

**Town Council Meeting
February 28, 2019**

The February 28, 2019, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President of the Foster Town Council, at the Benjamin Eddy Building at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:	Also present:
Denise L. DiFranco, President	Mark Tourgee, Town Solicitor
Chris Stone	Kelli Russ, Treasurer
Heidi Rogers	
Joe Cardillo excused	
Cheryl Hawes, Vice President, excused	

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| I. | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. |
| II. | PUBLIC COMMENT /ANNOUNCEMENTS | Denise L. DiFranco asked for a moment of silence for Edna Thoman, Bart Hey, Clem Sherman. |
| III. | POLICE BLDG. COMMITTEE WORKSHOP | Joe Walsh stated that they did not have a quorum. Denise L. DiFranco noted that the committee had been appointed in 2016, and that the council would like an update. Mr. Walsh reviewed the progress of the committee
Chris Stone suggested that they move the questions and concerns Item H forward.
Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to move Item H forward.
Motion passed 3 – 0. |
| | h. Police Bldg. Comm. questions and concerns | Mr. Walsh had submitted questions to the council.
Discussion: Joe Walsh, Mark Tourgee, Ed Robinson, Lynne Rider, Denise DiFranco, Heidi Rogers, Tom Walden, Chris Stone, David Breit, Mike Dillon, Ron Cervasio
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to move Item I Appointment of Town Council member to the Police Building Committee up to this point.
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 3 – 0. |
| | i. Appointmet of Town Council member to Police Bldg. Committee | Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to appoint Denise DiFranco to the Police Building Committee
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 3 – 0.
Meeting scheduled for March 11 at the Benjamin Eddy Building at 6:30 p.m. |
| IV. | CONSENT AGENDA | Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to approve the consent agenda.
1. Approval of the minutes for the February 7, 2019 Town Council / School Committee Workshop.
2. Approval of Payroll Warrants
a. #33 \$34,388.17 b. #34\$30,403.66
c. General Warrant #14 \$78,308.20
3. Approval of Reports for the month of January 2019
a. Building & Zoning Dept. b. Public Works c. RIRRC d. Planning
e. Police Dept. f. Tax Assessor h. Human Services
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 3 – 0. |
| V. | OLD BUSINESS | |
| | a. Charter Review Committee | Denise L. DiFranco stated she had a list of people who have submitted their names.
Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco, Heidi Rogers, Lynne Rider, Ron Cervasio |
| | b. Economic Development | Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to move the Charter Review Committee appointments and the Economic Development Advisory Committee appointments to the next meeting.
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 3 – 0.
Meeting scheduled for March 14 at 7 p.m.to review the candidates. |
| | c. Solar Farms Presentations | Denise L. DiFranco noted that they have asked Solar Farm developers to come before the council. Hartford Solar hasn’t shown up.
Discussion: Heidi Rogers, Chris Stone, Ron Cervasio, Joe Carey, Lynne Rider
On March 20 th council members can attend a meeting of the Planning Board but they would be unable to speak. Hartford Solar was not present so no motion was made and no votes taken.. |

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- d. Animal Control Ordinance**

Denise L. DiFranco noted that they had a first reading of this ordinance and a public hearing.
Discussion: Aaron Marsland, Animal Control Officer, had suggestions, primarily that not enough people or dogs were trained enough for the “heel” command to be acceptable. This was also a concern of committee member Betty Lou Terry. Denise L. DiFranco, Heidi Rogers, Aaron Marsland, Mark Tourgee
Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, that the Animal Control Ordinance be continued to the next meeting to incorporate changes..
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 3 – 0.
- e. Marijuana Ordinance**

Denise L. DiFranco stated that there was a first reading on the Marijuana Ordinance and a public hearing.
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the Marijuana Ordinance as presented (see Exhibit A).
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 3 – 0.
- f. Solar Farm Ordinance / Moratorium**

Denise L. DiFranco stated that there was a first reading on the Solar Ordinance and a moratorium.
Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco, Chris Stone, Mark Tourgee, Heidi Rogers, Lynne Rider, Ron Cervasio, Joe Carey
Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers, to continue the Solar Ordinance to a future meeting.
Discussion: None
Motion passed 3 – 0.

Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to place a moratorium on solar farms for not longer than six months which would be August 27th (see Exhibit B). Discussion: None.
Motion passed 3 – 0.
- g. Contract Negotiation (DPW)**

Denise L. DiFranco stated that in a previous meeting she had volunteered to be on the negotiating team but due to over scheduling will withdraw her name.
Heidi Rogers moved, Denise L. DiFranco seconded, to have Chris Stone take Denise L. DiFranco’s place on the negotiating committee for Contract Negotiation with the DPW employees.
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 3 – 0.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**

 - a. Recognition of Boards and Commissions**

Denise L. DiFranco said this had been previously suggested by the Planning Board. She suggested they reward a board a month with a certificate.
Discussion: Ron Cervasio suggested including previous members.
 - b. Recreation Department Appointment**

Denise L. DiFranco stated the council received a letter from Allison Wojtaszek requesting to be on the Recreation Committee.
Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to appoint Allison Wojtaszek to the Recreation Committee.
Discussion: Heidi Rogers
Motion passed 3 – 0.
 - c. Regional School Budget Presentation**

Dr. Michael Barnes presented the Foster-Glocester Regional School budget.
Discussion: Ron Cervasio, Denise L. DiFranco, Michael Barnes, Bob Moreau.
Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to accept the letter to Dr. Michael Barnes.
Motion passed 3 – 0.
 - d. APRA Regional School District**

Denise L. DiFranco stated the council has presented a letter in accordance with APRA (Access of Public Records Act) regarding concerns brought to the council by citizens pertaining to the school budget (see Exhibit C).
Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to submit the letter to Dr. Barnes.
Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco, Kathleen Swanson, Ron Cervasio, Heidi Rogers
Motion passed 3 – 0.

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e. Hopkinton School Letter	Denise L. DiFranco said they had received a letter from Hopkinton and the Smithfield School Committee (see Exhibit D).
f. 4H Horse Show request for grounds	Denise L. DiFranco stated they received a letter requesting the use of the town grounds for the Northern RI 4H Show. Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded to allow the 4H to use the Foster fairgrounds on May 19, 2019. Discussion: None. Motion passed 3 – 0.
g. Constable Appointment	Denise L. DiFranco noted that when constables were appointed the commander of the Ambulance Corps was skipped. Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to appoint Virginia Colwell as constable. Discussion: None. Motion passed 3 – 0.
h. Moved to top	
i. Moved to top	
j. Senate Bill #0261 Pub. Utilities	Denise L. DiFranco explained this item was in support of Public Utilities and Carriers HB #0261. She spoke to DPW Director Bob Lohr about it. It has already passed the Senate so they were too late to add support to that regarding the lack of support in Foster during storms. Discussion: Heidi Rogers, Denise L. DiFranco Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to send a letter of support for Senate Bill #0261. Discussion: None. Motion passed 3 – 0.
k. Grant Writer	Denise L. DiFranco explained that she had attended a Conservation Commission meeting and that one of their members had written a grant. Ms. DiFranco spoke to the planner and they decided to ask for volunteer grant writers to work with the supervision of the planner. Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to advertise for volunteer grant writers. Discussion: None. Motion passed 3 – 0.
l. Additions and Abatements	Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the 2016 Motor Vehicle abatements in the amount of \$31.30 and the 2018 Real Estate Additions of \$21,247.09. Discussion: Motion passed 3 – 0.
VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Police Building Committee• Economic Development Advisory Committee• Charter Review• Solar Ordinance• Animal Ordinace• Planning Workshop
VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION	Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-4 for the reasons stated in RIGL 42-46-5a(1) for discussions or work sessions regarding collective bargaining or contract negotiations with the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, Local 637 and in RIGL 42-46-5a(2) litigation regarding Opiod update.
IX. ADJOURNMENT	Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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

Submitted by,

Susan Dillon, Town Clerk