

Town Council Meeting
July 21, 2022

The July 21, 2022, 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
Cheryl Hawes
David Paolino was excused.

Also present:
Julia Chretien, Solicitor
Michael Antonellis, Planner
Kelli Russ, Finance Director, was excused.

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. ANNOUNCEMENTS / PUBLIC COMMENT**
- Denise L. DiFranco announced that David Paolino and Kelli Russ are excused.
- Cheryl Hawes commended Gordon Rogers and public works on the good and timely job they did on the bleachers.
- Lynne Rider said that Preservation recently got a grant from the RI Council of the Arts & Humanities. One of their pushes was for developing a sense of place, so they have had nine signs made up so that people will be able to recognize what a building was or is. We do have some sites in mind that do not infringe on anything. For example, the Town House, in one of those brushy areas down in the front so that people driving by. Also, the Town Pound and the Blacksmith Shop, the Ben Eddy, the Town Jail and the Moosup Valley school (Tyler Library). One for the village of Hopkins Mills. We wanted people to be aware.
- III. CONSENT AGENDA**
- 1. Meeting Minutes** – Approval of June 16, 2022, June 23, 2022, and June 28, 2022
 - 2. General Warrants**
 - a. FY 2022
 - i. #22 \$111,001.89
 - ii. #23 \$224,272.57
 - b. FY 2023 #1 \$321,651.60
 - 3. Additions and Abatements**
 - a. 2022 Real Estate Abatement \$21,569.0
 - b. 2022 Real Estate Addition \$1,379.09
- Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
- Cheryl Hawes questioned two warrants. On the second warrant for \$224,272, there is a charge for a Viking All Seasons dump body for \$35,700. She was sure it was for DPW but she was wondering why that didn't go out to bid. Gordon Rogers said that it's called the MTA. There are several vendors, which the State prequalified. Ms. Hawes also asked about United Rental. Mr. Rogers said it was a roller purchased from Capital. It was used and there is no bidding process for used.
- Motion passed 4 - 0.
- Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.
- IV. OLD BUSINESS**
- 1. Municipal Court updates**
– Resolution 2022-10
- Denise L. DiFranco said they had talked about it being on the ballot for November. Julia [Chretien] researched and said it does not need to be on the ballot.
- Ms. DiFranco said that we have a Resolution [for the Municipal Court]. She asked Ms. Chretien if they have to have a public hearing. Ms. Chretien said that the Resolution gives the council the ability to have it down the road.
- Heidi Rogers read the Resolution (see Exhibit A).
- Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded, to adopt this Resolution and forward it to the appropriate officials.

Discussion: Heidi Rogers asked if we needed ordinances regarding personnel. Julia Chretien stated that yes, for how many people you are going to have, if you want to have a police officer other than the one with the traffic ticket. Denise L. DiFranco said so then we would just move forward at some point. Ms. Chretien confirmed that once it passes the enabling act, you can then go forth with how you want to do it and then you can have a public hearing.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

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

2. Police Station Update

Denise L. DiFranco said a couple of us met with the chief and with Mike in regards to moving forward because we have applied for a couple of grants. In particular establishing a community room in the police station, we discussed how that would look. Gordy [Brayton] has met with the architect so we are moving along. We do not at this time have a ground break date. Heidi Rogers asked if we have a design. Denise L. DiFranco said they have a design, over time we have changed the design. We have looked at other stations so see what worked and what didn't work. Mr. Brayton said the architect brought up a few things he has discovered over the years with other police stations. Ms. Rogers said she is very nervous about this delay. Ms. Hawes asked how long they think the process is going to take. Ms. Rogers said she thought it was supposed to be shovel-ready in August. Ms. Rogers said so we know nothing about funding at this point. Denise L. DiFranco said well it was approved at the Financial Town Meeting; we're applying for grants, Sen. Reed's office has reached out to us about a communication part of it. Mike Antonellis said they put in for money for a communication tower, and we got an email back from Sen. Reed's office indicating that the request had been advanced to the next level. Same thing with the application for the multi-purpose space, that is through the office of pandemic recovery. It was initially estimated that the cost between then and now post-pandemic now that prices have changed. We got word that this has been advanced to the next stage as well. Ms. Rogers says there are grants, but we are going to have to go out to bond. Denise L. DiFranco said that Kelli hasn't started that full process yet. Ms. Rogers said that she wants to see it get going; it was approved over a year ago. Ms. DiFranco said we all agree with that. She doesn't think there is a member in town that is not itching to get this going. Mr. Antonellis will join us at the next meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. COVID-19 White Flag Memorial

Denise L. DiFranco said that Ms. Hawes had asked about this item for the agenda. Ms. Hawes introduced Tracy Griffing who said she was present on behalf of the RI Council of Churches. During the last week of June until July 2nd, there was a COVID-19 memorial on the State House lawn in Providence. They planted over 4000 flags. At that time, by July 2, there were 3611 deaths from COVID 19 in the state of RI. In Washington on the National Mall, they planted over 660,000 flags. Ms. Griffing said she was there to bring the flags that belonged to Foster to Foster. There were 11 deaths as of July 2 here in Foster. During the State memorial, there were pastors in tents to allow people to talk. Denise L. DiFranco said she thought we could display them on Memorial Day. Ms. Griffing said they had thought about doing it for Old Home Days. Ms. Rogers said they could do it in front of the Town Hall. Denise L. DiFranco said that there is a memorial bench for

Councilman Hawes there and suggested we could put the flags around there. Ms. Griffing said whatever the town decides. Ms. Hawes said there is a service at 9:00 on Sunday morning at Old Home Days, and if they were there people would see them. Denise L. DiFranco said that would be great if Tracy could set them up. Ms. DiFranco said they could mention it at the Citizen of the Year award on Friday night.

2. Land Trust Funding
moved behind Item 4

Denise L. DiFranco said the next on the agenda would be the Land Trust and when she invited the Land Trust, they had talked about it being a workshop. Ms. DiFranco said they had a lengthy agenda but at this point, she asked that they move the school committee up.

Item 4 – School – moved here.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to move Item #4, Paine and Regional School Construction Budget to this point in the meeting.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

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

Paine and Regional School
Construction Budget,
Introduction of New
Superintendent

Denise L. DiFranco said she received an email from the new Superintendent. Dr. Palazzo. Ms. Palazzo was not feeling well so she could not attend.

Ms. DiFranco said we had invited Dr. Barnes and the School Committee because she had received from Seth Magaziner, the General Treasurer, information about the financial construction and moneys that were given to the town. It says Foster received one million and Foster-Glocester received over four million. Ms. DiFranco said they were curious where that went.

Shelly Pezza, School Committee member said that the money has been approved but not received yet. It is misleading. It will be received once the work is done, and they will reimburse up to 35%. It's only if we do the projects, so we have to submit a five-year plan. If we don't submit it, and it's not approved by the State, then we don't get reimbursement.

Dr. Barnes said when the General Treasurer published that, it indicated the dollar amount that districts around the State are authorized to spend. It means we are authorized to complete capital projects with a cost up to a million dollars; but we do not receive a million dollars. If we did 100 percent of the projects that have been approved, we would receive \$350,000 and potentially a bonus for health and safety educational enhancements. So, backing up, every district has to go through a process to move towards spending 3 percent of their budget; this is the first year 3 percent of the budget has to be spent on maintaining facilities, but they also want you to reinvest, so they call it "housing aid." It is considered a reimbursement by the State for capital projects. So we go through a process where we come up with a 5-year plan, we work with an architect to do a needs assessment for the school, we then submit that to the Dept. of Education for Stage 1. They give us feedback, and we then submit for Stage 2; and the State looks at it with the Disabilities Commission to make sure it meets ADA requirements. Part of that process is to have the School Committee and Town Council approve it. We tend to put more in our 5-year Capital Plan than we believe we can do. If you think of the million dollars as a ceiling, we have to spend half of that over 5 years which is \$500,000, so your requirement is to spend 50 percent of what you put forward, so if you put forth \$2,000,000, you have to spend \$1,000,000 over five years. We always put more in in case things

happen. We might not do it all but if you don't put it in your plan, you won't get reimbursement.

Heidi Rogers asked about what the [listed] exterior envelope is. Dr. Barnes said doors, windows, and roofs. He said that the State is flexible as to when plans can get done. Shelly Pezza said costs are far more than we anticipated, so they are definitely prioritizing. Cheryl Hawes asked what they were targeting this year. Ms. Pezza said the playground.

Denise L. DiFranco asked if there is anything similar with the region. Mr. Barnes said that Dr. Palazzo has it and it is a similar piece.

Cheryl Hawes asked what had been completed. Dr. Barnes said they replaced the boiler, relocated the flagpole, installed health and safety fencing around the playground, built a pre-K playground and outdoor pavilion, did roof patching, and electrical upgrades. Denise L. DiFranco asked what had been completed at the High School. Dr. Barnes said they did final testing for the pump house including a well system, lighting controls, roof repairs, a bioscience addition, and increased the size of greenhouse. Cheryl Hawes asked if the prices were the expected total cost. Dr. Barnes said yes and in some cases more. They also did an expansion of the parking lot, added some electrical outlets, repair of HVAC in auditorium, a pavilion.

Denise L. DiFranco said that in the Middle School you don't have as much because it's new. Dr. Barnes said some energy efficiency with lighting, HVAC improvements.

3. Land Trust Funding

Denise L. DiFranco said she wanted to continue the discussion about making changes in the Charter. Basically there are financial issues in town, and we don't have a revenue base we can rely on. Ms. DiFranco said they hoped they could have a discussion with the Land Trust to see how they could move forward and come to an agreement. Denise L. DiFranco said she wished Kelli Russ were present with actual numbers.

Myra Mercier said that starting this year and the year after that you people are under the impression—we get no money from the taxes. Denise L. DiFranco said they know that. Ms. Mercier said so the monthly income we have is from the transfer tax. This is a problem because the real estate market has tanked. We have just gone through the longest bubble in the State. And it takes the same amount of time to get back to normal. There's not a lot of money that we're talking about that you want to get your hands on. If you think that by any stretch of the imagination that you're going to get enough to balance the budget—

Denise L. DiFranco said, oh no, we do not. Ms. Mercier said that Kelli's figures are very good for the last two years. We have made more money in the last two years than we have ever. Now it's starting to slow down. People who have applied for mortgages aren't getting closed. More people will be turned down. Where we were five years ago will be where we will be in two years.

Denise L. DiFranco said they are looking at in the future. She said we do not want the money you have already, and we do not want all your monies. She has heard that we "want to take your money away from you." We do not want to take your money. We were looking to see if we could get a percentage of that. It may be—with what you are presenting now—it may be "no." We have to discuss it now if we want to put it on the ballot; it has to be decided before August 10.

Ms. Mercier said if we don't get the funds, we will not be able to solicit more purchases of land. Denise L. DiFranco

- said they invited them there so that we can be educated. Who better to go to than you to get the information? Ms. Mercier said they have purchased almost all through grants. Ms. Tibbetts mentioned the Greenway project. Ms. Rogers asked if most of their properties were purchased with grants and if the conveyance fees are just for maintenance. Further funding issues and expenses were discussed. 954 acres are protected. Funds are needed to hire employees to work the land. Many volunteers doing the work and using their own equipment.
4. EMS Updates
Chief Gordon Brayton said things are running smoothly. First week was bumpy because they didn't have the personnel. Mr. Brayton said there were two rescues going out back to back. We hired the EMS Director, Jim Waterman, who retired from Smithfield. That's worked out really well. All three fire departments have chipped in. We've managed to keep one cardiac at the building or on standby at their house. We came up with a new system of paying. One rate if you stay at the ambulance building of \$24 per hour and \$19 if you stay at home. Right now we're trying to do 24 hour shifts. We have an online scheduling system. Chris Stone asked how the budget was going. Mr. Brayton says he talks with Kelli every day. It's leveling out. We have a lot of volunteer drivers.
5. Bid Award-Town House
Mike Antonellis said he hadn't had a chance to confer with Preservation before but he has since. Everyone is in favor of William Gould of Architectural Preservation, LLC. He quoted an amount of \$36,127.00. That's just a little shy of the grant.
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone, seconded, to award the bid for the Town House repairs to William Gould Architectural Preservation, LLC, in the amount of \$36,127.00.
Motion passed 4 - 0.
Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.
6. Nike Site Lease/Rental Agreement
Denise L. DiFranco said they had the agreement in their packet. There were two applicants. Ms. DiFranco asked that personal information be kept out. Mr. Antonellis did background checks and as a result, he recommended Gerard Klerk. Rent would be \$1,500.00.
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to authorize Denise L. DiFranco to enter into a lease agreement with Gerard Klerk for the Nike Site, and to authorize Denise L. DiFranco to enter into any lease agreement for the Nike Site without coming back to the council in case this one fails.
Cheryl Hawes said she thought they were going to rent it for around \$1,900.00 and that this is considerably lower; She asked what the reason was; for this amount of space it is worth \$1,900 or more. Wasn't this advertised as a rental for a home? Gordon Rogers said is it zoned residential. It is not zoned commercial. They would have to get a Special Use Permit and all of that. Mr. Rogers said that at the end of the day, you are not going to get \$1,900.00 for a one-bedroom apartment. In the future, we will make it into two-bedrooms.
Motion passed 4 - 0.
Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.
7. Kearsarge Net Metering Credits-Proposal
Mike Antonellis said that we entered into an agreement with [Kearsarge] based on an RFP that went out in order to convert the Nike Site into ground mounted solar.

Unfortunately, National Grid put a wrench in that, but he has been working with them. They suggested keeping the agreement alive. They have off-site ownership of a solar farm that the town is drawing their energy from. As a result, you have 33% off your electric bill for the next 25 years. That will save you almost \$7,000.00 the first year. Mr. Antonellis solicited from many companies and this exceeded all of them. Julia Chretien reviewed the contract. Mr. Antonellis said Foster-Glocester entered into it too.

Cheryl Hawes was concerned about getting locked in to something because it has happened to her and the companies make an estimate and do not actually read the meters. Ms. Chretien said that was covered in the contract. If they fail to give accurate records, it will be a breach of contract.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to enter into an agreement with Kearsarge for Net Metering credit sales agreement.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

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

8. Recreation Site update
on Progress and
Additional Costs

Mike Antonellis reviewed the progress of the Recreation Field. The berm and trees have to go. It's difficult to fit everything in. Cardi was awarded \$19,000.

Heidi Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes, seconded, to authorize the expenditure for the overage work for \$19,800.00 to Cardi Corporation for the additional work of removing trees at the Recreation Field.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

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

9. Property Next to
Benjamin Eddy Building

Denise L. DiFranco said she had spoken to Gordon Rogers earlier because some residents had concerns and questions about it [the parking area]. It is now complete. Ms. DiFranco said she likes it. Cheryl Hawes said people came to her and asked her what was going on. Her concern was that she thought that before he did that, it would have been nice to know.

Heidi Rogers said it would have been nice if we knew that there was going to be a bathroom in the Town Hall too.

Mr. Rogers said when you came to me, a dead tree was removed because limbs kept falling down and these guys were up in a bucket truck and they couldn't get the rest of them because they were too tall. The other was a maple tree. We hadn't even cleaned it up. You came into my office as asked. I explained to you that we were going to be putting in a parking lot because we've had several police fall down the hill in the winter. Cheryl Hawes said she is not condemning him, but before changes are made, we should know. Heidi Rogers said well how much are we going to micromanage things too. Gordon Rogers said people love it.

Lynne Rider said she thought it went back to sense of place. People elect a council to oversee what it happening in the town. Particularly things that are very visible.

Things that affect appearance or changes a building or land, it should come from you. As far as the police go, in a year they're going to be out of there so it's a moot point. I know there is no teeth in it but this is a historic district. For example, we ended up with a vinyl fence that is inappropriate in a historic district. That never went before you. Maybe you would have agreed but you never got the chance.

Denise L. DiFranco said that maybe we need to discuss as a Future Agenda Item changes that are going on.

10. Wash Bay Update

Denise L. DiFranco said she got an email from Kelli saying there were no bidders. Gordon Rogers is acting as the general contractor and subbing out parts of the project. In this case, he is subcontracting St. Pierre to frame the building. Mr. Rogers said this project was on the radar from years ago. In fifteen years nothing was done, and we lost grant money. First problem he ran into was the garage that hadn't been upgraded. We got through that. It took a long time to get National Grid in. He went out for Engineer Blueprints and they are working off those prints. It was broken into two phases to go out to bid.

Nobody bid on it. It went out a second time. He called around and finally got a price for \$67,000. Lynne Rider asked how much additional has been budgeted for all that has to be done. Denise L. DiFranco said \$200,000.00 approved in Capital.

11. Ballot Questions
• Recreational Cannabis

Denise L. DiFranco said we have to decide on ballot questions. At this time the Fire Tax will not be on the ballot. The main thing is the Recreational Cannabis. Denise L. DiFranco read the Resolution.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to adopt the Resolution as read.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 4- 0.

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

Gordon Rogers said that if we want a center in town, they can come. If you put it on the ballot, and the taxpayers say "no" then they can't, and we won't get any of the revenue. Julia Chretien says if this goes on the ballot and it is turned down, DBR won't allow it.

Chris Stone withdrew his second. Denise L. DiFranco said no we voted on it.

Heidi Rogers moved to reopen discussion. Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

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

Discussion: Cheryl Hawes said it went so fast she didn't get a chance to ask that question. She doesn't want to see the possibility of a compassion center go away.

Julia Chretien said this would not affect medical marijuana.

Mike Antonellis asked what the council wanted to do.

Chris Stone said he wanted to leave it open. Cheryl Hawes said she was confused because one thing doesn't have anything to do with the other. Julia Chretien says this is recreational, compassion is medical. Anyone purchasing from a Compassion Center has to have a medical.

Denise L. DiFranco said if a Compassion Center is coming here, then DBR will probably give them recreational.

Gordon Rogers said the town doesn't generate 3 percent revenue from a Compassion Center. They do generate 3% revenue from recreational.

Heidi Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to revoke the previous vote on the Resolution and reconsider it.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

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

Heidi Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to adopt the Resolution as presented.

Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco said she was torn. We talked about the Fire Tax that we didn't want to make that

decision for the townspeople, we thought that they should make that decision. Now we're going to make a decision—Ms. Rogers said about money for the town? Cheryl Hawes said that [the fire tax] was money coming out of their pockets, this is money coming in.

Lynne Rider asked if they had any idea what other communities are doing, and if you choose not to do anything, are you totally opening the door where you have no legal leg to stand on if you say only one?

Denise L. DiFranco said we can do an ordinance.

Mike Antonellis said yes, we can do zoning. Ms. Rider said well, we said that about solar and we said that about wind. Heidi Rogers said we can do it by population, have an ordinance for one every three thousand people. Cheryl Hawes said if we don't do it legally, which they aren't doing it right now, we don't know, but if now they have permission to do it, then they have to come before us to get a license. If we vote to send this resolution then we're going to kill the Compassion Center. Denise L. DiFranco said not necessarily. They might vote yes. Heidi Rogers said she doesn't want to roll the dice on that. Mike Antonellis said to limit it to just one locally, he doesn't know if that's on the table. It's an idea, that's how we do other things, whether that's on the table for Recreational Marijuana, but zoning yes. Denise L. DiFranco said she was torn between revenue and letting the people decide. Cheryl Hawes said she doesn't see it the same way as the Fire Tax, she doesn't see that at all. Julia Chretien said that you can't limit where it is smoked or used.

Denise L. DiFranco said if you want this to be on the ballot, vote yes. If you do not want this to be on the ballot, you would vote no.

Motion failed 0 - 4.

Heidi Rogers, no; Chris Stone, no; Cheryl Hawes, no; Denise L. DiFranco, no.

- Charter Review

Denise L. DiFranco said that also on the Agenda, it says Charter Review. She looked back at the Charter Committee from years ago. She didn't know if they wanted to revisit those. Heidi Rogers said the only one she would like to see is Capital from 2 to 4 percent. We need to inform people because to change the name of Treasurer to Finance Director—people didn't understand that. They thought we were adding another person.

Denise L. DiFranco asked if she meant the increase and the Finance Director? Cheryl Hawes said the 2% increase to 4.

Denise L. DiFranco said those are the two [suggestions]. Heidi Rogers said they would have to word it in such a way that they get it. Ms. DiFranco said they had to have some discussion about it. She remembers years ago when Mr. Lewis was on that they put in the Foster Home Journal each charter review and change and explained it. That is something we need to consider.

Heidi Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to increase in the amount of annual appropriation for Capital from 2 percent to 4 percent, and to change the name of the Town Treasurer's title to "Finance Director."

Discussion: Lynne Rider said that one thing she's come up against for a year or so, and a lot has to do with the political insanity in the country, is that many people would like to get involved, but are less and less willing to be identified with one party or the other. It's so divisive on both sides that people don't want to be labeled. People say they don't want to have to declare to be one or the other because they don't buy totally into one or the other. Over half the people are unaffiliated, and a quarter is Republican and a quarter will say they are Democrats.

Denise L. DiFranco said she is looking at the summary from last time, 2019, and it does say “provided for non-partisan municipal elections” and it says “primaries are held to determine total number of candidates eligible to appear on the general election ballot twice the number of places being filled regardless of party affiliation.” It was on last time. Lynne Rider said, no, you didn’t send it on. Denise L. DiFranco apologized and said she thought it was on. Ms. Rider said during the discussion they had, she heard people saying, “oh well, if we don’t have a party nobody’s going to know what somebody stands for.” Well, maybe they should stand for what they stand for. She said she thought a lot more people would be comfortable doing that rather than either being a “snowflake” or a “trumpy”. It’s ridiculous, and they don’t want to be identified that way, and then you could have Republican, Democrat and Independent, people should vote on what the individual stands for. Denise L. DiFranco said she thinks they do. Ms. Rider said no, they really don’t. Julia Chretien clarified the five amendments that went on the last time.

Denise L. DiFranco said she thought Ms. Rider was going to talk about four-year terms for council. She thought that what happened last election is that people didn’t know what they were voting for because we didn’t put out the information.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

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

Julia Chretien will send the ballot questions to the Town Clerk.

12. Janet White Memorial
Bench

Denise L. DiFranco said that Janet White was very active, in particularly in the Preservation Society. Her family has reached out to the council to see whether we would be willing to have a memorial bench somewhere near the town house. She has spoken to Gordon about that and Ed Robinson along with her son, Craig. They are having a memorial service on the 30th during Old Home Days at North Foster. She was under the impression that they were getting a bench relatively soon and she felt that would be nice for Old Home Days. They would like permission to place it somewhere on town property near the Town House. Gordon pointed out that we have to stay 50 feet away. Ms. DiFranco was thinking under the tree and before the slab.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded, to allow the placement of the Janet White memorial bench greater than 50 feet away from the Town House and not in violating any existing agreement.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

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

13. Resolution 2022-08 in
Support of Full Funding
of Categorical
Transportation Aid as
Outlined in RIGL 16-7.2-6

Denise L. DiFranco said that she received a letter from the Town of Exeter regarding the funding of Categorical Transportation Aid as Outlined in RIGL 16-7.2-6. They have sent it to all Regional Schools. It’s a significant amount of money. Cheryl Hawes read the Resolution (see Exhibit B).

Heidi Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to adopt this Resolution as presented.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

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

14. Conservation
Commission Donation
Received

Denise L. DiFranco noted that David Rathbun had left, and announced that the Conservation Commission was awarded a donation of \$1,000.00 from Electric Boat and Quonset Point, and that this is not the first time he's been able to get that.
- VI. FUTURE AGENDA
ITEMS

1. Trash/Recycling

2. Planning Board Workshop

3. Two family Nike Site changes

4. EMS payroll
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Investment Company
LLC d/b/a Price Auto –
PC-2020-01954

2. 78 Winsor Road v. TOF

3. Linhares v. TOF

4. Boyden v. TOF

5. Opioid Litigation Update

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-42-4 for the reasons stated in the RIGL 42-46-5 for discussion or work sessions regarding Collective Bargaining / Negotiations or Litigation according to RIGL 42-46-5-a (2) 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. No discussion.

Motion passed 4-0.
- RETURN TO OPEN
SESSION

The council reconvened in to Open Session at 11 p.m. Denise L. DiFranco announced that one vote was taken in Executive Session to pay Bob Boyden the fee he requested to clean his car.
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FOSTER

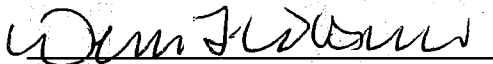
RESOLUTION OF THE FOSTER TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2022-10

To Establish a Municipal Court

On the 21st day of July, 2022, the Foster Town Council did adopt the following resolution by a vote of 4-0, which resolution is set forth as follows;

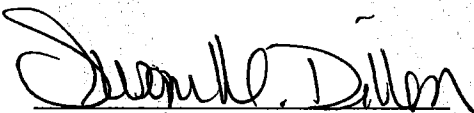
RESOLVED, That the Foster Town Council hereby requests that the Rhode Island General Assembly hereby enable the Town of Foster with authority to establish a municipal court and confer upon that court original jurisdiction, notwithstanding any other provisions of the general laws; to establish a municipal housing court and confer upon that court original jurisdiction, notwithstanding any other provisions of the general laws; to appoint a judge and clerk of the municipal court; to appoint a judge and clerk to the housing court; to enact ordinances governing personnel, operation and procedure to be followed in the court; to establish a schedule of fees and costs; and to otherwise provide for the operation and management of the court.

**GIVEN UNDER THE SEAL OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
FOSTER THIS 21ST DAY OF JULY, 2022.**

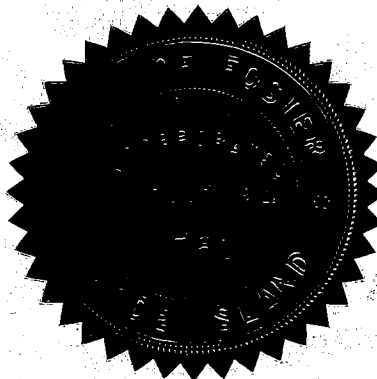


Denise L. DiFranco
Foster Town Council President

ATTEST:



Susan M. Dillon
Town Clerk



TOWN OF FOSTER

RESOLUTION 2022-08 **IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING OF CATEGORICAL** **TRANSPORTATION AID AS OUTLINED IN RIGL 16-7.2-6**

WHEREAS, the regional incentive laws promised to local districts when the Regional School Districts were formed; and

WHEREAS, the regional incentive was phased out in 2010 with the passage of the new funding formula; and

WHEREAS, Transportation Categorical Funds were provided to the Regional School Districts to partially offset the loss of the regional incentive partially reimbursing the higher transportation costs of the regional districts; and

WHEREAS, the Regional School Districts have designed and implemented a number of innovative education programs that meet the learning needs of Students; and

WHEREAS, the investment of resources in our Regional School Districts has yielded positive education results and innovative educational programs and services for students and adults that have been a wise investment of local and state resources; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to ensure that students attending Regional School Districts continue to receive a high-quality public education and to reduce the burden on regional taxpayers; and

WHEREAS: according to the Rhode Island Department of Education, the Governor has requested a total of \$4,185,284.00 for regional transportation aid for the regional districts of Chariho (Charlestown-Richmond-Hopkinton), Bristol-Warren, Exeter-West Greenwich, and Foster-Glocester.

WHEREAS: according to the Rhode Island Department of Education, \$5,793,117.00 of categorical transportation aid is required under the intent of RIGL 16-7.2-6(e); and

WHEREAS, the funding requested by the Governor represents a \$1.6 million dollar shortfall for the regional districts as follows: Chariho (Charlestown-Richmond-Hopkinton), \$590,584.00; Bristol-Warren, \$454,763.00; Exeter-West Greenwich, \$394,429.00; and Foster-Glocester, \$168,057.00

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, that the Foster Town Council:


- 1) Respectfully requests that Transportation Categorical Funds between the State and Regional Districts be fully funded in an amount equal to that intended under RIGL 16-7.2-6(e) to protect the interests of regional school districts and advance the education mission of our schools;
- 2) Seeks the support of all Town Councils and Legislators that comprise the regional school districts regarding this matter of mutual interest to the schools and taxpayers of our regional districts.

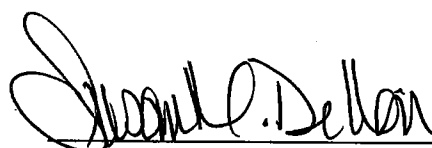
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island General Assembly, and the Charlestown, Richmond, Hopkinton, Bristol, Warren, West Greenwich, Foster and Glocester Town Councils, Regional School Superintendents, School Committees, and Legislators.

Approved by vote of the Foster Town Council on this 21st day of July, 2022.

GIVEN UNDER THE SEAL OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FOSTER THIS
21st DAY OF JULY, 2022.

ATTEST:


Denise L. DiFranco
Foster Town Council President


Susan M. Dillon
Town Clerk

