

Special Town Council Meeting  
May 17, 2022

The May 17, 2022 Special Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President, in Foster, RI at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

Also present:

Kelli Russ, Finance Director  
Julia Chretien, Solicitor

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pam Fontaine spoke.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**  
Emergency Services

Denise L. DiFranco said that in regards to the Emergency Services act, all we have to do is amend the act regarding dispatchers. We have dispatch right now for our police station, fire and rescue. Mr. Voletta interpreted this as the fire district having their own dispatch, and he had objections to that. If the fire and rescue, which is predominantly what our dispatchers do, then there might not be as many needed. It reads that the fire districts will have their own dispatch. If they have their own dispatch, they might not be unionized so he would like that removed.

Cheryl Hawes moved that the council proposed to remove language to the proposed charter for the Foster Fire District, the proposal will remove language as follows: from page 3 line 13, remove the words "and dispatch" and from page 6 line 12, remove the words "and dispatch." Heidi Rogers seconded.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Denise L. DiFranco said she and Cheryl Hawes met with Kelli Russ to discuss how to move forward with emergency services. The Ambulance Corps requested \$400,000 more. We do not have that money in our budget, so we are looking at different ways to fulfill that obligation to keep the town safe. Atty. Tourgee has told us, the number one responsibility of the

council is to keep the people in their town safe. Not having an Ambulance Corps is not maintaining safety. There were several ideas, and we have a motion for discussion.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded, that effective July 1, for the Fiscal Year 2023 the council will reallocate \$72,000 for rescue services. Heidi Rogers clarified that is was to reallocate from another department. Kelli Russ said, yes, other public safety.

Denise L. DiFranco said that emergency services is a bottom line item.

Discussion: Heidi Rogers said she was not comfortable stripping money from another department, how far is that going to carry us. Chris Stone said she is exactly right, that's why we're here. Cheryl Hawes said that we would take the money and advertise for EMTC. Heidi Rogers asked where they would take the money from. Denise L. DiFranco said they would look at all departments and which one has the least active members.

Cheryl Hawes said, "Let me just say it. It's Foster Center Fire Station. I will say it; you can all look at me. We need to do something for July 1<sup>st</sup>." It has to be set in motion so that the town is not without ambulance services. This would allow us to advertise for full time or part time to fill the shifts needed to service the ambulances. Ms. Hawes said they spoke to Moosup Valley, and to South Foster. They have room to house the ambulances, and what they will need is to make sure we have people to run them. This money will allow us to hire people. It was felt that some of the volunteers who have stopped volunteering would be willing to come forward and volunteer again who have the proper certification. The town is in trouble, the more we discuss it, the more we go backward and not forward. We are reaching a crisis point and now is the time to get a plan in place. She cited her own angst and anxiety. She had to make a 911 call and thought, "this is karma biting me" because she knew what was coming" But we have to do something, we can't wait until July 1<sup>st</sup> to see what will happen. She said she didn't want to cut anybody.

Heidi Rogers asked how there would be a savings and were they keeping the building—“we don’t own their building. What will it save us?”

Sal Calise, Deputy Chief of Foster Center Fire, Old Plainfield Pike, said you are going to pay one individual, but you have people willing to do it for free, and you are willing to throw those people out the door, \$72,000 to run the whole operation.

Cheryl Hawes said this fire district proposal was where it was heading. There are two other fire stations where they can volunteer. Mr. Calise feels no one says thank you and he is done.

Kevin Donovan, Plainwoods Road, asked if the town made an agreement that states when they become insolvent, the town has access to use their vehicles at the two firehouses. Denise L. DiFranco said that was something they are looking into. Their concerns were how that \$72,000 would be spent.

Matt Haynes, Johnson Road, said he was not nor has he ever been part of the ambulance corps or fire companies. He thought there was a mistake made decades ago in separating them, and it is a little frustrating as a towns person to see three companies that seem dysfunctional. He would love to see them working together rather than being territorial.

Denise L. DiFranco agreed and noted that when there is an emergency, they do work together.

Bob Moreau, Central Pike, said if he remembered correctly, the town has never had an agreement with any of the fire departments or the ambulance corps. There is no written agreement, yet we have been financing them for the last forty years. Denise L. DiFranco agreed and that our not providing the monies for one department does not mean that department has to shut down, they can fund themselves though it is difficult.

William Paul, South Killingly Road, said he has been on the Foster Center Fire Company for 20 years and started at 14 years of age. He thinks closing the fire department would be a very bad idea for the town. He stated that they have the radios, a lot are centralized, and the tower. There would be volunteers and equipment missing. Denise L.

DiFranco asked why he thought there would be volunteers missing—they wouldn't integrate into another department? Mr. Paul said no he didn't think so. Chris Stone asked if he would go. Mr. Paul said he would not say at this point in time.

Denise L. DiFranco asked about the equipment. Mr. Paul said the trucks, the fire company owns two of the vehicles, the brush truck and the Humvee.

Denise L. DiFranco said so Foster Center would maintain those and keep those and not bring them to the town.

Lynne Rider, Burgess Road, said that at the beginning you said you had discussed several options—are there other options or is this the only one the council finds feasible and will this mean that you will be taking the ambulance corps to court to get the ambulances.

Denise L. DiFranco said she hoped that they would not have to go to court; it would be a lengthy and costly process. Ms. Rider asked if this was the only path forward. Denise L. DiFranco said the other option was privatization, which is going to cost just as much if not more. Ms. Rider noted that the Ambulance Corps people were not present. Denise L. DiFranco replied that they were invited; Ginny said she couldn't get the night off. Ms. Rider said that the Ambulance Corps has said that's it, they are done. They invested a lot of time and energy to the Ambulance Corps and she can see where they are territorial, it is their Ambulance Corps. Ms. Rider said that the money to get them to October is off the table? Chris Stone said the whole thing could turn around if we close the Ambulance Corps, then the state is going to say it's an emergency; while they are still open, it's not an emergency. They won't give us any funding. Cheryl Hawes said they have made the statement in many meetings. Are we not supposed to take that seriously?

Roy Shippee, Hartford Pike, said he has been a member of South Foster Fire Department since 1969. To address Mr. Haynes, the ambulance was formed in the early 1970s, prior to that it was part of South Foster. A lot of people in town wanted to run on the ambulance but didn't want to belong to South Foster Fire, so they separated. What has happened now is

that volunteers are few and far between. We belong to the Woonasquatucket Valley Firefighters League, and before COVID, we ran a 30-day radio ad for volunteers and league-wide, we got none. Whether the town takes it over or you pay the ambulance corps, it's going to cost the same. He is not in favor of closing the fire station. Historically the volunteers do not move to another station.

Pam Fontaine, Danielson Pike, said that over the years the town has had it easy with the fire departments and Ambulance Corps. You have taken them all for granted; you never gave [the fire departments) stipends. Heidi Rogers said it was in their budget. Ms. Fontaine said Mrs. Walden would stand up all the time to get money for Moosup Valley or Foster Center to keep their budgets going. In the long run, you want this Fire Tax? That's going to cost a lot more money than what you have right now in your budgets. Denise L. DiFranco said the council only approved to move that Fire Tax forward so the people can decide. We did not feel it was our place to decide. We wanted it on the ballot. Ms. Fontaine said that is not going to save diddly-squat. She said they are all to blame, it did not happen overnight. Chris Stone said since she [Mrs. Fontaine] was on the council. Ms. Fontaine says it's appalling, you should have been proactive.

Charles Stockwell, Winsor Road, the Captain at South Foster Fire Department, said it is year 36 for him. He is the liaison between the Town Council and the Engineering Board, and in that position he was sought out by the members of the Engineering Board recently to request of the Ambulance Corps access to their books and to get actual figures and to talk about where they stand as far as how much it actually takes to run the Ambulance Corps as a paid station now, which is what had to happen as a result of the volunteers falling off. Roy's point is very well put, volunteering is not something that is in people's wheelhouse anymore. It's unfortunate, but it's true, and we have seen throughout many years the ebbs and flows of volunteerism in all of the stations. There are times when we've shown up with 4 people at a structure fire because those are the only 4 people we had, and now at my station we have 20-25 active

people. Station after station throughout the state have been closed and those volunteers didn't go anywhere else. They see those people as their family. The \$72,000 that has been brought up as potentially being a source of advertising and gaining the EMT Cardiac so we can run ALS responses, it's money but it won't be nearly enough money to put a finger in this dike. Right now the payroll for the Foster Ambulance Corps projected for paid personnel is \$649,000. So \$228,000 which brings you to \$57,000 per quarter and you divide by 12 it's \$54,000 per month just for payroll. So the \$72,000 alone gets them about another month and a half which gets them to October. The point is that these paid personnel aren't going to stay in a job at that station knowing that after October nobody knows where their payroll is coming from. They can go out and get jobs with other paid ambulances all around the state. So \$72,000 doesn't begin to scratch the surface and to that end, he doesn't see the point in closing Station 3 because he doesn't think it's worth the risk of losing responders. The other thing to understand is that some people become EMTs because they want to get on an ambulance and go to a hospital; some become EMTs because they want to help. He agreed to become an EMT so that some of our department could start running with the Ambulance Corps to support them. If you expect those people who are already EMTs to take the ride to the hospital they didn't anticipate, they just won't respond. Relying on volunteers doesn't work anymore.

Cheryl Hawes said that the \$72,000 is not going to be earmarked for the Ambulance Corps, it's going to go to do what you said. We will have to continually fund it. We have spoken to Gordy and Paul and we made it clear we need a place to house them [the ambulances] then we have to find a way to fund them and we would have to advertise because we know we can't rely on all volunteers.

Denise L. DiFranco said we had many meetings before the budget because we knew this was coming. People said, "oh you've known for years". Heidi Rogers said they knew two weeks before the budget. Denise L. DiFranco said they had several meetings to come up with some suggestions, we were willing to

listen to ideas; people had no ideas. We've now come up with an idea and people say it's not a good idea. We're at the point now where we have to do something because mutual aid isn't going to help us because we don't have mutual aid to go out. So give us something.

Cheryl Hawes said that she has listened and listened after many meetings. So she said let's do it. She asked if we could get an injunction for those ambulances? Heidi Rogers said we shouldn't have to. If they are so concerned about the safety of our residents, they should hand them right over. Denise L. DiFranco said they have Foster Center here saying they aren't going to! Heidi Rogers said Foster Center could house a rescue, South Foster could house a rescue, Moosup Valley could—if the ambulance corps is so concerned, why would they hold our ambulances hostage. Why? No reason. We shouldn't need an injunction. Denise L. DiFranco said she had not heard that. Heidi Rogers said she has. They should give us the keys, and if they don't, then how is it about the safety of our residents? She said she is furious about this. What is the motivation? If they force us to get an injunction, it shows just how much they care about the residents.

Charles Stockwell said he wanted to add one thing speaking for Station 1 he said that, yes, we can put a rescue inside our garage but when it comes to housing personnel, we don't have that facility right now. Denise L. DiFranco said in the past, people did not stay over at the Ambulance Corps because they lived in town. Mr. Stockwell said that when they went to per diem they made a number of alterations to the stations to be prepared to house personnel. Cheryl Hawes asked if there was a law requiring that. Heidi Rogers said it's nice to be able to sleep in our own beds at home until the tones go off. However, are they supposed to be sleeping when they are paid? Mr. Stockwell said in other stations they are, and if they can't sleep, they'll go somewhere else. He said at best, fire tax or not, closing Station 3 and moving rescues or not, injunctions or not, he said we're two years away from having some plan in place. Chris Stone said we're trying to do that now. Denise L. DiFranco asked in two years, what the plan would be

and let's get it going now. Mr. Stockwell said the fire tax, but if you want to have enough funding, the fire tax might be the only way to sustain that. Cheryl Hawes asked if he thought it was going to pass. He said it might have a shot if some leadership got behind it. Denise L. DiFranco you mean the council. Mr. Stockwell said yes, the council, the leaders of the fire departments, the leaders of organizations in the town. Chris Stone said he didn't think there was any choice. Mr. Stockwell said there needs to be a push, and even then it probably won't pass but he doesn't see any other way to fund it.

Sal Calise said he wanted to emphasize something about the money: we pay insurance, we own the tower, the radios. No power, no radios. Denise L. DiFranco asked if he owned the radios. Either way you have to keep the power on. Think about that, it's multiple things. They have showers, the bunkhouse. Denise L. DiFranco said thank you to Mr. Walden. Mr. Calise said he [is the one who] did it, he built it all [not Mr. Walden.] Cheryl Hawes said, why don't we make that the Ambulance Barn?

Heidi Rogers said that Mr. Stockwell said the payroll was \$649,000; that's payroll alone, what does that entail? Mr. Stockwell said including operating expenses, the overall amount is \$780,000. Ms. Rogers asked if the payroll was two full-time paid cardiacs. Mr. Stockwell said it was four, it takes two employees to cover for 24 hours. Ms. Rogers said that means we have no volunteers, no one to drive a rescue. Mr. Stockwell said there are no volunteers. Kayla Bejma, Moosup Valley Road, said the town pays an EMT basic \$80,000 per year as an administrator for the department, plus medical. Mr. Stockwell said we told them that it was badly handled. It's an independent department and can't really convince them and we can say only so much. Ms. Bejma said she wanted to understand this correctly: we want to close Foster Center Fire Station to take \$72,000 from them when we're throwing \$80,000 at—multiple council members said we're not going to do that. So the EMT payroll at 4 employees comes out to be \$213,280. Plus, per diem pay and one replacing



someone who is out. Heidi Rogers looks like it says go away, volunteers.

Steve Bejma, Moosup Valley Road, said he volunteers at the fire station. He had to leave the Ambulance Corps because it was managed terribly. They can't keep people because of decisions made, and this is going back years. You can't just leave people; you need to follow through to the hospital. This system needs to be improved. Kayla Bejma said that she and Steve are not welcome back in that building because of personal vendettas. Ms. Rogers agreed that management became the demise of the Ambulance Corps.

Matt Haynes, Johnson Road, said it seemed to him that more money could be saved by not closing the fire station, but closing the Ambulance Corps and moving them into the other fire stations, then evaluate. Denise L. DiFranco said that was their thought too.

Mo Remillard, Plainfield Pike, asked if you would bet your life on whether volunteers would come out of the woodwork. The council said no. Mr. Remillard suggested closing all departments as they are and making one town-wide department under the town tax with the rescues under the fire departments. He said there was nothing personal; it would be one chain of command, and the town gets the third party billing back. Denise L. DiFranco asked where he suggests they house the vehicles. Mr. Remillard said all the districts would have to agree to dissolve which won't happen. If you want our vehicles, we'll sell you our vehicles. Their market value is \$400, we'll charge you \$600. Denise L. DiFranco asked where would that money go? You're a 503.c; you can't pocket it. Can we do to you what the Ambulance Corps did and say, alright, we own the tower, we own the radios, that's going to cost you \$100,000 a year to maintain the towers and radios because we own them, that's our demand.

David Paolino arrived at 6:50 p.m.  
Mr. Paolino said that he keeps hearing that "we own this stuff" when, if any entity dissolves, there is a back out plan with the Secretary of State, they have

to dispose of material. How do they differentiate what we the taxpayers paid, because how do they know? The taxpayers paid, in one way or another, even their insurance companies in third party billing for something. How do you know what percentage you own? Kelli Russ said some of their equipment is different; they purchased it; the rescues, no.

Mr. Paolino asked Atty. Tourgee about a case out of Limerock when they did all the numbers, it turned out that the taxpayers were paying 80 percent of the actual monies, therefore they owned 80 percent of the property. The same thing would happen here. Kelli would have to be the key witness as to how much had gone to those departments over time.

Paul Cuniff, Barb's Hill Road, Chief of Moosup Valley Fire Station for 42 years, wanted to put it out to everybody and asked, "What is our mission?" His mission was to help out the people in the town in a time of need. "What is best for the people? What is the best way to help? Isn't that why you do it? Why don't we start with what will help best for the people in this town?" The fire departments are doing okay. The ambulance corps needs 24/7 pay. The volunteers at that level are 100 percent done. Nobody likes it. Whether we go the Fire Tax way, whether the town takes over the ambulance service. The ambulances belong to the town; the fire trucks belong to the town.

David Paolino said that's what we were trying to do for weeks and months, and you can see what you guys so genuinely stated, that when you approach the conversation, everybody's got their white-knuckle grip on their turf. They don't want to consolidate or make concessions. This is why we're here now trying to come to a consensus without raising taxes 8 percent—which we can't do. Some people have an agenda to maybe get a job in six months; they're looking for themselves. They're promoting a phony narrative so they can look good.

Heidi Rogers asked Kelli Russ how much they funded this year. Ms. Russ said \$228,000; they wanted \$600,000 and change. This is not happening just for 70 to 50 thousand dollars. We all attended

multiple meetings and people have all said this is a bad idea but she hasn't heard a good idea yet. There are no good ideas, somebody is going to be on the losing end. Ms. Russ asked Jonathan Barrette if he had said they were paid \$1,035 per week. He said yes for two 24-hours shifts. Ms. Russ said so 48 hours which includes overtime for the other eight. Ms. Russ said she was also told the head was making \$70,000, and then benefits, and you're not saying \$80,000—a \$10,000 difference. She was told that, and she said she did not get two numbers that were the same ever. How do you create a plan? When we asked for financial statements, they obviously created two sets of books with a negative cash balance to show only the money so, in their minds, they thought that what Mark said is that they only had to show the money we gave them. So they had two sets of books with a negative fund balance and a negative cash balance. She knows for a fact they had over \$400,000—they used that to buy a rescue which is responsible in a way—but we had money put aside for capital, and they could have used that and the money would have still been in fund balance. So these are the things we have a problem with because they are trying to make decisions without actually having one solid number because they keep changing.

Denise L. DiFranco we can't say to them, you can't pay him \$80,000. Mr. Barrette said they all agree that they don't have the leadership there. He felt the motion should be amended to put Station 3 in there because that \$72,000 isn't going to get you much of anything. If the town hires their own EMS director, or the fire companies do, that you start a new EMS program for the town.

Ms. Russ said you have to start somewhere. Denise L. DiFranco said it's more than just the \$72,000. Ms. Russ said this is all discussion, including all of it, so there has to be a motion made to allow discussion. This town cannot afford four stations unless you close the library, half a school, or something else; you just cannot physically do it, so right now there was discussion at the FTM of giving them that money. The reason she is against that is that they don't intend to change the way they are operating so if you give them \$228,000, they will still be out of

money in October, and now you have to take it over and you are starting at zero. If you have to take over a problem, don't start with zero, start with \$228,000. Chris Stone said that we don't have any say in what they spend it on. Ms. Russ repeated that you have no say on what they spend it on, you are giving it to them. So if you are starting with \$228,000 and have a possible \$70,000 plus, then there will have to be some American Recovery money thrown at this problem. You just used \$100,000 to get through two months without them changing a thing. If you have some savings from consolidating into two stations and you have \$228,000 and closer to \$70,000 and \$150,000 from ARPA funds you still have a structural problem for next year because you will have to raise another \$150,000 for next year, but it can be done. All of this is a moving target. It was in the newspaper that they were closing July 1<sup>st</sup>. You have to have a plan, and Ms. Russ laid out possibilities. All we hear is what won't work.

David Paolino said what was disheartening is that people wanted to pillage the Land Trust, the libraries, DPW—taxpayers come out in droves saying, “you can't do that.” Why would we destroy 3 or 4 departments to help throw money at an issue we have zero control over, no visibility, and we don't get solid numbers that add up. How do you operate a checking account with a negative \$10,000 balance? The solution should not be to destroy other departments that are running well on the bare minimum. And those departments came back with cuts to help!

Ms. Russ said the town cannot maintain the number of apparatuses that they do. The town can well support two fire stations and the rescue, whether you can afford it or not, you will have to pay for them. That's a full time job. This is a possible solution for eight months. In November, there may be a fire tax voted in but in the meantime, you have to help us get through.

Lynne Rider, Burgess Road, said she thought it was important to get the number they can before making decisions. For example, how much would it cost to retrofit the South Foster Fire Station and Moosup

Valley for the rescue? She assumed that the bays are full and something is going to have to be outside. Denise L. DiFranco said the brush truck is going outside. Ms. Rider said it would be wonderful if you could get townspeople to fill those positions but going forward no matter what you do, there will be hard feeling for a while. You will also need sleeping arrangements. If you put an ambulance at each fire company, who do you need to man it adequately and how much will it cost? She cautioned them about losing the good will of the people who volunteer elsewhere.

David Paolino asked if she meant that if they close Foster Center, those good folks who have been volunteering can't volunteer in Moosup?

Ms. Rider said no, that they won't. You've lost their good will and you've lost their family's good will.

Chris Stone said that someone once told him that every volunteer is worth \$100,000 a year, and he felt that is the truth. Denise L. DiFranco said her biggest fear is that they would lose our volunteers and we would have to unionize; then we might as well close up.

David Paolino asked how many volunteers are at Foster Center and how many times do the trucks not roll because no one shows up? Mr. Barrette answered that it was hard during the day but at night, around five. Mr. Paolino said that's not a good pitch to leave the station open.

Catherine Bay, South Killing Road, Treasurer of Foster Center. Ms. Bay said that as far as billing, she could give them all the information, everything they need. Capital was promised to us. We can't even get parts for Engine 4. As far as where to store ambulance trucks, we have bunkrooms, showers, anything they need. Ms. Bay said she always gave Kelli all the information. As far as people leaving, we've all experienced that. As far as trucks not rolling in the daytime, it's happened to all of us. Everything we do in that building we do it by fundraising. We put a lot of work in that station. David Paolino asked what her idea of her solution is? Ms. Bay said she truly believes that the Ambulance Corps building needs to be shut down.

Charles Stockwell said that regarding finances we don't need 16 pieces of apparatus in this town. He

said that managing EMS is very different than managing fire. There are many more requirements and qualifications. We are not set up to manage any of that. Who would do that? Ms. Russ they will have to hire someone. Denise L. DiFranco said we need somebody who can oversee it. We have heard it all, but our hands are tied.

Denise L. DiFranco noted that this motion has caused more discussion than any of the other meetings. Cheryl Hawes said that this is why she make the motion.

Mr. Stockwell says one of the things that has been talked about at length is that the manager has to be a responder. Denise L. DiFranco said she was told that that was what would happen.

Mo Remillard discussed total unification. You spoke about when they brought in the independent chiefs to do a study and they were very perplexed as to why there were so many different organizations, following different organizational structures and bylaws. Their recommendation was consolidation, but every department was asked to fill out surveys including what would happen if the departments were consolidated, would they respond. A great number of people said "no." Word of mouth recruitments works on the fire side, but not EMS. He suggested putting both at Foster Center. Ms. Russ said she was not against the idea but they still needed the money.

Bob Moreau, Central Pike, asked that the motion be repeated. Ms. Hawes repeated the motion. Mr. Moreau said that it is the intention of the town that as of July 1st, they will take over the rescue completely. If they do, will they eliminate the management of that rescue. Denise L. DiFranco said that if we own it, yes. Mr. Moreau said that it seems the biggest problem is mismanagement and what he has seen it has been the cause of this problem.

Mo Remillard asked that come July 1<sup>st</sup>, what is the plan? Denise L. DiFranco said it is not a solid plan, but it would be to investigate what we have to do to provide those services to the people of Foster. This is the start of having something in place. Cheryl Hawes said we plan to advertise for positions. Ms. Russ said

they would send out household flyers, and they discussed quotes from service providers. Denise L. DiFranco said we would ask to sit down with the Ambulance Corps. Chris Stone said he had asked them and they said, "We're not signing our own death warrant." Denise L. DiFranco said it's a different day. Ms. DiFranco said they could hire a private agency temporarily so that we would have coverage. Ms. Russ said we have to price them out.

Cheryl Hawes asked about housing the ambulances at Foster Center. If we have to spend so much money at each stations, this would save money at one end. Sal Calise asked if anyone did a study if we had to start fresh. Denise L. DiFranco said that is where we develop a job description.

Catherine Bay asked what are they going to use for rescue? Will you get their rescues?

David Paolino asked for help to make a deal with the Ambulance Corps. If you want a good plan, talk to the people in the Ambulance Corps. You guys have to help.

William Paul said that as now, they only have two ALS [EMT Cardiac or an EMT Paramedic] providers. Heidi Rogers asked if they have Basics also. Mr. Paul said yes. Ms. Rogers said so a Cardiac and a Basic make your truck an ALS crew. Mr. Paul said they have two basics. Cheryl Hawes asked Mr. Cunniff, Mr. Stockwell, and Mr. Paul what they thought about that idea, rather than retrofitting the stations? We still have to advertise for people to run and manage, but it would be less burden for you. Gordy [Brayton] has said he would have to get approval from his members. Mr. Paul said he agreed with Mr. Cunniff that he wants to do the best for the town, but if we were to house the rescues, could anybody in the town be willing to come in and run them? Denise L. DiFranco they would but that doesn't solve the money problem. Ms. Russ asked if they keep Foster Center open, is it a hybrid? Can you run it for \$525,000 for the year? Denise L. DiFranco said she would hope so. Ms. Russ said she did think they could come very close and delineated the costs.

Kevin Donovan asked if the rules from which accounts we take money from change by the circumstance of the emergency when they lock their doors July 1<sup>st</sup>? Ms. Russ says you can't take from capital, but from other funds. Mr. Donovan said so there is more flexibility the minute they lock the door. Mr. Donovan asked if the Council could pass a motion based on a triggering event saying hypothetically in the future, if the ambulance corps locks the doors on July 1<sup>st</sup>, then this goes into effect. Mr. Tourgee said yes. Mr. Donovan said he didn't want to see Foster Center short-changed.

Cheryl Hawes said she would change her motion. Cheryl Hawes withdrew her motion. Chris Stone removed his second.

Cheryl Hawes moved, David Paolino seconded, that effective July 1, for the Fiscal Year 2023 the council will reallocate the \$228,500 from the Ambulance Corps to provide rescue services at the town level at the Foster Center Fire Station. Kelli Russ said, "to be housed". Ms. Hawes repeated, "to be housed at the Foster Center Fire Station."

Denise L. DiFranco said so now we're taking a vote. Heidi Rogers said she was really glad that this discussion went that way, and that the first motion was withdrawn. Cheryl Hawes said, "Somebody had to be the bad guy." Heidi Rogers said she was not going to vote to close that station. Chris Stone said to move the question. Denise L. DiFranco said we have, but Heidi wanted to say something. Heidi said, "Okay, I was just explaining something."

Denise L. DiFranco said, "Okay, the motion has been made, it's been seconded, and we're voting. All in favor?"

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye. Opposed? There were none.

#### **IV. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Cheryl Hawes moved, David Paolino seconded, that the Council send out a mailing to the citizens of the Town of Foster specifically referring to EMS Emergency Management Services, which will include fire and rescue.

Motion passed 5 - 0.



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

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Denise L. DiFranco noted for future agenda items a copy of mail Seth Magaziner sent regarding construction projects and the amount of money that the schools got. She would like to invite the school department to tell us what they did with that money. 1 million and 1.4 million.

David Paolino moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk