

**MARCH 31, 2016**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

The March 31, 2016 Town Council Meeting was called to order by John L. Lewis, Jr., President of the Foster Town Council, at the Benjamin Eddy Building, Foster, Rhode Island, at 7:07 p.m.

The following members were present:  
**John L. Lewis, Jr., President**  
**Denise DiFranco, Vice President**  
**Jon Restivo, and**  
**Gordon Rogers.**  
**Cheryl Hawes, excused**

Also present:  
Juliana King, Town Planner,  
Carol Mauro, Director of Human Services,  
Police Chief William Ziehl,  
Michael Barnes, School Superintendent,  
Kathleen Swanson, School Committee Chair,  
Guenter Bay, Assistant EMA Director

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**      The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**      John L. Lewis, Jr. stated that the notice of the meeting was properly posted on the Secretary of State's web site.
- Mr. Lewis made note of the recent passing of Mrs. Ginny Ross of Paine Road. He stated that Mrs. Ross had been involved with the youth of Foster for many years in the Canterton Colts 4-H Club. Mr. Lewis asked for a moment of silence.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT**      Resident Lynne Rider expressed concern about three incidents involving drugs and weapons at the Stone House Motor Inn in the recent year. She expressed concern that children live there. Chief Ziehl stated that although the suspect lived at the Stone House Motor Inn, the most recent incident had actually occurred further down Danielson Pike at a gas station. He also stated that the weapon was not a gun, it was a knife that was in his pocket. An owner of the Stone House responded by saying that they are unable to do background checks on potential tenants, but that they try to do their best to keep an eye on things at the Motel and would be installing surveillance cameras.
- Council Woman Denise DiFranco announced that in the Foster Home Journal there was a survey that the Foster Engineering Board would like the Town's people to complete and mail back.
- IV. WARRANTS**      Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #36 for \$29,317.24.
- John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 4-0.
- Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #37 for \$29,836.33.
- John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**MARCH 31, 2016**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**WARRANTS,**  
**cont.**

Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #38 for \$30,943.77.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Denise DiFranco moved, Jon Restivo seconded, to approve General Warrant #16 for \$84,574.71.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Gordon Rogers, recused; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 3-0. (With one recusal)

**V. MONTHLY**  
**REPORTS**

Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to accept the February 2016 monthly reports from the Building and Zoning Department, the Department of Public Works, the Finance Department, Human Services Department, Planning Department, Police Department, RIRRC and the Tax Assessor as submitted.

Discussion: Denise DiFranco pointed out that the Department of Human Services would be having a Funeral Fundamentals Workshop on April 12<sup>th</sup> in the community room at Hemlock Village.

Ms. DiFranco also stated that the Town's recycling had increased over 35% in the last year.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**VI. PAST DUE**  
**QUARTERLY**  
**REPORTS**

Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to accept the second quarter reports from the Conservation Commission and the Recreation Committee.

Discussion: Denise DiFranco noted that four pieces of outdoor equipment had been added as enhancements to the Woody Lowden Recreation Center, and that they would be promoted in the spring. She also touched on the fact that the Recreation Committee is still looking for volunteers.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**VII. OLD**  
**BUSINESS**  
**a.) Recreation**  
**Field Update**

John L. Lewis, Jr, read a short letter from Joe Cardillo, DPW Director, regarding the progress at the Recreation Field. (Exhibit A.)

**VIII. NEW**  
**BUSINESS**  
**a.) Additions &**  
**Abatements**  
**Tax Assessor**

Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to honor the request of the Tax Assessor for a Real Estate Abatement of \$1,820.70, Motor Vehicle Abatement of \$60.71, 1st Appeal Abatement of \$783.97, Board of Tax Assessment Review of \$1,163.12. (Exhibit B)

**MARCH 31, 2016**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**NEW  
BUSINESS  
Cont.**

**b.) Braking  
Aids Bicycle  
Ride**

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to honor the request of Jessica Kurtz, the Logistics Assistant for The Braking Aids Ride and allow them to ride through with the consent of the Police Chief on September 23, 2016.

Discussion: The route of the race was reviewed. Chief Ziehl confirmed that he had been informed.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**c.) Resolution  
Foster  
Glocester  
Regional  
School Tax  
District**

Councilman Rogers had received a Resolution from the Town of Glocester; John L. Lewis, Jr. read the resolution out loud. (Exhibit C)

Gordon Rogers moved, Denise DiFranco seconded, to accept the resolution as read.

Discussion: Gordon Rogers stated that he had been contacted by the Town of Glocester and asked to add this resolution to the agenda. Mr. Rogers stated the he was undecided and asked for the opinions of the other Council Members. The Council spoke at length about the pros and cons of the resolution, with some input from members of the audience. Mr. Lewis stated that he couldn't support the resolution at this time, without having gone over the numbers with the Town Treasurer, Kelli Russ.

Councilman Rogers withdrew his motion, Denise DiFranco withdrew her second, and it was decided to contact The Town of Glocester to arrange a meeting some time in late May or June, to discuss the Resolution further. Ms. DiFranco offered to talk with Kelli Russ regarding a date that would work for further review of the resolution and to contact a member of the Glocester Town Council and invite them to attend the meeting.

**d.) Appointment  
To Board of  
Canvassers**

John L. Lewis, Jr. stated that the terms of both Mr. Robert DePalo and Mrs. Carolyn Kerttula on the Board of Canvassers were expiring the last day of March. Republican Town Committee Chair, Bruce Campbell, had sent a letter of recommendation for reappointments.

Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to reappoint Mr. Robert DePalo as the Republican full member of the Foster Board of Canvassers, and Mrs. Carolyn Kerttula as a Republican alternate member.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**e.) Appointment  
to  
Conservation  
Commission**

Mr. Lewis spoke of a letter of interest from resident Dennis Therrien, requesting appointment to the Conservation Commission. Brendan Mara, a member of the Conservation Commission, had sent in a letter of recommendation for Mr. Therrien as well.

**MARCH 31, 2016  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**NEW  
BUSINESS  
Cont.**

Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to appoint Dennis Therrien to the Conservation Commission for the appropriate term at the recommendation of Brendan Mara.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Therrien was sworn in by Deputy Town Clerk Susan Sprague.

**IX. PUBLIC  
HEARING FOR  
FY 2016/2017  
BUDGET**

John L. Lewis, Jr. announced that the Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 proposed Budget had been advertised. He pointed out copies of the budget for anyone who wanted one and opened the Public Hearing at 8:09 p.m.

Mr. Lewis explained that he would be going through each department one at a time and giving a brief overview. He pointed out that it was a Public Hearing and people should feel free to express any comments in favor or against, or ask questions.

He then read through the figures for each department, and asked for questions and comments. There were a few comments and questions from the audience. Mr. Lewis stated that the Council would be taking notes and that no changes would be made that night.

Police Chief Ziehl pointed out a few decreases and increases in his budget, resulting in some discussion. The Council made note of his requested changes and Mr. Lewis stated that the changes would be reviewed at the next meeting. Chief Ziehl also requested that the fuel budget amounts be reviewed.

There was a discussion regarding the Paine School Budget. Superintendent Michael Barnes stated that the reduction in the Paine Budget could be absorbed this year but it will not be something that could be continued going forward.

The public hearing closed at 8:59 p.m.

**X. FUTURE  
AGENDA  
ITEMS**

- Charter Review Commission Report
- EMA/Foster Center Fire Department
- Public Hearing, General Business Mixed Use Ordinance, April 28, 2016
- Public Hearing, Three Tax Ordinances, April 28, 2016
- Financial Statements and Standard Policies and Procedures, From Non-Town Entities Receiving Appropriations
- Gloucester Resolution Regional School Tax

**XI. EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

There was none

**MARCH 31, 2016**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**XII. ADJOURN-  
MENT**

Gordon Rogers moved, Denise DiFranco seconded, and it was so moved to adjourn the meeting.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 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