

Town Council Meeting  
September 23, 2021

The September 23, 2021, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President, in Foster, RI at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

Also present:

Julia Chretien, Solicitor  
Kelli Russ, Finance Director  
Michael Antonellis, Planner  
Gordon Rogers, DPW Director

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5, (A), (9) Contract Negotiations  
1. International Brotherhood of Police Officers, Local 637, Negotiations  
PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5, (A), (1) Personnel  
1. DPW - Town Hall Grounds  
2. Interview of Tax Collector Applicant
- Heidi Rogers moved, David Paolino seconded, to go into Executive Closed Session pursuant to RIGL 42-42-4 for the reasons stated in RIGL 42-46-5 for a hearings or discussions a grievance pursuant to a Collective Bargaining Agreement according to RIGL 42-46-5A (9); and for the discussion of Personnel and Job Performance pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5A (1); 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.
- The council reconvened in to Open Session at 7:25 p.m.  
Denise L. DiFranco announced that no votes were taken.
- Item 1 under New Business moved to this position*  
Promotion to Captain, Tyler Domingos
- Cheryl Hawes moved, David Paolino seconded, to move Item 1 under New Business to this position.  
Motion passed 4 - 0.  
Heidi Rogers, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.  
Chief Breit promoted Tyler Domingos from Lieutenant to Captain. Chief Breit swore Capt. Domingos in.
- Item 2 under New Business moved to his position*  
Recognition of Carol Mauro for Years of Service
- Cheryl Hawes moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to move Item 2 to this position.  
Motion passed 4 - 0.  
Heidi Rogers, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.
- Denise DiFranco said she has enjoyed being the liaison to the Department of Human Services. She thanked Carol Mauro for doing so much for the town. Ms. Mauro was presented with a gift of an electronic frame to hold all the photos people send to her while she is traveling.
- III. EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5A (2)  
Potential Litigation  
PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5A (1) Personnel  
Planning Clerk
- Heidi Rogers moved, David Paolino seconded, to reconvene into Executive Closed Session pursuant to RIGL 42-42-4 for the reasons stated in RIGL 42-46-5 for the discussion of Personnel and Job Performance pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5A (1);  
No discussion.  
Motion passed 4-0.  
Heidi Rogers, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.
- The council reconvened in to Open Session at 7:40 p.m.  
Denise L. DiFranco announced one vote was taken to hire Kaitlin Boyer as Tax Collector with a vote of 4 - 0.
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- Lynne Rider spoke regarding the garden and said she hoped they would replant the garden with funds from Building and Grounds.

Cheryl Hawes read a letter from Virginia Colwell (see Exhibit A).

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of Minutes for September 9, 2021

Approval of General Warrants

1. General Warrant FY 2021 #22 - \$14,148.11
2. General Warrant FY 2022 #4 \$76,350.60

Monthly Reports (July/August Reports)

- |                   |                      |                 |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| a. DPW            | b. Building & Zoning | c. Planning     |
| d. Police Reports | e. RIRRC             | f. Tax Assessor |

Heidi Rogers moved, David Paolino seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; David Paolino, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- *Promotion to Captain, Tyler Domingos -moved*
- *Recognition of Carol Mauro for Years of Service - moved*
- *Appointment of Tax Collector completed in Executive Session*

Pamela Fontaine asked how the Tax Collector was chosen. Heidi Rogers stated that they had scheduled five interviews. They picked the top five from twenty-five applicants. Kelly, myself, Nancy, Sue, Karen and Cheryl went through all the applications. The top three were the same, and then we scheduled the interviews.

1. Letter of Support for Borders Farm

Denise L. DiFranco said that Borders Farm was going for a grant and needed Ms. DiFranco to sign it. Heidi Rogers read the letter (see Exhibit B).

Cheryl Hawes moved, David Paolino seconded, to authorize Denise to sign it and send it forward.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

2. Letter of Resignation from Zoning Board Member

Heidi Rogers read the letter from Joseph D. Carey (see Exhibit C).

David Paolino moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to accept the resignation of Mr. Carey with regrets.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

3. Road Gravel Bid

Denise L. DiFranco said the only bid was from J. R. Vinagro. The recommendation is for J.R. Vinagro for \$13.50 per ton with a Price/Ton pick-up of \$9.19.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to accept the bid as presented and recommended.

Discussion: David Paolino asked if they have it delivered.

Gordon Rogers said that they can have it delivered or they can send a truck down to pick it up.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

4. Winter Sand Bid

Denise L. DiFranco said there were three bids. Difazzio Materials, LLC, for \$17.33 per ton and \$14.00 if picked up. Cheryl Hawes moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to award the bid recommended by the DPW Director.

Discussion: David Paolino asked why this one was recommended. Gordon Rogers said it was the lowest and

was close so that we could take advantage of the pick-up, and that also there was a sample of the sand.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

5. Rubberize Asphalt and  
Chip Seal Bid

Denise L. DiFranco said the only bid was from All States Construction, Inc. for \$5.20 for a total cost of \$135,888.53. David Paolino moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to accept the bid from All States Construction of Rubberized Asphalt Chip.

Discussion: Gordon Rogers explained the process. The rubber chip is more expensive but you gain 10 more years of life to the road. Old Plainfield Pike was done in 2007 and it was not sealed. If we don't address it now the cost further down the line will be unbelievable.

David Paolino asked why they were not able to get competitive bidders. Mr. Rogers said the rubber chip sealing [company] is a one-provider situation in this area. Other companies are farther out west, it's not profitable.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

**VII. WORK SESSION**

American Rescue Plan Act  
Monies

Denise L. DiFranco said the work session was for discussion only and no votes would be taken.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Heidi Rogers moved, David Paolino seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk

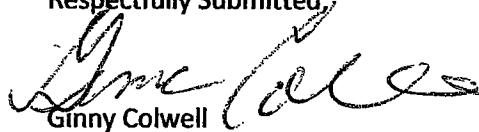
9-23-2021

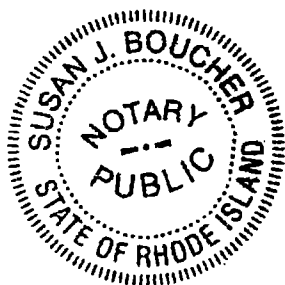
Honorable Town Council and taxpayers of Foster,

Several years ago, I was approached by a young man who wanted to create a garden for his scout project. He asked if I could advise him what to plant as well as how to plant the garden. He had chosen to create a garden in front of the town hall so everyone could enjoy it that visited. Needless to say, I was more than happy to help this young man take on such a worthy cause. I choose to donate all the plants because I was so pleased a young person cared about doing something that others could enjoy. I was also approached several years ago (approx 8) by the then DPW director Joe Cardillo about adding to the gardens by planting along the walkway leading up to the front door. Again, I was happy to help. I planned the garden and donated all the plants for this project as well. I was sickened when I saw all but three plants were ripped out and thrown away carelessly. Several 100 dollars of plants at the time of planting, worth so much more now that they were mature. I wanted the grounds to be especially beautiful for Foster Old Home Days when so many of the town's folks visited the annual event. It was all about pride for our town. It has been destroyed in one day. Many people over the years have commented on how beautiful the gardens were. The taxpayers deserve to know under who's directive were the gardens destroyed. Such disrespect for the memorial of a beloved past councilmen Roger Hawes. Such disrespect for all who enjoyed the gardens. I am sure a couple hours of spring cleanup and a couple hours to put the garden to sleep in the fall, would not have broken the DPW budget. Instead, we can now look at the garden beds covered with hay thrown on them. No wonder the town struggles to get and keep volunteers.

I respectfully ask that the Town Council, as the elected "boss" of the DPW Director, order that the monies to replace the plants that were destroyed under his directive, come out of the DPW budget. I request that "mature sized" perennials and shrubs are purchased, not \$4.00- 10.00 plants from a box store, to restore the gardens to the state they were prior to destruction. I also request that those plants be provided by me. I recall the majority of the plants that were planted due to the fact I was heavily involved in the creation of those beautiful gardens. I will make arrangements for volunteers to plant all the materials so it will be done correctly and the gardens will live on in recognition of the volunteers who created them and pay respect to the memorial for the late Councilman Roger Hawes. DPW will provide mulch from the numerous chipping jobs that are done year-round at no cost to the taxpayers.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Ginny Colwell



STATE OF RI COUNTY OF: PROVIDENCE ss:

On this day, personally appeared before me

VIRGINIA M. COLWELL

To be known to be the person(s) described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he/she signed the same as his/her voluntary act and deed, for the use and purpose therein mentioned.

Witness my hand and official seal hereto affixed

This 23<sup>RD</sup> day of SEPTEMBER, 2021

Susan J. Boucher

Notary public in the state of Rhode Island

My commission expires 10-05-2021.

September 23, 2021

Sara Zurier  
Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission  
Old State House, 150 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Ms. Zurier,

As President of the Foster, RI Town Council, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Borders Farm Preservation, Inc. request for funding from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission. The funds will support the ongoing efforts to preserve the Borders Farm historic farmhouse, barn and grounds. This request will focus mostly on restoration of some endangered exterior components of the farmhouse that urgently need to be remediated in accordance with historic preservation guidelines.

In 2009, with assistance from RIHPHC, the entire 200-acre Borders Farm, including the 1840 George Phillips farmhouse, was designated an Historic District and placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Borders Farm is a source of pride for the Town of Foster and a resource for the community. The farm functions as 21<sup>st</sup> Century working farm that also provides living history experiences that reflect its 19<sup>th</sup> century heritage. The farm offers educational programs, community space for events and recreational opportunities. Borders Farm Preservation, Inc. maintains the 1840 George Phillips Farmhouse, with its period furnishings, and the adjacent barn, which provides displays of 19<sup>th</sup> century farm implements, machinery and artifacts, as museum experiences for current and future generations of Foster, Rhode Island residents.

Preservation of the Borders Farm is important to our community, which still remains largely agricultural in nature, with many working farms, both small and large. I heartily support the request from Borders Farm Preservation, Inc.

Sincerely,

Denise DiFranco,  
President, Foster Town Council

**JOSEPH D CAREY**

2 oak hill Rd  
Foster RI 02825

**September 16, 2021**

Foster Town Council  
181 Howard Hill Rd.  
Foster RI 02825

**Dear Foster Town Council:**

Please accept my resignation from the Foster Zoning Board of Review. Due to my inability to attend the regular meetings.

Sincerely,

**Joseph D Carey**