

Town Council Meeting February 13, 2020

The February 13, 2020, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President of the Benjamin Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road 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:

Mark Tourgee, 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**
- Denise L. DiFranco announced that at the next council meeting on February 27, Superintendent Dr. Barnes will present the Regional budget. The public hearing for the Regional School Budget will be March 3 at the High School. The Financial Town Meeting for the Regional School Budget will be March 17.
- Ron Cervasio spoke. Chief David Breit spoke regarding his “Meet & Greet”, Denise L. DiFranco stated that the next one would be March 31 at 6 p.m. at the Ben Eddy Bldg. Gordon Rogers spoke.
- II. CONSENT AGENDA**
- Minutes for January 23, 2020
 - Approval of Payroll Warrants
 - a. #30 \$37,248.18
 - b. #31 \$32,436.11
 - c. #32 \$36,369.32
 - d. General Warrant #11 \$115,018.49
 - Additions and Abatements
- Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to accept the Consent Agenda as presented with the exception of the minutes of the January 23rd meeting.
- Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco noted that on page 3, the appointment to multiple boards, the vote should be 2 – 3, not 3 – 2.
- Motion passed 5 – 0.
- Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to accept the minutes of January 23, 2020 as corrected.
- Motion passed 5 – 0.
- IV. PUBLIC HEARING**
- A. Solar Ordinance Moratorium**
- Denise L. DiFranco opened the Public Hearing, which had been continued from December 12, 2019.
- Amita Rodman, 27 Tucker Hollow Road spoke in favor.
- Anthony Renzi spoke on what the Planning Board was working on in regards to the moratorium.
- Heidi Rogers moved to extend the moratorium to June 30, 2020. There was no second.
- Cheryl Hawes moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to continue the Public Hearing to April 23rd.
- Discussion: Ron Cervasio, Anthony Renzi
- Cheryl Hawes amended her motion to change the date to April 9th. Joe Cardillo seconded.
- Amendment passed 5 - 0.
- Main motion failed 0 – 5.
- Public Hearing will be continued to April 9th.
- V. OLD BUSINESS**
- A. DPW Director’s Appointment**
- Chris Stone moved to hire Gordon Rogers to fill that position. Denise L. DiFranco seconded. Heidi Rogers recused herself.
- Discussion: Frank Malec, 17 Burgess Road spoke. Chris Stone spoke.
- Motion failed 2 – 2. 1 recusal
- Cheryl Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to appoint Chris Senerchia. Denise L. DiFranco noted that Mr. Senerchia did not list and references; she wanted to know if he was still interested. Mr. Senerchia was present and indicated his interest.

**Town Council Meeting
February 13, 2020**

Monique Taylor, 14 Hartford Pike, Denise L. DiFranco, Chris Stone, Joe Cardillo, Lynn Rider, Linda Niles, Cheryl Hawes, Gordon Rogers, and Anthony Renzi spoke.

Motion failed 2 – 2. 1 recusal

Kelli Russ explained that according to the Union Contract, the acting DPW director cannot continue for more than 3 months.

Atty. Tourgee suggested a 6-month probation period. Ms. Russ said the appointment would have the same issue.

Chris Stone moved, to table this and do it in Executive Session with the candidates.

There was no second.

Mr. Tourgee suggested getting an extension.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, that Kelli Russ get contact the union to get an extension for Bruce Colwell to continue in the position for up to three months.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation to DHS

Senator Rogers presented a state grant of \$1000 for the Human Services department, and another for Senior Services to Carol Mauro, and another \$1000 for the police department, a total of \$4500 in grants he will also be getting \$1000 each for the Fire Departments.

B. FOHD Request

The Foster Old Home Days Committee requested the use of the town grounds.

Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to use the Foster Old Home Days grounds the 24, 25, and 26th. Denise L.

DiFranco stated that they needed to begin set-up on the 20th.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

C. Rec Committee Request

The Foster Recreation Committee requested to use the Town House grounds for Food Truck events on June 17, July 22, and August 19 with a rain date of September 1st.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to allow the Foster Recreation Department to use the fairgrounds for the Food Truck events on June 17, July 22, and August 19 with a rain date of September 1.

Chris Stone wanted to discuss the July 22 date. Old Home Days will be setting up. Eric Devine of the Recreation Committee suggested the 29th.

Heidi Rogers amended her motion to change the date of July 22 to July 29. Chris Stone seconded.

Amendment passed 5 – 0.

Main motion passed 5 – 0.

D. Rec Committee Request

The Recreation Committee requested that they be able to serve beer and wine at the Food Truck Event.

Heidi Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, that we allow the Foster Recreation Department to allow the beer and wine garden at the already approved dates of June 17, July 29, and August 19 with a rain date of September 1.

Discussion: Joe Cardillo, Mark Tourgee, Eric Weiner the owner of the Food Truck events, Heidi Rogers, Lynne Rider, Ryan Seidzik, Eric Devine, Gordon Rogers, Anthony Renzi, Mark Tourgee, Mike Dillon,

Heidi Rogers withdrew her motion. Cheryl Hawes withdrew her second.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to continue this item to February 27.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

E. Planning Board Request

Denise L. DiFranco asked what the purpose was for this request. Anthony Renzi explained this was how other towns were cleaning up their blight; the request is to read the ordinance from Gloucester into the minutes. Heidi Rogers noted that it was only for foreclosed properties. Mr. Renzi says it breaks it down later. Heidi Rogers drew attention to the litigation listed on the agenda.

**Town Council Meeting
February 13, 2020**

F. Planning Board Letter	Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to accept the 2020-2021 Capital Improvement recommendations as submitted from the Planning Board. Discussion: None. Motion passed 5 – 0.
G. Engineering Board	Denise L. DiFranco stated she had minutes she had wanted submitted. They are looking to have an EMA class, a Cert team member to be trained, a mass casualty incident training will be held next Thursday. We said we would be present. The police chief and two dispatchers and our DPW Director would also be invited. There was discussion about the report from the Engineering Board. There was a discussion about radios. Moosup Valley has terrible reception. They made a motion to divide the cost of \$1050 to see what is causing the static. They were looking at their budget recommendations. The state is requiring more training so they are increasing from \$15,000 to \$20,000. Daytime coverage is critical, they are looking into grants. Looking into training for DPW employees. Discussion about stipend or tax freeze or credit; using leftover budget funds. Chris Stone said they appreciated their presence. Kelli Russ said it has gotten more positive and is beneficial. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 25 and they would like two council members to attend. Cheryl Hawes and Chris Stone volunteered. Chris Stone moved the he and Ms. Hawes go to the Engineering Board meeting on February 25. Heidi Rogers seconded. Discussion: Gordon Rogers Motion passed 5 – 0.
H. Council Members to attend Eng. Board Mt.	
I. Police Bldg. Request for Advertisement	The Police Building Committee has come to a conclusion and would like to have a public meeting on Tuesday, April 2. They would like to have an advertisement placed. Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded. that the ad be a full page color ad in the <i>Foster Home Journal</i> in the March issue. Discussion: Lynne Rider Motion passed 5 – 0.
J. National Grid Petition	Heidi Rogers read the Pole Petition #23-50 on Paris Olney Hopkins Road. Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the pole petition as recommended by the interim DPW Director. Discussion: None Motion passed 5 – 0.
K. Rec Committee Appt.	Laurie Beaumier requested that she be appointed to the Recreation Committee. Heidi Rogers moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to appoint Laurie Beaumier to the Recreation Committee expiring 12/2024. Discussion: None Motion passed 5 – 0.
VII. OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION	Robert Moreau presented a decision from the State Ethics Commission allowing him to stay on two boards. There would be no Ethics Violation whatsoever. Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, that based on the Ethics Decision, that Bob Moreau be allowed to remain on the EDAC and the Planning Board. Discussion: None Motion passed 5 – 0.
VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS	Regional Budget Presentation – Feb 27 Budget Workshop Police Building Committee Food Truck Beer and Wine request Revisiting Tax Incentive program

**Town Council Meeting
February 13, 2020**

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive closed Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5A (1) Personnel RIGL 42-46-5A (2) Litigation and 42-46-5 (a), (5)
Motion passed 5 – 0.

**RETURN TO OPEN
SESSION**

Denise L. DiFranco announced that one vote was taken to allow the solicitor to contact the union rep of International Fire Fighters, Local 3422 to negotiate a grievance settlement.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chris Stone moved to adjourn at 10:18 p.m.

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

Submitted by:

Susan Dillon, Town Clerk