

**Town Council Meeting
September 27, 2018**

The September 27, 2018, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President of the Foster Town Council, at the Foster Town House, 180 Howard Hill Road, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:	Also present:
Denise L. DiFranco, President	Joanna Achille, Town Solicitor
Chris Stone, Vice President	Kelli Russ, Treasurer
Gordon Rogers	Chief David Breit
Cheryl Hawes	
Michael Dillon	

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| I. | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. |
| II. | PUBLIC COMMENT/ ANNOUNCEMENTS | Denise L. DiFranco state there were no signatures under public comment. She further announced that there was a flu vaccine and wellness screening scheduled for October 16 from 10 to noon at the Hemlock Village Common Room.. There was a moment of silence for Fred Cairone who passed away. |
| III. | MINUTES | Gordon Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the minutes of September 13, 2018.
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 5 – 0. |
| IV. | WARRANTS | Gordon Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #11 for \$32,924.35.
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

Gordon Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #12 for \$36,105.34.
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

Gordon Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve FY2018 General Warrant #28 for \$1,737.32
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

Gordon Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve General Warrant #4 for \$78,518.57. Mike Dillon recused.
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 4– 0 – 1 with one recusal.

Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to approve General Warrant #4A for \$166.67. Gordon Rogers recused himself.
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 4 – 0 – 1 with one recusal. |
| V. | MONTHLY REPORTS (JULY) | Gordon Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the Monthly Reports for July from Building & Zoning, Public Works, Human Services, RIRRC, and Tax Assessor.
Motion passed 5 – 0. |
| | MONTHLY REPORTS (AUGUST) | Gordon Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the Monthly Reports for August from Building & Zoning, Public Works, Human Services, Police, RIRRC, and Tax Assessor.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

Denise L. DiFranco noted that there were Quarterly Reports but since they were not on the agenda they would be moved to the next meeting. |
| VI. | OLD BUSINESS | |
| | A. Dead Trees | Denise L. DiFranco noted that the issue of the status of dead trees in town was requested to be put on the agenda by Cheryl Hawes; she also noted that DPW Director Lohr was present for the discussion.

Cheryl Hawes stated that she has had several people ask her about the number of dead trees in town. Mr. Lohr stated he had counted 109 trees and that they have been taking down about 3 trees a day but a lot depends on the weather. He said that EMA Director Heidi Rogers has been looking into funding from FEMA. |

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Ms. Rogers stated that the pre-hazard mitigation grants have opened so she wanted to see if the tree problem was covered they said it was, so she had sent in a pre-application to start the process. She needs a dollar amount for what is needed. Kelli Russ said the problem is statewide and suggested that the rural areas contact the League of Cities and Towns to act on their behalf to contact the State for assistance because no one had budgeted for it. Gordon Rogers stated that we could start the process with a Resolution.
Gordon Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, that a resolution be formulated and forward it to the other cities and towns to support our need for assistance with the challenges we are experiencing with tree removal and send it to the General Assembly.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

- B. Fire Truck Conversion to a DPW truck**
Denise L. DiFranco stated that there was a bid. DPW Director stated that he had two bids.
Gordon Rogers stated that he thought this was already approved. The original plan was a plow and sander.
- C. RIDOT Response to STIPS**
Denise L. DiFranco said this was in response to a letter sent to them. Gordon Rogers read the letter (see Exhibit A) stating that work will begin on increasing signage warning motorists of the S-curve between Briggs and Luther Roads.
- D. Wright’s Auto**
Denise L. DiFranco stated that at the last meeting Mr. Ricci’s lawyer was going to contact Ms. Achille to come up with some agreements and as of today that has not happened. Ms. Achille stated that Atty. Salvaggio was supposed to send a proposal for a provisional license. She received an email stating that he was still trying to work something out and would like to be placed on the next meeting so he’ll be added to Future Agenda Items and in Executive Session.
- E. Moratorium on Solar Farms**
Denise L. DiFranco stated that Cheryl Hawes requested that it be on the agenda. Discussion: Ms. Hawes said she had received many comments with concerns. The planner forwarded a letter concerning HB8141 in regards to forest conservation. Mr. Rogers said he would like to see documentation on what the town gets if you take Agricultural land and turn it into a solar farm; and that should be brought to the council first to make a decision. Lynne Rider stated that this is what a moratorium is for. Joseph Carey, Planning Board Chair, stated the purpose of a moratorium would be to examine the ordinance because of the issues that have come up, but he noted that the income was not a lot.
Gordon Rogers moved, Mike Dillon seconded, to have the Planning Board revise the current Solar Ordinance and to address the many complaints that have come forward about the current solar farms that have gone in and have suggestions formulated by the first meeting on November 8th.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Fire Act Grant**
Denise L. DiFranco stated that she had a letter from Mr. Walden regarding the receipt of a Fire Act Grant of \$763,810.00 to replace existing air paks. Gordon Rogers read the letter (see Exhibit B).
- B. Zoning Board Alternate**
Denise L. DiFranco stated that there was a resignation from the Zoning Board of Review. There are two applicants: Raf Kula and Brad Smith.
Gordon Rogers moved, Mike Dillon seconded, to appoint Brad Smith.
Discussion: Gordon Rogers, Denise L. DiFranco, Lynne Rider, Ron Cervasio, Joe Carey pointed out that they already have two alternates so one would have to be moved up first.
Mr. Rogers amended his motion to move up Manny Linhares to full member which opens the alternate position. Joanna Achille said that it was not able to be done because it was not listed on the agenda. Cheryl Hawes asked that it be tabled for now.
Mr. Dillon withdrew his second. Mr. Rogers withdrawn his motion.
Cheryl Hawes moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to table this appointment.
Motion passed 5 – 0.
- C. Additions & Abatements**
Gordon Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to accept the Tax Assessor’s Additions & Abatements for 2018 Real Estate Additions of \$1,562.25; 2018 Motor Vehicle Abatements of \$1,690.95; 2014 Tangible Abatements of \$397.62; and 2018 Tangible Abatements of \$65.32.
Motion passed 5 – 0.
- D. Use of Grounds for Trunk-or-Treat**
Gordon Rogers read the letter from the Foster Libraries Recreation Department requesting the use of the Foster Fairgrounds, Town House and parking lot for the annual Trunk-or-Treat event on October 27.

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Gordon Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to grant the Libraries of Foster and Recreation Committee their request.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

**E. Paine School
Regionalization**

Denise L. DiFranco stated that this item was requested by Chris Stone. Mr. Stone moved, Mike Dillon seconded, to send the Gloucester Town Council a letter stating that Foster is interested in regionalizing.
Discussion: Gordon Rogers, Cheryl Hawes, Brendan Marr, Ron Gervasio, and Lynne Rider.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

**VIII. FUTURE AGENDA
ITEMS**

- Henry Phillips Recreational Field
- Central Pike Covered Bridge
- Marijuana Ordinance
- Zoning Board Alternate / Regular Member Appointments
- Wright’s Auto / Executive

**IX. EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Gordon Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Closed Session according to RIGL 42-42-4 for the reasons stated in RIGL 42-46-5a (1) Personnel. Finance Director Application Reviews
Motion passed 5 – 0.
Executive Session convened at 8:36 p.m.

**RECONVENE IN
OPEN SESSION**

Denise L. DiFranco announced that one vote was taken to accept the provisions of the contract and authorize the solicitor to negotiate the structure, not to include changes in the earnings subsistence. The Town Council president has the authorization to approve and sign once presented by the Town Solicitor
Motion passed 5 – 0.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9.24 p.m.

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

Submitted by,

Susan Sprague
Deputy Town Clerk