

Town Council Meeting
March 23, 2023

The March 23, 2023 Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President, in Foster, RI at 3:00 p.m. at the Benjamin Eddy Building.

The following members were present:
Denise L. DiFranco, President, excused
Steve Bellucci, Vice President
Chris Stone
David Paolino
Heidi Rogers

Also present:
Kelli Russ, Finance Director
Julia Chretien, Assistant Solicitor

- I. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5, (A), (1) Personnel
1. Police Chief Interviews
2. Police Chief
Consultant/Interim
PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5A (2) Litigation,
1. PC-2022-05617 Fallens et al vs Kelli Russ

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 for a work session regarding Personnel and Job Performance according to RIGL 42-46-5-(A)1 and RIGL 42-46-5A(2) Litigation 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 5-0.

OPEN SESSION

The council reconvened in to Open Session at 5:15 p.m. p.m. Denise L. DiFranco announced that three votes were taken in Executive Session
One to hire Gina-marie Lindell as Police Chief pending contract.
Motion passed 4 - 1.
The second vote taken in regards to PC 2022-05617 Fallens vs. Kelli Russ to move that to an earlier position on the agenda.
Motion passed 5 - 0.
There was a vote taken to have Bob Bolger come in as an administrative consultant up to twelve hours per week.
Motion passed 5 - 0.

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
III. NEW BUSINESS
RESOLUTION 2023-03

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

RESOLUTION 2023-03
Denise L. DiFranco said that Representative Chippendale presented a Resolution to us that would make an appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act funds or otherwise to the Town of Foster to resolve Covid-inflated costs impacting construction addressing public safety, building code and ADA compliance issues with the town's police station. Heidi Rogers read the resolution (see Exhibit A).

IV. BUDGET WORKSHOP

- Planning, Building & Zoning
- Finance Department
- Public Works Department
- Human Services/Community Service Organizations
- Foster Libraries/Recreation
- Police Department
- Fire Dept. Ambulance Corps, Engineering Board
- Town Clerk, including Land Trust, Conservation Commission, etc.
- School Depts.-Capt. Isaac Paine School

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FOSTER RHODE ISLAND

RESOLUTION 2023-03

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000,000 FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS OR OTHERWISE TO THE TOWN OF FOSTER TO RESOLVE COVID-INFLATED COSTS IMPACTING CONSTRUCTION ADDRESSING PUBLIC SAFETY, BUILDING CODE AND ADA COMPLIANCE ISSUES WITH THE TOWN'S POLICE STATION

Introduced By: Representative Michael W. Chippendale

Date Introduced:

Referred To:

TOWN OF

WHEREAS, The funding provided under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) "provides a unique opportunity for state and local governments to make strategic investments in long-lived assets, rebuild reserves to enhance financial stability, and cover temporary operating shortfalls until economic conditions and operations normalize"; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Foster requires relocation and construction of a new Foster Police Station and Public Safety building in order to address numerous public safety, building code, and ADA compliance issues with the existing structure; and

WHEREAS, the public safety building will house and support multiple functions in service of the community, including, but not limited to, the new town police station, a multi-function community room, dedicated space for the town's emergency operations center, and space for the town's municipal court to handle traffic, zoning, and housing issues; and

WHEREAS, The proposed location for the construction of the public safety building is on the most prominent and publicly visible and accessible intersecting roadways in the town and will serve as the anchor to the revitalization of the community of Foster including the promotion of economic development, Affordable Housing planning, public education, and Emergency Management Operations, and

WHEREAS, The original plan's costs of \$3,000,000, which included a budget of \$400/SF and 25 percent allowance included for furniture, fixtures, equipment, and design fees were put before and subsequently approved by voters in the Town of Foster; and

WHEREAS, During the intervening time between formation of the design plan, passage by the voters and actual construction, COVID-19 struck producing a "devastating impact on the global supply chain and labor markets" and adversely impacting the costs and availability of all building materials as well as the cost and availability of skilled craftspeople; and

WHEREAS, The town of Foster has channeled all available resources toward lessening the cost burden of the Public Safety Complex within its limited budgetary means, and

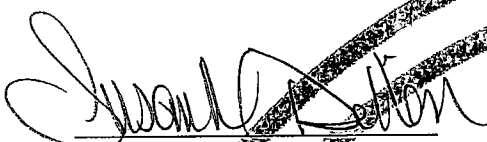
WHEREAS, Resultantly, the cost for the code compliance construction that is necessary to support safety, ADA compliance, and LMIH goals for the new Foster Police and Public Safety building is now estimated to be \$550/SF with a 30 percent allowance for furniture, fixtures, equipment, and design fees, minus additional town resources which have been allocated, which has left a deficit of \$1,000,000 to complete the project; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money from the American 2 Rescue Plan Act in the treasury not otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2023-2024, or other funds available from any balance of funds from the FY 2023 budget, or other funds available during the calculation of the FY2024 budget, the sum of one million (\$1,000,000) to the Town of Foster for relief in combating elevated COVID-related construction costs to the Town's Police Station and Public Safety Complex; and the state controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer for the payment of said sum, or so much thereof as may be from time to time required, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

WHERETO the following bear witness:

Signed:

Foster Town Council



Susan M. Dillon
Town Clerk





Denise L. DiFranco
President