

Town Council Meeting
January 23, 2020

The January 23, 2020, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President of the Foster Town Council, at the Town House at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:
Denise L. DiFranco, President
Cheryl Hawes, Vice President
Chris Stone
Heidi Rogers
Joe Cardillo

Also present:
Joanna Achille, Assistant Town Solicitor
Kelli Russ, Treasurer
Patti Moreau, Tax Assessor
Carol Mauro, Human Services Director

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adam Dacko spoke.
- II. CONSENT AGENDA

• Minutes for January 9, 2020

• Approval of Payroll Warrants

a. #28 \$35,473.42

b. #29 \$35,360.35

c. General Warrant #10 \$85,243.76

• Additions and Abatements

• Monthly Reports

Building & Zoning

Dept. of Human Services

Planning Dept.

RIRRC

Police Dept.

Finance

• Quarterly Reports

Engineering Bd.

Ambulance Corps

School Committee

Land Trust

Zoning Board

SFVFC

FCVFC

Libraries

Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of the Minutes.
Discussion: None
Motion passed 5 – 0.
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the January 9, 2020 minutes with two corrections.
Discussion; Denise L. DiFranco
Motion passed 5 – 0.
- IV. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Licenses for Diablo Custom Workz, LLC

Denise L. DiFranco opened the public hearing.
Mr. Neves stated that he changed the address, he could change the LLC to just doing business in his name. He was waiting on the solicitor for information. He also said he would re-advertise. Denise DiFranco stated the address that was advertised was a residential address. She said we would advertise with the correct address 52 Danielson Pike and send out notification to the abutters at no cost to Mr. Neves. A new Public Hearing was scheduled for February 27. Denise DiFranco closed the public hearing.
- V. OLD BUSINESS

DPW Director’s Appointment

Chris Stone stated that it would not be fair unless Cheryl Hawes had an opportunity to interview Gordon Rogers. Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded to continue the interview process so that Gordon Rogers be included.
Discussion: Lynne Rider
Motion passed 4 – 0. Heidi Rogers Recused
- VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Cert. of Achievement in Financial Reporting

Heidi Rogers stated they received a letter addressed to Denise L. DiFranco from the Government Finance Officers Association presenting a “Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting” which she read into the record. (see Exhibit A). Kelli Russ was congratulated.

B. Eng. Board Invitation

Denise L. DiFranco stated she had received an email from the Engineering Board. Heidi Rogers read it into the record (see Exhibit B).
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, that the Town Council attend the training on Thursday, February 20th at the South Foster Fire Station and an agenda be posted.

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- Discussion: None
Motion passed 5 – 0.
- C. Wind Turbine Moratorium**
- Denise L. DiFranco stated that the town did not have an ordinance concerning wind turbines at this time.
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to place a 180-day moratorium on wind turbines until the council has an ordinance (see Exhibit C).
Discussion: Lynne Rider, Ron Cervasio
Motion passed 5 – 0.
- D. Driver Advertisement**
- Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to authorize Carol Mauro to advertise for the transport van driver.
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 5 – 0.
- E. Resignation from the Zoning Board**
- Heidi Rogers read the resignation letter from Nick Guarino from the Zoning Board of Review.
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to accept the resignation letter from Nick Guarino.
Discussion: None
Motion passed 5 – 0.
- F. Ad for Zoning Board Member**
- Heidi Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to advertise for the replacement of the alternate zoning board member.
Discussion: None
Motion passed 5 – 0.
- G. School Charter**
- Denise L. DiFranco explained she received an email from Kathleen Swanson, School Committee member. Heidi Rogers read the letter (see Exhibit D).
Discussion: Heidi Rogers, Denise L. DiFranco
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to accept the invitation from the School Committee.
Motion passed 5 – 0.
Heidi Rogers moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to have Chris Stone and Cheryl Hawes to attend the regional school meeting regarding proration and full regionalization. Motion passed 5 – 0.
- H. Budget dates**
- Denise L. DiFranco reviewed possible dates. Heidi Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to adopt the Budget Preparation Schedule as presented by the Finance Director (See Exhibit E).
Discussion: Kelli Russ, Denise L. DiFranco, Chris Stone, Cheryl Hawes
Heidi Rogers amended her motion to include the dates of February 27, March 12, and March 19 @ 5pm for Budget Workshops. Cheryl Hawes seconded.
Motion passed 5 – 0.
Further discussion regarding meeting with Engineering Board.
- I. Appointments to multiple boards**
- Denise L. DiFranco stated that when Mr. Moreau was appointed to the Planning Board she requested that he resign from the Economic Development Committee because of the Code of Ethics. She spoke with solicitor Joanna Achille regarding conflict between the two boards. Mr. Moreau stated he did not think there was any conflict. Patti Moreau spoke with the Ethics Commission and was assured there were no ethics violations. He does not work for the town and there is no ethical conflict whatsoever. Town Solicitor Joanna Achille stated that there was still a conflict. An opinion on the phone was not the same as a binding decision. There was talk about the Planning Board funding the EDAC. Cheryl Hawes suggested getting it in writing. Ms. Achille said it would take several months. Ms. Hawes said that he would be making a recommendation and then voting for it. Mr. Cervasio spoke about multiple appointments. Mr. Moreau pointed out that there are very few people willing to volunteer. Ms. Hawes asked if he could recuse himself. Ms. Achille said he

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should recuse himself from both boards. Lynne Rider says what is said on the phone is not binding on them.
Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to allow Bob Moreau to remain on both boards.
Discussion: Anthony Renzi, Joanna Achille, Bob Moreau, Denise L. DiFranco, Lynne Rider, Joe Carey
Motion failed 2-3.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Request from Foster Old Home Days
- Private Roads Committee
- Public Hearing for a Gun Shop license on the 27th
- Meeting with Land Trust
- DPW appointment
- Regional budget hearing

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5A (2) Litigation and 42-46-5 (A), (1) Personnel

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Denise L. DiFranco announced that there was one vote taken in Executive Session to allow Denise DiFranco to contact Mr. Manzi and reject his offer for the purchase of his land.
Motion passed 5 – 0.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chris Stone moved to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Susan Dillon, Town Clerk