

Town Council Meeting
March 28, 2019

The March 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
Cheryl Hawes, Vice President	Kelli Russ, Treasurer
Heidi Rogers	Jennifer Siciliano, Planner
Chris Stone	
Joe Cardillo, excused	

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| I. | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. |
| II. | WORKSHOP | |
| | a. Budget | Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to decrease the stipends by \$10,000 from the budget.
Motion passed 4 – 0.

Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to approve the raises.
Motion passed 4 – 0. |
| | b. Planning | Ron Cervasio called the planning board to order. Helen Hardy was excused. Planner was also present. Denise L. DiFranco stated that the council was asking each of the boards to come before the council for information purposes. Mr. Cervasio explained the chair’s duties. Jeff Sheldon said he was working on a blight ordinance, municipal and traffic court. Mike Carpenter spoke on solar, septic replacement assistance through DEM, and the 5-year road plan and getting all the boards and commissions together. Joe Carey spoke on subdivision ordinances and working with Scott Millar for businesses that can be operated in town and on farms. Lisa Johnston stated she was working on businesses for the town. Anthony Renzi spoke on Rt. 6, Rt. 101, and Rt. 102 zoning, dual zoning, and commercial land. Jennifer Siciliano spoke about subdivisions, and major land developments as her priorities. |
| | Pledge of Allegiance was repeated for open meeting. | |
| III. | PUBLIC COMMENT /ANNOUNCEMENTS | Denise L. DiFranco requested a moment of silence for the passing of Shirley Hopkins, Peter Shallcross, and John Chaharyn.

Audrey Carey spoke in Public Comment regarding the athletic field. Denise L. DiFranco said the bid has been awarded. |
| IV. | CONSENT AGENDA | 1. Approval of the Town Council Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2019
2. Approval of Payroll Warrants:
a. #37 \$31,080.87
b. #38 \$31,359.13
c. Approval of General Warrant #16 \$66,070.92
3. Monthly Reports (February)
• DPW / Buildings & Grounds
• Human Services
• Police Dept.
• RIRRC
• Tax Assessor
• Planning

Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda.
Motion passed 4 – 0. |
| | Item VI. c. Swearing in of new police officer moved to this position | Chief Breit presented the qualifications of Zachary Bilodeau who was sworn in by the chief. |

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- V.

PUBLIC HEARING
FY 2019-2020 Budget

Denise L. DiFranco reviewed the procedures for a public hearing and noted that copies were available.

Denise L. DiFranco reviewed each section. Kelli Russ answered questions. Walter May, Patti Moreau, Lynne Rider, Ed Robinson, and Joe Carey spoke. Issues discussed included money for the cemeteries, road paving, bridge repair, fire truck replacement, and student population shifts.

Denise L. DiFranco closed the public hearing. She announced that they will adopt the budget at a special meeting on 4/4/2019, and that the Financial Town Meeting is May 7, 2019.
- VI.

MONTHLY REPORTS

a.

Planning

Jennifer Siciliano, Town Planner, reported that they have been doing a lot of work on ordinances for medical and recreational marijuana and solar. Looking for natural springs. Economic development specialist presentation. Zoning applications.

b.

DPW

Bob Lohr, DPW director reported that there was patching needs on Shippee Schoolhouse, East Killingly, King and Boss Roads. Problem on Maple Rock Road required breaking stone up to fix. Lots of storm work. Some culvert pipes were clogged on South Killingly and Winsor Roads. Buildings were cleaned. Tree on Ponaganset Road split. Police station fire door installed. Working on trucks.

c.

Finance

Kelli Russ said she had been working on the budget and meeting with auditors. After the audit and budget and the transition to a new account structure, things should be much easier. Reporting to the State should be easier. A tax sale is scheduled.

d.

Police

Chief David Breit reported 12 arrests, 64 citations, 62 incidents, 24 accidents, 7 warrants issued, and 2191 calls for service since February 1st. They hosted a tour for 25 cub scouts. On April 27 he and Ray Peters will be representing Foster in the First Annual Cops Cup in South Kingstown. Will be speaking to the elderly at North Foster Baptist Church on May 14th about scams on the elderly. On May 31st he will be running in the Torch Run for the Special Olympics.

VII.

NEW BUSINESS

a.

Preservation Society – Perpetual Care Cemeteries

Ed Robinson represented the Preservation Society. He noted the line item for cemetery care had been eliminated. The cemeteries cannot go without care year after year. He contacted the RI Foundation. Borders Farm has a million dollar endowment and guaranteed 4.5% return. They have hundreds of millions invested. You have to be 501.3c to get an endowment. Depositing it there will give a return.

Mark Tourgee objected to placing town money in such an account. Denise L. DiFranco, Heidi Rogers, Kelli Russ, Mark Tourgee, Walter May, Ed Robinson, Chris Stone, Joe Carey, Cheryl Hawes, Mike Dillon, and Nancy Robinson spoke.

b.

Resolution 2019-05 for Dog Impound fee Increase

Denise L. DiFranco stated that the Animal Ordinance passed and that this is a Resolution to increase the fees for impoundment from \$2 to \$5. Heidi Rogers read the Resolution (see Exhibit A).

Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded, to submit the Resolution to Representative Mike Chippendale and Senator Gordon Rogers.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

c.

Moved

Moved to before Public Hearing.

d.

Resolution 2019-04 in support of additional State Funding for Education

Heidi Rogers read the Resolution (see Exhibit B).

Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to forward the Resolution to Mike Chippendale and Senator Gordon Rogers to submit.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

e.

Abatement

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the 2018 Motor Vehicle abatements of \$484.78.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

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| VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS | Council meeting next Thursday April 4 th at 5:30 p.m. |
| IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION | Cheryl Hawes move to go into Executive Closed Session pursuant to RIGL 42-42-4 for the purposed stated in RIGL 42-26-5a for the discussion related to Collective Bargaining and Litigation according to RIGL 42-46-5a(2). |
| X. ADJOURNMENT | Meeting adjourned at 9:15. |

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