

JUNE 9, 2016
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The June 9, 2016 Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise DiFranco, Vice-President of the Foster Town Council, at the Benjamin Eddy Building, Foster, Rhode Island, at 7:01 p.m..

The following members were present:

Denise DiFranco, Vice President,
Gordon Rogers,
Jon Restivo, and
Cheryl Hawes;

John L. Lewis, Jr., President, excused

Also present:

Renee M. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor
Kelli Russ, Treasurer
Patti Moreau, Tax Assessor
Juliana King, Town Planner
Joe Carey, Planning Board Chair
Superintendent Michael Barnes
Police Chief William Ziehl
Palmer Moore, NEXAMP/Solar Foster, LLC

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| I. OPEN
SESSION
PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. |
| II. ANNOUNCE-
MENTS | Denise DiFranco stated that the notice of the meeting was properly posted on the Secretary of State's web site. |
| III. PUBLIC
COMMENT | None |
| IV. MINUTES | Gordon Rogers moved, Jon Restivo seconded, to approve the minutes for May 26, 2016, as submitted.

Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0. |
| V. WARRANTS | Gordon Rogers moved, Jon Restivo seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #47 for \$31,988.30.

Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Gordon Rogers moved, Jon Restivo seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #48 for \$31,908.90.

Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Gordon Rogers moved, Jon Restivo seconded, to approve General Warrant #21 for \$62,586.79.

Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0. |
| VI. QUARTERLY
REPORTS | Gordon Rogers moved, Jon Restivo seconded, to accept the following quarterly reports, as presented: Board of Canvassers and Land Trust. |

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**QUARTERLY
REPORTS, cont.**

Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

VII. OLD

BUSINESS

**a.) Review of
Glocester
Resolution,
Removing
Capital
Expenditures
from
Maintenance
of Effort**

Denise DiFranco reminded the Council that at the last meeting the Council moved this topic to a future meeting for discussion. There had not been any progress made on a rewrite of this resolution in time for this meeting.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to move this to a future agenda item for a future meeting for further discussion.

Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**b.) “Welcome to
Foster” Sign
Proposal**

Councilman Restivo had updated his first draft of criteria for the proposed sign contest, to add the option that people could submit designs only, and not have to actually produce the sign(s).

Superintendent Barnes had offered up use of a laser engraver at the high school, which etches into wood or metal, although not in color.

Mr. Restivo also added information stating that the Council reserved the right to reject any sign with inappropriate or offensive content, and the selected signs would become property of the town.

It was agreed that the contact information would be the Town Clerk’s email address and phone number at town hall.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Gordon Rogers seconded, to accept this sign criteria submission.

The information would be disseminated on Town web site, to the school committee to disseminate, and on social media. An article would also be submitted to the Foster Home Journal.

Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**c.) Tax Treaty,
Foster Solar,
LLC, Solar
Installation**

Ms. DiFranco reported that Mr. Restivo had continued to work with Town Planner Juliana King, Assessor Patti Moreau and Treasurer Kelli Russ on furthering this agreement, and had come back to the Council with an update.

Mr. Restivo explained that this new agreement was substantially similar to the last agreement presented, with changes to the amounts the Town would be getting paid by Foster Solar, LLC. The annual amount paid to the Town would be \$8,765.00, more than the initial proposal. The agreement no longer included payments to the Land Trust, and would be based on a 15 year agreement. The final cost had been arrived at through a formula based on the overall cost of the solar panels, the most expensive equipment being purchased by the solar company. This formula could be consistently applied to other companies in the future.

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**OLD
BUSINESS, cont.**

Mr. Restivo reminded the Council of a State law currently under consideration, with the Office of Energy Resources developing taxing criteria for communities, based on agreements that had already been entered into, taking into account a per kilowatt capacity standard and a number of other different factors.

Mr. Restivo did not feel that this agreement between the Town of Foster and NEXAMP/Foster Solar would be affected, should that State law be put into effect.

Gordon Rogers moved, Jon Restivo seconded, to accept the tax stabilization agreement presented tonight.

Discussion: Cheryl Hawes asked Mr. Restivo if he was satisfied with this agreement. Mr. Restivo further explained the reasoning behind the agreement, and made comparisons to agreements with other towns and solar companies. Various people spoke with questions and comments regarding potential future agreements.

**VIII. NEW
BUSINESS
a.) Request from
Thornton
Beagle Club
for Class F
Liquor
License**

Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Ms. DiFranco stated that the Council had had a request from the Thornton Beagle Club for a Class F liquor license for an event to be held June 16, 2016.

Gordon Rogers moved, Jon Restivo seconded, to accept the request for a Class F liquor license for the Thornton Beagle club for June 16, 2016.

Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**b.) Tax Bill
Presentation**

Denise DiFranco explained that she had worked with the Treasurer and Tax Assessor on the possibility of separating out the local (Paine) school tax rate and the Regional high school tax rate on the tax bills, to better inform residents.

Discussion ensued on the topic, whether it would make sense to residents; how to read the bill; should new text be printed in red, at an additional cost?

Gordon Rogers moved, Jon Restivo seconded, to accept the changes to the tax bill as presented, with new text breaking out the local and regional school costs, and printing in black and white only.

Denise DiFranco aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; Jon Restivo, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**IX. FUTURE
AGENDA
ITEMS**

- Public Hearing, Charter Amendments, June 23
- Audit Bid Award, June 23, 2016
- LESO Program
- Financial Statements and Standards Policies & Procedures for Non-Town Entities Receiving Appropriations
- Recreation Field
- Bond for Police Station

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**X. EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

None

**XI. ADJOURN-
MENT**

Gordon Rogers moved, Jon Restivo seconded, and it was so moved to adjourn the meeting.

Denise DiFranco, aye; Chery Hawes, aye; Gordon Rogers, aye; and Jon Restivo, aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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

Submitted by,

Jane Christopher
Town Clerk