

Town Council Meeting
September 22, 2022

The September 22, 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
David Paolino
Chris Stone excused
Cheryl Hawes excused

Also present:

Kelli Russ, Finance Director
Mark Tourgee, Solicitor

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. ANNOUNCEMENTS / PUBLIC COMMENT** Denise L. DiFranco announced that Chris Stone and Cheryl Hawes were excused.
- III. CONSENT AGENDA**
- Warrants**
Approval of General Warrant FY2022 #26 \$14,900.00 and FY 2023 #4 \$55,209.17
- Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements**
- Monthly Reports (July)**
1. DPW 2. Finance 3. RIRRC
- Heidi Rogers moved, David Paolino seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Discussion: None
Motion passed 3 - 0.
Heidi Rogers, aye; David Paolino, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.
- IV. OLD BUSINESS**
1. Emergency Management (EMS) Update
Denise L. DiFranco announced that they had in their packets the revenues, expenses, and general warrants for EMS. Ms. DiFranco noted that Gordy [Brayton] is here if anyone had any questions. There were none. Denise L. DiFranco said it was going very well.
2. Consulting Services Contract: Chris Dorval
Psychotherapy & Clinical Consulting
Denise L. DiFranco said they had the service contract for the opioid money. Atty. Mark Tourgee said it was acceptable.
Heidi Rogers moved, David Paolino seconded, to approve the contract for Consulting Service contract with Psychotherapy and Clinical counseling, and to authorize the town council president to sign it.
Anna Rao asked what it was about. Denise L. DiFranco said it was for counseling services.
Motion passed 3 - 0.
Heidi Rogers, aye; David Paolino, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.
3. Municipal Court Update
Denise L. DiFranco said she thought it needed to go on the ballot, but it does not. They sent a Resolution to the

legislature to review and let us know. Ms. DiFranco reiterated that we do not have to do it; it is just enabling legislation.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Recognition of Paine School as a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School

Denise L. DiFranco said that next is the Recognition of Paine School as a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School. She invited Dr. Barnes and Shelly Pezza to attend. Ms. Pezza has attended; Dr. Barnes spoke and thanked them for the recognition. He said that part of the reason is that the test scores went up in spite of the pandemic. Denise L. DiFranco said that was huge. Mr. Barnes commended the teachers. Heidi Rogers asked if there would be a ceremony. Mr. Barnes said they would have a recognition on October 21. Also on November 3 and 4 they could go to go Washington to get national recognition. Ron Cervasio spoke on previous awards. Heidi asked how many schools there were in Rhode Island. Dr. Barnes said upwards of 200. Ms. Rogers said that we were one of three, so she said that was a pretty big deal. Mr. Barnes said it was a noteworthy accomplishment and he would continue to build on it.

2. Police Building Letter to Public

Denise L. DiFranco said she spoke with Ms. Hawes last week knowing that she would not be present at this meeting. Ms. DiFranco noted that there had been rumors so she asked that a letter be written so that people would know what was going on and to get the information out there. David Paolino moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to empower the council president and Cheryl Hawes to draft a letter to be published in the *Foster Home Journal* and in an email blast regarding the police station progress. Motion passed 3 - 0. Heidi Rogers, aye; David Paolino, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

3. November and December Council Meetings

Denise L. DiFranco noted that in November they have meetings on the 10th and 24th and that both are holidays. The 11th is the holiday but the Town Hall takes that Thursday off on the 10th. Ms. DiFranco proposed the 17th. In December, we have a meeting December 8th and the 22th. The 8th is not a holiday but the 22nd is close to Christmas. Heidi Rogers moved, David Paolino seconded, to meet on November 17th instead of the 10th and dispose of the 24th which is Thanksgiving. In December, she proposed that they meet on the 15th instead of the 8th and dispose of the 22nd. Lynne Rider said there was something in the Charter about the first meeting in December is the first meeting for the new council.

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Denise L. DiFranco said that Mrs. Dillon just clarified that we need a meeting on the December 8th because the business renewal letters went out already.

Heidi Rogers amended her motion, David Paolino seconded, to meet on December 8th and cancel the 15th.

Amendment passed 5 - 0.

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

Main motion failed 0 – 3.

Heidi Rogers, no; David Paolino, no; Denise L. DiFranco, no.

4. Furnace/Boiler
transition to propane
for Town House bid
award

Denise L. DiFranco said that next was a bid as recommended by the DPW Director for the Town House.

Heidi Rogers moved, David Paolino seconded, to award the bid for the furnace upgrade to propane to Consumers Propane in the amount of \$11,809.

Ms. Rogers noted that they had two bids, one for \$11,809.78 and the other for Prime Heating and Cooling for \$22,400.00, almost twice as much.

Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco asked Mr. Rogers if this was about moving the boiler outside. Mr. Rogers said, no, the fire boxes have to be changed out and this an opportunity by switching over to propane to eliminate that tank.

Motion passed 3 - 0.

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

**VI. FUTURE AGENDA
ITEMS**

Recycling
Planning Board Workshop
Police Station Building Letter

VII. ADJOURNMENT

David Paolino moved to adjourn. Heidi Rogers seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 7: 35 p.m.

Submitted by,

Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk