

Town Council Meeting
February 22, 2018

The February 22, 2018, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President of the Foster Town Council, at the Benjamin Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road, Foster, Rhode Island, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:
Denise L. DiFranco, President
Chris Stone, Vice President
Gordon Rogers
Michael Dillon
Cheryl Hawes

Also present:
Solicitor, Joanna Achille
Kelli Russ
Chief Ziehl

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Denise L. DiFranco called for a moment of silence for the victims of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting.
Denise L. DiFranco stated a letter had been received from Lorraine Kaul thanking the Council for their support of C.A.S.T. in applying for the drug-free communities grant.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.
- III. MINUTES

Gordon Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to accept the Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2018, as presented.
Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Michael Dillon, aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.
- IV. WARRANTS

Gordon Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve **Payroll Warrant #32** for \$38,838.86.
Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Michael Dillon, aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Gordon Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve **Payroll Warrant #33**for \$39,050.92.
Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Michael Dillon, aye. Motion carried 5 – 0.

Gordon Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve **General Warrant #16** for \$94,358.74.
Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Michael Dillon, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye: Motion carried 5 – 0.

Chris Stone moved, Mike Dillon seconded, to approve **General Warrant #16A** for \$316.67.
Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Michael Dillon, aye. Motion carried 4 – 0 – 1 with once recusal by Gordon Rogers.
- V. MONTHLY REPORTS

Gordon Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to accept the Monthly Reports from the Building & Zoning, Finance, Human Services, Police and Tax Assessor departments as presented.
Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Michael Dillon, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye: Motion carried 5 – 0.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Int’l Assoc. of Firefighters

Denise L. DiFranco stated that at a previous meeting Gordon Rogers and Mike Dillon were appointed to begin negotiations with the International Association of Firefighters Union, Local #3422. They have withdrawn, so two new council members are requested. Chris Stone and Cheryl Hawes volunteered.

Gordon Rogers moved, Mike Dillon seconded, to appoint Chris Stone and Cheryl Hawes to negotiate the contract with the International Association of Firefighters Union, Local #3422.

Discussion: None.

Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Michael Dillon, aye; Gordon Rogers, recused. Motion carried 5 – 0.

B. Recreation Field

Gordon Rogers gave an update on the Rt. 94 Recreation Field. A one-year extension was requested to allow for settling. He will confer with the new DPW Director and put an RFP out before the season starts.
- i

C. State Police Letter

Denise L. DiFranco read a letter dated February 12, 2018, to Colonel Ann Assumpico, introducing Council members Gordon Rogers and Cheryl Hawes as mandated by a council vote to obtain a proposal for services provided. Ms. DiFranco then read a letter dated February 12, 2018, from Colonel Ann C. Assumpico of the R.I. State Police denying a rumor that they were negotiating with the Town of Foster to assume law enforcement responsibilities. Discussion: Mike Dillon asked why the letter was sent from the Foster council on Monday, February 12th when she already spoke to the Colonel on Friday, February 9th. Ms. DiFranco explained that it was sent because the council voted to send it.

D. Police Dept.
Building

Denise L. DiFranco explained that they received a report from Gerard F. Bliss, Inc., Occupational Health and Safety Consultants on the air quality in the police station. Gordon Rogers read the Executive Summary:

- The mold spore levels in the first and second floors and in the attic were WITHIN the current (safe) guideline of 2,500 counts per cubic meter. The mold spore level in the basement exceeded the current guideline by more than 2 times. The predominant molds found, in all samples, were *Penicillium*, and *Aspergillus*.
- Based on these results it is reasonable to conclude there is little or no risk from exposure to mold spores in the offices and attic, and a slight risk in the basement.
- Airborne particulates (skin fragments, insect fragments, plant fragments, pollen and miscellaneous debris) were at trace or low levels in the offices and attic. Miscellaneous debris levels in the basement were “medium”, which is rather typical in an older building.

On the back is conclusions and recommendations:

Conclusion: Based on the data, it is reasonable to conclude that mold levels in the occupied sections of the building are within the current safe guidelines and, therefore, not considered a health problem for Foster Police Department staff or visitors to the building. Clearly, the mold levels in the basement exceed the guideline. In addition, the most predominant, *Aspergillus/Penicillium*, are known human allergens. There are also low levels of predominant *Chaetomium* and *Stachybotrys*. If allowed to flourish these two molds could generate chronic health problems.

Recommendation:

- Ensure that the rainwater and ground water leaks into the basement have been sealed. Moisture in the basement will encourage the *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*, *Chaetomium* and *Stachybotrys* to grow.
- The mold levels in the basement are not high enough to require further remediation (at this time) but testing should be done in the Spring to determine if the levels are increasing.
- I would like to recommend ventilation upgrades but this is impractical and very expensive in a 100+ year old building.

Discussion: Cheryl Hawes, Gordon Rogers, Denise L. DiFranco.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded, to have the DPW Director seek out two air purifiers per floor, with a total of eight, within the amount the town charter allows him to spend without having to come to a council vote. Further discussion: Gordon Rogers, Cheryl Hawes, Denise DiFranco, Chief Ziehl, Michael Dillon, Mark Tourgee, Betty Lou Terry, Ron Cervasio, Jeff Sheldon, Lynne Rider.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to add an industrial dehumidifier to the basement.

Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Michael Dillon, aye; and Gordon Rogers, aye. Amendment passed 5 – 0.

Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Michael Dillon, aye;and Gordon Rogers, aye. Main motion passed 5 – 0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Brite Nite
Debriefing

Danielle Scott, Recreation Committee member, sent a letter requesting a meeting to discuss the Brite Nite event. The Eddy Building has been reserved for 6:30 Wednesday, February 28 and asked that the Town Council send a liaison.

Discussion: Denise DiFranco, Cheryl Hawes.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to appoint Denise L. DiFranco as liaison to the Brite Nite.

Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Michael Dillon, aye; and Gordon Rogers, aye. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**B. Opioid
Epidemic
Litigation
Memo**

Mark Tourgee, town solicitor, explained the reasons to join the litigation. Gordon Rogers moved, Mike Dillon seconded, to join in the class action lawsuit with the other cities and towns on the Opioid Epidemic Litigation Memorandum.
Discussion:
Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Michael Dillon, aye; and Gordon Rogers, aye. Motion passed 5 – 0.

VIII.

**C. Appt. to
Conservation
Commission**

Gordon Rogers read the letter of interest from Nikki LaMonica. Gordon Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to appoint Nikki LaMonica to the Conservation Commission.
Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Michael Dillon, aye; and Gordon Rogers, aye. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**IX FUTURE AGENDA
ITEMS**

- Police Station knob and tube wiring

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

A digital sound file is made a part of the record for a complete account of the council meeting.

Submitted by

Susan M. Dillon
Town Clerk