

2013

Burrillville Town Council



Burrillville Town Council

2013-14 Goals & Objectives, Public

Policy and Legislative Agenda

Adopted 8/28/2013

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Section One: Goals & Objectives and Public Policy

Economic Development

Priority: The Town Manager's highest priority for non-administrative functions is to promote economic development and redevelopment programs.

Commerce Park:

- Promote economic development in Commerce Park
- Coordinate new development projects with the Industrial Foundation
- Continue efforts to bring natural gas to Commerce Park

Town-wide Identity/Economic Development Themes

Establish subcommittee of the Town Council to consider and report on:

- Focus on open space/outdoor recreation theme
- Methods, logistics and cost of developing a Burrillville identity/theme(s)
- Schedule workshop to include the Recreation Commission, Redevelopment Agency and public to further identify the scope of town wide identity/theme(s).

Planning Strategy – New business growth:

- The Town has been focused on planning and zoning the high traffic business corridors, such as Routes 100 and 102, for job generating, large-scale business growth.
- In tandem, the strategy has been to legislate/promote/encourage retail and small business growth and redevelopment in our traditional village centers.
- By restricting "big box" managing retail business growth in our high traffic highway corridors, our village centers have a reasonable chance to be revitalized and existing businesses in our villages have a better chance to survive, especially in the prolonged economic downturn.
- Development and promotion of guest lodging to enhance Burrillville's appeal as a destination, with consideration to zoning amendments if needed.
- Convene a joint workshop to review and assess current zoning ordinance as it relates to the 102 corridor.

Redevelopment Agency

- Support the Redevelopment Agency and administration's initiatives to showcase and market Burrillville, focusing on our quality of life, outdoor recreation opportunities and open space, including privately owned sporting and leisure businesses.
- Drawing people to our community to stimulate commercial activity, particularly for our small businesses.

Work with the Redevelopment Agency to politically and financially support the various development plan(s) (Stillwater and Pascoag)

- 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.

- Establish a level of financial support for redevelopment projects.

Develop and maintain concept and authority of the Redevelopment Agency

- Continue periodic workshop(s) with the Redevelopment Agency.
- Consider feasibility of expanding the scope of responsibility of the Redevelopment Agency (town-wide redevelopment).

Stillwater Mill Center:

- Implement directional signage to promote business and activities within the Stillwater Mill Center. Coordinate with the needs of The Assembly Theater, Farmers’ Market, Library and businesses in Stillwater Mill and Harrisville centers.
- Investigate expansion of local transportation services to Stillwater and Pascoag.

Walking/Bike Path

- Improve access and egress to and from walking/bike path to village centers. Look into physical improvements, new routing, pavement markings and signage.
- Explore options to expand the walking/bike program throughout the community.

Parks & Recreation

Recreational Programs

- Evaluate and modify/expand recreation programs to serve a broader base of the community.

Senior Programs/Services: Expand general recreation programs for seniors.

- The administration to develop a short-term plan for combining services with neighboring communities and facilities.
- Plan should anticipate transportation for Burrillville seniors, subsidizing cost of program development/hosting and unification with Glocester and/or Smithfield Senior Center.
- Consider third-party sponsorship of senior programs and services. (i.e. YMCA, Senior Services, etc.)

Outdoor Programs: Promote outdoor recreational resources and encourage expansion of those resources

- Conservation Commission: expansion and trail improvements to the Nipmuc nature trail.
- Consider parking options for Nipmuc trail.
- Conservation Commission: Potential funding in the capital budget to develop forestry plan for the Brock O. Blanchard Recreation Area.
- Support geo-tourism program

Buildings and Town Facilities

Department of Public Works – Buildings & Facilities

- Begin process of planning and engineering for new facility
- Land acquired on Clear River Drive for the site of a new public works facility

Department of Parks & Recreation – Buildings & Facilities

- Review options to expand/modify existing recreation facilities
- Review options for replacement of the building at Spring Lake Beach (Brown House) that serves as storage and living quarters during the season.

Schools - Buildings & Facilities

- Continue oversight of the June Rockwell Levy Rink: Require an annual report from the School Department relative to the management of the rink, including budget and an annual financial report and short and long-term capital program with revenue sources identified
- Continue monitoring issues related to the Father Holland School

Public Works

Projects & Programs: Ongoing programs to be continued annually

- Maintain and update the short and long-term capital program for sidewalk, road, bridge and drainage improvements.
- Implement and maintain the pavement management program as a functional management-planning tool – integrate with the GIS program and five (5) year capital program.
- Continue the phased-in program to replace or erect new signs throughout town.
- Modifications to the Capital/Infrastructure Programs to include village centers, including sidewalks, connectivity between key areas of the Town and physical improvements in the village centers to be integrated into the short and long term capital program and land acquisition strategy.
- Continue work to improve the flood control and management programs at Wilson’s Pond, culverts & infrastructure and drainage through Stillwater.
- Continue support for stormwater management program(s)

Beautification programs

- Work with local groups such as the Garden Club to expand and promote the adopt-a-spot program and other beautification projects.
- Encourage adopt-a-spot and other beautification projects by non-profits seeking special appropriations.
- Consider establishing community garden(s)
- Replace granite town boundary markers at all key road entrances into town.
- Work with Conservation Commission and the Garden Club – additional gateway signs.
- Provide the Town Manager with ideas for neighborhood beautification.

Rubbish & Recycling

- Support Department of Public Works, Recycling Coordinator, Rubbish & Recycling Committee, municipal collection program and private sector in maximizing efforts to reduce waste disposal costs and improve recycling rates.
- Continue promotion and support of mandatory town-wide recycling diversion goals.
- With community involvement, start a litter youth patrol for the summer months:

- Support litter youth patrol program if funding is secured.
- Expand rubbish and/or recycling programs to qualified commercial properties and townhouse/apartments.

Capital Improvement Projects/Programs

- Sayles Ave. infrastructure improvements: continue implementation, as funding allows
- Mapleville Main St. improvements: Consider sidewalk, park and road improvements based on plans that resulted from public meetings held in 2006.
- Shippee Bridge on Sherman Farm Road: Complete for short term because of town's work on the project. Town should continue work with state for third-party funding
- Gonyea Park expansion and improvement
- Skateboard park construction
- Whipple Avenue transfer station: provide shelter and protection from the elements for the staff
- Require minimum five-year plan for improvements to school department building, grounds and other facilities

Planning and Zoning

- Hold workshops with Redevelopment Agency, Planning Board, Recreation Commission and other town-wide groups, to coordinate basic planning and economic development activities.
- Review and modify subdivision regulations/standards and consider related ordinances as necessary.
- Consider potential for establishing public land trust.

Affordable Housing

Burrillville must accommodate sufficient housing for all income levels while protecting its environment, natural resources and community character.

- Request that the Planning Board review/consider innovative concepts to promote responsible affordable housing and report findings and recommended programs to the Town Council.
- Consider stand-alone building renovation as an option to the town's affordable housing program, e.g. renovation of substandard housing units in the community in lieu of money, donation of land or housing set-asides.
- Consider incorporating a plan to subsidize the housing authority (rental property) to meet affordable housing requirements.
- Review potential incentives for developers to locate future residential growth in and around our town center(s).
- Re-use existing properties and previously developed land and infrastructure where possible.
- Consider developing public/private partnerships to advance affordable housing

goal.

- Take measures to inhibit or prohibit private developers from using comprehensive permits which do not comport with our comprehensive and affordable housing plans.

Land Preservation / Land Acquisition

- Prioritize town's land acquisition strategy/planning. Should land be acquired for:
 - Municipal needs
 - Active recreation
 - Passive recreation
 - Targeted acquisitions as need or opportunities arise
 - School expansion
 - Walking/biking/connectivity
 - Open space
- Develop a separate plan to utilize land and/or acquire land contiguous to the Beckwith-Bruckshaw Memorial Lodge

Finance Department

- Responsible debt management and maintenance of a 10-12% (approx.) fund balance
- Responsible, affordable budgets
- Build the Major Capital Improvement fund
- Build the Land Acquisition/Open Space Capital fund
- Build the Unfunded Liability/Insurance fund
- Build the Redevelopment Agency fund
- Consider options for tax takings for targeted properties
- Address issues identified in the audit management letter(s). Develop an implementation plan and schedule to correct/address items identified
- Review potential to encourage expanding open space and farm land with use of property tax incentives.
- Improve coordination and possible integration of activities between the business / administrative functions of the municipal, school and sewer operations.
- Research and present to the Town Council, a policy and plan to incrementally fund outstanding financial obligations for OPEB, accrued compensated benefits, and other long-term liabilities.
- Report on the advantages of establishing Spring Lake Beach Recreational Facility and the June Rockwell Levy Rink as self-funded, business-type accounts.

Assessor

GIS/Mapping

- Develop a plan to upload CAMA data on a monthly basis to the Internet site where the GIS data is hosted. This will allow the public to view updated CAMA information that is within a month of being current. Update is passed to the GIS website whereby the public access CAMA terminals in the Assessing Office will be updated with current information.

Consolidation -Regionalization (Intergovernmental Relations)

Implementation of 2010 charter changes to effect cost savings and streamline operations

- Build upon and expand our four-town regionalization agreement.

- Support and modify merger of services between public works, recreation and school facilities.

Information Services

Utilize advancements in technology to support training programs & improve services to residents.

- Continued improvement of the town website.
- Technology upgrades/modification of technology programs
- Improve the availability of e-government departmental services by expanding/providing services through the town's website.
- Promote and enhance in-house training programs for staff, administration and board members.

Police/Public Safety Programs

- Continue to evaluate ongoing and consider new community based police programs.
- Continue to evaluate and improve emergency management communications and technology systems to be more efficient and responsive during weather and other town-wide emergencies.
- Continued evaluation and implementation of the school integration programs, eg: detective, resource, bullying and safety/protection.
- Continue to replace police vehicle fleet with all wheel drive vehicles, phasing out the SUV's and larger less fuel-efficient vehicles from patrol.
- Evaluate the feasibility of implementing higher level internal response teams and/or to regionalized response teams.
- Review and consider obtaining certification by the Rhode island law Enforcement Accreditation Commission: modify department rules and regulations, policies and procedures to satisfy RI Law Enforcement Accreditation standards
- Institute police officer bicycle patrols of bike path and village areas of town.
- Institute a program utilizing dual cross motorcycles to allow police officers to traverse power and gas lines and other areas that cannot be accessed by police vehicles.
- Provide a collection point for residents to dispose of prescription drugs.
- Assist Burrillville School Department where possible to attain the recommendations of the School Risk Assessment committee.

Police / Emergency Management

- Consider expanding emergency notification processes to include social media postings and limited direct interactions with the public during emergency situations. Note: This may entail staff assignments and the ability to access the site(s) from multiple and remote locations.

Library

- Request a report and recommendation from the Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library Board of Directors relative to opening the library on Sundays.
- Consider adjusting weekly hours of operation to accommodate weekend and Sunday hours.

Town Clerk

- Continue efforts to increase the town’s presence on the internet using social media and other means and review potential alternatives to enhance non-electronic means of communicating with the public.

Town Council

Buildings and Facilities

- Continue program for Town Council members to tour/inspect town buildings and facilities, including the schools.

Energy Programs

- Look into potential for alternate energy sources and continue efforts to achieve energy savings
- Appoint a Green Energy Committee for the purpose of researching energy saving technologies and energy saving methods targeting town/school buildings (Solar, wind, geothermal, green building technologies)
- Make green energy alternatives a priority for all new town and school building projects and renovations when it is economically feasible.
- For private building projects and developments, research options to potentially provide property tax incentives for quantifiable green energy installations.

Goals & Objectives

- Consider options to survey the community to gauge resident satisfaction with municipal and school services. (on-going – for example, the Rubbish and Recycling on line survey, 2012/13 parks & recreation on-line and in-school surveys)

Zambarano

- The Town Council would like to be a direct participant in any master-planning project or initiative that is being considered for the future viability or use of the Eleanor Slater Hospital, Zambarano Unit or the site.
- The Town Council opposes any proposal by the Rhode Island National Guard, or any other group or organization, which would interfere with or negatively impact the operation or disposition of the hospital. The Council does support projects/proposals that improve infrastructure, services, etc. that will benefit both entities.

Town Manager/Town Council

TransCanada

- Continue dialog with TransCanada in an attempt to settle outstanding legal matters.
- Continue periodic appraisal of the TransCanada plant and its facilities.

Transportation

- Maintain existing RIPTA bus routes and advocate for a Northern RI (Regional) transportation system
- Town Minibus: Look into coordination with RIPTA Flex Service; and consider modifying minibus service for transportation to senior service providers/centers in other towns.

Central Administration

- System-wide union contract standardization to address long-term unfunded or underfunded financial liabilities.

- Meet with Pascoag Utility District to determine the feasibility of bringing the Pascoag drinking wells back on line.

Public Schools

Generally support the School Department by establishing and maintaining a regular, on-going dialog with the School Committee

- Consider a yearly “School Summit”.
- Continue annual pre-budget joint meetings with the School Committee and Budget Board.
- When financially feasible, support the School Department’s internal goals by reviewing the short-term financial and educational planning required to implement those goals.
- Monitor and act on legislative activity that impacts school operations and budgets.
- Reduction of schools unfunded liability with the goal of eliminating unfunded liability and Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) obligations.

Sewer Commission – Waste Water Treatment Facility

- Meet annually with the Sewer Commission.
- Establish plan/financial program to address the possibility that the Sewer Commission will be required to upgrade their facilities to meet requirements of new federal/state discharge permits

General Attitude - Standards

- Maintain the staff’s involvement with statewide organizations/professional associations.
- Support staff development through use of technology and performance measurement.
- Town employees should respect each other, work together, and work to improve standards and accountability. Our organizational objective is to interact constructively with each other, our residents, visitors and the commercial sector. Look to give a positive, friendly and constructive response when performing our duties. Respond in a timely manner and advise what action the Town has taken.

Section Two: Local Ordinances

Chapter 10.5, Community Development

Article II. Affordable Housing

- Consider adoption of Affordable Housing Subsidy Ordinance – to make a better nexus between the town’s zoning ordinances and comprehensive plan as they relate to mandated affordable housing

Chapter 12, Environment

Article V, Post Construction Stormwater Control - §12-147 et sec

Storm Water Ordinance and Responsibility – In order for the town to satisfy the requirements of Phase II stormwater regulations the town should do the following:

- Revise ordinances to reflect the needed stormwater pollution prevention plans (SWPPP).
- Identify the town representative that shall receive the SWPPP, review, inspect and report the findings to the state. This individual may also be in charge of erosion control efforts/regulations established by the town.
- Identify the town representative to follow through with the elimination of illicit discharges uncovered during the MS4 dry weather surveys.

Chapter **,

- Consider amending the code of ordinance by adding sections for solar and wind energy.

Chapter 14, Fire Prevention and Protection

§14-1. – Open Fires

- Refer to the Ordinance Subcommittee to consider potential revision to address possible vagueness.

Chapter 26, Traffic & Vehicles

- Consider legislation to address issues related to motor vehicles that are registered out-of-state despite legal residence in Town. This may require enabling legislation and/or amending the revised general ordinances.

Section Three: Legislative Agenda

1. RIGL §32-6: Recreation Immunity High Priority

PLEASE OPPOSE changes in the recreation use immunity statute (§32-6)

Notes: The legislators are requested to inform the Town should legislation be introduced that would make it easier to get a judgment against the municipalities.

Taxation

2. RIGL §44-5-2 Maximum Levy (Tax Cap Legislation)

S3050: Property Tax Legislation

The tax cap legislation passed a few years ago, S3050, has inequities and flaws. The Council asks that changes or modifications be *INTRODUCED AND/OR SUPPORTED*.

- That revenue resulting from new growth and related valuation in a city or town be added to the statutory levy limit rather than incorporated within the statutory cap limit.
- To better define what expenditures can be exempted from the tax cap. Example: Debt service that has been authorized by a referendum vote of a city or town.
- The law should be changed so that the actual appropriation to school departments cannot exceed their proportionate share of the statutory cap limits.
- NOTE: If Caruolo stays in place, this change would restrict the courts from awarding school departments more than their share of the statutory cap amount.
- Communities should be able to receive an automatic waiver of the statutory cap limits if direct Federal or State aid is reduced or eliminated for a city or town, including the school districts.
- RIGL 16-2-21.4: Support appropriate legislation to repeal “Caruolo” or to modify the legislation to comply with the new tax cap legislation

3. Excise Tax Phase Out

- The Town does not believe it is appropriate to continue the reduction of State aid needed to compensate the cities and towns for the revenue losses associated with the State’s excise tax phase out plan.
- Reducing/eliminating this State aid for this program simply shifts the tax burden from the State to cities and towns.

4. Tax Sale Legislation

2013 – S0217 2013 – H5248

This act would provide that in the event of a tax sale of real property, the tax collector would notify RIHMFC not less than forty (40) days prior to the date of sale. Property obtained by RIHMFC at a tax sale would be redeemed from RIHMFC by paying intervening taxes plus interest at a rate of one percent (1%) per month plus a penalty. The act would also decrease the time period that RIHMFC has to wait to foreclose an owner's right of redemption from five (5) years to one year under certain circumstances.

5. Assessment of Local Taxes

RIGL §§44-5-1, 44-5-12, 44-5-15, 44-5-16, 44-5-17, 44-4-26 and 44-5-30.

In 2011, Senate Bill S 0617 was considered to make certain technical amendments/clarifications to the statutes relating to the assessment of real property and the timing and process to appeals thereof. The act did not pass. We understand a version may be introduced during the current session. We may recommend some amendments to the 2011 proposal.

Education

- 6. School Department Budget Appeals:** Several 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 third party, unelected administrative officials. This abrogates all local taxpayers' rights and effective control over local property taxes. **PLEASE OPPOSE** similar law(s) or process(es), which must not be enacted in any form or variation.
- 7. 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.
- 8. RIGL §16-7-44RIHEBC**
- This is a law that was passed which mandates financing through Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation (RIHEBC) of all school bond projects. Unless this is followed, cities and towns will not be eligible for bond interest reimbursement. Please **INTRODUCE LEGISLATION** that will provide an option for communities rated A or better (with any of the three primary rating agencies) to pursue selling their bonds on the open market and remain eligible for the bond's interest reimbursement from the State.
 - With the exception of some economy of scale on the issuance costs, there was no significant benefit to the process.
 - The Town still incurred bond counsel costs for reviewing the documents.
 - The community is unable to time the sale of their bonds because RIHEBC determines the sale date. This can mean increased costs due to temporary borrowing because project logistics are directly impacted by the timing of the bond sale.

Economic Development

- 9. Historic Tax Credits**
- **PLEASE SUPPORT** reinstatement of historic tax credit.
- 10. Economic Development Corporation**
- **PLEASE SUPPORT** any restructuring of State Government and/or the Economic Development Corporation, which will facilitate a closer working relationship and closer 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 versus 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.
- 11. Tax incentives – Redevelopment Projects**
- Town may consider requesting introduction of enabling legislation that would allow the Town Council to adopt ordinances to provide tax or other financial incentives for redevelopment projects.

12. Innovative Legislation

If any other cities and towns file innovative legislation, intended to enhance their (or the state's) economic development programs, please notify the Town Manager.

Municipal Finance

13. RIGL 44-5-52, 44-5-53, 44-5-43 – Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes

Please *INTRODUCE* legislation that will amend §§44-5-42, 44-5-53 and 44-5-54 relative to Burrillville property tax classification, as requested in the resolution adopted by the Town Council at the January 23, 2013 meeting.

14. RIGL 44-5-31.1

Please *INTRODUCE* legislation that will amend §44-5-31.1 relative to the amount of interest to be applied in any tax assessment appeal, as requested in the resolution adopted by the Town Council at the January 23, 2013 meeting. The Town Council resolution was amended at the February 27, 2013 Town Council meeting.

15. Joint and Several Liability Law

RI Interlocal TRUST Legislation

2013 – S 0215

- In recent legislative sessions there have been bills sponsored primarily by the Rhode Island Interlocal Trust which sought to change the joint and several liability law.
- Currently, if a municipality is only 1% liable for financial damages, it can still be held 100% liable for the damages because the other parties do not have money/assets.
- There are situations where the existing \$100,000 statutory limit holds for the community, but not for the individual officials and/or employees, thereby increasing the potential financial damages a city or town could incur. **PLEASE SUPPORT** legislation focused on closing this loophole.

16. RIGL §9-21-10 - Statutory interest rates ***RI Interlocal TRUST Legislation***

2013 – S 0215

There have been bills in recent years, sponsored primarily by the Rhode Island Interlocal Trust, which sought to reduce the amount of interest paid on awards. The Town Council asks that you *SUPPORT* such legislation.

The problem is that the interest rate is 12%, so it is to the sole benefit of suing parties to wait as long as possible to file and settle their cases because the interest accumulation is compounded, retroactive and could be substantial. The 12% rate was established in the early 1980s when inflation was high.

An argument could be made to **exclude cities and towns** from this provision of the law altogether.

17. RIGL 45-10-4. Annual post audit required.

2013 – H5260

The Burrillville Town Council **REQUESTS YOUR OPPOSITION** of this act, which would require towns and cities to change auditors or auditing firms every seven years. If it forces a community to change auditors just for the sake of changing auditors – even if the same qualified firm is the low bidder – it will cost communities more to have their audits done.

**18. RIGL 45-10-17. Municipal accounting compliance
2013 – S 0021 - Uniform System of Accounting**

The Burrillville Town Council requests your opposition of this act, which would create a state-wide uniform system of auditing for municipal finances. After careful review, we conclude that this law will create administrative and financial hardships for many cities and towns. It is, effectively, an unfunded mandate.

19. Unfunded Mandates

Please oppose all new unfunded mandates.

Municipal Employees

20. Binding Arbitration

There has been legislation introduced in recent years that would require binding arbitration in teachers collective bargaining processes. This will prove to be very costly to city and town taxpayers; awards and legal costs. This type of process serves as a disincentive for unions to bargain in good faith. We request strong opposition of such legislation.

VOTED to adopt a resolution opposing House Bill 2013 – H 5340.

21. Collective Bargaining

- Penalties and fines for striking or illegal work actions should be on each individual person on strike and, if applicable, the union as a whole.
- **SUPPORT LEGISLATION** that would prohibit teachers from participating in so-called work-to-rule action.

Public Safety

22. RIGL 11-47-11 Weapons - License or permit to carry concealed pistol or revolver

It is our understanding that the Rhode Island Police Chief's Association will request legislation to change RIGL 11-47-11 by replacing the word "shall" to the word "may". This proposal will remove the mandate and allow local licensing authorities the option of issuing a permit or referring the applicant to the Office of the Attorney General.

23. RIGL 11-37.1: Sexual offender registration and community notification – costs

Notification provisions of this statute result in excessive expenses to municipalities. The Town requests that **AMENDMENTS BE INTRODUCED** that would provide for the cost of notification be borne by the offender or the state. (Mandate)

24. Proposed changes to Police/Fire injured on duty statute

Changes may be proposed to the statutes related to police and fire injured on duty. Please investigate and provide clarification to the Town of the purpose and effect of the amendments.

Other Legislation

25. Zambarano Hospital

- Town Council would like to be a direct participant in any master-planning project or initiative that is being considered for the future viability or use of the Eleanor Slater Hospital, Zambarano Unit or the site.
The Town Council opposes any proposal by the Rhode Island National Guard, or any other group or organization, which would interfere with or negatively impact the operation or disposition of the hospital. The Council does support projects/proposals that improve infrastructure, services, etc. that will benefit both entities.

26. RI League of Cities & Town 2013 Legislative Agenda

Town Manager to provide the Town Council with further information throughout the year. The Town Council or the Town Council President, acting on behalf of the Town Council, will be asked to periodically support the League's legislative agenda items and to respond to legislative alerts for actions that the state legislature may be considering that affects the Town of Burrillville.

League Legislation 2013 – Summary

- 1) Municipal Retirement Contribution Protection - This bill would provide that any increased annual contribution by a city or town resulting from adverse court decisions or consent agreements relating to pension reform would be the responsibility of the state.
- 2) Municipal Employee Disability - This bill would eliminate the requirement that cities and towns pay a disability pension for police officers and fire fighters of not less than 66 2/3% for all disabilities while affirming the 66 2/3 % requirement for total disability. The bill would also apply the same application for participants in the state administered MERS plan.
- 3) Municipal Retirement Parity - This bill would allow city and town councils to amend their municipal retirement ordinances to assure that the future accrual of retirement benefits would not exceed the accrual of benefits offered employees participating in the state administered MERS plan.
- 4) Retiree Health Benefits - In addition to creating a Board to develop a statewide municipal health benefit plan, the bill would limit health insurance benefits and cost sharing for existing and new retirees to the equivalent benefit offered active employees.
- 5) Management Rights by Charter and Ordinance - This bill would provide that arbitrators in police and fire arbitrations take into account city and town charters and ordinances which provide for management rights to direct the employees of the city or town.
- 6) Definition of police officer and firefighter - This bill would clarify the definition of police officer and fire fighter for the purposes of determining salary payments during periods of illness or injury.
- 7) Direct dispatch pilot program - This bill would provide that the 911 Division of the Department of Public Safety initiate a combined fire and police direct dispatch pilot program by January 1, 2014.
- 8) Advisory Council of Municipal finances - This bill would require a second report by the Advisory Council on Municipal Finances.
- 9) Low income housing recertification - This bill would affirm that tax assessors of the state have the right to require requalification for the tax benefit offered for low income housing.
- 10) Tax Liens - This bill would extend to five years from three the number of years a lien could be placed on property following a tax sale.
- 11) Approval of School Committee Contracts - This bill would affirm that city and town Charters may require ratification of labor contracts negotiated by school committees.
- 12) School Committee Duties. This bill would provide that it shall be the obligation of school committees to seek cost sharing and savings opportunities with municipalities and neighboring school districts.

Section Four: Completed, Revised, Removed

Note: The following items have been removed from the Goals & Objectives – Public Policy document because they have been complete or were removed by action of the Council. Please review and advise the administration should you wish any of these matters to be returned to the current agenda.

Goals & Objectives – status change	Status and comments
Economic Development	
Promote economic development in Commerce Park	
Attention to issues related to Waste Water Treatment	Complete
Consider plan for noise reduction at the existing plant and any expansions	Complete
Facilitate other development at Commerce Park (Industrial Foundation agreement)	Updated (see goals & objectives list for updated language)
Support planning of potential expansion of Daniele Prosciutto	Complete
Parks & Recreation	
Community Center	
Adopt long-term strategy for analysis and planning for a community center	Removed: consideration complete; proposal discontinued
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a needs assessment. • Initiate financial analysis • Consider possible locations, • Explore funding options 	
Spring Lake Beach Facility	
Install point of sale/entry control at Spring Lake Beach.	Complete
Create store and install ATM at Spring Lake Beach	Complete: store created; ATM plan reviewed and discarded
Outdoor Programs	
Youth outdoor ice skating facilities – identify locations for low cost/low maintenance facilities.	Remove
Support master planning for multi-town trails and paths	Updated (see goals & objectives list for updated language)
Buildings & Town Facilities	
Department of Public Works	
Confirm Clear River Drive location	Updated (see goals & objectives list for updated language)
Upgrade/new public works facility	Updated (see goals & objectives list for updated language)
Parks & Recreation	
Explore housing BEC program in its own building	Complete
Consider options to relocate Parks & Recreation Department office	Complete
School – Buildings & Facilities	
Continue review of options to manager rink	Complete
Public Works	

Projects & Programs	
Add funds on an incremental basis to the annual public works operating budget (from the tax levy) for road and capital projects.	Remove: TransCanada revenue has been targeted for capital programs
Target goal is to establish an annual budget of \$300,000 to \$500,000 per year to replace the potential loss of Ocean State Power capital funds.	
Rubbish & Recycling	
Consider the feasibility of accepting white goods and scrap metal at the Whipple Ave collection site.	Complete
Request feasibility report from Rubbish and Recycling Committee.	Complete
Fully study the concept of Pay as You Throw to potentially coincide with the expiration of the current Rubbish and Recycling contract.	Complete
Investigate options for a new recycling center and/or transfer station.	Investigation complete
Capital Improvement Projects/Programs	
Stone arch bridge, East Avenue, Harrisville	Complete
CVS Bridge in Pascoag	Complete
Consider feasibility of locating a separate fuel station at Police Station.	Remove (idea considered and discarded for the time being)
Planning & Zoning:	
Request that the Planning Board study advisability of creating an ordinance relative to regulating windmills, including but not limited to providing subsidies for non-profit organizations utilizing wind energy for environmental advantages.	Updated (see language relative to ordinances for wind/solar energy)
Regulation of windmill construction (this item moved to ordinance section of goals)	Updated (this item moved to ordinance section of goals)
Finance Department	
Commit to long term financial planning (not just capital planning)	Complete
Consider options for tax takings for targeted properties – Town Manager to create, prioritize and maintain a list of the properties.	Complete
Work with administration to develop policies that would provide the Budget Board and the administration guidance for prioritizing funding by the importance of each department	Remove
Council to develop a strategy to reduce funding with the long term goal of eliminating funding for targeted special appropriation recipients.	Complete
Request the solicitor's opinion on whether the town can:	Requested
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> require that all future bid proposals for contracted services include E-verify as a part of the bid requirements for the successful bidder; and 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a 5% bid advantage to town businesses and 2.5% advantage for state businesses 	Complete: matter was referred to the ordinance subcommittee who recommended against these incentives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If permissible, refer to the Ordinance Subcommittee for recommendation of legal instrument to implement E-verify and prioritizing bid awards. 	
Tax Sale Process	
2006 legislation that amended RIGL §44-9-10 placed more reporting and notification mandates on the tax sale process which leads to more costs being incurred by the property owner. Consider whether the Town Council would like to support amendments that could alleviate the problems.	MOVED: This item is now on the legislative agenda
Consolidation – Regionalization	
Centralize purchasing and risk management functions (long term objective) to allow fire departments, sewer department, utility district, housing authority and school department to purchase goods/services at rates entered into by a central authority.	Updated
Police/Public Safety	
Review and evaluate effectiveness of the Juvenile Hearing Board.	Remove
Evaluate and report on possible community based solutions related to illegal ATV use in the community.	Complete
Town Council	
Explore potential for alternative power generation	Complete
Review Goals & Objectives and Public Policy document and designate goals as short, medium or long-term goals.	Complete
Central Administration	
Discuss with legislators and regulators the status of the Pascoag MTBE cleanup project.	Complete
Public Schools	
Review statistical data posted to the Rhode Island Department of Education website annually.	Remove
Request report from School Department that identifies cost of unfunded mandates.	Complete
Work with the School Department and the community to explore ways to reduce athletic costs and consider a partial fee to play, funded by the participants and or by athletic support groups.	Remove
<i>Note: The following local ordinance items have been removed from the document because they have been complete or were removed by action of the Council in 2011. Please review and advise the administration should you wish any of these matters to be returned to the current agenda.</i>	
Local Ordinances – status change	Status & Comments
Entire Code Continue to review Code of Ordinance on an ongoing basis and make recommendations accordingly	On-going

Continue to review and modify fees/charges, as needed.	Complete
Chapter 2, Administration Article III. Officers and Employees Sec. 2-59. Recruitment and hiring: Town Manager to develop a proposal for the Ordinance Subcommittee to consider and make a recommendation relative to testing.	Remove
Article IV, Boards, Commissions and Committees Sec. 2-73. Public Safety commission Refer existing ordinance relative to public safety commission to the Ordinance Subcommittee for review and recommendation.	Complete; there was a sunset provision in the ordinance that established the committee
Chapter 16, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions Article I. In General Ordinance subcommittee to consider and make recommendations relative to an ordinance to address false and/or unnecessary business and residential alarms	Complete
Article II, Noise Review Article II, Noise. Review noise ordinance. Consider revising Sec. 16.39. entitled Maximum permissible sound levels by receiving land use.	Complete
Chapter 25, Taxation Article I. In General, §§25-41 and 25-42 Review existing tax incentive program for new businesses.	Complete; enabling legislation would be required prior to implementation of local ordinance.
Article III. Tax Credits §25-85. (new section) Refer additional proposal for property tax exemption program for seniors based on income to the Ordinance Subcommittee for a recommendation.	Complete
Chapter 26, Traffic and vehicles Article I. In General, §26.3. Speed limits As a long-term, low priority issue, the administration will undertake a “speed limit” and make recommendations to the Ordinance Subcommittee relative to changing speed limits on roads that are posted at too low a speed limit.	Complete
Article II. Parking, Stopping and Standing §26.32. No Parking schedule of streets As a long-term, low priority issue, the administration will undertake a study of all the streets in town in order to determine which streets should be posted no parking on one side.	Complete
Chapter 30, Zoning Solicitor and administration to continue to review Chapter 30, Zoning, in the Code of Ordinance on an ongoing basis and make recommendations accordingly.	On-going
Article III. Zoning district use regulations and Article IV. Zoning district dimensional regulations Town Manager to confer with Building/Zoning Official and	Complete

make recommendation relative to a proposal to modify regulations for raising animals in residential areas.	
<p><i>Article V. Special Regulations</i></p> <p>§30-159 Mixed use buildings</p> <p>Consider creating zoning reforms to allow more compact, walkable, mixed-use developments, in line with provisions of the comprehensive plan</p> <p>Study and report on the option of extending the districts in which mixed-use buildings are allowed; i.e. away from village centers</p>	Updated: Combined in language of current recommendation.
<p><i>Note: The following statewide legislative items have been removed from the document because they have been complete or were removed by action of the Council in 2011. Please review and advise the administration should you wish any of these matters to be returned to the current agenda.</i></p>	
<p>Legislative Agenda – status change</p>	
<p>2011 – S 0063</p> <p>2011 – H 5187 Ratifying Charter Changes</p> <p>Thank you for introducing this legislation. Please STRONGLY SUPPORT these bills, which will ratify the Home Rule Charter of Burrillville as amended on November 2, 2010. Please advocate that these bills are adopted promptly without modification.</p>	Complete
<p>OPEB Trusts</p> <p>2012 H7144</p> <p>The Burrillville Town Council requests your SUPPORT of this act, which will allow The Rhode Island Interlocal Trust to administer OPEB programs for cities/towns.</p>	Complete
<p>BCI Checks</p> <p>RIGL §16-48.1 – entitled <i>Certification of personnel providing educational services to very young children &</i></p> <p>RIGL §40-13.2-5 & 40-13.2-5.1 – entitled <i>Certification of child care and youth serving agency workers</i></p> <p>Local police departments are mandated to provide this service without charge. However, cities and towns are required to pay the state \$30.00 for child care background checks. It is recommended that LEGISLATION BE INTRODUCED to make the prospective employer or the person seeking employment responsible to pay this fee.</p>	Complete
<p>RIGL §42-9-8.1 (Office of Investigation).</p> <p>PLEASE INTRODUCE LEGISLATION to add recreation departments as an authorized entity to request a background check from their local police departments for any employee or volunteer serving the community.</p>	Complete
<p>Legislative Items - Recommend moving these items to an inactive list.</p>	
<p>Police Officers’ Bill of Rights</p> <p>PLEASE OPPOSE any statewide efforts to file new legislation that grants additional benefits/rights to</p>	

<p>the Police Officers' Bill of Rights process or that further erodes the ability of local Police Chiefs and municipalities to manage their personnel.</p>
<p>Legislation Related to Delinquent Taxes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislators are asked to INTRODUCE LEGISLATION that would tie delinquent municipal tax accounts to a State process, thereby prohibiting delinquent taxpayers, or those allowing their property to go to tax sale, from acquiring State licenses or other benefits We need to stop land speculators or owners of undesirable property, e.g. potential Brownfields sites, dams, ponds or blighted/contaminated buildings from deliberately not paying taxes and/or attempting to pass these properties to a city or town via the tax taking process or by quit claim deeding to third parties (particularly to non-profits or tax exempt entities).
<p>Restrictive laws: PLEASE SUPPORT legislation to repeal any State laws that are deemed to be more restrictive than federal legislation.</p>
<p>Special Education Requirements: PLEASE SUPPORT modifications of RI Special Education requirements so they are the same as the Federal requirements. Currently RI requires more of schools in this area than the Federal law requires.</p>
<p>Brownfields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the State of Rhode Island to consider property-tax or State tax incentives for Brownfields and adaptive mill re-use projects.
<p>Extended Producer Responsibility The Burrillville Town Council urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to INTRODUCE comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility legislation based on the <i>Framework Principals for Product Stewardship Policy</i>.</p>
<p>High-speed Telecommunications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 infrastructure and 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.
<p>Retirement programs – State and Municipal Employees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PLEASE INTRODUCE LEGISLATION that puts all retirement programs under ERSRI and specify that all employees retire under the same rules. This would include Judges, State Police, Corrections etc. Communities lacking sufficient funds to endow (fund) their retirement programs under ERSRI shall have their state aid withheld until their pension plans are fully funded.
<p>Teacher's Group Life Insurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUPPORT a retired teachers' group life insurance amendment that would bring cost equity to non teachers receiving similar benefits for life insurance coverage.
<p>RIGL 33-21.1-14.1 Property held by police departments PLEASE SUPPORT amendments that would provide that police departments and local drug control divisions would be allowed to keep confiscated property, and any income derived from such</p>

property would be used for community or law enforcement purposes.

NFPA 1500

The Town Council requests that you **DO NOT SUPPORT** any attempt to pass the 2009 NFPA Life Safety Code or portions thereof.

Sewer Commission - Enabling Legislation

The Town Council may ask to amend the enabling legislation that empowers the Burrillville Sewer Commission so that the Town Council has a role in setting or approving sewer assessments (betterment charges).