

April 20, 2006

The Town Council meeting was called to order by Heidi Rogers at the Town House, 181 Howard Hill Road, Foster, RI at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Heidi Rogers, President
Steven Bellucci, Vice President
Ralph Berkowitz
Colette J. Matarese was unable to attend due to illness
Harold R. Shippee, Sr., was unable to attend due to vacation
Bradford Gorham Esq., representing Town Solicitors

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following citizens spoke under concerned citizens:

Lynne S. Rider of Burgess Road
Ronald Cervasio of Old Plainfield Pike
Robert Peterson of Foster Center Road

Steven Bellucci moved, Ralph Berkowitz seconded and it was so voted to approve the February 15, 2006 minutes.

Heidi Rogers, aye, Steven Bellucci, aye Ralph Berkowitz

Steven Bellucci moved, Ralph Berkowitz seconded and it was so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #41 in the amount of \$20,210.68, Payroll Warrant #42 in the amount of \$21,692.07 and General Warrant G-19 in the amount of \$28,355.89.

Heidi Rogers, aye, Steven Bellucci, aye Ralph Berkowitz

Steven Bellucci moved Ralph Berkowitz seconded and it was so voted to approve the quarterly reports that were submitted and they are on file at town hall if anyone wants to see them.

Heidi Rogers, aye, Steven Bellucci, aye Ralph Berkowitz

Bradford Gorham, Town Solicitor explained to the council that the personal real estate rate and the residential commercial rate cannot be more than 50% a part. He noted that the town would have to have an ordinance if they had a tax classification. He did not think there was enough time to pass the ordinance between now and the financial town meeting.

Anne Carlson, Tax Assessor addressed the council about the letter she submitted to them. She noted that classification with tangibles would be the most beneficial. Mrs. Carlson noted that without classification the Foster Country Club would pay less than the year before and the Water Supply Board would be paying less than the year before.

Mrs. Carlson explained that commercial property would be apartment complexes of 6 units or more and there are 3 in the town. Mrs. Carlson explained that residential commercial would be 93 Danielson Pike with a house and service garage.

Bradford Gorham said he would prepare an ordinance for the town council's review to get the process started to adopt classification at a 50% higher rate for commercial property.

Ralph Berkowitz moved, Steven Bellucci seconded and it was so voted that the Mr. Gorham and Mrs. Carlson work together to make up an ordinance.

Heidi Rogers, aye, Steven Bellucci, aye Ralph Berkowitz

Steven Bellucci moved, Ralph Berkowitz seconded and it was so voted to eliminate Letter E. from the agenda, Home Land Security Officer and to add an item to new business Letter E. newsletter.

Heidi Rogers, aye, Steven Bellucci, aye Ralph Berkowitz

Ralph Berkowitz moved, Steven Bellucci seconded and it was so voted to approve the proration abatement in the amount of \$5.36 for account 03-0315-00.

Heidi Rogers, aye, Steven Bellucci, aye Ralph Berkowitz

Steven Bellucci moved, Ralph Berkowitz seconded and it was so voted to authorize the use of the town's flag.

Heidi Rogers, aye, Steven Bellucci, aye Ralph Berkowitz

Heidi Rogers read the following proclamation regarding former Town Clerk, Maureen Comerford.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the untimely death of Maureen E. Comerford is a great loss to her family, her many friends and the citizens of Foster; and;

WHEREAS, this loss is deeply felt by the entire community; and

WHEREAS, Maureen E. Comerford loved Foster, its people and its rural atmosphere as evidence by her dedication to the community; and

WHEREAS, Maureen E. Comerford exemplified the spirit of the Town of Foster by giving her time and energy to the functions of town government, serving as Emergency Dispatcher from 1982 to 1985, Deputy Town Clerk from 1985 to 1992 and elected as Town Clerk in 1992 to 1994;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Foster Town Council on behalf of its citizens, conveys to her family its deepest personal sympathy.

Adopted this 20th day of April, 2006.

TOWN OF FOSTER

ATTEST:

S/Anne M. Irons

S/Heidi Rogers

Anne M. Irons, Town Clerk

Heidi Rogers, President
Foster Town Council

Steven Bellucci moved, Ralph Berkowitz seconded and it was so voted to adopt the above Proclamation.

Heidi Rogers, aye, Steven Bellucci, aye Ralph Berkowitz

Heidi Rogers remarked that a request was received from Housing Works RI and she believed it was going against what the council supported for Nick at the last meeting.

Bradford Gorham agreed and said that his point was that the higher density should go where the infrastructure was and to preserve some rural atmosphere.

Heidi Rogers said that she would not support it. The council took no action.

Steven Bellucci moved, Ralph Berkowitz seconded to authorize the newsletter. Heidi Rogers asked the Town Solicitor if the council could vote on it even though it was not on the agenda and was just added. Mr. Gorham said that they could because that was what the open meetings law said. The Town Clerk disagreed.

Ronald Cervasio said he was not a lawyer but consensus was not a vote though he was under the understanding that you could not vote on the matter that was added.

Heidi Rogers said that she didn't even though if it was necessary to be voted on to send it out. Bradford Gorham answered that if the council was sending it out it should be authorized to do so. Mr. Gorham again said that if you can add to the agenda you can vote on it otherwise it would make no sense to add it on the agenda and let it sit there.

Heidi Rogers read the newsletter that she proposed to send out regarding the financial town meeting.

Steven Bellucci moved, Ralph Berkowitz seconded and it was so voted to send out the newsletter.

Heidi Rogers, aye, Steven Bellucci, aye Ralph Berkowitz

Heidi Rogers moved, Ralph Berkowitz seconded and it was so voted to table the Ordinance Revisions Update until the next meeting.

Heidi Rogers, aye, Steven Bellucci, aye Ralph Berkowitz

Heidi Rogers announced that the Town did receive a grant from the State Planning Office in the amount of \$30,000 called the State Planning Challenge Grant.

Steven Bellucci moved, Ralph Berkowitz seconded and it was so voted to oppose House Bill #7280 and forward a letter to the town's legislature.

Ralph Berkowitz moved, Steven Bellucci seconded and it was so voted to go into executive session at 7:38 p.m. according to 42-46-4-5 (2) collective bargaining and 42-46-4-5 (5) acquisition of land and not to reconvene and further to keep the minutes of said meeting closed and the minutes of all executives sessions held previous to this meeting be closed and remain closed pursuant to provisions of General laws of Rhode Island 42-46-4.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Anne M. Irons

An electronic tape is made a part of the record for a complete account of the council meeting. This tape is on file in the vault at town hall.