

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2016
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

The September 8, 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 7:05 p.m.

The following members were present:

John L. Lewis, Jr., President
Denise DiFranco, Vice President,
Gordon Rogers, excused,
Jon Restivo, excused and
Cheryl Hawes.

Also present:

Renee M. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor

- I. OPEN SESSION 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 also announced that the up-coming Primary Election would be held on Tuesday September 13, 2016, that it would be open to Democratic and unaffiliated voters, and that it would take place at the Paine School from 7:00am to 9:00pm.

- III. PUBLIC COMMENT** Ron Cervasio voiced concern about potential tax income that is lost by the Town when the Land Trust acquires or purchases a piece of land. He reviewed some statistics regarding possible tax income to the Town if buildable lots were bought and built upon. He also pointed out that the school system could absorb many new students without any additional expense to the Town.

Assistant EMA Director Guenter Bay introduced himself and announced that the Town's EMA Department had obtained a 2005 Ford Explorer with 130,000 miles on it for free from RIEMA. He pointed out that the only cost to the town would be the lettering on the truck, registration and insurance. Mr. Bay encouraged people to view the Explorer after the meeting.

- IV. MINUTES** Denise DiFranco moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2016 meeting.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye. Motion passed 3-0.

- V. WARRANTS** Denise DiFranco moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #7 in the amount of \$35,024.95.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye. Motion passed 3-0.

Denise DiFranco moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #8 in the amount of \$34,836.65.

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WARRANTS, cont. John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye. Motion passed 3-0.

Denise DiFranco moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to approve General Warrant #27 in the amount of \$7,500.00.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye. Motion passed 3-0.

Denise DiFranco moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to approve General Warrant #5 in the amount of \$95,946.96.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye. Motion passed 3-0.

VI. MONTHLY REPORTS Denise DiFranco moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to accept the July, 2016 monthly report from the DPW Director, as presented.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye. Motion passed 3-0.

VII. QUARTERLY REPORTS There were no quarterly reports.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS
a.) Location of Swamp Meadow Outdoor Stage Mr. Dennis Chretien, spokesperson for Swamp Meadow Community Theater, addressed the Council informing them that the organization had received a \$15,000 grant and that they were looking into purchasing a structure to use as an outdoor performance stage. Mr. Chretien referred to a picture of the proposed structure (Exhibit A.), and answered questions pertaining to it. Discussion followed regarding placement of the tent like structure on the cement pad in front of the Town House. A member of the Preservation Society expressed concern for placing anything in front of the Town House. Locations elsewhere on the town grounds were discussed. It was suggested that a temporary location here on the town grounds be approved in order to obtain the grant, and then later moving the structure to the site of the new recreation field.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Denise DiFranco seconded, to allow construction of the concrete pad, to put the tent on, in the back corner of the fair grounds, with the DPW contributing towards the construction of the slab.

Discussion: Ms. DiFranco asked where the tent would be stored and who would be paying for the concrete pad. Options for storage, including storing the tent suspended from the ceiling of the supper shed were discussed. It was decided that once the structure arrived, there would be options available for storage. John Lewis stated that the money for the concrete pad would be covered partially by the remainder of the grant and partially from the DPW's budget.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye. Motion passed 3-0.

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- IX. NEW BUSINESS**
- a.) Additions & Abatements, Tax Assessor** Denise DiFranco moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to accept the additions and abatements to the 2016 tax roll from the Tax Assessor, as presented: Motor Vehicle Additions of \$346.41; Motor Vehicle Abatements of \$386.88; Tangible Abatements of \$162.75; and 2016 First Appeal Abatements of \$1440.30.
- John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye. Motion passed 3-0.
- b.) Request from the Army Corps of Engineers for Extension Agreement Former Nike Site** Council President John L. Lewis, Jr. reviewed a request (Exhibit B.) from the Army Corps of Engineers for an extension agreement which would provide them with access privileges to the site for an additional five years.
- Cheryl Hawes moved, Denise DiFranco seconded, to extend the agreement with the US Army Corp of Engineers.
- Discussion: Mr. Lewis asked the Town Solicitor if the document was in order and Ms. Bevilacqua stated that it was and that the agreement specifically sited that the purpose was to preform remedial activities only.
- John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye. Motion passed 3-0.
- c.) Red Ribbon Proclamation Natchaug River Young Marines** John Lewis asked Ms. DiFranco to read the Town of Foster Red Ribbon Week Proclamation (Exhibit C.).
- Denise DiFranco moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to approve the Town of Foster Red Ribbon Proclamation.
- John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye. Motion passed 3-0.
- d.) Appointment of Whitney Colwell Desrosiers to Recreation Committee** Mr. Lewis referred to an application from Whitney Colwell Desrosiers for the Foster Recreation Committee and a recommendation for appointment from the Recreation Committee.
- Denise DiFranco moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to appoint Whitney Colwell Derosiers to the Foster Recreation Committee for the longest term available.
- John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye. Motion passed 3-0.
- X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
- PRISM Streetlight
 - LESO Program Update
 - Financial Statements and Standards Policies & Procedures for Non-Town Entities Receiving Appropriations
 - Maintenance of Unmaintained Roads (Awaiting Complete Listing of Unmaintained Roads
 - Kennel Ordinance Revisions
 - Amendment to Dog License Ordinance(s)
 - Request for MOA From Dispatcher's Union, August 25, 2016
 - Placement of Signs from Sign Contest.

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**XI. EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

There was no Executive Session.

**XII. ADJOURN-
MENT**

Denise DiFranco moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, and it was so moved to adjourn the meeting.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 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