

May 18, 2006

The Town Council meeting was called to order by Heidi Rogers at the Town House. 180 Howard Hill Road Foster, RI 02825. at 7 pm.

The following members were present:

Heidi Rogers, President
Steven Bellucci, Vice President
Ralph Berkowitz
Colette J. Matarese
Harold R. Shippee, Sr.
Bradford Gorham Esq., representing Town Solicitors, Gorham & Gorham

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Colette J. Matarese made a motion to amend the agenda to add the town treasurers' position under Old Business, letter "C. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and was so voted to amend the agenda.

Heidi Rogers asked if there were any concerned citizens.

Shirley McGunagle, spoke of the town of Coventry abandoning the right of way to her and one other house. She lives in the Town of Foster and the other house is in the town of Scituate. She was looking for a letter of support from the town of Foster since she is a town resident.

Colette J. Matarese made a motion to amend the meeting agenda to include under the heading of New Business the letter "I" McGunagle – Access disc/action. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and was so voted.

Colette J. Matarese moved that The Town of Foster send a letter to the Town of Coventry Town Council and Town Solicitor of support of the McGunagles request to keep access where it has always been. Also that they be able to bring their trash to one of the town's dumpster's until this is resolved. Steven Bellucci seconded and it was so voted.

Bradford Gorham spoke under concerned citizens about a letter about the regional school district and some problems the Town had with the proposed legislation.

Steven Bellucci read and moved to accept Payroll Warrant #45 for \$19,669.98, #46 for \$20,069.97 and General Warrant #G23 for \$66,801.90 Ralph Berkowitz seconded

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. asked why the Town of Foster was paying fees for a CDL License for Richard Grant. All other employees pay for their own license and that a CDL license is a job requirement for Public Works Director in the personnel policy, he should have had a CDL license before he was appointed.

Colette J. Matarese asked about a line item of CMB Landscaping - baseball fields and soccer which doesn't specify where the money is coming from, whether it is from Public Works or Recreation. The other question that she had was under Capital – 24 bales of hay. She understood that bales of hay might be used in preparation for capital improvements but she wasn't sure if would come out of capital funds. Also under Drake Petroleum fuel and lube oil she believes that would be coming out of Public Works, also for gravel whether that would be capital expense she believes when the money was allocated for paving it was for the asphalt itself. Another line item was union dues police, She believes that union dues come out of peoples paychecks, I don't know why the town is paying union dues for the police. Again there is clean up of Woody Lowden, is it Buildings and grounds or Recreation? She could not tell from the report. Fuel and lube oil, then across the page you see a description of mounting and balancing of tires. Then the account of the tires has a description of oil change for a cruiser. I believe that those two got switched around. Also under Minuteman press, postage and advertising, copies of the budget. We have always done that in house. Then on page 5 under fuel and lube oil why we have 3 cases of blue grease and under department operation/handtools blue grease for the exact same amount of money. Then to page 6 either people are making a lot of collect calls or I don't understand this at all. We have line items for \$1.42, \$1.64, \$3.06 it doesn't make sense to me on how we are doing that. On page 7 again, under capital public works 2 bundles of 3' stakes for \$17.50 I don't think that comes under any capital item. Verizon telephone bill is very similar to the other telephone bill, it is all broken out.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. said on page 4 under parts and repairs, 2 batteries and 2 wiper blades for \$612.45.

Ralph Berkowitz said that you can only put so much on a line item.

Ronald Cervasio stated that hay should come out of capital and asked Colette J. Matarese what she was trying to accomplish.

Colette J. Matarese stated that what she was trying to accomplish was that she had questions whether or not those items should be there She didn't want to approve something that she might be held liable for given an audit especially if it is not a capital account. Also two things transposed being fuel and lube oil under parts and repairs and parts and repairs under fuel and lube oil. I don't want to approve this because the wrong amounts are being taken out. Why is blue grease being taken out of two separate line items. I've never seen this kind of listing before so I have some questions. The other thing is we still don't have the payroll warrants and we are up to number 46th of the year and therefore our expenditure report is not correct and up to date because we are still at 36% and we are about 90% or so at the time of the year.

Heidi Rogers said all those in favor signify by saying aye.

Heidi Rogers aye, Steven Bellucci aye, Ralph Berkowitz aye, Colette J. Matarese nay, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. nay.

Heidi Rogers stated that there were three public hearings, one for Municipal Radio alarm system and a Gun shop License and the other for a RFP for engineering design for Old Plainfield Pike.

Colette J. Matarese said that the procedure was they would open the bids and then give them to the appropriate department for review and recommendation to the council.

Heidi Rogers read aloud the bids for the Municipal Radio alarm system and they were as follows:

Data Communications	No Bid
Cyber Comm Inc.	\$8,240 with optional equipment
Marcus Communications	\$8,140 with optional equipment
Fire Suppression	\$25,400
D & R	\$10,110 with optional equipment

Colette J. Matarese moved to forward the bids to the appropriate people, namely the chief of police, Tom Walden, the engineering board and Gordon Brayton.

Heidi Rogers said the second public hearing is for a Gun Shop License for Keith LaFazia of 2 Gold Mine Road. She asked if he was present and Mr. LaFazia spoke and said yes.

Keith LaFazia said that he would only be selling by special order. He would get the order delivered to him, then he would send the paperwork to the Chief of Police for the background checks, and then he would notify the buyer that the item they ordered was in.

Heidi Rogers asked if there were anyone for the License, with no response she asked if there were anyone against. An abutter spoke of concern of the value of his property with the sale of guns.

Chief Coyne said that Mr. LaFazia has been checked out and that he has no problem with the License being issued.

Steven Bellucci moved to issue the gun shop license to Keith LaFazia of 2 Gold Mine Road, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to issue the license.

Heidi Rogers aye, Steven Bellucci aye, Ralph Berkowitz aye, Colette J. Matarese aye, Harold R. Shippee Sr. aye.

Heidi Rogers said the third public hearing was the RFP for Engineering Design Work for Old Plainfield Pike.

The bids were as follows:

Fuss & O'Neill	\$68,700
Crossman Engineering	\$48,000
Pare Engineering	\$50,815
Edwards & Kelcey	\$134,320
Bryant Associates	\$49,445

Steven Bellucci moved to accept the bids and forward them to Richard Grant for review. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted.

Lynne S. Rider asked if the DPW director could let the people know the initial hours being spent and if we are in fact being reimbursed and what amount from the State.

Heidi Rogers opened the bid from Specialty Vehicles Inc. which was \$169,695.

Steven Bellucci moved to give the bid to Sharon Cotter Commander of the Foster Ambulance Corp. for review. Ralph Berkowitz seconded and it was so voted.

Heidi Rogers said that there were letters of concern from the upgrading of Balcom Road. One from Scott Ulricksen, Joseph Conlon, Tracey A. Griffing and Karen P. Ward and Lorraine Kaul and William C. Griffing all of Balcom Road.

Walter May spoke of how the increase of population increases the traffic on the town roads for example UPS drivers, oil deliveries, mail etc.

Lynne S. Rider spoke of the five year road plan and how the improvements could be done once the town had the funds to actually do the improvement and maintain them. It might be a good idea to look at the five year road plan and update it.

John Lewis, Planning Board member spoke of the five year road plan and how Balcom Road with its criteria would go to the top of the list.

Colette J. Matarese asked if the five year road plan has ever gone before the Conservation Commission. And that the residents should have been notified of the major repairs that were going to be done and met with Public Works Department and or Planning Department on Balcom Road improvements.

Linda Tibbetts of the Land Trust asked if the project could be temporarily stopped until the proper paperwork and studies were done and caught up.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. agreed and said that is what Scott Ulicksen is asking for. He has done a lot of work on calling up the agencies and the town should have done the same thing. The town should have had a public hearing with the people on that road to inform them of the project.

Heidi Rogers said the next item on the agenda is the Town Treasurer position.

Colette J. Matarese said she had asked that this item be on the agenda because of the fact the council had talked last meeting about the process the council was going to use to fill that position and we talked about it and we talked the fact that the auditor general had made a very professional offer to get a group of people from other cities and towns together municipal officials in order to look at what is required for this position and also to look at a search committee. And I think we need to do this quickly to keep on putting this off we keep on getting further and further and further down the trail for an applicant. I do not know how the liaison for finance feels but I feel that should have been on here so that we could send out advertisements and maybe contacted Mr. Almonte and see what exactly he could do for us.

Bradford Gorham said that this was from Peder Schaffer who is the head of the state budget office and he offered his assistance, but this was assistance to Lisa Mills as Treasurer then he also had another name to help us. He also offered to help us with a search committee. But I don't know how long Ms. Mills is going to work for the town. I think you should put this on your next agenda.

Colette J. Matarese said that she had had a problem with that and that Ms. Mills has been very vocal and she is only staying on through June. Our next meeting is not for another three weeks. If we keep on waiting I would like to suggest that we try meeting earlier than that to do this. This is an important item we need to act on it and we need to act on it now. We sit around and say oh well we don't meet for another two weeks. The council is a council 24/7 and its time we really acted on it and got through with it.

Ralph Berkowitz said that he could call Peder Schaffer and check with him when a good time would be for him to meet. (Then I will call Tina W Simula, Deputy Town Clerk so that she can make the necessary calls.)

Chief Coyne spoke and asked that the council move an item up on the agenda under new business, letter F appointment of Jayme Lynn Dandeneau to the recreation department due to the fact that she is eight months pregnant and these seats are not very comfortable.

Steven Bellucci moved to move the item up in new business and was so voted.

Steven Bellucci moved to appoint Jayme Lynn Dandeneau to the recreation committee, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted.

Heidi Rogers aye, Steven Bellucci aye, Ralph Berkowitz aye, Colette J. Matarese aye, Harold R. Shippee Sr. aye.

Heidi Rogers said we have abatements for the tax collector.

Colette J. Matarese moved to accept and read the following abatements: 1994 Personal Property \$1,619.44, 1995 Personal Property \$1,184.50, 1995 Motor Vehicles \$11,558.15. Steven Bellucci seconded and was so voted to approve.

Heidi Rogers aye, Steven Bellucci aye, Ralph Berkowitz aye, Colette J. Matarese aye, Harold R. Shippee Sr. aye.

Heidi Rogers said the tax collector has a request for carrying over some comp time and vacation time.

Colette J. Matarese moved that the request of Pamela Fontaine, tax collector for the vacation time to carry over the remainder 2005/2006 vacation time which is 4 days and 4 hours to be used by December 31, 2006. I would move that this be granted. Steven Bellucci seconded.

Heidi Rogers aye, Steven Bellucci aye, Ralph Berkowitz aye, Colette J. Matarese aye, Harold R. Shippee Sr. aye.

Colette J. Matarese read the following days as compensation days, Thursday May 25th Friday May 26 Tuesday May 30 and Wednesday May 31. Wednesday June 7 and Monday June 12 and Monday June 26. which will leave 20 hours of comp time and the first motion I will make is to approve the dates stated as compensation days off. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded.

Heidi Rogers asked if Pamela Fontaine talked to Lisa Mills about these hours I am concerned about the tax window.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. asked what hours does Lisa Mills work. She leaves at 12:30 no one is on that side of the building. The other day it was 1:30. What kind of hours does she have. I thought the Treasurer's office was open from 9am to 4pm. I don't think Pam should be taking care of everything. Everytime that you have taken vacation or a day off you have let the council know and that's what a department should be doing. Mr. Grant the public works director took Friday off and didn't tell anyone. How do we keep track of this time for these people.

Heidi Rogers asked if Lisa knew of these dates.

Pamela Fontaine said that she has gotten copies of these letters to the council and she hasn't heard anything from her.

Colette J. Matarese said the last motion was to allow the remaining 20 hours of compensation time to be carried over until December 31, 2006. Steven Bellucci seconded. And it was so voted.

Heidi Rogers aye, Steven Bellucci aye, Ralph Berkowitz aye, Colette J. Matarese aye, Harold R. Shippee Sr. aye.

Colette J. Matarese moved that Anne Carlson be allowed to carry over 5 days of vacation time until September 30, 2006 and also to allow 2 vacation days in May or June 2006. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and was so voted.

Heidi Rogers aye, Steven Bellucci aye, Ralph Berkowitz aye, Colette J. Matarese aye, Harold R. Shippee Sr. aye.

Colette J. Matarese also moved to allow Robert Fallon to use 7 vacation days between now and December 31, 2006. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and was so voted.

Heidi Rogers aye, Steven Bellucci aye, Ralph Berkowitz aye, Colette J. Matarese aye, Harold R. Shippee Sr. aye.

Steven Bellucci moved to grant the FosteringArts organization permission to use the Foster fairgrounds on June 8, July 6 and August 17. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded. And it was so voted with the stipulations of proof of liability insurance.

Heidi Rogers aye, Steven Bellucci aye, Ralph Berkowitz aye, Colette J. Matarese aye, Harold R. Shippee Sr. aye.

Steven Bellucci moved to appoint alternate member of the zoning board Lori Mihailides to full term slot that Mr. Shangraw resigned from. Ralph Berkowitz seconded. And it was so voted.

Heidi Rogers aye, Steven Bellucci aye, Ralph Berkowitz aye, Colette J. Matarese aye, Harold R. Shippee Sr. aye.

Heidi Rogers read the next item on the agenda was temporary accounting services in the treasurer's office.

Colette J. Matarese said that the town council needed to get someone with municipal experience into the town hall and someone who knows phoenix and municipal finance. Ralph Berkowitz agreed and said that he was talking with Peder Schaffer and he gave a list of names and he would come in with that individual and go over what needs to be done.

Bradford Gorham said that the council was meeting on next week perhaps that the discussion could include the findings of the discussion with Peder Schaffer.

Ralph Berkowitz moved to accept the submitted financial letter. Colette J. Matarese seconded and was so voted.

Heidi Rogers aye, Steven Bellucci aye, Ralph Berkowitz aye, Colette J. Matarese aye, Harold R. Shippee Sr. aye.

Heidi Rogers mentioned that George Brayton Sr. had spoken to her about using any of the town's buildings for the meetings of the American legion.

Steven Bellucci moved to allow the American Legion the use of any of the town buildings that can be scheduled for their meetings. Colette J. Matarese seconded and was so voted.

Heidi Rogers aye, Steven Bellucci aye, Ralph Berkowitz aye, Colette J. Matarese aye, Harold R. Shippee Sr. aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tina W. Simula
Deputy Town Clerk

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.