

Town of Burrillville
Goals & Objectives and Public Policy
Legislative Agenda - 2004/2005

Adopted by the Burrillville Town Council

March 10, 2004

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

Ongoing Programs

1. Spring Lake Beach – develop a concept plan for the use of newly acquired land (parking, storage, etc.) and a decision on what to do with the Town’s storage building/apartment.
2. Youth outdoor ice skating facilities – identify locations for low cost/low maintenance facilities.
3. Hauser Field/Branch River Park – supplemental funding to complete the softball/multi-use facilities.
4. Look into options to use Town/School owned land for additional playing fields for recreational and school use.
5. Skateboard facility –study and report. Options to Town Council.
6. Expand recreation programs for the elderly/handicapped, to include option for a Senior Center.
7. Consider options to construct a recreational area in the Mowry Road/Tarkiln Road area – after road realignment is completed.
8. Develop a plan for a multi-town bike path with the Town Planner.
9. Develop a plan for use of Town owned land behind the Police Station.
10. Determine options for the utilization of the existing Smith Library building once the new library location is finalized.
11. Develop a plan to utilize land and/or acquire land contiguous to the Beckwith-Bruckshaw Memorial Lodge.

New Programs

1. Coordinate a town-wide evaluation of recreation and school sports needs, identify available land for development of related facilities, formulate plans to acquire, develop and fund these facilities.

BUILDINGS AND TOWN FACILITIES

Ongoing Programs

1. Move ahead with plans and fundraising for a new town library.
2. Determine a long-term plan for the Pascoag Grammar
3. Find a short-term solution for records storage problems.
4. Assembly Building –Board of Administration to develop a Capital Plan.
5. Consider options to expand the Beckwith-Bruckshaw Memorial Lodge building for office space.
6. Support renovation of town owned “laundromat” in downtown Pascoag.
7. Consider options for a teen center.

New Programs

1. Relocate part of Town hall services - short term (three to five-year plan).

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Ongoing Programs

1. Maintain and continually update the short and long-term capital program for sidewalk, road, bridge and drainage improvements, construction and reconstruction. Integrate applicable sections into the pavement management program.
2. Implement and maintain the pavement management program as a functional management-planning tool – integrate with the GIS program and five (5) year capital program.
3. Develop a plan to replace or erect new signs throughout town (streets, villages, town entranceways, traffic control).
4. Consider options to relocate the Public Works facility.
5. East Avenue and Route 107 reconstruction – state projects to be coordinated with the Town.

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6. Consider using the non-point source pollution grant to relocate the public works salt/sand stockpiles to Whipple Avenue or other appropriate site(s). Implement the federally mandated storm water management program.
7. Replace granite town boundary markers at all key road entrances into town.
8. Coordinate Mowry Road realignment project with the State (State project).
9. Work with local groups such as the Garden Club relative to the Adopt a Spot program and other beautification projects.

New Programs

1. Maplehill Road Acceptance
2. RRRC: RRRC rules and regulations related to the recycling program and tipping fees have created State-wide issues that should be addressed.
3. Update the bridge maintenance program.
4. Pulaski road acceptance and improvements.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Ongoing Programs

1. Council and Public Works Managers/Supervisors to provide the Town Manager with ideas for neighborhood beautification or improvement projects for the Capital budget.
2. Complete Pascoag improvement projects – Centennial Street, Laurel Hill Avenue, Grove Street, North Main Street.
3. Mapleville Bridge is committed for replacement in the spring/summer of 2004. Preparation work will be done the summer/fall of 2003, including temporary pedestrian bridge.
4. Mapleville Main Street – move ahead with the plans for the infrastructure upgrades/beautification project to follow the bridge rebuilding.

New Programs

1. Reconstruct the island in Bridgeton, consider a design closer to the original Bridgeton Fountain Square. Follow up with Historic Commission to beautify the island.
2. Identify Town and School building (facility) needs and develop a long-term plan to meet those needs.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Ongoing Programs

1. Review and change subdivision regulations/standards and related ordinances as necessary.
2. Coordinate the planning department's basic planning activities with the Private Land Trust, Recreation Department and Redevelopment Agency.
3. Perform a departmental staffing/support analysis of the Planning/Economic Development department – short and long-term.
4. Review and update Comprehensive Plan in compliance with state law. The remaining chapters of the comprehensive plan will be amended this spring. The remaining chapters will all be submitted as a package. Housing was executed first for reasons relating to protecting the town against comprehensive permits induced by the dreadful Title 45-53.
5. Incorporate the work of the Redevelopment Agency and the Route 102 Study Committee into the comprehensive plan update process.
6. Implement the elements and goals of the Route 102 Development Study and Redevelopment agency redevelopment districts after Council and Comprehensive Plan approval.

New Programs

1. **Affordable Housing.** This has the potential to be a very significant issue for the town. Burrillville has many acres of vacant land that can be targeted by developers intent on taking advantage of the existing laws allowing comprehensive permits.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – NEW BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Ongoing Programs

1. Develop a mission (vision) statement.
2. Identify, target, prioritize and rezone areas of Town for new industrial/commercial growth and protection of rural and open space areas.
3. Support the Clear River Drive Industrial Park project - including the development of the by-pass roadway to Stillwater Mills. Consider access point alternatives.
4. Work with New England Gas to bring natural gas from Pascoag to the New Industrial Park(s) on Route 102. (Town and Clear River Drive)
5. Consider options for marketing and development of the Town's Industrial Park (Route 102 – Prosciutto). Implement a marketing and development plan as soon as practical.

New Programs

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – REDEVELOPMENT

Ongoing Programs

1. Working with the Redevelopment Agency, identify and target Redevelopment Districts and support (politically and financially) the implementation plan(s).
2. Stillwater Mills – support redevelopment of the clock tower building and other available properties within the complex.
3. Support the Community Builders Stillwater Heights senior housing project.
4. Downtown Pascoag rehabilitation – support complimentary uses of Town owned land behind the Post Office.
5. Develop a new (revised) land acquisition program to complement redevelopment initiatives, open space and conservation goals, and our Municipal space needs (Town/School facilities – short and long term).
6. Actively look to acquire land in the Downtown Pascoag area to support the Downtown Pascoag programs, i.e. the Riverwalk & Greenway project and to promote/encourage quality redevelopment.

New Programs

LAND PRESERVATION / LAND ACQUISITION

Ongoing Programs

1. Acquire the land abutting the Rabitor property – approximately 6.6 acres (Phillips).
2. Develop a long-term program to utilize right-of-ways and paper streets as bike and/or walking paths (i.e. Stillwater, Spring Lake Road and Cherry Farm Road)

New Programs

1. Other acquisition projects currently in executive session discussions.
2. Increase collaboration with the Burrillville Land Trust.
3. Work with the Land Trust to identify and prioritize parcels of land for future acquisition and preservation.

BUILDING OFFICIAL AND ZONING BOARD

Ongoing Programs

1. Develop a short and long-term staffing plan for the Department.
2. Implementation of the Gravel Ordinance.
3. Continued attention to minimum housing needs and related programs.
4. Re-inspect all town buildings and facilities for compliance with ADA laws and report back to the Town Manager with recommendations and priorities.

New Programs

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Ongoing Programs

1. Responsible debt management and maintenance of a 12% fund balance.
2. Responsible, affordable budgets.

3. Commit to long term financial planning (not just capital planning).
4. Build the major capital improvement fund.
5. Build the Land Acquisition/Open Space Capital Fund
6. Build the unfunded Liability Fund.
7. Build the Redevelopment Agency Fund.
8. Move ahead with the tax takings for targeted properties – Finance Director to create a list of all properties and prioritize that list.
9. Fund options to implement the GASB34 Accounting Project.
10. Develop and implement an accounting standards/procedures manual.
11. Place more information on the Web site, including items that have been previously identified such as the final adopted budget (in summary form), audit and rating reports.
12. Address all issues identified in the audit management letter – develop an implementation plan and schedule to correct/address items identified.
13. Develop a council policy or ordinance for charging prior year taxes for missed assessments and/or unassessed property and structures. (This may require special legislation.)

New Programs

TAX ASSESSING OFFICE

New Programs:

1. Revamp entire workflow of property transfer processing so the public can gain earlier access to the data and tax bills are more likely to go to new owners.
2. Policies and Procedure Manual needs to be updated and completed.
3. Support Assessors Revaluation Project – look into options relating to the 2003 Town wide revaluation projects.
 - a. Examination, recommendation and implementation (as warranted) of the Town's exemptions

POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS

Ongoing Programs

1. Continue to evaluate ongoing and consider new progressive community based police programs. In conjunction with the on-going community and other service programs, specifically add components to integrate community policing into the schools and for the elderly/disabled.

Community Policing: The following Community Policing programs are ongoing and will be changed/modified as needed to accommodate changing community needs

- Citizens Police Academy
 - Ride-along program
 - Junior Achievement program
 - Police Station tours
 - Citizens Awards
 - Community Policing at Spring Lake Beach and other parks & recreation areas
 - Senior Citizen Programs
 - Downtown Pascoag Substation
 - Walking beats in selected areas of town
2. Enhance and plan our training programs to promote maximum flexibility within the department.
 3. Continued support and improvement for the Municipal Court services.
 4. Review and consider the departments service programs to accommodate the Town wide need.
 5. Develop a clean-up program associated with a Town Pride program, Earth Day event(s) by working with the local organizations and the Juvenile Hearing Board and Municipal Court.
 6. Continue to review and modify (if necessary) the hiring and promotional protocols for police officers and the staff evaluation procedures.
 7. Work with Emergency Management coordinator and other town emergency providers, utilities and schools to prepare emergency contingency plans for non-traditional emergencies (i.e. – terrorists, environment, school and contamination of public utilities).
 8. Review the department's table of organization and make recommendations for short and long term consideration. If the department is to keep pace with the growth of the community and continue to expand its community based programs, strategic and tactical planning will be necessary to

address the department's future needs. By way of example, the addition of a School Resource Officer in the table of organization has proven to be exceptionally positive for both the school and police departments. This program is destined for future expansion. Strategic planning must be proactive, and among other things, address future requirements for increased police services along with the expansion and creation of programs to better serve the community. To meet these goals and objectives changes in the scope of services to the community and its impact on the Table of Organization will have to be projected over the next five (5) years.

9. The Police Department Headquarters property room, records bureau and weapons storage room have passed capacity. It's apparent that the department will have to either expand or move. With the prospect of an expanded Town Government Center in the Stillwater Mill area, consider relocating the Police Headquarters to that centralized location. Evaluate the cost of relocating police headquarters to an existing building against the cost of a new building/addition to the existing building.

New Programs

1. Review and evaluate Juvenile Hearing Board.

TOWN CLERK

Ongoing Programs

1. Complete the codification of Town Ordinances – publish new ordinances books & post on the internet.
2. Integrate technology and public access to departmental services using technology.
3. Add required Capital items for the Department to the Capital improvement program [five (5) year plan].
4. Consider whether or not human services can be coordinated through the Town Clerk's office (short/long-term plan).

New Programs

1. Complete policy and procedure manuals for all licenses for Town Council consideration and adoption.
2. Coordinate effort to implement Statewide Central Voter Registration.

TOWN COUNCIL

Ongoing Programs

1. Council to work with the Sewer Commission on timing/scheduling/prioritizing future capital projects and the most advantageous way of financing and sharing costs for those projects.
2. Bi-centennial committee – set up an exploratory committee.
3. Review stipends paid to Town Council members and to other Boards and Commissions/officials.
4. Initiate a dialog with Ocean State Power to consider extension of the tax agreement. Ocean State Power’s tax agreement. Initiate contact with the parent company and see whether or not it is feasible to begin talks to extend the existing contract or to negotiate a new contract. The administration should hire a qualified appraisal firm to establish the value of the plant and its facilities, etc. so we have a basis to evaluate the correct course of action when we begin formal negotiations. Once the base line appraisal is established it should be updated at least every two (2) years. This will probably be expensive but it will give us options and very important information to use in negotiations.

New Programs

1. Institute a program for Town Council members to tour/inspect all Town buildings and facilities, including the schools.
2. Establish a regular, on-going dialog with the School Committee.
3. Meet with School Committee to go over short/long range planning for improving education, tied to the prospective budgets?
4. Continue to require monthly reports from the legislators who represent the Town.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ongoing Programs

1. Completion of the Town’s Hazard Mitigation Plan, re: Federal Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA 2000)

New Programs

1. Work with Police Department and other Town Emergency service providers and utilities to prepare emergency contingency plans for non-traditional emergencies, i.e. – terrorists, environment and public utility contamination.
2. Homeland Security Response Plan.
3. Update and codify Emergency Management Plan.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Ongoing Programs

1. Properly implement the MUNIS System into administrative functions at all levels.
2. Standardize hardware/software system wide.
3. Provide short and long-term training programs for division's management personnel.
4. Provide in-house training programs for the staff (management and clerical).
5. Upgrade and coordinate municipal communications networks.
6. Implement a GIS/CAMA maintenance/management program.
7. Continued enhancement of the website and E-government services. Improve the availability of e-government departmental services by providing services through the Town's website.
8. Upgrade the GIS database and CAMA database and make accessible through the Internet.
9. Implement and maintain the pavement management program as a functional management-planning tool – integrate with the GIS program and five (5) year capital program.
10. Implement and maintain the pavement management program as a functional management-planning tool – integrate with the GIS program and five (5) year capital program.
11. Look into options to replace the core computer system. (MUNIS)

New Programs

1. Fully evaluate and report on the current status of the Town website and e-government. Submit a plan to continue improvement of these services.

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Ongoing Programs

1. Develop and implement an employee handbook (policies, rules, regulations, etc.).
2. Hire consultant to write, coordinate and rewrite personnel and benefits documents, policies/procedures and protocols.
3. Centralize personnel records system – create an electronic database to compliment our hard copy files.
4. Centralize purchasing and risk management functions (long term objective).
5. Coordinate a program to sell Town owned parcels that are not of use to the Town (short or long-term).
6. Look into options for a forensic audit of school spending.

New Programs

1. Review/revise/update Classification Plan.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Ongoing Programs

1. Maintain the staff's involvement with statewide organizations and professional associations.
2. Develop working relationships with surrounding Towns to see if shared/coordinated services, staff, etc. may make sense. E.g.: Human Services, Planning/Economic development, projects such as bike paths, recycling and other subservices of the Operating Departments' duties and responsibilities.
3. Look into the League of Cities & Town's REAP program – lower costs for municipal energy use.

SENIOR PROGRAMS

Ongoing Programs

1. Expand recreation programs for the elderly/handicapped, to include option for a Senior Center.
2. Support meals on wheels program by participating in the delivery programs as needed or requested.
3. Consider traffic control needs at various senior housing complexes.

New Programs

LIBRARIES

Ongoing Programs

1. Support (financially) the ongoing development of the new Library Building project.
2. Establish a Building Committee for the library construction project. Consider establishing a related fund raising committee.

New Programs

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ongoing Programs

1. To generally support the School Department's internal goals by carefully reviewing the annual budget request and by reviewing the schools' short-term financial planning required to implement those goals. Work with the School Committee/Administration, Budget Board and Town Administration to determine the cost/benefit of related proposals and to schedule implementation.
2. Evaluate student performance and require the schools to provide a legitimate way to measure performance.
3. Support staff development through use of technology and performance measurement.
4. Require the schools to provide a short/long term capital plan for the Levy Rink.
5. Meet with School Committee to go over short/long range planning for improving education, tied to the prospective budgets?

6. We need a better understanding of the school's capital improvement needs for buildings and facilities. Require options to gather, evaluate and report those needs (short and long term).
7. Integrate the results of the aforementioned building/facility study into the Capital Plan and long term Financial Plan.

New Programs

GENERAL ATTITUDE – STANDARDS

General Policy

Town employees should respect each other, work together, always work to improve standards and accountability. Our organizational objective is to interact constructively with each other, our residents, visitors and the commercial sector of the Town. Look to give a positive, friendly and constructive response, when performing our duties. Respond back to the all those with inquiries, complaints, etc. in a timely manner and advise what action the Town has taken. Please give an explanation if we cannot be of service.

TOWN MANAGER/TOWN COUNCIL

Ongoing Programs

1. Joint meeting with school committee & school administration to go over short and long term education plan and school funding (possible inclusion of the Budget Board as it relates to school funding).
2. Effectively implement the new sewer infrastructure expansion projects. Review financing alternatives. A decision on how the sewer bonds are to be paid needs to be finalized. Cayer Caccia LLP is currently doing an administrative review. Town Council needs to make this decision in conjunction with the Sewer Commission.
3. Repeal RIGL 45-13-13 which created a significant loss of state aid in FY2003 resulting from recalculation of non-assessed property into the various state aid formulas.
4. Need to create a master recreation plan for school/town sports and recreation programs.
5. Look at options to hire a grant writer/consultant for administrative utilization – not a staff position or new job.
6. Continue to acquire land for public use and open space/recreation needs.

LOCAL ORDINANCES

Ongoing Programs

1. An ordinance addressing abandoned vehicles/equipment on private and public property.
2. Consider an ordinance prohibiting unregistered motorized equipment from using Town roads and R.O.W.'S (snowmobiles, etc.).

New Programs

1. Consider revisions to the "sign" ordinance.
2. Consider modifying the entertainment license ordinance to require liability insurance.
3. Consider an ordinance addressing June and Litter on private and public property.
4. Consider a local tax incentive program for commercial/retail establishment within the redevelopment districts and/or target neighborhood areas.
5. Review existing tax incentive program for new businesses.

ZONING, PLANNING & LAND USE – LOCAL LAWS

New Programs

1. The Town's Off-Street Parking Ordinance Section 11-7.6 and Sign Regulations Section 11-7. need to be amended to focus on areas where higher density growth and utilities already exist. They will be amended in the coming year.

MAJOR LITIGATION

Ongoing Litigation

1. Gravel road – Western Hill Gravel (North Smithfield)
2. Western Hills Auto – junkyard
3. Northern Welding
4. Northern RI Private Industry Council
5. Piette Gravel Business

MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS

1. Renovation of Recreation Center grounds
2. Ongoing upgrades to Firefighters Memorial Park and the gazebo
3. Update of the Stillwater Master Plan
4. 501(c)(3) status for the Extended Care programs
5. Working closely with the State DEM to monitor and coordinate the Pascoag MTBE cleanup project and planning to bring the drinking wells back on line.
6. Stormwater Phase II programs being prepared in compliance with Federal and State requirements.

Priority # **ZAMBARANO HOSPITAL** – Please keep the Town abreast of developments relative to the DCYF Proposal. Town Council opposes this project and any variation thereof. We would like to be a direct participant in any master-planning project that is being coordinated for the future viability or use of the Hospital or the site.

Notes

Priority # **MILL BUILDING REVITALIZATION ACT** – Keep existing law, as recently amended, on the books. *The current extension is good until 2004 but it may need an additional extension.*

Notes

Priority # **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** - If any other Cities and Towns file progressive or innovative legislation, intended to enhance their (or the state's) economic development programs, please notify the Town Manager.

Notes

Priority # **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
Please support any restructuring of State Government and/or the Economic Development Corporation, which will facilitate a closer working relationship and more coordination with cities and towns. The state should assist local government whenever possible to retain and encourage expansion within the host community before looking at alternative sites within the state. Everyone agrees that keeping existing business and industry in Rhode Island verses their relocation to other states is important, but the host community should be given every opportunity to retain their companies and offered assistance and resources to accomplish this task whenever possible.

Notes

Priority #

HIGH-SPEED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

An important factor for the business community to consider when relocating to areas such as Burrillville is the availability of high-speed, efficient communications networks, especially high-tech companies. Towns like Burrillville are being by-passed when high-speed telecommunications networks are being built. We need to be on equal footing with other Cities and Towns if we are to balance our growth (long-term) and remain competitive. There really has to be some competition brought into Rhode Island to compete against Cox Cable - not only for residential uses, but to provide cost effective options for government, business and industry.

Notes

Priority #
HIGHEST

NATURAL GAS - The Town is working with New England Gas to bring a natural gas pipeline from Pascoag through Harrisville and down to Route 102. The Town's Economic Development programs will be greatly enhanced with the expansion of the natural gas line, as will the region.

Notes

Priority #
HIGHEST

STATE AID – RIGL §45-13-13

In effect, this law forces Burrillville to absorb the total amount of OSP PILOT monies into our calculations for school/town financial aid formulas. Effectively, this law results in the State's contribution toward school housing aid dropping by 20% or approximately \$300,000 (close to 50 cents on the tax rate). This law must be repealed – no other options are acceptable.

Notes

It would seem as though our argument would be threefold –

- We have the PILOT agreement because our community was required to accept a non-traditional business that many communities may not want.
- Are other PILOT communities being similarly affected? We're not necessarily referring to the State PILOT program (i.e. Zambarano, ACI, etc.) but rather tax deferral programs in other communities. The town believes this change in law should be rescinded in its entirety-no year-to-year compromise.

Priority #

Elimination of school mandates is important in these difficult financial times. Mandates rarely accomplish their intended objective and the

funds originally targeted or set aside for these programs should be freed up so that each school district can determine the best use of its financial resources based on their own individual priorities.

Notes

Priority #

SCHOOL DEPARTMENTS' BUDGET APPEALS – Three (3) years ago legislation almost passed which would have effectively allowed School Committees to bypass local budget authorities (Town Councils, Town meetings, etc.) and appeal their final budget to a public official in the Commissioner of Education's Office. This abrogates all local taxpayers' rights and effective control over their own local tax levies. This law must not be enacted in any form or variation.

Notes

Priority #

SCHOOL AID – OUTSTANDING TUITION PAYMENTS – The Town of Burrillville is owed approximately \$1,200,000 in unpaid tuition payments from other Cities and Towns relating to special education placements. FY2005 State Education Aid distributions should be modified/adjusted or a special appropriation authorized to compensate those of us who "front" our taxpayers' money to pay for and educate other City and Town students and are not reimbursed by the host communities. The current process to determine reimbursements from prior years is time consuming and requires the affected Towns to pay additional legal expenses to recuperate our own money!

Notes

The Town Council shares the School Department's concerns related to the status of group home aid. The result of current policy is that communities that block the placement of group homes are fiscally rewarded. This public policy discussion needs to assure communities that accept group homes and nonresident students do not suffer financial losses as a result.

Priority #

POLICE – BILL OF RIGHTS – Re-file the legislation calling for the re-balancing of the makeup of the hearing committees. Please oppose any statewide police unions' efforts to file new legislation that further erodes the ability of local Police Chiefs/Cities and Towns to manage their personnel.

Notes

Priority # **POLICE – UNION PENSION SYSTEM** – The Town negotiated an option with our Police union which was passed into law last year. It appears that the Retirement Board has interpreted the new law differently than it was intended. When the Town and police union agree on a new version of the pension language we will submit that for approval. Conversely, the existing law will need to be repealed or amended.

HIGHEST

Notes

S-2271 submitted by Sen. Fogarty on 2/5/04

Priority # **NORTHERN RI PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL** – The Town and the seven other municipalities may wish to file legislation to relieve our communities of the financial burden this bankrupt agency has generated. Those communities are: Smithfield, North Smithfield, Woonsocket, Lincoln, Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Cumberland.

Notes

If any one of the other communities file related or similar legislation, Burrillville wishes to be included.

Priority # **REGISTRY – RESOLUTION OR LEGISLATION** – Legislators to give us the most effective recommendation to locate a Registry branch in Burrillville. Please file legislation and pursue any other relevant options (short and long-term).

Notes

S-2265 submitted by Sen. Fogarty on 2/5/04

Priority # **EXCISE TAX PHASE OUT** –It is possible that monies needed to compensate the Cities and Towns for the revenue losses will not be available as the phase out timetable nears its end. We do not believe it is appropriate to cut back or reduce these funds because it simply shifts the tax burden from the State to cities and towns.

HIGHEST

Notes

Priority # **EAST AVENUE & CHAPEL STREET (Route 107)** - The Town has received permitting from the State to construct curbs and sidewalks on

the south side of East Avenue from the intersection of East Avenue and Harrisville Main Street to the Burrillville High School. This project has been in the works for about three (3) years. The Town has already paid for the design; engineering and permitting and capital funds have been allocated for a portion of the work. The DOT permits do have an expiration date.

Notes

The state Transportation Enhancement Program and the TIP program – resurfacing, have included Route 107 in its construction planning. We need to stay on top of this so the funds are still available when the project is scheduled - 2004/2005.

Priority #

TOWN RIGHT OF WAYS AND UTILITY POLES- Please write legislation to shift the financial burden of moving utility infrastructure within town owed right of ways from the cities and towns to the utility companies.

Notes

When municipalities undertake road/sidewalk work, we frequently encounter problems with the location of utility poles and the wires, cables, etc. that are on these poles. Many times the poles are located such that reasonable construction standards and regulations such as ADA compliance cannot be achieved without relocating the poles, etc. The poles, etc. are usually within Town owned rights of ways.

The cost (charges) to relocate these facilities is astronomical and the process is very time consuming and cumbersome. We would like to know why municipalities must bear this excessive cost, especially when laws such as the ADA regulations may require us to move these facilities.

Charges for these relocation projects seem extremely high. Fees and charges should be based on reasonable, verifiable estimates of the actual cost for the service provided. It might be prudent to investigate how these charges are determined and who guards against potential abuses.

Priority #

ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD – The EFSB was established at a time prior to deregulation and prior to the State’s requirement for comprehensive planning. At a minimum, the powers of the EFSB need to be reviewed, especially in the areas where they conflict with local zoning and comprehensive planning. Although a complete review of the validity of the EFSB probably needs to be done given that deregulation has changed the dynamics of how power plants serve our State, at minimum, the related laws should be changed immediately

so that the EFSB does not have authority to site power plants in areas that are not properly zoned and/or not in compliance with a municipality's comprehensive plan.

Notes

Priority # **PASCOAG RESERVOIR –**

Notes

Priority # **LIBRARY FUNDING** – The Town Libraries are currently moving ahead with plans to build a new Town wide facility. A few years ago, the State apparently placed the Library Building Assistance Program on hold. In order for our building program to move forward, we need to know the disposition (short and long-term) of this program. Are there any other similar State/Federal or private foundation programs that the Town may be able to utilize to help us achieve our goals? We are currently negotiating to purchase land for this facility and have hired a Library consultant to coordinate the process.

Notes

Priority # **LOCAL EXEMPTIONS** – the Town may submit legislation to change or amend our tax exemption amounts for some or all of our exemption classifications; e.g. elderly, veterans, etc.

HIGHEST

Notes

Tax Credit: S-2620; H-8032
Disability Exemption: S-2621; H-8034

Priority # **NATIONAL CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECKS** –Cities and Towns should be able to recoup the costs to perform these checks from each applicant. Please file appropriate legislation.

Notes

RIGL 40-13.2-5

Priority # **UNCLAIMED PROPERTY** –Income from Town-held tangible and intangible property should belong to the City or Town, not the State. Please file appropriate legislation.

Notes

RIGL 33-21.1-14.1

Priority # **MTBE** Please continue to support removal of MTBE from Rhode Island gasoline suppliers and to oppose any federal measures that would limit or eliminate the liability of manufacturers of MTBE.

Notes

Priority # **NFPA-1500**
The Town opposes implementation of this Federal mandate.

Notes

Please do not support any legislation implementing this law.

Priority # Amend State Enabling Acts Relating to Land Use and Planning, specifically Title 45, Chapter 22.2 Enabling Act "Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act" to include: Regional Planning between Massachusetts and Rhode Island and Comprehensive Plan Review to ensure that Comprehensive Plans for Towns within the Blackstone River Valley Corridor, IN BOTH STATES, support the mission of the John H. Chaffee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission; and, that the JHCBRVNHCC shall be included (in addition to other state agencies as determined by Rhode Island Statewide Planning) as a Comprehensive Plan Reviewing Entity or Agent

Notes

Priority # Attached is the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Agenda. Please review the associated items. If appropriate, the council may wish to endorse their agenda or modify it and notify NRICC what we do (or do not) support.

Notes

New Items

Priority # Consider a local tax incentive program for commercial/retail establishment within the redevelopment districts and/or target neighborhood areas. (May require special legislation.)

Notes

Priority # **Affordable Housing**
This has the potential to be a very significant issue for the town. Burrillville has many acres of vacant land that can be targeted by developers intent on taking advantage of the existing laws allowing comprehensive permits.

Notes

Oppose any legislation that would permit developers to by-pass the local planning and/or zoning authorities.

Priority # **Education Equity & Property Tax Relief**
Oppose proposed changes to §16-7 "Foundation Level School Support.

Notes

Town of Burrillville
Completed Items

The following is a list of items that have been accomplished:

1. Collaborate with YMCA and/or Boys & Girls Club for a facility in Burrillville.
2. School Department – must make a financial plan for utilizing available funds remaining from the High School renovation project as allowed by law.
3. Tarkiln Road bridge and culvert replacement is scheduled for the summer of 2003.
4. Consider use of the old Remington lumberyard for public purposes or target for redevelopment.
5. Look into the purchase of two (2) properties proximate to Town Hall for public purposes.
6. Reconstruct the island in Bridgeton, consider a design closer to the original Bridgeton Fountain Square. Follow up with Historic Commission to beautify the island.
7. Coordinate with RIPTA the installation of covered bus stop(s) in downtown Pascoag, Stillwater Mill Complex and other areas throughout Town. Expand RIPTA bus service throughout the town (RIDOT Program).
8. Consider options for maintenance/replacement of concrete driveways within Stillwater and to revitalize the fountain/garden area in the rotary.
9. Develop a town-wide bike/walking trail program concept plan with the Recreation Department (local and regional).
10. Expand RIPTA bus service throughout the town (RIDOT Program).
11. Maintain support for existing job training program coordinated by Northern RI Chamber of Commerce.
12. Consider a multi-town, multi-year CDBG sponsored regional job-training program.
13. Support the Supreme Mid-Atlantic Trucking relocation to Burrillville.
14. Consider zoning options for a farmer's market within Town.
15. Acquire land for the proposed Public Library expansion.

Town of Burrillville
Completed Items

16. Consider acquisition or lease of the old Nasonville ball field across from Turex.
17. Develop informational brochures on the policies and programs of the department, as well as state laws pertaining to property tax such as the Farm Forest Open Space program.
18. Develop an Assessing Department web page with online versions of the above brochures, downloadable forms and links to online property data, property sales and GIS maps.
19. Continue the process of converting the GIS system to a new more standardized software program with the Information Services Department. Continue to improve workflow for annual mapping maintenance.
20. Monitor revaluation project to ensure that performance standards and quality control is maintained. Work with the contractor to ensure a successful project. Also closely view their progress so that the department fully understands every aspect of the project so that we are able to explain and defend the values to the public. We are also interested in doing some of the work in the future "in house" that a contractor normally does for these projects.
21. Support Assessors Revaluation Project – look into options relating to the 2003 Town wide revaluation projects.
 - a. Oversight and Timely completion of the upcoming full revaluation
 - b. Complete the restructuring of the Assessing Office with the hiring of the new assistant position and analysis of existing staffing duties.
22. Coordinate phone systems – Town wide.
23. Coordinate mobile/cell phone contracts/services – Town wide.
24. Work to bring "state of the art" telecommunications infrastructure to Town.
25. Decrease the amount of paper documents generated by municipal government and help increase the use of electronic mail.
26. Standardize department head/non union employee benefit and wage program.
27. Evaluate existing programs and tax plans. Consider financial tax exemption options for senior citizens.
28. Joint meeting with the budget board to review "special appropriations", to discuss process and standards for future review.

Town of Burrillville
Completed Items

29. Adoption of the Route 102 Master Plan and implementation of its recommendations (short and long term).
30. Determine the most effective way to market, develop and manage the Town's new industrial park on Route 102.
31. Hire Town Engineer/Public Works Director.
32. Initiate plans for construction of a town library and consider other municipal uses for the available land in Stillwater Mills. Review whether or not a senior center/teen center can be incorporated in the main building or should be considered as a separate building elsewhere on the lot or somewhere else in town.
33. Promote and support development of the clock tower building within Stillwater Mills.
34. Find an alternative way to store and secure records.
35. Give strong consideration for "Planned Unit Development" zoning changes.
36. Update the Town's open space/land acquisition list – reprioritizing the existing list after the master recreation plan is completed.
37. Review all town fees and charges.
38. Consider modifying ordinance for weight restrictions on local roads.
39. Parking ban ordinance to be modified – during winter (Police and Public Works to work together to make proposals).
40. Review all existing ordinances relative to tax exemptions.
41. Recycling Ordinance
42. Pulaski Road Acceptance
43. Route 102 Development Management District Plan (incorporated as part of the Comprehensive Plan by Ordinance)
44. Route 102 Overlay Zone and Overlay Zone Map (amended as part of the Town's Zoning Ordinance)
45. Section 11-8.1 Land Development Review was amended to be more user-friendly from and economic development perspective.
46. Section 11-4.4 (E) amended to allow for special use permit and dimensional variance(s). This aided in the zoning board's review of Dunkin Donuts.

Town of Burrillville
Completed Items

47. The new parking ordinance was adopted as part of the Town's Code of Ordinances (again to aid redevelopment of Pascoag)
48. Chapter V of Comprehensive Plan, Housing Chapter and Affordable Housing Plan
49. Village Planned Development Ordinance and Overlay Zone Map (this ordinance provides for affordable housing in Burrillville -in specific areas).
50. Ongoing Litigation: Pascoag Reservoir
51. Compliance with new state audit reporting requirements
52. Implementation of fixed asset reporting requirements
53. Courthouse Lane construction project
54. Council 94 Contract

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COALITION
BUSINESS AGENDA

Taxation:

The Chambers support any responsible tax reduction proposals for Rhode Island businesses.

The Chambers support the equal reduction of the state income tax and the phase-out of, or reduction in, the R.I. estate tax, in accordance with any federal adjustments.

The Chambers support legislation that would require cities and towns to use the IRS Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) schedule when assigning a depreciation schedule/value in relation to assessing a tangible property tax.

The Chambers oppose any significant increase in business fees, which are levied by the state, or city or town, as allowed by the state. The Chambers support alternatives to the above-mentioned method for balancing the state budget.

The Chambers support any broad based decrease in state taxes, and oppose any broad based increase in state taxes.

Health Care:

The Chambers support legislative and regulatory reforms that will ensure Rhode Island businesses and employees have access to affordable, quality health care.

The Chambers support initiatives that promote workplace wellness programs, and place increased focus on improving the health status of employees.

Separation of Powers in RI State Government

The Chambers support passage of an amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution which will establish separate and co-equal branches of government.

The Chambers support measures necessary, which provide Coalition members the opportunity to assume positions on boards and commissions vacated by legislators, upon enactment of the Separation of Powers amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution.

Right to build/ Right to conduct business:

The Chambers support the rights of businesses to build, and conduct business, in areas where the proper planning, zoning, development and environmental laws or regulations have been met. The Chambers oppose any efforts to impede on businesses that meet the above laws or regulations.

Tort Reform:

The Chambers support reasonable, meaningful tort reform. The Chamber supports legislation that will lead to a reduction in insurance premium payments without leading to a decrease in coverage.

The Chambers oppose legislation that would mandate that businesses settle out of court in consumer cases brought against individual businesses. Further, the Chamber opposes legislation that would institute damages against, or provide that legal fees are paid for by, businesses which are not offered an opportunity to defend against litigation in a court of law.

The Chambers support legislation that would tie the interest applied to judgments to the consumer price index (cpi), while judgments are in the appeals process.

The Chambers oppose legislation that infringes on the ability of R.I. businesses to ensure that trade secrets are protected in the case of confidential settlements.

Rhode Island State Budget & Fiscal Policy:

The Chambers oppose any unnecessary increase in government spending.

The Chambers support legislation or Administration directives that would impose stricter accountability, and/or performance measures concerning state government spending.

The Chambers oppose efforts to freeze tax initiatives, currently in place, which were created for Rhode Island businesses and citizens.

Infrastructure development & improvement:

The Chambers support legislation or Administration directives aimed at assisting the RI Department of Transportation in providing necessary improvement to, and responsible development of, R.I.'s infrastructure.