

Town Council Meeting
October 22, 2020

Denise L. DiFranco, President, called the Foster Town Council to order on October 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. This was a virtual meeting using Zoom via computer or phone.

The following members were present:

Denise L. DiFranco, President
Cheryl Hawes, Vice President
Chris Stone
Heidi Rogers
Bob Moreau

Also present:

Susan Dillon
Kelli Russ
Michael Antonellis
Joanna Achille
Julia Chretien

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT /
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

Denise L. DiFranco explained that the public hearing advertised for tonight was not included in the agenda. Joanna Achille stated that it was a problem but she has contacted the attorney for Partners Auto and he may consent to an extension to December 10, 2020.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Payroll Warrants
 - #15 - \$31,342.95
 - #16 - \$33,344.96
- Approval of General Warrants
 - General Warrant #6 - \$70,237.61

Chris Stone moved, Bob Moreau seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

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

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Off-Street Parking

Denise L. DiFranco opened the public hearing.

Discussion included the following:

Chris Stone, Anthony Renzi, Heidi Rogers, Gordon Rogers and Joanna Achille on number of pick-up sized trucks allowed on a property.

Bob Moreau on whether or not the zoning of a parking facility would change the zoning from AR to Commercial. George Sackal on the wording, which does not restrict the number of vehicles.

Denise L. DiFranco asked if part of the ordinance could be approved and the other sent back to the Planning Board.

Anthony Renzi said yes.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to approve the Ordinance allowing 14,000 lbs. to 26,000 lbs. trucks registered to the owner or renter. The rest of the Ordinance can go back to the Planning Board.

Discussion: Bob Moreau asked if this was for 38-286 only and not 38-19?

George Sackal, Mark Tourgee and Dennis Smith discussed limits.

Cheryl Hawes withdrew her motion, Heidi Rogers withdrew her second.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to send the Ordinance back to the Planning Board for revision.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

2. Mobile Food Establishments

Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded, to continue the Public Hearing until December 10, 2020.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

Town Council Meeting
October 22, 2020

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Recreation Field Updates

Town Planner Michael Antonellis explained that \$36,800 was approved at the last council meeting for improvements for ADA as well as grading for pathways and to fix outstanding issues. He sent a letter detailing the work, which was received and confirmed. The deadline to finish to be November 8th and includes an ADA accessible bench and mat.

Anthony Renzi asked about a contract. Joanna Achille said a contract would require an RFP. This is a change order which does not require one.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Purchase of
Property Plat 9, Lot 20

Denise L. DiFranco said there has been a lot of discussion and talk because of the Special Town Council meeting. The property has been up for sale many times. The owner has passed away and the council felt that this would be a good purchase to add to the municipal area. At the last Executive Session, the council approved Mr. Moreau to approach the realtor.

Heidi Rogers stated that this is not a new thing. Years ago the sale price was \$800,000, then \$400,000 and has now dropped. It has potential for many uses, as it is 14 acres.

Cheryl Hawes said it is an opportunity that will not come around again. She feels it is a good thing to be able to expand the center of the town. Chris Stone agreed.

Guenter Bay asked where the money was coming from.

Denise L. DiFranco said that would be discussed at the Special Financial Town meeting.

Gordon Rogers was for the purchase. West Greenwich was able to add to their Town Hall complex and it has worked out tremendously for them. If we don't buy it, a contractor will snap it up. People walk a mile to get to Old Home Days. Cheryl Hawes agrees.

Amita Rodman spoke extremely in favor of going forward. Catherine Bay agreed that she didn't want to see houses built there or a parking lot.

Michael Antonellis encouraged people to think about the types of things and bring them forward to the planning board and the council. It is important to preserve the town for the future.

2. Special FTM

Denise L. DiFranco said this item was brought forward to see how to proceed with a meeting. Bob Boyden said he met with the Board of Canvassers and Susan Dillon to work on issues with a hybrid meeting. It won't be a perfect Financial Town Meeting, and he doesn't want it to be contested. Susan Dillon said they will do test runs and she is sure it will be fine. Kevin Donovan asked how to keep it from becoming a free-for-all. Susan Dillon said that the Town of Richmond has done it and it worked fine.

VII. EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 for a work session regarding Collective Bargaining, Contract Negotiations and Litigation according to RIGL 42-46-5-a (2) and to reconvene into open session and to further keep the minutes of said meeting closed and the minutes of all executive sessions held previous to this meeting remain closed in accordance with provisions in RIGL 42-46-4 & 5. No discussion.

Motion passed 5-0.

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Denise L. DiFranco announced that five votes were taken in executive session:

Town Council Meeting
October 22, 2020

- 1st vote taken was to move the last 3 items in executive session up to the discuss first. Vote taken 5-0.
- 2nd vote taken was for a potential settlement regarding TOF vs Audette. Vote taken 5-0.
- 3rd vote taken. The council is authorizing the attorney to submit a consent order as presented. Vote taken 5-0.
- 4th vote taken was to authorize the council president to execute a purchase and sales agreement with modifications after Special Financial Town Meeting. Vote taken 5-0

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:45.

Submitted by,

Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk