

**Town Council Meeting**  
**February 27, 2020**

The February 27, 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

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited  
Denise L. DiFranco asked for a moment of silence for Alex Cuniff. Paul Cuniff is the Chief of the Moosup Valley Fire Department and his son passed away suddenly.  
Denise L. DiFranco revised the agenda because the solicitor was not feeling well.  
No public comment.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes for February 13, 2020 and February 20, 2020
2. Approval of Payroll Warrants
  - a. # 33 - \$36,594.58
  - b. # 34 - \$32,225.41
  - c. General Warrant # 12 - \$68,816.04
3. Monthly Reports (January)
  - DPW/Building & Grounds
  - Human Services
  - Police Department
  - RIRRC
  - Tax Assessor
  - Planning
  - Finance

Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented.  
Discussion: Cheryl Hawes, Mark Tourgee.  
Motion passed 5 – 0.

**IV. PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Gun Shop License**

Denise L. DiFranco reviews the procedure.  
Denise L. DiFranco asked if anyone would like to speak in favor.  
Adam Dacko spoke.  
Denise L. DiFranco asked if anyone would like to speak against. There were none.  
Denise L. DiFranco closed the public hearing.  
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the application of Thomas Neves dba as Diablo Custom Workz LLC, at 52 Danielson Pike.  
Discussion: Heidi Rogers, Denise L. DiFranco, Cheryl Hawes  
Motion passed 5 – 0.

***Item A. under Old Business moved to this position – PVD Food Truck event request to serve beer and wine***

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve Foster Recreation’s request to serve beer and wine during the approved PVD Food Truck event.  
Discussion: Chris Stone, Kelli Russ, Cheryl Hawes, Chief David Breit, Joe Cardillo, Denise L. DiFranco  
Chris Stone removed his second.  
Heidi Rogers removed her motion.  
Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to table the item to the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting so that we can hear from the Trust regarding the liability insurance.  
Further discussion: Lynne Rider, Eric Weiner, Mark Tourgee, Joe Carey, and Joe Stoos.  
Motion passed 5 – 0.

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<i>Item D. under New Business moved to this position – request to make Spears Path a public road</i>	<p>Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to move Item D. under New Business Request to make Spear Path Public Road to this position. Motion passed 5 – 0.</p>
	<p>Denise L. DiFranco stated that they received a letter from Rudolf and Angela DiCenzo requested that Spears Path be made a town road. Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the request to make Spears Path a public road. Discussion: Rudolf DiCenzo, 65 Cumberland St. in Providence; Mark Tourgee, Denise L. DiFranco, Chris Stone, Heidi Rogers, Cheryl Hawes; Walter May, Anthony Road; and Joe Carey. Chris Stone withdrew his second. Heidi Rogers withdrew her motion. Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to table the item. Motion passed 5 – 0.</p>
<b>V. DEPT. HEAD PRESENTATION</b>	<p>Chief David Breit reviewed current activities of the police department.</p>
<b>VI OLD BUSINESS</b> <i>Item A moved</i>	
<b>B. Charter Review Committee Report</b>	<p>A letter was sent from Mr. Restivo to Mr. Moreau of the Economic Development Advisory Committee. There was a joint meeting with the Planning Board, the Charter Review Committee, and EDAC and Mr. Restivo submitted the letter afterward. Jon Restivo, 27 Mill Road, summarized the meeting which included discussion of three issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Creation of an oversight committee for redevelopment of an industrial park – State law allows for redevelopment and the council can create this by resolution</li><li>2. Re-allocation of conveyance fees would need a Charter Change but they felt that there was no need to do so at present</li><li>3. Creation of a municipal court – need the General Assembly to pass a law creating it</li></ol> <p>Mr. Restivo reported on the progress of looking into these topics. Bob Moreau, EDAC chair, discussed the meeting further. He hopes to have final recommendations in April. Discussion: Walter May, Patti Moreau, Mark Tourgee Denise L. DiFranco stated that the minutes should reflect that the council read the letter, accepted the letter, and are awaiting for the Economic Committee to give their report.</p>
<b>B. Revisit Expired Tax Stabilization Ordinance for Commercial Properties</b>	<p>Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to move Item B under New Business to this position. Discussion: none. Motion passed 5 – 0.</p>
	<p>Heidi Rogers noted that the Tax Stabilization Ordinance had expired and the EDAC is working on attracting business so she was thinking that they should reinstitute it. Jon Restivo reviewed the process of renewal, stating that it would have to go to a Financial Town Meeting as required by State Law, and it was important to have a 4-year limitation on it, then it would need to go to a public hearing. It does not have to have an end date. It does not have to go to the General Assembly. Discussion: Heidi Rogers, Denise L. DiFranco, Patti Moreau, Joe Carey Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to send the Tax Stabilization Ordinance to the Planning Board for review and recommendations.</p>

Discussion: Ron Cervasio, 142A Plainfield Pike  
Motion passed 5 – 0.

**C. Response to Planning Board**

Denise L. DiFranco stated that she had heard it said that the Council President received letters from the Planning Board and did not distribute them or add them to the agenda. Ms. DiFranco asked for all letters, and she reported as follows:

- July 23, 2018 regarding the State property maintenance code, addressed at the Sept. 13, 2018 meeting, on page 3.
- September 4, 2019 referencing the letter from July 23, 2018 that was addressed on December 12, 2019.
- September 19, 2018 regarding recognizing volunteers in town which was discussed on October 25, 2018
- December 5, 2018 regarding a traffic signal at the intersection of Cucumber Hill and Route 6, which was addressed on the January 10, 2019 meeting.
- December 10, 2018 discussing Foster Solar installation ordinance which was discussed on January 10, 2019
- March 6, 2019 discussing the Capital Improvement Plan procedure which was addressed at the April 11, 2019 meeting.
- March 26, 2019 presented the Capital Improvement which was accepted but not approved.
- One letter had not been on an agenda from September 4, 2019 discussing the zoning ordinance 38-286 regarding off-street parking and she will place it on the next agenda.

Discussion: Ron Cervasio

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Regional School Budget  
Presentation**

Denise L. DiFranco stated that the Regional School Budget hearing is Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8 p.m. The Financial Regional School meeting is March 17 at 7 p.m. Dates are set by Charter.

Dr. Michael Barnes, Superintendent, presented the Regional School Budget: He stated that the amount of State Aid received in the previous year was \$4,925,000.00, which will be dropping to \$4,704,000, about a \$220,000 decline, for both the elementary and regional schools, there is an additional \$26,000 decline in Federal aid, so net loss in State and Federal aid is approximately \$247,000.

There were \$16,131,000 in local appropriations for last year. He will be requesting \$14,628,000.00 for general operations, \$1.5 million in debt service, and \$442,000 in capital improvement funds for a total of \$16,571,000.00, for a net difference of \$439, 970.00. He noted that the amount dedicated to capital improvement will be going up from 2 percent to 3 percent in the next two years. He discussed programs and plans.

Discussion: Dr. Barnes, Ron Cervasio, Cheryl Hawes, Adam Dacko, 199A Central Pike, Kathleen Swanson, Brendan Mara, Denise L. DiFranco, and Bridget Almon.

*B. moved*

**C. Planning Board Resignation**

Lisa Butler Johnston submitted a letter resigning from the Planning Board. Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded, to accept with regrets. Heidi Rogers noted that Lisa wanted to say how much she appreciated everyone on the Planning Board. Denise L. DiFranco noted that her term expires 12/23. Motion passed 5 – 0.

*D. Moved*

**E. AED Machine for DPW**

Chris Stone moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to combine items D, E. and F - AED machines so they could be voted on together.

Discussion: Chris Stone, Heidi Rogers, Denise L. DiFranco  
Joe Cardillo removed his second, Chris Stone removed his motion.

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	<p>Heidi Rogers moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to approve the Heartsine Samaritan 350P Automated External Defibrillator for \$975.</p> <p>Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco, Kelli Russ, Heidi Rogers, Harold Shippee, 49 Mt. Hygeia Road, Cheryl Hawes</p> <p>Cheryl Hawes amended the motion, Joe Cardillo seconded, to purchase two.</p> <p>Further discussion: none.</p> <p>Amendment passed 5 – 0.</p> <p>Main motion passed 5 – 0.</p>
<b>F. AED Machine for Town House</b>	<p>Cheryl Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to purchase an AED machine for the Town House.</p> <p>Discussion: Cheryl Hawes, Joe Cardillo, Kelli Russ, Denise L. DiFranco</p> <p>Motion failed 0 – 5.</p>
<b>G. AED Machine for the Ben Eddy Building</b>	<p>Heidi Rogers moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to purchase an AED for the Ben Eddy Building.</p> <p>Discussion: Chris Stone</p> <p>Motion failed 0 – 5.</p>
<b>H. Phone Connection for the DPW Garage</b>	<p>Denise L. DiFranco stated there was discussion about there not being a phone in the garage. The only person with a town phone is the director.</p> <p>Joe Cardillo moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to approve a phone connection in the DPW garage.</p> <p>Discussion: Harry Shippee, 49 Mt. Hygeia Road, Kelli Russ, Ron Cervasio, Plainfield Pike</p> <p>Motion failed 2 – 3.</p> <p>Joe Cardillo moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to have Chris Stone investigate it further to see if it is wanted.</p>
<b>I. Statistical Revaluation Bid Award</b>	<p>Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to award the statistical revaluation to Vision Government Solutions at the cost of \$42,000.00, and noting that there were no other bids.</p> <p>Discussion: Kelli Russ</p> <p>Motion passed 5 – 0.</p>
<b>VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Police Contract</li><li>• Town Property Tax</li><li>• Beer and Wine for March 12</li><li>• Spears Path</li><li>• Engineering Board for March 12</li><li>• Zoning Board appointment</li><li>• Planning Board appointment</li></ul>
<b>IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION</b>	<p>Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Closed Session pursuant to RIGL 42-42-4 for the reasons stated in RIGL 42-46-5 for the discussion of personnel or job performance according to 42-46-5a(1)</p> <p>Motion passed 5 – 0.</p>
<b>X. ADJOURNMENT</b>	<p>Return to Open Session. No votes were taken.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.</p>

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