicants and he does not feel he is as qualified to narrow the number down as some others. Councilor W. Steere stated his recommendation for the number of applicants to be narrowed down by a panel of the Human Resources consultant, the Police council liaison, several councilors and the Finance Director . Councilor W. Steere stated that the screening panel for interviews could include Chief Delprete or Capt. Fague, Gary Treml, but ultimately the Council decides. Councilor J. Burlingame stated his opinion for the town council member in the screening process to have managerial experience.

D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated a recommendation that if there is a candidate that a Councilor would like to interview that is not on the screening panel list then the candidate be added to the list.

Chief Delprete stated his recommendation that Captain Fague be included. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated her opinion that interviews be done by Council and screening panel to review applicants. J. Fecteau also stated a suggestion to ask the screening panel if they know any of the applicants. Chief Delprete stated his expectation that there may be a lot of applicants and the need to find the person with the right fit. J. Fecteau stated her opinion that there should be full disclosure if there is a relationship and for clarification as to the job of the panel.

D. Igliazzi stated a suggestion for the panel to consist of two councilors, Town Clerk, G. Treml, D. Zimmerman, HR Consultant, Capt. Fague and maybe a member of the community. D. Igliazzi stated a recommendation for the applicants to be rated by the screening panel but council decides which candidates to interview.

Councilor C. Greathouse suggested Councilors W. Steere and J. Burlingame as the town council members. Councilor W. Worthy asked what Councilor W. Steere would do if his brother applied for the position. D. Iglizzi stated Councilor W. Steere would recuse as to that candidate.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate that Councilor W. Steere, Councilor J. Burlingame, D. Zimmerman, HR consultant, J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, G. Treml, DPW Director, and M. Fague will screen all applicants, rank applicants, and present a list to council; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to RECONSIDER the motion; Seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that the EMA director should be included in the screening panel.

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

AMENDED MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate that Councilor W. Steere, Councilor J. Burlingame, D. Zimmerman, HR consultant, J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, G. Treml, DPW Director, and M. Fague and G. Mosca, EMA Director will screen all applicants, rank applicants, and present a list to council; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

IX. New Business

- A. Boards and Commissions- Discussion and/or Action
  - 1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action
    - a. Parade Committee
      - 1. Position # 5,6,7 and Alternates # 2 & 3

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair does not have any recommendations at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to TABLE the appointments to the Parade Committee, Position #5, 6, 7 and Alternates # 2 & # 3 to the Town Council meeting of April 2, 2026; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Board of Canvassers

1. Position # 3- new 6 year term to expire 2/2032

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this item is for the expired term of Henry Gold and he has indicated to the chair that he wishes to be reappointed. The Chair recommends as such.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to REAPPOINT Henry Gold to the Board of Canvassers, Position #3, for a 6 year term to expire 2/2032; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

c. Planning Board

1. Position # 1- new 5 year term to expire 2/28/2031

2. Position # 2- new 5 year term to expire 2/28/2031

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this item is for the expired terms of David Calderara and Lynn Furney. Councilor W. Worthy stated that David Calderara has indicated to the chair that he does not wish to be reappointed after serving for 20 years. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Lynn Furney has indicated to the chair that she wishes to be reappointed. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair recommends reappointment of Lynn Furney and does not have a recommendation at this time for the position held by David Calderara.

1. Position #1 – 5yr term to expire 2/2031

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council may table or appoint from the talent list.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Planning Board, Position # 1, for a 5yr term to expire 2/3031 to March 19, 2026; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Position # 2- new 5 year term to expire 2/28/2031

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to REAPPOINT Lynn Furney to the Planning Board, Position # 2, for a 5yr term to expire 2/3031; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Personnel- Discussion and/or Action

1. Retirement- Police Chief- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a letter of retirement from Chief Joseph Delprete which he read as follows:

To: Don Zimmerman Personnel Director  
From: Chief Joseph DelPrete  
Date: February 25, 2026  
RE: Retirement

This correspondence will be in support of my formal intention to retire as Chief of Police of the Gloucester Police Department on Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. My last duty day will be Friday May 1, 2026.

I am so grateful, fortunate and honored to serve as the Town of Gloucester Police Chief since April 11, 2010. This year will be my 40<sup>th</sup> year of law enforcement service to the State of Rhode Island and the Town of Gloucester. More importantly, I would like to thank the residents of Gloucester and Town Council leadership the past sixteen years for their unwavering support to me and the men and woman of the Police Department.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all the Supervisors, Police Officers, Dispatchers and Civilian Staff that have contributed to making the Gloucester Police one of the best departments in Rhode Island. It was their dedication and professionalism that contributed to community outreach and success of the police department. I am further confident the transition will be successful and seamless.

Thank you and Respectfully,  
Joseph DelPrete  
Chief of Police  
(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilors all stated their thanks to Chief Delprete.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ACCEPT the letter of retirement of Joseph DelPrete from the position of Chief of Police, effective May 2, 2026. Payout amount as determined by a vote of the Council at the Town Council meeting of February 19, 2026; Seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action
  - a. Police Department- Discussion and/or Action
    1. Promotion for Lieutenant to Captain- Discussion and/or Action
      - a. Appointment to Captain- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chief has requested the following appointment in a memo which he read as follows :

To: Honorable Town Council  
From: Chief Joseph DelPrete  
Date: February 25, 2026  
RE: Captain Promotion

#### **MEMORANDUM**

I am respectfully requesting that the Town Council approve the promotion of Lieutenant Jeffrey Jenison to the rank of Captain on the Gloucester Police Department.

Lieutenant Jenison was appointed as patrolman on the Gloucester Police Department on 3/15/2004 and has been a Lieutenant since March 7, 2021. He has received many letters of recognition and commendations throughout his career. He possesses the necessary department operational experience and leadership qualities to serve in the rank of Captain. He further has served as the Department Accreditation Manager guiding the department in 2026 to its 4th RIP AC Accreditation three-year award.

The Captain position is a non-union position and mirrors the current IBPO 628 collective bargaining agreement with respect to all wages and benefits. I further request this appointment be effective on Sunday March 15, 2026, to fill the vacancy of retiring Captain Matthew Fague.

Once again it is an honor for me to recommend this Captain promotional assignment to Jeffrey Jenison for Town Council approval.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joseph DelPrete  
Chief of Police  
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPROVE the PROMOTION of Lieutenant Jeffrey Jenison to the position of Captain of the Gloucester Police Department. Said position mirrors the current IBPO 628 Collective Bargaining Agreement with respect to all wages and benefits and is effective on Sunday March 15, 2026, seconded by Councilor W. Worthy

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Part time Dispatcher- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chief has requested the following and read his memo as follows:

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

From: Chief Joseph DelPrete

Date: February 28, 2026

Subject: Part-Time Dispatcher

Dear Council Members,

I would respectfully request to appoint Jillian Joyce, age 23 of Smithfield Rhode Island to a part- time dispatcher position. Candidate Joyce is currently working at Brown University Health Call Center.

Candidate Joyce needs further training in both Gloucester Police and Fire Training at an hourly rate of \$18.00 per hour. Once she successfully completes training she will be afforded a part- time hourly rate of \$24.50 per hour not to exceed 24 hours per week. There will be no fringe benefits with this position and will be effective Sunday March 8, 2026.

Miss Smith will eventually fill the recent full/part time dispatcher resignation of Brett Bonner effective immediately. This appointment is further contingent on Miss Joyce successfully completing a police department background investigation.

Thank you for your consideration in this appointment.

Joseph DelPrete

Chief of Police

(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Jillian Joyce to the position of part time Dispatcher in the Gloucester Police Department. Said appointee will require further training in both Gloucester Police and Fire Training at an hourly rate of \$18.00 per hour and when training is successfully completed appointee will be afforded a part-time hourly rate of \$24.50 per hour not to exceed 24 hours per week. There will be no fringe benefits with this position and will be effective Sunday March 8, 2026. This appointment is contingent on successfully completing a police department background investigation; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Tax Assessor- Discussion and/or Action

a. Resignation- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the resignation of Tax Assessor, Jessica Parker.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to ACCEPT the resignation of Jessica Parker, from the position of Tax Assessor, effective end of day on March 13, 2026; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Authorization to Seek to Fill Position- Discussion and /or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the HR Director has indicated the following from an amended employment policy adopted on 9/15/2022: “For vacancies for “department head” positions, which it defines as the highest ranking non-elected official in each department and sub-department (“sub-departments” including Tax Collection and Tax Assessment): ***1.2. Council authorizes recruiting for the vacancy, including internal posting and, as necessary, external advertising, and determines the number of final candidates it will interview.***

**Therefore, it would appear that Council can determine if non-union positions shall be posted internally prior to or in lieu of advertised externally.**

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the HR Director to seek to fill the position of Tax Assessor by **posting internally** and for candidates to be interviewed by D. Zimmerman. Council will appoint the final recommendation; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that he felt the motion could also include posting externally in the event there were no internal applicants.

Councilor J. Burlingame WITHDREW his motion and Councilor C. Greathouse WITHDREW her second

AMENDED MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the HR Director to seek to fill the position of Tax Assessor by posting internally and if no internal then posting externally and for candidates to be interviewed by D. Zimmerman. Council will appoint the final recommendation; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. Ratification – Declaration of Emergency re: Blizzard February 2026-  
Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that due to the timing of the Blizzard our President, Vice-President and Town Solicitor determined a State of Emergency for Glocester could be called on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the entire Council can now ratify that action. Councilor W. Worthy stated the Declaration of Emergency is as follows which he read:

**TOWN OF GLOCESTER, RHODE ISLAND  
DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY  
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of Rhode Island declared a State of Emergency on February 22, 2026 due to a forecasted blizzard; and

**WHEREAS**, the forecast utilized by the Governor in conjunction with RIEMA calls for blizzard conditions, heavy, wet, rapidly falling snow, snow accumulations of up to one to two feet and wind gusts as high as 60 miles per hour potentially impacting the entire state; and

**WHEREAS**, these forecasted weather conditions could result in dangerous driving conditions, road closures, stranded vehicles, power outages, structural damage, and other potential hazards which could pose an imminent threat to public safety and to public and private property; and

**WHEREAS**, it is possible that the health, safety and resources of the people of the Town of Glocester may be endangered thereby.

**WHEREAS**, as a result of these forecasted weather conditions, and the Governor’s State wide “State of Emergency” the Glocester Town Council by its President, William A. Worthy and its Vice President, Walter M. O. Steere, III, has determined to protect our citizens that a Glocester “State of Emergency” is necessary; and

**WHEREAS**, declaring a State of Emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to secure property.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority vested in the Town Council under R.I.G.L. 30-15-12 & R.I.G.L. 30-15-13 as well as the Gloucester Town Charter, Sections C 1-3 & C 1-4:

**Section 1. A State of Emergency** is hereby declared within the jurisdiction of the Town of Gloucester.

**Section 2. The emergency area** covered by this State of Emergency shall be the entire Town of Gloucester, Rhode Island. This State of Emergency authorizes the Town Council President and/or Vice President, in conjunction with the Town Police Chief as Public Safety Director and the Emergency Management Director, to “take whatever actions are deemed necessary to protect public health and safety,” in accordance with the General Laws of Rhode Island and the Gloucester Town Charter.

**Section 3. Restrictions and prohibitions** will be put in place as mandated by the Town Council, the Chief of Police, and the Emergency Management Director during the State of Emergency.

**Section 4.** All Gloucester law enforcement officers, employees and all other emergency management personnel, subject to our control, are hereby ordered to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, the Gloucester Emergency Operations Plan, and the R.I. Declaration of Disaster Emergency as out lined in R.I. Executive Order 26-2.

**Section 5.** This Declaration shall take effect on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 and will remain in effect until the threat or danger has passed or the emergency conditions no longer exist.

**DECLARED** this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2026

William A. Worthy, Town Council President  
Walter M. O. Steere, III, Vice President  
Town of Gloucester, Rhode Island

Seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame asked the reason for this Declaration. Councilor W. Worthy stated that this is a necessary step in order to apply for reimbursement funds if the state received disaster funds.

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

Councilor Burlingame- Aye  
Councilor Westgate- Aye

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

- D. Request for Approval to transfer dormant set aside funds in the HealthCare Reserve fund to create the Police Tower Grant Match fund (new fund)- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Finance Director submitted a request by memo which he read as follows:

Memo: Honorable Town Council  
From: Elizabeth A. Beltram, Finance Director  
Re: Grant Match Funds  
Date: March 5, 2026

The Police Department has received a \$237,000 USDA BABA CDS grant provided through Senator Jack Reed. These funds will be used to replace the communications tower at the police station.

The tower hosts the antennas and cabling that connects our dispatch center to the police/fire/ema VHF radio systems and RISSON 800MHz radio networks. This 120-foot self-supporting tower failed an engineering structural analysis and has been condemned for climbing or any additional improvements that would increase tower load. The Police department has two radios, antennas and cabling waiting to be installed and put into use, pending tower replacement.

Acceptance of this grant award requires the Town to provide \$130,000 of matching funds for the project and a request has been made to include this in the proposed FY2027 Capital Projects budget.

In light of the many other high dollar requests for Capital in FY2027, the Budget Board would like to suggest that the Council approve a transfer of dormant set-aside funds into a new set-aside for this one- time purpose. The Town has a dormant Health Care Reserve set-aside fund containing \$392,477 that has had no activity for many years. Council initially approved establishing this fund in FY2010 and to date no transfers out have been made. By taking this action to transfer \$130,000 from the existing set- aside to a new grant match set-aside, the Town would be able to move forward with the tower replacement project in the current fiscal year and also relieve some of the strain on the requested FY2027 Capital Budget.

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth A. Beltram  
(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated his opinion that this makes sense. Councilor W. Steere stated that the tower needs to be 120 feet in height for the fire department otherwise it would need to be 40 feet height for the town purposes.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the town does not charge the fire departments for service so maybe the Council could send a letter to the fire departments asking for financial support. Councilors asked for a letter of support to be added to the next agenda.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TRANSFER \$130,000 from the existing set-aside fund, Health Care Reserve, to a new grant match set-aside, seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- E. Discussion, Vote , or Other Action to send correspondence requesting the F/G Regional School Committee to consider conducting an investigation into a prior alleged incident

**Item moved to before Item VII Consent and addressed**

- F. Authorization of a letter of support for West Gloucester Fire Dept's FY27 Community Project Funding Request to legislators re: ambulance replacement and cardiac life support equipment  
– Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the West Gloucester Deputy Fire Chief has forwarded a request which he read as follows:

The West Gloucester Fire District is submitting an FY27 Community Project Funding request through Representative Magaziner's office to replace our aging frontline ambulance and modernize our cardiac life- saving equipment. I respectfully request your consideration in providing a letter of support for this important public safety initiative.

I have attached a brief project letter and summary in PDF format outlining the request, including the significant increase in EMS demand and the continued reliance on a 24-year-old ambulance within our two- unit system.

Letters of support must be submitted to [appropriation.ri02@mail.house.gov](mailto:appropriation.ri02@mail.house.gov) as a single PDF with the project name in the subject line. Our project name is: Frontline Ambulance Replacement & Advanced Life Support Cardiac Equipment Modernization. We understand these may take time to coordinate and can be submitted after the application deadline of March 9, 2026, if necessary.

Thank you for your continued support of public safety in our community. Please let me know if you would like any additional information.

Respectfully,

Daniel Crowley

Deputy Chief

West Gloucester FD

(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign a letter of support on behalf of the West Gloucester Fire District for legislative funding sought by the District for a frontline ambulance and the modernization of cardiac lifesaving equipment; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- G. Charter Review Commission Chair request to discuss the school Department powers and duties as it relates to the Charter Commission- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Steere stated that Pat Henry requested this item.

Discussion: P. Henry, Chair of Charter Comm, stated she is here speaking as a citizen. P. Henry stated her opinion that the school committee has immense amount of power and duties both in state law and the town charter. P. Henry stated her opinion that she is not sure if those powers and duties are being followed.

P. Henry stated the sections in the Charter relative to the school committee and their specific powers and duties. P. Henry stated that she would like the Council to consider sending a letter to the school committee that they have powers and duties as a responsibility to the town.

No Action Taken by Council

- X. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

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

Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that the legislators continue to defy sound planning logic in proposing laws as to local zoning. Councilor S. Westgate stated there is a group of concerned citizens at work on this issue. Councilor W. Worthy stated that there is proposed legislation to take away all firearms.

- XI. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy stated that council received correspondence form the State Traffic Commission ruling on speed study on Steere Farm Road and a Report from the Office of the R.I. General Treasurer.

Councilor W. Steere stated his thanks to Public Safety, DPW Dept. for the great job they did in the recent blizzard. Councilor W. Steere stated that under 24 hours the town had 30 + inches of snow. Councilor W. Steere stated his thanks to G. Mosca, EMA director for the great job done by EMA.

Chief Delprete stated his opinion that DPW was phenomenal during the blizzard with constant contact between EMA and police and DPW. Chief Delprete stated this was the best operation of DPW, EMA and police he has seen.

## XII. Dept. Head Reports/Discussion

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

Chief Delprete stated that there should be two more promotions coming to Council. Chief Delprete stated that he is working on an having an August candidate to send to send to the municipal academy.

G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that a big part of the success dealing with the blizzard was the great cooperation between the town and the fire departments.

G. Mosca stated that DPW cleared houses for rescues to get through in addition to doing an exceptional job on the roads.

## XIII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

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

None

## XIV. Open Forum

Councilor W. Worthy stated that if anyone wishes to speak on any issues to please step to the microphone and state your name when called on.

R. Baumann, Harmony, asked the next step in the new mobile food establishment Ordinance. Councilor W. Steere stated that a discussion could be had with Public safety as to a sustainable number of licenses. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that use of the Pavilion could be looked into instead of the trucks on the street.

D. Iglizzi stated that Council can determine the number of annual licenses by Resolution. Councilors agreed to place this matter on the next agenda.

W. Steere, stated that the charter commission meeting to discuss the school and Finance parts of the Charter is scheduled for the same night as the public hearing for the school budget. W. Steere asked P. Henry, Chair of Charter comm. if the Charter comm. meeting could be changed so people could attend both.

P. Henry stated she would speak with the committee and then decide.

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

- XV. SEEK to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:
- A. DISCUSSION BY COUNCIL, VOTE OR OTHER ACTION RE:
    - 1. RIGL 42-46-5(A)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, etc.;
      - a. One Personnel Session (Employee notified)
    - 2. RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to potential litigation:
      - a. Negotiations for successor union contracts – (Police, Dispatcher & Clerks)
      - b. Potential Litigation

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to SEEK to convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. DISCUSSION BY COUNCIL, VOTE OR OTHER ACTION RE:
  - 1. RIGL 42-46-5(A)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, etc.;
    - a. One Personnel Session (Employee notified)
  - 2. RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to potential litigation:
    - a. Negotiations for successor union contracts – (Police, Dispatcher & Clerks)
    - b. Potential Litigation

Seconded By Councilor J. Burlingame

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

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

All were asked to leave the room and told they would be invited back once Executive Session was completed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

All were invited back into the room

- XVI. Reconvene Open Session – Disclosure of votes taken in Executive Session & to Consider Sealing the Minutes of Closed Executive Session;

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Reconvene Open Session – Disclose one (1) vote

was taken in Executive Session & to Seal the Minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

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

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Westgate- Aye

Councilor Greathouse- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye

Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

#### XVII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 10:50 p.m.; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED