

The September 9, 2021, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President, in Foster, RI at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Denise L. DiFranco, President

Chris Stone

David Paolino

Cheryl Hawes

Heidi Rogers, Vice President excused

Also present:

Julia Chretien, Solicitor

Kelli Russ, Finance Director

Michael Antonellis, Planner

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. ANNOUNCEMENTS** Denise L. DiFranco asked for a moment of silence for Rick Grant who worked for the town; George and Dorothy Brayton, the thirteen soldiers who died in Afghanistan, and for the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Ms. DiFranco noted that shredding will be next week at the Town Hall.
Ms. DiFranco also noted that there are two meetings in November on holidays. November 18 is chosen as the meeting date.
- Item 1 of New Business moved here:*
1. Recognition of Captain Bolger Denise L. DiFranco asked to move Item 1 of New Business to this position.
Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded to move Item 1 of New Business to this position.
Motion passed 3 – 0.
Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.
Denise L. DiFranco asked Capt. Bolger to come to the front. Ms. DiFranco thanked him for his many years of service.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT** Cheryl Hawes said she did not get this item placed on the agenda in time. She noted that the grounds in front of the Town Hall have not looked nice or decent for a long time. It is the first thing people see. She requested that it be taken care of.
- Lynne Rider asked about the Potential Litigation listed under the Executive Session. Ms. Rider said there was no general law for “potential” litigation. Atty. Julia Chretien said that potential is included in litigation because things leading to litigation are also confidential.
- IV. CONSENT AGENDA** Approval of Minutes for August 12, 2021
Approval of General Warrants
General Warrant FY 2021 #21 - \$42,161.46
General Warrant FY 2022 #2 - \$93,356.71
General Warrant #3 \$186,026.49
- Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 3 – 0.
Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.
- V. EXECUTIVE SESSION** Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to go into Executive Closed Session pursuant to RIGL 42-42-4 for the reasons stated in RIGL 42-46-5 for a work

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| PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5A (2) Potential Litigation, <i>disc/action</i>
1. Interview of Solar Energy Project Consultant, Theodore Foster Road. | session regarding Personnel and Job Performance pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5A (1); and for work sessions regarding Collective Bargaining / Negotiations or Litigation according to RIGL 42-46-5A (2); and to reconvene into open session and to announce any votes taken, 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. |
| PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5A (1) Personnel, <i>disc/action</i>
1. Planning Clerk | No discussion.
Motion passed 5-0. |
| VI. OLD BUSINESS
Solar project award | The council reconvened in to Open Session at 6:50 p.m. Denise L. DiFranco announced that a vote was taken to award the Solar Energy Consultant for Theodore Foster Road to Balance Rock Energy at a cost of \$18,000. |
| VII. NEW BUSINESS
<i>Recognition of Captain Bolger moved</i> | |
| 2. Job Descriptions and Personnel Policy Update | Denise L. DiFranco said that Kelli (Russ) has talked to her about updating the Job Descriptions and Personnel Policies. Ms. DiFranco thought it was a great idea but she wanted council to vote on it because it is billable hours. Julia Chretien said some of the descriptions were very out of date, and that Policies and Procedures need to be reviewed periodically. Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded, that we allow billable hours for updating Job Descriptions and the Personal Policies.
Discussion: None
Motion passed 4 – 0.
Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye. |
| 3. Pole Petition, Burgess Road WR#30370307 New Pole 21-50 with Anchor. | Denise L. DiFranco said that next was a pole petition for Burgess Road with a recommendation from the DPW director positioned 3 feet from the edge of the road.
Chris Stone moved, David Paolino seconded, to approve the pole petition.
Discussion: None
Motion passed 4 – 0.
Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye. |
| 4. Status of Tax Assessor Position | Denise L. DiFranco said the next was the status of the Tax Assessor position.
Kelli Russ said there were no applicants. The job was posted in every place that was appropriate. She was open to suggestions. Ms. Russ said there might be realtors interested. |
| 5. Status of Building and Zoning Official Position | Denise L. DiFranco said that next was the status of the Building & Zoning position. Kelli Russ said she didn't think we would get any viable applicants on Indeed.com. Denise L. DiFranco said we need somebody there for the amount of hours we have. Gordon Rogers said the problem is with the retirement system in Rhode Island. |

6. Potential Rental of Nike Site

Denise L. DiFranco said next was the potential rental of the Nike site. Gordon Rogers said the school department has moved out. Mr. Rogers said the building is in excellent condition. It's a 2,200 square foot building. He suggested renting it out. Lynne Rider said that as far as she knew, we wanted them to stay there. David Paolino moved, Chris Stone seconded, to allow Gordon Rogers the right to investigate potential renters for the Nike Site. Discussion: David Paolino said he thought it was a good idea. David Paolino amended the motion to include empowering Mr. Rogers with the Planner to investigate potential renters. Chris Stone seconded. Discussion: Lynne Rider asked what it was currently zoned as. Denise L. DiFranco said A/R. David Paolino said they could look into changing that. Amended motion passed 4 – 0. Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye. Main motion passed 4 - 0. Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.
7. Foster Hazard Mitigation Plan

Denise L. DiFranco said she received a letter from Linda Hopkins regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan. There are grant programs available. Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded, to allow Mike Antonellis to pursue what would be involved with that grant. Discussion: Mike Antonellis said the current hazard mitigation plan expires in 2023. Motion passed 4 - 0. Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.
8. Regular Meetings vs. Work Session

Denise L. DiFranco said she had been looking at other websites and that there appears to be many towns that do work sessions. In our Charter it says we have to meet at least once every month, so she suggested having a regular meeting once a month and a work session the second meeting of the month. This would be to get ideas out there having work sessions with Planning, Zoning, Land Trust, Charter Review and have a round table, no action taken, discussion only. Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to have a regular meeting once a month and a work session at the second meeting each month. Lynne Rider asked if they actually do not have enough for two council meetings? Denise L. DiFranco said if there is some month that if we can't have a work session we won't have one. David Paolino said he doesn't have a chance to bring things he talks to townspeople about to the council. Lynne Rider asks that since there was no audience participation, could they put it on Zoom. Denise L. DiFranco said they wouldn't always be excluded; it depends on the topic. Motion passed 4 - 0. Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5, (A), (9) International Brotherhood of Police Officers, Local 637, IV. Negotiations	Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to go into Executive Closed Session pursuant to RIGL 42-42-4 for the reasons stated in RIGL 42-46-5 for a hearing or discussion regarding a grievance filed pursuant to Collective Bargaining, Negotiations and Litigation agreement according to RIGL 42-46-5-a (2), and RIGL 42-46-5-a (9); and to reconvene into open session and to announce any votes taken, 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. No discussion. Motion passed 4 – 0. Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION	Returned to Open Session. Denise L. DiFranco said no votes were taken.
VI. ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk