

**JULY 28, 2016**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

The July 28, 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**  
**Cheryl Hawes,**  
**Jon Restivo, and**  
**Gordon Rogers.**

Also present:  
Police Chief William Ziehl  
Kelli Russ, Treasurer  
Joe Carey, Planning Board 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 noted the passing of two Foster residents; Veterinarian Nicholas Gorham, and former DPW employee Pat Coggeshall; and asked for a moment of silence.
- Mr. Lewis also announced that the Town House repairs had been cleared by the State Fire Marshall.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT** There was none.
- IV. MINUTES** Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to approve the minutes from June 21, 2016, as presented.
- John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.
- Denise DiFranco moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to approve the minutes from June 22, 2016, as presented.
- John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.
- Denise DiFranco moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to approve the minutes from June 23, 2016, as revised.
- John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.
- V. WARRANTS** Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #1 for \$38,998.20.
- John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

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**WARRANTS,  
cont.**

Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #2 for \$35,687.79.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to approve General Warrant #24 for \$8,354.39.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to approve General Warrant #2 for \$17,658.49.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**VI. MONTHLY  
REPORTS**

Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to accept the June 2016 monthly reports from the Building and Zoning Department, the Department of Public Works (also for May), the Finance Department, Human Services Department, Planning Department, Police Department, and RIRRC, as presented. It was noted the Tax Assessor's report was not included.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**VII. QUARTERLY  
REPORTS**

Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to accept the April through June quarterly reports from the EMA, Conservation Commission, Engineering Board, Foster Ambulance Corps, Foster Center Volunteer Fire Company, Foster Home Repair, Foster School Committee, Libraries, Moosup Valley Fire Department, Planning Board, Recreation Committee, South Foster Volunteer Fire Company, Tax Board of Review and Zoning Board of Review. It was noted that the Board of Canvassers and Land Trust reports were not included.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**VIII. OLDBUSINESS**

**a) Bid Award,  
Recreation  
Field  
Clearing,  
Chipping,  
Stumping and  
Grading  
Project**

John L. Lewis, Jr, read a short letter from Joe Cardillo, DPW Director, recommending awarding the bid for the recreation field project to Premier Tree Service LLC, of Coventry, RI, for the amount of \$116,000.00.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to accept the recommendation of the DPW Director, and award the complete Timber Clearing, Chipping, Stump Removal, and Disposal and Grading, Leveling project, to Premier Tree Service, LLC, Coventry, RI, for a total cost of \$116,000.00.

Discussion: Ms. DiFranco had questions regarding erosion control. Mr. Rogers asked if this award included clearing the entire site. The remaining funds in an existing account from a previous recreation grant was discussed, and the State

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**OLDBUSINESS** statute covering the parameters of that grant.

a.) **Bid Award,  
Rec. Field** John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**IX. NEWBUSINESS** Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to honor the request of the  
a.) **Additions and Abatements,  
Tax Assessor** Tax Assessor for the following additions and abatements to the 2016 tax roll: motor vehicle additions, in the amount of \$232.86; tangible additions, in the amount of \$11.87; motor vehicle abatements, in the amount of \$170.86; and tangible abatements in the amount of \$747.14. (Exhibit A)

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

b.) **Appointment to Conservation Commission,  
Evelina Ruzkowski** Mr. Lewis read a letter from Conservation Commission member Brendan Mara recommending the appointment of Evelina Ruzkowski to their group.

Gordon Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to accept the recommendation of the Conservation Commission and appoint Evelina Ruzkowski as a member of the Conservation Commission.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Ruzkowski was sworn in by the Town Clerk.

c.) **Request for Use of Town Grounds for Music Concert for August 13,  
Libraries of Foster** John L. Lewis, Jr. read a letter from library director Katharine Chansky, requesting use of the supper shed and adjacent lawn area for a concert by the Renaissance V Brass Quintet on Saturday, August 13, 2016, from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. In case of rain, the concert would move indoors to the Town House.

Denise DiFranco moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to honor the request for the use of the Town Grounds for an outdoor music concert by the Libraries of Foster for August 13, 2016, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

d.) **Request for letter of support, Dare to Dream Ranch** Mr. Lewis referenced a letter from Karen Dalton requesting that the Council write a letter of support for the recent U.S.D.A. grant application by dare to Dream Ranch, to purchase property on Snagwood Road for their Veterans programs.

Mr. Lewis read a copy of a draft letter to Ms. Dalton into the record, for consideration.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Denise DiFranco seconded, to accept the request and submit the letter on her behalf.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- e.) Request for letter of support for Ambulance Corps Grant** Mr. Lewis read a letter from the Ambulance Corps requesting a letter of endorsement supporting their grant application to DHS and FEMA, for funds to purchase two new cardiac monitors. Mr. Lewis read a draft letter for consideration.

Denise DiFranco moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to honor the request of the ambulance corps for a letter of support, and the letter read was sufficient.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- LESO Program
- Financial Statements and Standard Policies and Procedures, From Non-Town Entities Receiving Appropriations
- Maintenance of Unmaintained Roads (Awaiting Complete Listing of Unmaintained Roads)
- Location of Swamp Meadow Community Theater Outdoor Performance Stage
- PRISM Streetlights
- Hazard Mitigation Grant
- Kennel Ordinance Revisions
- Renewal of Animal Shelter Agreement

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Jon Restivo moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to go into Executive Closed Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-4 for the reasons stated in RIGL 42-46-5a(2), for discussions or work sessions regarding Collective Bargaining /Contract Negotiations/Litigation, according to RIGL 42-46-5a(2).

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Open session ended at 7:34 p.m. Executive session convened at 7:42 p.m.

**RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**

Jon Restivo moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to approve, adopt and seal the minutes - with or without corrections – of all prior executive closed session minutes and to close and seal the current executive closed session minutes in RIGL 42-46-4 and 5; and further move to reconvene into public open session to announce any votes taken during executive closed session that must be disclosed as required under Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Open session reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

John L. Lewis, Jr. announced that 1 vote was taken during executive session, to approve a three-year contract for the DPW and Town Hall clerks union. The vote in the affirmative was 5-0.

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**XII. ADJOURN-  
MENT**

Gordon Rogers moved, Jon Restivo seconded, and it was so moved to adjourn the meeting.

John L. Lewis, Jr, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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

Submitted by

Jane Christopher  
Town Clerk