

**Town Council Meeting**  
**July 25, 2019**

The July 25, 2019 Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President of the Foster Town Council, at the Benjamin Eddy Building at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present:	Also present:
<b>Denise L. DiFranco, President</b>	Joanna Achille, Assistant Town Solicitor
<b>Cheryl Hawes, Vice President</b>	Kelly Russ, Town Finance Director/Treasurer
<b>Chris Stone</b>	Carol Mauro, Human Services Director
<b>Heidi Rogers</b>	Jennifer Siciliano, Town Planner
<b>Joe Cardillo</b>	Robert Lohr, DPW Director

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| <b>I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b>                   | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.   |
| <b>II. PUBLIC COMMENT /ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>         | Denise DiFranco asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Jeanne McGrath and Gilbert Tourgee.<br>Lynne Rider asked that Public Comment be moved to after the Workshop.<br>Ron Cervasio spoke.  |
| <b>III. WORKSHOP</b>                             | Town Planner Jennifer Siciliano handed out a memo and two version of the draft showing changes of the revised Solar Ordinance. She noted that he moratorium was up on the 29 <sup>th</sup> of August, and that the last meeting of the council would be the 22 <sup>nd</sup> of August.   |
| <b>IV. PUBLIC COMMENT Moved to this position</b> | Lynne Rider, Anthony Renzi, Jeff Sheldon, and Mike Carpenter spoke.   |
| <b>CONSENT AGENDA</b>                            | <div>1. Approval of the Town Council Meeting minutes for June 27, 2019</div> <div>2. Approval of Payroll Warrants</div> <div>    a) #52 \$33,559.32</div> <div>    b) #1 \$42,787.52</div> <div>    c) #2 \$36,649.35</div> <div>    d) #3 \$34,449.50</div> <div>    e) FY2019 General Warrant #23 \$77.934.13</div> <div>    f) FY2020 General Warrant # 1 \$546,947.77</div> <div>3. Quarterly Reports (April, May, June)</div> <div>    a) Ambulance Corps</div> <div>    b) Engineering Board</div> <div>    c) Foster Center Fire Co.</div> <div>    d) Planning Board</div> <div>    e) School Department</div> <div>    f) South Foster Fire Co.</div> <div>Chris Stone moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda.<br/>Motion passed 5 – 0.</div> |
| <b>VI. PRESENTATIONS</b>                         |   |
| <b>1. DPW</b>                                    | Department of Public Works Director Bob Lohr discussed current projects.  |
| <b>2. Finance Director</b>                       | Town Treasurer/Finance Director Kelli Russ discussed the current financial status.  |
| <b>VII. OLD BUSINESS</b>                         |   |
| <b>1. Bid Award- Johnson Rd. Culvert</b>         | Denise L. DiFranco stated that there was a recommendation from the DPW Director.<br>Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to award the bid for the Johnson Road culvert to Catalano Construction for \$88,865.00.<br>Discussion: Bob Lohr, Kelli Russ, Denise DiFranco<br>Motion passed 5 – 0.  |
| <b>2. Senior Bus</b>                             | Human Service Director Carol Mauro discussed the progress of the Senior Bus purchase. She noted that it will take six months to build so time is of the essence.<br>Discussion: Heidi Rogers, Denise DiFranco, Chris Stone, Carol Mauro<br>Cheryl Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, that Denise L. DiFranco and Carol Mauro be allowed to make a decision when the meet with RIPTA to decide what is to be included and order the bus.<br>Motion passed 5 – 0.  |

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**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Resignation from Zoning Board

Denise L. DiFranco stated that the council had received a letter from Tom DiRaimo resigning from the Zoning Board of Review.  
Chris Stone moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to accept Mr. DiRaimo’s resignation with regrets.  
Motion passed 5 – 0.
2. Zoning Board Appointments

Denise L. DiFranco noted that there are three applications: Joe Carey, Donna Carchia, and Raymond Oliver.  
Heidi Rogers moved to appoint Donna Carchia to the Zoning Board. Ms. Rogers asked about the term limits for each vacancy. Discussion regarding alternate positions. The alternates need to be notified of the vacancies. Heidi Rogers withdrew her motion.  
Joe Cardillo moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to table this item until the next meeting.  
Discussion: Lynne Rider, Denise DiFranco, Joanna Achille  
Motion passed 5 – 0.
3. Recreation Department Appointment

Denise L. DiFranco stated that Tiffany Oliver was interested in serving on the Recreation Committee.  
Chris Stone moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to table the appointment until the next meeting.  
Motion passed 5 – 0.
4. Pole Petition – Snagwood Rd.

Chris Stone moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to approve the Pole Petition for Snagwood Road, Plan 28448930, 3 feet from the road.  
Motion passed 5 – 0.
5. Additions & Abatements

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the Tax Assessor’s recommendation for motor vehicle 2019 additions in the amount of \$386.61; motor vehicle abatements in the amount of \$1,683.87; tangible abatements in the amount of \$152.52; and real estate abatements in the amount of \$9,911.90.  
Motion passed 5 – 0.
6. Thornton Beagle Club Class F Liquor License

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the Tax Assessor’s recommendation for motor vehicle additions of \$776.34; motor vehicle abatements in the amount of \$668.50; tangible abatements in the amount of \$358.72; and real estate abatements in the amount of \$5,569.83.  
Motion passed 5 – 0.

Denise L. DiFranco stated that the council received an application from the Thornton Beagle Club for a Class F Liquor License for the date of August 18, 2019.  
Joe Cardillo moved, Chris Stone seconded, to grant the Thornton Beagle Club a Class F Liquor License for August 18, 2019.  
Motion passed 5 – 0.

**IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Public Hearing – Solar Ordinance revisions
- DPW equipment lease
- Transfer of funds for DPW culvert
- Zoning Board appointments
- Recreation appointment
- Police Station Building Committee

**X. EXECUTIVE OPEN SESSION**

Joanna Achille stated that Mr. Cervasio had not yet responded whether he wanted an open or closed session.  
Mr. Cervasio responded that he wanted an Open Session.

Joanna Achille stated that Item 2 Policies and Procedures should be removed from the agenda.

Denise L. DiFranco explained that the council had received a letter from Lisa Johnston and notification from Henry Chabot regarding a phone message left on his cell phone which has been given to Gordon and Heidi Rogers. Denise L. DiFranco stated that Mr. Cervasio did not show restraint and good judgment. The phone message was played.

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Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco, Ron Cervasio, Cheryl Hawes, Heidi Rogers, Joanna Achille, Jeff Sheldon, Lynne Rider, and Anthony Renzi.

Heidi Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to remove Ron Cervasio from the Planning Board effective immediately per the Charter.

Discussion: Cheryl Hawes, Ron Cervasio, Denise DiFranco, Lynne Rider, and Anthony Renzi.

Joanna Achille stated that each member voting has to state a cause.

Susan Dillon polled the board:

Heidi Rogers, aye, stating her reason was for the treatment of citizens, lack of decorum, and disrespect.

Chris Stone, aye, stating the he believed Ron stepped over his bounds when making the phone call.

Denise L. DiFranco, aye, as a result of the phone call and as a result of things she has seen in the way he treats people at a planning board meeting in the public, the things that he says as an official they that talked about at the last meeting.

Cheryl Hawes, aye, for the way you treat people, his disrespect, for stepping over the line when he made that phone all whether it was this year or last year, it was still inappropriate and he was asked not to do things like that. Joe Cardillo, no.

Denise L. DiFranco stated that Mr. Cervasio will receive a letter which will explain he rights and how to proceed.

Joanna Achille stated that Mr. Cervasio has 21 days to ask for a public hearing on the removal, so he is still in office. Ms. Achille explained that another vote could suspend him during the tenancy of the removal. Denise L. DiFranco explained that they could suspend him at this point. Ms. Achille said he had 15 days and then you have to schedule it within 21 days.

Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to suspend Ron Cervasio from his position until the public hearing.

Motion passed 4 – 0 – 1. Joe Cardillo voted no.

**EXECUTIVE  
CLOSED SESSION**

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-4 for the reasons stated in 42-46-5 for discussion and work session for Collective Bargaining / Contract Negotiations or Litigation according to RIGL 42-46-5-a (2) and for potential litigation.

Motion passed 5-0.

**RETURN TO OPEN  
SESSION**

Denise L. DiFranco returned to Open Session and announced that one vote was taken regarding an preliminary injunction and the initiation of a lawsuit against Price Auto. Motion passed 5 – 0.

**XI ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 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