

JANUARY 8, 2015
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The January 8th, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise DiFranco, Vice President of the Foster Town Council, at the Benjamin Eddy Building, Foster, Rhode Island, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present

Also present were:

John Lewis - Excused
Denise DiFranco, Vice President
Roger L. Hawes,
Gordon Rogers,
and Jon Restivo.

Renee M. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor - excused
William Ziehl, Police Chief
Kelli Russ, Town Treasurer
Patti Moreau, Tax Assessor
Ron Cervasio, School Committee

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Denise DiFranco stated that John Lewis was unable to attend the meeting and that she would be chair.

Ms. DiFranco also stated that the Town Solicitor, Renee Bevilacqua was unable to attend the meeting and that she was given dispensation.

III. MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting, December 11, were not available.

Gordon Rogers moved and Roger Hawes seconded, to table the minutes from December 11, 2014 to the next meeting.

Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

IV. WARRANTS

Gordon Rogers moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #23 for \$41,154.15.

Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Gordon Rogers moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #24 for \$27,935.38.

Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Gordon Rogers moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #25 for \$27,244.31.

Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Gordon Rogers moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #26 for \$27,438.73.

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**WARRANTS,
cont.**

Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Gordon Rogers moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve General Warrant #12 for \$127,848.20.

Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Gordon Rogers asked to be recused from approval of General Warrant #12A.

Jon Restivo moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve General Warrant #12A for \$300.00.

Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers recused; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 3-0, with one recusal.

**V. MONTHLY
REPORTS**

Jon Restivo moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve the November 2014 monthly reports for Building and Zoning Department, the Department of Public Works, Finance Department, Human Services Department, Planning Department, Police Department, RIRRC, and Tax Assessor, as presented.

Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**VI. QUARTERLY
REPORTS**

There were no Quarterly Reports.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS
a.) Abatements**

Gordon Rogers moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to accept the Abatement (see "exhibit A") in the amount of \$1,095.35 from the tax assessor as presented.

Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**b.) Fairgrounds
Request**

Gordon Rogers read a letter of request for the use of the town fairgrounds from Northern RI 4H, to hold a horse show on May 10th, 2015.

Discussion: Ms. DiFranco asked if the fair grounds are available on that day; they are.

Gordon Rogers moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to allow use of the fair grounds on May 10th.

Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**c.) Appointments,
Dispatchers
Union
Negotiating
Committee**

Gordon Rogers summarized the letter from the IAFF Local 3422, requesting a negotiating team from the Town Council to engage in contract bargaining for the contract year beginning July 1, 2015.

Roger Hawes moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to accept the letter from the IAFF.

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Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

It was agreed that Gordon Rogers and Jon Restivo would be on the negotiating team. Gordon will contact Jo-Ann Law for more information.

**d.) Appointment
of negotiating
team for Police
Officers Union**

Denise DiFranco stated that a letter had been received from William P. McGuire Sr., President of the IBPO. Gordon Rogers stated that the letter from the Police Officers Union was basically the same as the previous letter from the IAFF.

Gordon Rogers moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to accept the letter from the Police Officers Union.

Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Denise DiFranco and Roger Hawes volunteered to continue to work on this committee.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

**a.) Corder
of Wood**

Denise DiFranco referred to a letter of intent received from Robert Thurber expressing his interest in being reappointed as Corder of Wood.

Gordon Rogers moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to reappoint Robert Thurber as Corder of Wood.

Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**b.) Tree
Warden**

Denise DiFranco stated that there was a letter of intent received from Jim Phillips wishing to be reappointed as Tree Warden.

Gordon Rogers moved, Roger Hawes seconded to reappoint Jim Phillips, who is a certified arborist, as the town's tree warden.

Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**c.) Follow up on
Foster Home
Journal Article**

Denise DiFranco asked for opinions on what was presented in the Foster Home Journal article in the January edition. Gordon Rogers stated that he thought that the article was "pretty good," but that the "Concerned Citizens" was left out. He thought that it should have been mentioned because it was an important part of the meeting.

Roger Hawes stated that he did not think it was necessary to have mentioned Concerned Citizens until some action was taken on the matter, and then it would be reported. He thought the article covered the meeting pretty well.

Jon Restivo stated that he thought it was a pretty "dispassionate account that almost read like minutes."

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Denise DiFranco asked for comments from the audience.

Ron Cervasio asked where the issue of Concerned Citizens stood. Denise stated that it wasn't on the agenda so it couldn't be discussed at this time.

Another member of the audience spoke favorably about the article.

**IX. FUTURE
AGENDA ITEMS**

- Police Station
- Council Rules
- Concerned Citizens / public comments
- Charter Review Committee

Denise DiFranco asked if anyone has anything to add. Gordon Rogers asked that "Planning Board Appointment" be added and stated that he would like to see positions on boards filled as soon as possible after people apply. Mr. Rogers also mentioned his concern for stagnant future agenda items.

Members of the audience mentioned concern over the library and suggested that someone from the library be at a future meeting to give the Council some type of report. It was remarked that the library website has comprehensive information for the public, regarding plans for the library.

Gordon Rogers pointed out that the comments from the audience are evidence that Concerned Citizens is needed.

**X. EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Denise DiFranco stated that there was no Executive Session.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Gordon Rogers moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to adjourn.

Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

A digital sound file is made a part of the record for a complete account of the council meeting.

Submitted by

Susan E. Sprague
Deputy Town Clerk