

Town Council Meeting
June 11, 2020

The June 11, 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:

Mark Tourgee
Joanna Achille
Susan Dillon
Kelli Russ
Michael Barnes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Denise L. DiFranco announced that one vote was taken regarding the Balfour vs. Town of Foster litigation and that it was a 4 – 0 vote.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Boyden asked about the Nike Site on the Executive Session agenda but it was not possible to comment on it.

II.

CONSENT AGENDA

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.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreational Field Status

Chris Stone said there was an issue with the field. He investigated the surfaces of other fields: Burkander Field, Andrews Field, Manning Field, Gorham Field 1 and 2, Polouski Field, and Phillips Field. He presented photos of each and stated that there is a way to salvage it. He wanted to speak with Jay DaSilva but was unable to contact him at the moment. Item tabled.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Volunteer Grant Writer

An application was submitted by Cory Jones for the volunteer grant writer position. Kelli Russ spoke with him and he said that he would do it on a volunteer basis. He would want to do it for course credit. She felt that this may need to be postponed because there were a number of things that need clarification when the new planner starts.

B. Board of Canvassers Appointments

Denise L. DiFranco stated there were letters of interest received from Bruce Kopec, Republican, and Denise Wetzel, Democrat, both of whom were approved by their Committee Chairs.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to appoint Bruce Kopec as the Republican representative to the Board of Canvassers.

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

Heidi Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to appoint Denise Wetzel as the Democratic representative to the Board of Canvassers.

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

C. Pole Petition

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the DPW Director's recommendation for a Pole placement at 107 Central Pike, provided that it be set three feet.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

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

**D. Financial Town Meeting
Audio System**

Bob Boyden looked into getting a sound system. He found a company in Johnston. The owner came out to the fairgrounds and came up with a proposal for \$1,680.00. He would recommend a maximum of \$2,500.00 to support the audio needs, increasing the amount in case of a rain cancellation.

Heidi Rogers noted that it included the AM radio station. Mr. Boyden said it would include speakers on the platform, the AM radio transmission, those who want to make motions, wireless microphones will be available and brought by runners who will repeat the question, wired microphones for the council. He noted another company had quoted \$10,000 for a virtual meeting for the Town of Scituate without the security of recognizing registered voters.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to contract with PMA Industries for our audio system the Financial Town Meeting up to \$2500.00.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

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

**E. Approval of Regional
Budget**

Dr. Michael Barnes, Superintendent, explained they had brought the budget increase down to 1.97 percent. He explained that they were unable to hold their financial budget meeting. Their intention would be to return to a financial town meeting in the future.

Atty. Mark Tourgee stated that there is a state law Statute 16-3-14 Regional Representatives that allows a one-time situation where a school committee can approve a budget under extraordinary circumstances which we are in right now, and that it is both appropriate and legal. Kelli Russ confirmed that this 1.97 was net and not gross.

Heidi Rogers moved, to approve the school operations budget of \$4,728,736.00, with a debt budget \$475,410.00 as presented contingent upon approval of the Commissioner of Education.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

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

F. Resolution 2020-05

Heidi Rogers read the Resolution in support of an act relating to amending the RI General Laws, Section 45-2-

3.2 Availability of funds upon failure of city or town to approve annual appropriation (see Exhibit A)

Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded to accept the resolution with the correction of one typo.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

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

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Recreation field
- Volunteer Grant Writer
- Planning Board
- Nike Site
- Police State Building Committee
- Tax Incentive
- AED machines

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to adjourn.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk