

FEBRUARY 28, 2013
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The February 28, 2013, Town Council Meeting was called to order by John L. Lewis, Jr., President of the Foster Town Council, at the Benjamin Eddy Building, Foster, Rhode Island, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

John L. Lewis, Jr., President,
Neal C. Whitelaw,
Denise DiFranco, and
Roger L. Hawes.

Pamela Fontaine, Vice President, was excused.

Also present:

Renee M. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor
Peter Scorpio, Building & Zoning
Robert Hohler, DPW Director
Susan Boucher, Tax Assessor's Clerk
Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner
Lillian Jackson, Deputy Treasurer
Chief Robert Coyne

I OPEN SESSION The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

II MINUTES Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was so voted to approve the minutes of **February 12, 2013.**

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was so voted to approve the minutes of **February 14, 2013.**

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

III WARRANTS Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was so voted to approve **Payroll Warrant #32**, in the amount of \$36,408.95.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was so voted to approve **Payroll Warrant #33**, in the amount of \$28,459.52.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was so voted to approve **General Warrant #14**, in the amount of \$81,088.97.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

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- IV MONTHLY REPORTS**
- a. Bldg. & Zoning** Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was so moved to accept the **Building & Zoning** monthly report as presented.
- John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0
- b. Public Works** Denise DiFranco moved, Neal Whitelaw seconded, and it was so moved to accept the **Public Works** report as presented.
- John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.
- c. Finance** Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was so moved to approve the **Finance** report as presented.
- John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.
- d. Planning** Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was so voted to approve the **Planning** report as submitted.
- John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.
- e. Police** Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was so voted to approve the **Police Department** report as presented.
- John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.
- f. RIRRC** Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was so voted to approve the **RIRRC** report as presented.
- John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.
- g. School** Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was so voted to approve the **School Committee** report as presented.
- John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.
- h. Tax Assessor** Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was so moved to approve the **Tax Assessor's** report as presented.
- John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

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- V QUARTERLY REPORTS** Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was so voted to accept the four 2012 quarterly reports from the **Conservation Commission**.
- a. Conservation Commission** John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0
- b. Land Trust** Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was so voted to accept the third and fourth 2012 quarterly reports from the **Land Trust**.
- John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0
- VI NEW BUSINESS**
- a. Boy Scout Proclamation** Denise DiFranco read a proclamation for Eagle Scout **Alexander R. Cunniff**. Neither Scout Cunniff or his Scout Leader were present. The Town Clerk will arrange to get the Proclamation to Mr. Cunniff.
- Roger Hawes moved, Denise DiFranco and Neal Whitelaw seconded, and it was so moved to approve the Proclamation as presented.
- John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0
- b. Presentation by Michael Barnes - Regional School Budget** Mr. Barnes, Superintendent, Sarah Mangiarelli, Business Manager, and Elizabeth Sinwell, Director of Curriculum Instruction & Assessment were present from the Foster-Glocester Regional Schools. Mr. Barnes spoke about the upcoming budget and how the school is attempting to include good student programs in spite of the reduced budget. Ms. Mangiarelli referenced the presented budget, which is being revised to benefit the taxpayers. She noted that State aid did not decrease as much as anticipated.
- Discussion: Gordon Rogers referenced the increase in enrollment in Paine School and cautioned that as a result a few years from now Foster will have a difficult time balancing the budget, and encouraged that the town start putting money aside. Mr. Lewis responded that money will be directed to the existing special account.
- Ron Cervasio questioned Sarah Mangiarelli about the increase of students at Paine School. (45 extra)
- John Lewis requests that the Regional School web site be linked to the Town web site.
- c. DHS Fund-raiser** Carol McCullough asked permission from the Council to hold some raffles to benefit the Department of Human Services. Renee Bevilacqua asked if Ms. McCullough is discussing paper checks or utilizing the internet. Carol McCullough stated she would like to explore using the internet via a stationary website allowing people to donate online. Ms. Bevilacqua will explore potential commerce issues using the internet in that way. John Lewis asks Ms. Bevilacqua if the Town Council could authorize a paper raffle while Ms. Bevilacqua is exploring the internet issues.

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Carol McCullough also requested permission to run an ad the Foster Home Journal and offer a coupon that can be filled out and sent in with a check. She also brought up the possibility of a PayPal account for the DHS.

John Lewis asked to put a motion on the table to run a raffle.

Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to authorize an on-the-ground, non-internet raffle.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0

John Lewis tells Carol McCullough she may explore internet options and review them with Renee Bevilacqua.

d. Animal Control Contract

Kelli Russ, Town Treasurer, explained that the last contract with the Gloucester Animal Shelter expired, but that the shelter has been honoring the terms of the last contract and accepting animals. A second payment installment is due from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. Ms. Russ would like the Town Council to sign a contract so she can make the payment owed. John Lewis proposed the Town Council go out for an RFP and get proposals and suggested bringing the Gloucester proposal to the March 14th TC Mtg. No motions were made.

e. Human Services Restroom

Peter Scorpio, Building Inspector, discussed the violation in not having a bathroom downstairs in the Human Services Department of the Town Hall that is handicapped accessible. Ann Marie Ignasher stated that the Planning Board approved \$20,000.00 for this bathroom in the capital budget.

Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to go out to bid for a handicap accessible bathroom for DHS, with the work not commencing until July 1st.

Denise DiFranco moved to amend Mr. Whitelaw's motion to award the bid at the May 9th 2013 Town Council meeting following the May 7 financial town meeting. Roger Hawes seconded.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Main motion passed 4-0

John Lewis asked Peter Scorpio to request bids for April.

f. Resolution on Farm/Forest Open Space

Resolution from Tax Assessor revising Farm/Forest Open Space.

Neal Whitelaw moved to table the resolution, Roger Hawes seconded.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0

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**VII
OLD BUSINESS** None

**VIII
PUBLIC
HEARING –** Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner, described the grant and reported on its status. She requested permission to complete the application process.

CDBG GRANT Roger Hawes moved, Denise DiFranco seconded, to give approval.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0

**IX
FUTURE
AGENDA
ITEMS**

- Animal Control contract – March 14, 2013
- Personnel Policy – March 14, 2013.

Neal Whitelaw moved, Denise DiFranco seconded, to adjourn.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0

**X
ADJOURN-
MENT**

Neal Whitelaw moved, Denise DiFranco seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 for a work session regarding Collective Bargaining / Negotiations or Litigation according to RIGL 42-46-5-a (2) and for Personnel according to RIGL 42-46-5a(1) and to reconvene into open session and to further keep the minutes of said meeting closed and the minutes of all executive sessions held previous to this meeting remain closed in accordance with provisions in RIGL 42-46-4 & 5. No discussion.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Neal C. Whitelaw moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded to reconvene into Open Session. John L. Lewis, Jr. announced that no votes were taken.

Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded a motion to adjourn.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal C. Whitelaw, aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 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
Deputy Town Clerk