

Town Council Meeting  
May 19, 2021

The May 19, 2021, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President, via Zoom™ in Foster, RI at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

**Denise L. DiFranco, President**  
**Heidi Rogers, Vice President**  
**Chris Stone**  
**David Paolino**  
**Cheryl Hawes, excused**

Also present:

Joanna Achille, Solicitor  
Julia Chretien, Solicitor  
Kelli Russ, Finance Director  
Michael Antonellis, Planner  
Planning Board members

- |             |   |  |
|-------------|---|--|
| <b>I.</b>   | <b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b>   | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.  |
| <b>II.</b>  | <b>EXECUTIVE SESSION<br/>PURSUANT TO RIGL<br/>42-46-5a(1) Personnel</b> | Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Closed Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 for a discussions or work session regarding Personnel according to RIGL 42-46-5a(1) and to reconvene into open session and to further keep the minutes of said meeting closed and the minutes of all executive sessions held previous to this meeting remain closed in accordance with provisions in RIGL 42-46-4 & 5.<br>No discussion.<br>Motion passed 4-0.<br>Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.   |
| <b>III.</b> | <b>RETURN TO OPEN<br/>SESSION</b>                                       | Denise L. DiFranco said no votes were taken.   |
| <b>IV.</b>  | <b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>   | There were none.   |
| <b>V.</b>   | <b>NEW BUSINESS</b>   |  |
|             | 1. Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corp. Contract                        | Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the contract with Rhode Island Resource Recovery as presented.<br>Denise L. DiFranco said it's going up and up and up and it's not going to stop. We are way over our limit for trash.<br>Motion passed 4 - 0.<br>Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.   |
|             | 2. FY 2021-2022 Budget Adoption   | Finance Director Kelli Russ said that she met with a financial planner and advisor to see if the \$55,000 was adequate and different ways we could go about financing. How we did it would determine how we funded the expenses for the bond issue, so she increased it to \$65,000. Ms. Russ explained the changes made to the budget as presented.<br>Chris Stone asked about salaries. Denise L. DiFranco asked if people were satisfied. Kelli Russ said, yes, she hadn't heard anything.<br>David Paolino moved, Chris Stone seconded, to adopt the budget as presented for \$15,627,095, which includes the capital budget.<br>Motion passed 4 - 0.<br>Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye. |
|             | 3. Rte. 6/Rte. 94 Land Transfer Process to the Town                     | Denise L. DiFranco said she wanted to discuss the legalities and the cost for the transfer when it may not go through. Can we wait until after the Financial Town Meeting? Ms. DiFranco said she would rather go to the people and say that we have the property.<br>Heidi Rogers moved, David Paolino seconded, to go forward with the land transfer at Rtes. 6 and 94  |

from the South Foster Fire Station to the Town of Foster.

Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco asked what the cost would be. Kelli Russ said it was not specified.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

4. Round Table Discussion  
with the Planning Board  
(Blight on Rte.6)

Denise L. DiFranco explained that she would only be taking questions from the Planning Board and the Council. She cautioned the boards that they could not discuss by name any properties. Chair of the Planning Board, Anthony Renzi said this is taking years, and asked how long it takes to get a court order.

Anthony Renzi called the Planning Board to order. Helen Hardy called the roll: Mike Carpenter, Hilary Downes-Fortune, Warren Ducharme, David, George Sackal, Anthony Renzi, and Helen Hardy were present.

Round table discussion took place.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Planning Board and Town Council voted to adjourn unanimously at 10:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk