

The May 28, 2020, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President.
This was a Virtual Meeting using Zoom via Computer or Phone at 7:02 p.m.

The following members were present:

Denise L. DiFranco, President
Cheryl Hawes, Vice President
Chris Stone
Heidi Rogers
Joe Cardillo- absent

Also present:

Susan Dillon
Susan Sprague
Kelli Russ
Patti Moreau
Bobby Depalo

Mark Tourgee

Joanna Achille
Jennifer Siciliano
Rhett Bishop
Tammy Steinkamp
Chief Breit

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Denise L. DiFranco opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. She asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Laurie Beaumier.

Ms. DiFranco also announced that there would be a procession for the Ponaganset graduating seniors scheduled for June 3 (rain date June 4) and that they are asking for decorations.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Closed Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-42-4 for the reason stated in Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-5 for discussion of work sessions regarding contract bargaining, contract negotiations or litigation according to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2)

Motion passed 4 – 0,

Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Heidi Rogers, aye, Chris Stone, aye, Cheryl Hawes, aye.

Denise L. DiFranco announced that a vote was taken to prepare a Memorandum of Agreement with the I.A.F.F. Local #3422. Motion passed 4 – 0.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Payroll Warrants

a. #45 \$35,046.19

b. #46 \$34,651.52

c. #47 \$33,145.11

Approval of General Warrant

#18 \$63,992.48

Monthly Reports

- Building & Zoning
- Human Services
- Police Department
- RIRRC
- DPW

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

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Chris Stone, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Heidi Rogers, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Interview of Planner Applicants

Denise L. DiFranco explained that at the last meeting, Anthony Renzi, Chair of the Planning Board, wanted to know why he was not included in the interview process for the new planner.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded, to allow Mr. Renzi to be part of the interview process for the planner.

Discussion: Heidi Rogers clarified that this was not an appointment but an interview but they can vote afterward.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye.

B. Recreational Field Status

Heidi Rogers noted that they had voted for a change order at the last meeting to change the infield to dirt. She spoke to Jay DaSilva and Dave Tirrell. Chris Stone said that the baseline needs to be cut; there is no distinction from the infield. Dave Tirrell stated that what is there can be used for Little League.

Mr. Stone wanted to know if the funds can be released if that is the case. Denise L. DiFranco would like the material verified as acceptable to DEM because what is there was not what was on the plan. Mr. Renzi stated that only the outfield has grass, the infield is dirt, or rather clay. Chris Stone asked Jay to come back and he should have come back two weeks ago. Denise L. DiFranco noted that the grant was written for Little League. Jennifer Siciliano stated that Lisa McGreevy is the contact at DEM. Chris Stone stated it should be at no cost to the town. Heidi Rogers said that was not what Jay DaSilva said. Ms. Siciliano will send the contact information to Chris Stone so that he can follow up.

C. Foster Food Truck Event

Denise L. DiFranco stated that the food trucks are looking for two additional dates. Three were approved the last time the council met. Looking for approval of July 1st and July 29th. (Previous dates are June 17, July 22, August 19th.)

Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to approve the two extra dates for the food trucks.

Discussion: Daniel Scott, Chief Breit, Eric requested flexibility of dates because of the COVID response.

Denise L. DiFranco asked if \$100 for each additional event was agreeable. Eric said, yes, if there were four or more trucks in Foster for those two extra nights.

Chris Stone withdrew his motion, Heidi Rogers removed her second.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve additional two dates, July 1 and 29 with the provision that if there are 4 or more trucks in Foster, it will be \$100, and that in the event they need a rain date it will be on a future Wednesday unless the council disapproves.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Heidi Rogers, aye.

D. DPW – Purchase of Loader

E. Financial Town Mtg.

This item was approved in last year's budget. Nothing further needed.

Robert Depalo, Chair of the Board of Canvassers, informed the council that they got approval from the health department. He read the letter that he sent in (see Exhibit A). Moderator Bob Boyden agreed that he could run that kind of meeting; he is much more in favor of a drive-in meeting than a Zoom meeting.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to proceed with Bob Depalo's Drive-In idea for the FTM at a date to be determined by the Finance Director.

Cheryl Hawes, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Adoption of FY 2020-2021
Budget**

Kelli Russ presented recent changes.

Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco, Cheryl Hawes, Patti Moreau, Kelli Russ, Chris Stone, Bobby Depalo, Anthony Renzi

Grand Total: \$14,838,285.00

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to adopt the budget as presented.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Cheryl Hawes, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Heidi Rogers, aye.

B. Recreation Grant

Denise L. DiFranco explained this is a grant awarded by Representative Mike Chippendale for the Recreation purposes. Tammy Steinkamp wanted to use the money for playground equipment. Approval by the council is not necessary.

C. Calendar of Council Mtgs.

Denise L. DiFranco questioned what the summer schedule should be. A meeting can always be added. Discussion about having one a month:

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, that the council meet on June 11, July 9, and August 13 unless a situation calls for another meeting.

Discussion: None

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Cheryl Hawes, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Heidi Rogers, aye.

D. Correction of Consent

Agenda – Minutes for 3/26

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to correct the minutes of the March 26, 2020 to reflect that an unnamed member was absent and not excused.

Cheryl Hawes, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Heidi Rogers, aye;

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Board of Canvassers Appointments
- Regional Meeting Letter
- Recreational Field
- Financial Town Meeting – plan & structure

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Closed Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-42-4 for the reason stated in Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-5 for discussion of work sessions regarding Personnel RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)

Motion passed 4 – 0,

Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Heidi Rogers, aye, Chris Stone, aye, Cheryl Hawes, aye.

**Return to Open Session
To announce votes**

Denise L. DiFranco stated that one vote was taken regarding to offer the Town Planner position to a candidate.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded, to adjourn.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Cheryl Hawes, aye; Chris Stone, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye; Heidi Rogers, aye.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk