

**Town Council Meeting
October 24, 2019**

The October 24, 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.

Denise L. DiFranco announced that an Executive Session was held at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Open Session and that no votes were taken.

The following members were present:
Denise L. DiFranco, President
Cheryl Hawes, Vice President
Chris Stone
Joe Cardillo
Heidi Rogers

Also present:
Joanna Achille, Assistant Town Solicitor
Kelli Russ, Treasurer

- I.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II.

PUBLIC COMMENT
/ ANNOUNCEMENT

Denise L. DiFranco announced that on November 11 at 11 o'clock there will be a Veterans Day ceremony led by Commander Fortier.

There was no public comment.
- III.

CONSENT AGENDA

•

Approval of the Town Council meeting minutes for September 26, 2019 and October 10, 2019

•

Approval of Payroll Warrants

• PW #15 \$34,609.68

• PW #16 \$34,096.30

• GW #6 \$274,514.53

•

Monthly Reports (September)

• Building & Zoning

• DPW

• Finance

• RIRRC

• Police

• DHS

• Tax Assessor

• Planning

•

Quarterly Reports (July, Aug, Sept.)

• EMA

• Libraries

• S. Foster Fire Co

• Ambulance

• School Committee

• Moosup Valley Fire Co

• Engineering

• Land Trust

• Foster Ctr. Fire Co

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

Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco noted that the DHS report needed to be included.

Cheryl Hawes questioned an item on the General Warrant. Denise L. DiFranco removed GW #6 from the Consent Agenda to be discussed separately.

Lynne Rider asked how the recycling was doing. Denise L. DiFranco stated that compared to last year in Sept of 2018 refuse tonnage was 147 and this year it is 133, last year for recycling tonnage it was 53 and this year it's 43.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Ms. Hawes questioned how much was paid out in the legal fees to another law firm, and whether Atty. Tourgee will be returning. Denise L. DiFranco said he would return in January.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve General Warrant #6 in the amount of \$274,514.53.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

IV.

PRESENTATION

1.

Police Chief

Police Chief David Breit reported that in the last 5 weeks there were 4 arrests, 1 warrant, 26 incident reports, 11 accidents to attend, 37 citations issued, and 1,641 calls for service. Denise L. DiFranco asked if the accidents had lessened on Plainfield Pike and Cucumber Hill Road. Chief Breit stated that the signs have not been put up yet.

i

**Town Council Meeting
October 24, 2019**

- 2. Solar Ordinance**
- Denise L. DiFranco stated that Planner Jennifer Siciliano requested that this item be continued to November 14. Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, that we continue the Public Hearing on the Solar Ordinance until November 14 meeting.
Discussion: None
Motion passed 5 – 0.
- 3. Appeal of Removal of Office**
- Denise L. DiFranco stated that Ron Cervasio requested Open Session for a Public Hearing. She opened the Public Hearing and reviewed the procedure.
Mr. Cervasio, 142A Old Plainfield Pike, spoke first and reviewed his involvement with the town in terms of his suggestions regarding town finances.
Denise L. DiFranco asked if anyone would like to speak for. There were none.
Ms. DiFranco asked if anyone would like to speak against. There were none.
Discussion returned to the council. Joe Cardillo and Cheryl Hawes spoke.
Heidi Rogers moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to grant Ron Cervasio’s appeal to allow him to remain on the Planning Board.
Discussion: Heidi Rogers, Denise L. DiFranco
Motion failed 0 – 5.
- V. OLD BUSINESS**
- 1. Awarding of Bid for TH Painting**
- Denise L. DiFranco stated that DPW Director Robert Lohr requested that the painting be tabled until Spring.
Discussion: Kelli Russ, Anthony Renzi, Denise L. DiFranco, Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to table the award of the Town Hall painting bid until March.
Discussion: Cheryl Hawes, Kelli Russ
Motion passed 5 – 0.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
- 1. Change in Policies and Procedures for Business Licensing**
- Cheryl Hawes explained that the policy had always been to advertise all business licenses every year but that the law only requires it for liquor, victualling, and event licensing and not doing it for the other types, unless they are new applications, would save business owners the cost of advertising and help to encourage businesses in town. Cheryl Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to only advertise the state required licenses.
Discussion: Lynne Rider, Susan Dillon, Cheryl Hawes
Motion passed 5 – 0.
- 2. November and December Meeting Schedule**
- Denise L. DiFranco noted that the meeting dates of November 28 was Thanksgiving and December 26 was the day after Christmas.
Heidi Rogers moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to eliminate the November 28 meeting which would fall on Thanksgiving and the December 26 meeting which falls on the day after Christmas unless something arises that the council needs to address.
Discussion: None
Motion passed 5 – 0.
- 3. Letter from Senator Rogers regarding Police Building**
- Denise L. DiFranco noted that there were two letters, one from Senator Rogers to the council and the second from Representative Quattrocchi to the Scituate Town Council (see Exhibits A & B).
Heidi Rogers read both letters.
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to appoint two council members to speak with the Town of Scituate to discuss a possible joint venture.
Discussion: Cheryl Hawes, Chris Stone, Joe Cardillo, Denise L. DiFranco, Chief David Breit, Lynne Rider, Anthony Renzi, Heidi Rogers, Mike Dillon, Audry Carey, Kathy Farnum, and Lisa Johnston.

**Town Council Meeting
October 24, 2019**

Heidi Rogers withdrew her motion, Chris Stone removed his second.
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to have Denise L. DiFranco contact the Scituate Town Council to find out if they are interested in pursuing a joint venture and report back to the council.
Discussion: Cheryl Hawes, Lisa Johnston, Denise L. DiFranco, Heidi Rogers
Chris Stone moved the question.
Cheryl Hawes amended the motions, Joe Cardillo seconded, that Mr. Brady of the Scituate Town Council be invited to a Foster Town Council meeting.
Amendment passed 5 – 0.
Main motion failed 2 – 3.

- 4. Grant from the Office of Healthy Aging**

Human Services Director, Carol Mauro, asked that a \$4,329.00 grant be approved.
Chris Stone moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to approve the grant as presented.
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Thanksgiving Proclamation for Nov. 14 meeting
 - Solar Ordinance
 - Historic Oversight Committee update
 - Scituate Police visit
 - Planning Board letter regarding trucks
 - Planning Board Appointment
 - Police Building Update

VIII. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. RI Laborers District Council, Local #1322

Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Closed Session pursuant to RIGL 42-42-4 for the reasons stated in RIGL 42-46-5 for the discussion of Collective Bargaining RIGL 42-46-5 (A), (2)
Discussion: None
Motion passed 5 – 0.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Return to Open Session. Denise L. DiFranco announced that no votes were taken.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to adjourn.
Motion passed 5 – 0.
Meeting adjourned at 8:53 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
- iii