

**Town Council Meeting
October 10, 2019**

The October 10, 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:
Denise L. DiFranco, President
Cheryl Hawes, Vice President
Chris Stone
Heidi Rogers
Joe Cardillo was excused

Also present:
Joanna Achille, Assistant Town Solicitor
Kelli Russ, Finance Director
Jennifer Sicilano, Planner

- I.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None
- III.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Payroll Warrants

a. #13 \$38,412.97

b. #14 \$40,021.97

c. Approval of General Warrant #5 \$202,543.83

Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Discussion: None

Motion passed 4 – 0.
- IV.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Planning

Jennifer Siciliano, Town Planner, reported on the Planning Dept. activities which included a 3-lot subdivision on Central Pike and Paris Olney Hopkins Road, a preliminary plan was approval on a 5-lot subdivion on Cucumber Hill Road, and an Administrative Subdivision. Also she is working on the Solar Ordinance, and is close to being finished. The Hartford 101 solar project has reached an agreement with the person appealing.

2. Finance Director

Kelli Russ, Finance Director, stated that the department was preparing for the audit. They are helping with the Assessor’s office and have assigned Sue Boucher and Karen Williams to do inspections of properties.

Denise L. DiFranco questioned if Karen Williams needed certification. Ms. Russ said she did no, but she is certified in Connecticut and working on getting her RI License. Ms. Russ noted that both days they went out to do assessments the two different cars they used broke down. The vehicles are too old. Ms. Russ suggested replacing the vehicles and planning for it in capital. Denise L. DiFranco stated that employees could use their own vehicles, the council never said they couldn’t. They just need proof of their insurance. Mileage was discussed.

Discussion: Harold Shippee, 49 Mt. Hygeia Rd.

Ms. Russ discussed improving communications. She attended an Engineering Board meeting and noted the finances detailed in the report may not be comparing apples to apples. She also discussed Town Hall properties, buildings, supper shed, etc. in reference to ownership.

Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco, Chris Stone, Kelli Russ, Joanna Achille.

Ms. Russ also discussed home repair program activities previously unreported which would require an audit adjustment. She is also preparing documents required for the lease equipment and the Police Building Committee and noted that long-term school debt will drop off about the time that payments would come due for the police building.

Discussion: Gordon Rogers

Kelli Russ also discussed the possibility of splitting the conveyance tax fees with the Land Trust. The town needs additional funds to maintain the new recreation facility and to match the DEM grant. This would require a Charter change.

V.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bid Award for T.H. painting

Denise L. DiFranco stated this item should be on for the 24th. Tabled until then.
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2. Planning Board Appointments

Denise L. DiFranco stated that she and Cheryl Hawes could not arrange for all interviews. There are two openings. One term to 2019, and the other to 2021.
Cheryl Hawes moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to appoint David Paolissi to the term ending December 2021.
Discussion: Cheryl Hawes, Chris Stone
Motion passed 3 – 1. Chris Stone voted no.
Heidi Rogers moved, to appoint Warren Ducharme to the term ending December of 2019.
Discussion: Heidi Rogers
Motion passed 4 – 0.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Foster Old Home Days Donation of Picnic Tables

Denise L. DiFranco stated she received a letter from Maggie Stormont that they are donating 5 picnic tables to the town.
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to accept the donation and send the Old Home Days committee a letter of thanks.
Discussion: Cheryl Hawes
Motion passed 4 – 0.

2. Additions & Abatements

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to accept the Tax Assessor’s recommendation for additions in the amount of \$1,020.00
Discussion: None
Motion passed 4 – 0.

3. Juvenile Hearing Board Appointments

Denise L. DiFranco stated that they received 2 letters requesting reappointment. One from Steven Croteau, one from Mary Jo Cretien.
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to reappoint Steven Croteau to a 3-year term on the Juvenile Hearing Board.
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 4 – 0.
The second letter is for the alternate position from Mary Jo Cretien which expires in 2020.
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to reappoint Mary Jo Cretien to a one-year term on the Juvenile Hearing Board.
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 4 – 0.

4. Phase 2 DEM Grant

Jennifer Siciliano explained that an RIDEM grant for 2020 is due in December and up to \$400,000 can be applied for with a \$100,000 in-kind match. Prior work cannot be counted toward the match. Mr. Lohr said he would ask for sprinkler money and a well. Ms. Siciliano asked if the council wanted to go forward.
Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to go forward with the grant application.
Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco, Heidi Rogers, Kelli Russ, Chris Stone, Gordon Rogers, Cheryl Hawes, Jennifer Siciliano
Motion passed 4 – 0.
- VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Solar Ordinance
 - Town Hall Painting
 - Advertising
- VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Closed Session pursuant to R.I.G. L. 42-42-4 for the reasons stated in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 for discussion or work sessions regarding Collective Bargaining / Contract Negotiations or Litigation according to R.I.G.L. 42-65-5a (2)

OPEN SESSION

Return to Open Session. Denise L. DiFranco announced that two votes were taken in regards to the Opioid Litigation settlement.
Motion passed 4 – 0 for both.
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 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