

**Town Council Meeting**  
**March 12, 2020**

The March 12, 2020, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President, at the Captain Isaac Paine School, 160 Foster Center 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

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

Denise L. DiFranco asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Elwood Hopkins.

Denise L. DiFranco reminded everyone that the Regional Financial Town Meeting is March 17 at 7 p.m. at the High School.

Denise L. DiFranco passed out information on the Corona Virus that she received from the EMA Director.

Public Comment: Cheryl Hawes wanted to thank everyone on the Ambulance Corps and Fire Stations who responded to her house when needed.
- III. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes for February 27, 2020

Approval of Payroll Warrants

a. # 35 - \$32,821.97    b. # 36 - \$33,379.54

General Warrant # 13 - \$129,306.93

Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Discussion: None

Motion passed 5 – 0.

*Item B under New Business moved to this position*

Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded to move Item B under New Business to this position.

Discussion: None

Motion passed 5 – 0.

**Letter of Commendation of Officer Zack Bilodeau**

Chief Breit presented a Letter of Commendation to Officer Zach Bilodeau.
- IV. POLICE BLDG. COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Joe Walsh, Chair of the Police Station Building Committee, introduced Edward Rowe, architect, who presented the proposed location and design of a new police station. Chief David Breit explained the insurance and liability issues which contribute to the need for a new building. Joe Walsh discussed financing.

There will be another presentation at the Ben Eddy building on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation Committee Request for Beer & Wine at Food Truck Events

Kelli Russ stated that she had spoken with the Trust and they recommend that they have the same liability as the town does and to include alcohol. It would be a \$3 million policy.

Eric Weiner made a case for serving beer and wine.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the Recreation Committee’s request to have the PVD food truck events serve beer and wine for the first night contingent upon being insured for 2 million dollars and naming the Town of Foster; and if it goes fine, it will be allowed for the other two events.

Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco

Motion passed 3 – 2.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. AARP Grant

Carol Mauro explained that there is a new AARP grant for approximately \$1600 to enhance services to the elderly with housing, safety, and to increase the quality of life. Deadline is April 1. She would like to buy fire extinguishers and fire safety education for Hemlock Village, and also an AED machine for the community room.

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	Denise L. DiFranco recused herself. Chris Stone moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to go ahead with the AARP grant application. Discussion: None Motion passed 5 – 0.
B. <i>Commendation of Officer Zack Bilodeau moved up after III</i>	
C. <b>Engineering Board Report</b>	Cheryl Hawes attended the Engineering Board meeting on February 25. Incentives were discussed.
D. <b>Selection for next Engineering Board meeting</b>	Denise L. DiFranco asked if anyone would like to attend the Engineering Board meeting on March 31. Cheryl Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, to have Cheryl Hawes and Heidi Rogers attend the next Engineering Board meeting on March 31. Discussion: None Motion passed 5 – 0.
E. <b>Planning Board Correspondence</b>	Denise L. DiFranco stated that she missed two letters of correspondence from the Planning Board when she discussed it before. They will be having a public hearing regarding all ordinance change suggestions.
F. <b>Removal of Tree</b>	The acting DPW Director, Bruce Colwell, recommended the removal of the Bright Night tree because it is rotting out the windows of the Town Hall. The choice would be to plant a tree that would not grow higher than 25 feet. Discussion: Chris Stone, Bruce Colwell, Denise L. DiFranco Chris Stone moved to check into the cost of removing the tree and the cost to get a new tree. No second. Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded, to have the tree removed and have another tree put in its place. Discussion: Ron Cervasio Motion passed 5 – 0.
G. <b>Resolution 2020-02</b>	Heidi Rogers read the Resolution requesting the primaries that fall on the Tuesday after Labor Day be moved to Wednesday. (see Exhibit A). Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded to adopt the resolution. Discussion: None Motion passed 5 – 0.
VIII. <b>FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning Board Correspondence – public hearing</li></ul>
IX. <b>EXECUTIVE SESSION</b>	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 RIGL 42-46-5a(1) And for discussions or work sessions regarding Collective Bargaining and Contract Negotiations or Litigation according to RIGL 42-46-5(a) 2 Motion passed 5 – 0.
<b>RETURN TO OPEN SESSION</b>	Return to Open Session. Denise L. DiFranco announced that one vote was taken to appoint Bruce Colwell as an interim DPW Director with Director’s pay and prorated longevity until the December 10, 2020, Town Council meeting, and contingent upon approval of the Union. No permanent replacement in the union will be hired.
X. <b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	Motion passed 3 – 1. Chris Stone voted no. Heidi Rogers Recused. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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

Susan Dillon, Town Clerk