

## **June 22 2006**

The June 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 did not attend  
Ralph Berkowitz  
Colette J. Matarese  
Harold R. Shippee, Sr.  
Bradford Gorham Esq., representing Town Solicitors

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

The following residents spoke under concerned citizens:

Donna Mansolillo, of Pierce Road Co-Chair Foster School Committee.  
Lynne S. Rider of Burgess Road  
Cheryl Davis of Abbey Lane  
Harold Hey of North Road  
Thomas Walden of Central Pike  
Jane Gurzenda East Killingly Road

Ralph Berkowitz moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded to approve the minutes of May 18, 2006.

Colette J. Matarese moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to amend the minutes of May 18, 2006 to reflect that the vote to approve compensation for Pamela Fontaine was a unanimous vote of the town council.

Heidi Rogers asked for a vote on the main motion and the motion passed to approve the minutes as amended.

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

Pamela Fontaine, Tax Collector asked that a copy of the minutes be placed in her personnel file.

Colette J. Matarese moved, Harold Shippee seconded that Mrs. Fontaine is provided certified copies of the minutes and a copy be place in her personnel file.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. aye, Colette J. Matarese aye, Ralph Berkowitz no, Heidi Rogers no

The motion did not pass.

Ralph Berkowitz moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #47 in the amount of \$20,120.90, Payroll Warrant # 48 in the amount of \$23,150.90, Payroll Warrant 49 in the amount of \$21,856.38, Payroll Warrant # 50 in the amount of \$ 20,1863.62, Payroll Warrant #51 in the amount of \$21,7771.8 and General Warrant G#26 in the amount of \$120,750.00, General Warrant G #27 in the amount of \$1,500 and General Warrant G#28 in the amount of \$57,668.62. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. noted that on page 3 of General Warrant G#28 asked what a concrete washing pad was in the amount of \$828.18 payable to Jolly Concrete. Colette J. Matarese questioned the amount of \$135.00 for All American Locksmith for locks in the finance department. She noted that the locks were changed when the Treasurer left in 2005 and when the Treasurer left in 2006 and now again the locks are being changed.

Thomas Walden, Chief of Foster Center Volunteer Fire Company noted that there was a box alarm at town hall on the weekend and the fire company could not get access to some offices as the locks were not in the lockbox.

Colette J. Matarese moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted that an explanation be given to the town council by the next council meeting on why it was necessary to change the locks.

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

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded that an explanation also be given to the council on the concrete washing pad.

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

Colette J. Matarese also questioned why there were telephone bills in the amount of \$1.70 and that it did not make sense. Heidi Rogers answered that it looked like the different departments were being charged and it only came out of their budgets. Colette J. Matarese said that it does not make sense to her. Colette J. Matarese said she would stop by the finance department and get a copy of the phone bill.

Heidi Rogers noted that the warrant was now reduced by \$828.18. Colette J. Matarese noted that Warrant G-26 was already voted on by the council as the council had to make a motion because of the severity of the situation with the money. She also noted that Warrant G-26 was supposed to have a total of \$320,750 which was \$120,750 for the Schneider property and \$200,000 for the Sanio/Lapojia property. She noted that G-26 only has the \$120,750. Ralph Berkowitz said that the discussion was when the need was needed for the money that was when the check was going to be done. Colette J. Matarese remarked that the motion was to pay the amount so it did not have to come back to the

council. Ralph Berkowitz said that it was to different properties. Colette J. Matarese answered that that was correct but the Land Trust wanted the approval of the \$120,750 and the \$200,000 so when the money was needed it was already approved by the council and that checks could be cut and that was why the council did it.

Heidi Rogers asked if she wanted that warrant excluded. Colette J. Matarese answered yes and G-26 should have included both properties because that was the vote and if you want a paper trail you should have an accurate paper trail.

The Town Clerk noted that G#27 was already approved by the Town Council last August and it was only a reissue of a check. Heidi Rogers answered exactly.

Ralph Berkowitz withdrew his motion on the warrants and Colette J. Matarese withdrew her second.

Ralph Berkowitz moved Colette J. Matarese seconded and it was so voted to pay Payroll Warrant #47 in the amount of \$20,130.90, Payroll Warrant #48 in the amount of \$23,150.90, Payroll Warrant #49 in the amount of \$21,856.38, Payroll Warrant #50 in the amount of \$20,863.62 and Payroll Warrant #51 in the amount of \$21,777.18 and General Warrant G#28 in the amount of \$56,840.44. Colette J. Matarese also questioned when the council was going to get the payroll warrants that have yet to be approved. Heidi Rogers asked Stephen Woerner if Lisa Mills was working on those warrants. Mr. Woerner answered that she was close to March or maybe mid April. Colette J. Matarese noted that they were before March and they have never been voted on and she believed that they were in the months of October or December. Colette J. Matarese said that there were several warrants that the council had not seen or voted on. Mr. Woerner said they would be on the next agenda.

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

Colette J. Matarese moved Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to change the order of the day and move Item E. under New Business to A1 under Old Business and make Item A A2.

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

Bradford Gorham, Town Solicitor explained that the full regionalization act which would regionalize the Foster Gloucester schools from K-12 if the voters vote for it on November 7. He noted that it was currently before the legislature and it had been a long process and comments were received from people on the Act as it was originally submitted. He noted that it was revised extensively and it has been introduced in its revised form. Mr. Gorham noted that the Foster Council Members did ask for some amendments to it which the Regional Planning Committee had accepted. Mr. Gorham reported that Heidi Rogers, Colette J. Matarese and Mr. Gorham attended the Gloucester Town Council meeting to see

what action they would take. He noted that they agreed that the bill should be passed by the Legislature if a stipulation attached to the bill that said the Foster-Glocester School budget as billed to the two towns would only go up as the same rate as other municipality budgets in the state. He said for example next year it would go up at a maximum rate of 5.5% and the year after it would go down by a .25% and so on and on. He noted that the Resolution before the council members did have a floor amendment that was drawn up by Senator Blais that presented the concerns of the Town of Foster and a copy of the requirement of the Town of Glocester regarding the cap on the budget. He said that the proposal that was previously made that the school committee would be a 7 member committee elected at large was withdrawn.

Colette J. Matarese moved Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to adopt the following Resolution of Foster Town Council:

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

Resolution of the Foster Town Council

RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Foster requests the Rhode Island General assembly to enact An Act in Amendment of Chapter 109 of the Public laws of 1958 which provides for full regionalization of the Foster-Glocester schools, if approved by referendum on November 7, 2006. Provided and expressly contingent upon enactment of amendments to the act as introduced as set forth in a floor amendment as proposed by Senator Leo R. Blais and Representative Nicholas Gorham and amendment drafted at the Glocester Town Council Meeting on June 21, 2006.

Reference is made to 2006-S 3101 and 2006-H 8152

Adopted by the Foster Town Council June 22, 2006 by a vote of 4.

Attest:  
S/Anne M. Irons

Town of Foster  
S/Heidi Rogers

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne M. Irons  
Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Heidi Rogers, President  
Foster Town Council

Stephen Woerner, MBA, CPA reported to the town council on his findings in the treasurer's office. He reported on 6 different areas of concern.

Colette J. Matarese commented that she was concerned as the temporary person that was hired at \$30.00 per hour was not doing the bank reconciliations and the expense report is still not up to date and there are also noticeably errors on the expense report. She reminded the council that the retirement system still has not been paid as well as ING has not been paid and the school department does not get their transfers and who know what else. Council member Matarese noted that the Western RI Home Repair has called her in

the past and she was waiting for them to call her again. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. remarked that the fire departments have not received their quarterly appropriations. Colette J. Matarese noted that the libraries have not gotten their appropriations on time either. Colette J. Matarese said that those are the issues that are needed to be taken care and they are not. Colette J. Matarese said that there is an interim treasurer whose job is to do the day to day and not to look at the long term. Council member Matarese said that when the council hires a Treasurer that is the person who should be looking at long term. Colette J. Matarese believed that those things were much more important than looking at the accounting. She said that the council needs the people who have been hired on an interim positions or temporary positions to be doing what the town needs them to be doing.

Mr. Woerner believed that the Treasurer's office was catching up. Colette J. Matarese said she has been hearing that since January. She reminded the council that another Treasurer was fired and there are the same conditions now that the town had when that Treasurer was here only 5 months and with less help than what this interim treasurer has. Mrs. Matarese said that everything that she has just mentioned was on the list on why the former Treasurer was fired. She noted that now someone has been there longer and has more help and has not made any inroads into this. She said you can could back in the minutes and see how many times she has asked about retirement and the ING accounts.

Heidi Rogers told Mrs. Matarese that the payroll entries for the 403B have been done through March and Lisa Mills expects to have them all done by next week. Colette J. Matarese answered that she was told that she did through March months ago. Colette J. Matarese asked again where are all the things that the town needs to have done.

Ralph Berkowitz asked Stephen Woerner what was the next step forward. Mr. Woerner said that the next step was to get the postings done on the reconciliations and the payroll postings. He said then all the knitty gritty work should be done.

Colette J. Matarese said that she was more than willing to go into the finance office and help out but she has been told that she is not allowed inside the finance office. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. said he was also told that he was not allowed in the finance department.

Colette J. Matarese volunteered to work in the finance department for 20 hours a week to crunch numbers.

Ralph Berkowitz asked Town Solicitor Bradford Gorham if Colette J. Matarese could do that. Mr. Gorham answered if she was willing to do that it would be satisfactory.

Ralph Berkowitz said that the town needs to go forward not backward and if she is willing to go in for 20 hours that was fine since he cannot find anyone else.

Ralph Berkowitz noted that three resumes have been received for the position of Town Treasurer and suggested that Stephen Woerner be on the search committee.

Ralph Berkowitz moved, Heidi Rogers seconded to appoint Stephen Woerner, Colette J. Matarese and Ralph Berkowitz and Lisa Mills be on the interview committee for the Town Treasurer Position. Mr. Berkowitz believed it was beneficial to have the interim treasurer there to evaluate the individual before she moves out. Stephen Woerner remarked that someone who sits in the job every day and knows what exactly what the duties are is important and should be there for the interviews. Colette J. Matarese noted that two past treasurer live in town and have longevity in the position and she believed one of those should be on the committee not someone who has been in the office for only five and half months. Colette J. Matarese remarked that a committee was already made up at a previous meeting. Heidi Rogers said that she had a problem with the former committee because the tax collector would be interviewing her own boss. Colette J. Matarese said that she has been interviewed by her employees before. Ralph Berkowitz said that the tax collector would be making a vote, a recommendation to the council. Colette J. Matarese said that it was supposed to be a recommendation of three individuals to the council for the council to then appoint from that group. Bradford Gorham suggested that Stephen Woerner interview the candidates himself. Colette J. Matarese said that the whole council should do the interviews with Mr. Woerner and even make the appointment that night. Mr. Gorham remarked that that was probably a good way to do it as the council would have the make the decision ultimately anyway. Ralph Berkowitz withdrew his motion.

Ralph Berkowitz moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded and it was so voted that all five council people plus Mr. Woerner interview the applicants.

Colette J. Matarese said that she did not get any feedback from the other council members on the evaluation forms that she distributed at the last meeting and asked if there were any changes or amendments to the forms she submitted. Colette J. Matarese said that if it was agreeable with the entire council she could adapt the form for the Town of Foster. She commented that on the process for evaluating the employees is that the council on a whole should evaluate the people they are responsible to appoint. She suggested that each council member do their own evaluation and in the numerical form come up with an average of the number. She said if she decided that someone was a 5 and another member says that person is a 1 the council meets in the middle and it becomes a 2 ½ rather than personalities getting involved or whatever. She noted that if you give someone an unacceptable or below expectation you do have to have documentation on why that was given. Heidi Rogers questioned if it was every three months on the 6 month probation and then a yearly evaluation. Colette J. Matarese said that the council needs to find out when employees anniversary dates are. She noted that for the individuals that are hired and the deputies the evaluations should be done by their supervisors and copies to the council. She noted that the employees in public works and police have their own contracts and they have their own evaluations and she did not think the council can supersede the contracts. Colette J. Matarese was reminded that the clerks are in a contract. She noted that the contract had to be checked to see how they are evaluated.

Colette J. Matarese moved Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted that she be allowed to draft a form for Foster for evaluations based on the model she had submitted to the council members for approval at the next council meeting. The evaluations would be done on July 1<sup>st</sup>. She remarked that the process be that the town council evaluates individually and as a whole each person that it is responsible for appointing and that a schedule of evaluations be made up for the next council meeting.

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

Colette J. Matarese moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to award the bid recommended by the Planning Board to Lachowicz Planning Associates.

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

Colette J. Matarese moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to authorize the Town Council President to sign Amendment #1 for Cooperative agreement RISPP.

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

A letter was received from Scott Millar regarding the Scituate Watershed Reservoir Greenspace Project. John Lewis, Chair of the Planning Board noted that the DEM will be going to go ahead with the project even with or without the town's cooperation. He said that are asking the town to cooperate by helping them out by sharing information. He noted that the benefit would be the town would receive all the GIS data that they will be complying in this project. John Lewis noted that there is no financial commitment from the town.

One bid was received for police cruisers as follows:

MHQ Municipal Vehicles, Marlborough MA-- 2 2006 Crown Victoria police cruisers \$50,476 and 1 2007 Ford 500 \$23,461. The council forwarded the lease agreement to Chief Coyne for his review and recommendation.

Chief Coyne also distributed a synopsis of a 2007 Ford Taurus he purchased through the Byrne Grant. The list price for the 2007 Ford Taurus was \$23,035 however, the purchase price was \$14,000 with a \$2,351 lighting package with a total cost of \$16,351. He noted that the grant was for \$12,000 and a trade in of \$5,000 for the 2002 Explorer with a credit balance of \$649.00.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded and it was so voted to move Item H. Bid Award to A1.

Chief Coyne recommended the bid to MHQ Municipal of Marlborough, MA

Colette J. Matarese moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to award the bid to MHQ of Marlborough, Ma in the amount of \$23,461 for a 2007 Ford 500 and 2 2006 Ford Crown Victoria police sedans in the amount of \$50,476.

Mir Afdasta, owner of vacant land on Central Pike addressed the council through and interpreter, Georgette DeLuca. She explained that on Central Pike the public works department changed pipes on the road from his side of the road to the opposite side of the road. She also explained that Mr. Afdasta had three different driveways to his property and he no longer can use them because they are now ditches. She explained that they did call the police and the work was stopped. She believed that the town was moving the piping for the property owner, Emmett Kennedy who owns the land across the road.

Chief Robert E. Coyne, Jr. said he was told by the Public Works Director that there were three drainage pipes under the road that needed to be cleaned out. He said that he believed that work was also done to widen the road. He said he did ask Richard Grant, Public Works Director to stop the work that day until the situation was cleared up.

The interpreter remarked that Mr. Mir Afdasta wanted the property to be the way it was before the public works department came down the road and changed the pipes.

Heidi Rogers said that she would speak with Richard Grant, Public Works Director.

Heidi Rogers explained that she had a meeting with Donna Mansolillo, Co-Chair of the School Committee, Robert Wallace, School Superintendent Bradford Gorham, Town Solicitor and Nat Wolicki from West Bay Collaborative. She explained that the town was in a deficit with the health coverage and the last number she had heard was \$68,000. She said that in speaking with Nate Wolicki she found out that the town had a surplus of \$ 337,000 and at that time \$150,000 was withdrawn from the health account. She said now the town is in a deficit. Mrs. Rogers said that Mr. Wolicki wants that \$150,000 back or cut the town off the health care. Heidi Rogers said that first the town has to find where the \$150,000 went and at this point she has not been able to determine that because the Treasurer was locked out the computer for old records. She did say that to authorize a transfer of any funds the council has to hold a special financial town meeting. She said that it would be helpful to now which account that money went into. Colette J. Matarese noted that she did have conversation with the previous Treasurer and was told that the \$150,000 was transferred in 2002 because it was in a non interest bearing account with the West Bay Collaborative. She was told that it was transferred for health care services and the premium for health care was paid out of that account for a period of time in order to decrease the school budget. Mrs. Matarese noted that there still is an account in existence with about \$114,000 which is restricted for health care activities which is listed in the audit. Bradford Gorham commented that there was \$114,000 above the line in the West bay Collaborative. He noted that the town is self insured and are experience rated on the employees with injuries and illnesses. He said that there are some employees in the town that have had medical bills that have been above average. He said that the

account has been depleted down to the point where the town is now \$68,000 below the line now. He noted that the West Bay Collaborative has offered the town a deal that if the town restores the \$150,000 that was withdrawn from the account in 2002 they will then decrease the rate of increase for the health care appropriations. He said that he thought it was too premature for a special financial town meeting. He said that someone has to analyze all the healthcare premium accounts as of July 1. Mr. Gorham noted that there was a 45% increase. Colette J. Matarese noted again that the money was used to pay the premiums while it was collecting interest. She stated that she explained that to Stephen Woerner so he can go back and track it. Mr. Gorham said that the town maybe able to do small quirks with West Bay so the town doesn't have to have a financial town meeting. Bradford Gorham, Town Solicitor said that the town should see how much it can raise by going 45 to 30%.

Donna Mansolillo, Co-Chair of the School Committee believed that the deficit was \$98,000 not \$68,000.

Bradford Gorham, Town Solicitor explained that in the Affordable Housing regulations in the state law it states that there has to be a local board which hears applications to put in affordable housing. He stated that the state defines the local board as the planning board or the zoning board of review or planning dept etc. He suggested that the council canvassers those two boards and see which one wants the job or not.

John Lewis, Chair of the Planning Board said he would ask the Planning Board at their next agenda. Mr. Lewis noted also a member of the planning board is a liaison to the affordable Housing Board however, his term is different on each board and he asked if the Planning Board can appoint their own liaison. Colette J. Matarese believed it should be placed on a future agenda.

Heidi Rogers noted that Joy Pettirossi-Poland was at the last meeting and was interested in being appointed to the Zoning Board of Review however that position did go to someone else. She noted that Joy Pettirossi-Poland submitted another letter requesting to be appointed to the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Ralph Berkowitz moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded and it was so voted to approve the appointment of Joy Pettirossi-Poland to Foster's Economic Development Advisory Committee.

A request was received to hold auditions for the first Foster Idol to be held during Old Home Days and this would be under the umbrella of Fosteringarts.org.

Colette J. Matarese moved, Ralph Berkowitz seconded and it was so voted to grant permission the use of a town building for July 14, 15, 16, 2006 for auditions.

Colette J. Matarese explained that Rev. Paul Charland was leaving St. Paul's Church in Foster and he was the Police Chaplin for the Town of Foster. A Proclamation was read recognizing his services to the Town of Foster.

Colette J. Matarese moved, Ralph Berkowitz seconded and it was so voted to adopt the following Proclamation.

*WHEREAS*, OUR COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM THE SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE AND CHARITABLE DEDICATION OF THOSE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE CLERGY WHO COMMIT THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO MINISTER TO THE CITIZENS OF OUR COMMUNITY; AND

*WHEREAS*, THE CITIZENS OF OUR COMMUNITY POSSESS A STRONG SPIRIT OF DEVOTION TO THEIR NEIGHBORS IN TIMES OF NEED AND POSSESS A SPIRIT OF GIVING THROUGH VOLUNTEER WORK AND CONTRIBUTING A PORTION OF THEIR OWN BLESSINGS TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE; AND

*WHEREAS*, HAVING SERVED AS PASTOR OF ST PAUL'S PARISH FOR OVER FOURTEEN YEARS. HAVING SERVED AS CHAPLAIN TO THE FOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR TWELVE OF THOSE YEARS, AND HAVING ALSO SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FOSTER CLERGY ASSOCIATION, REVEREND PAUL L. CHARLAND) HAS SELFLESSLY SERVED ALL OF THE RESIDENTS OF FOSTER; AND

*WHEREAS*, DURING HIS FOURTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, REVEREND PAUL CHARLAND HAS MINISTERED TO THE SICK AND DYING, GIVEN SPIRITUAL AND SUPPORTIVE COUNSEL TO THOSE TROUBLED AND GRIEVING, DISTRIBUTED TWO MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD TO THE LESS FORTUNATE THROUGH THE PARISH FOOD CLOSET, AND INSTITUTED MUCH NEEDED REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CHURCH; AND

*WHEREAS*, THE CITIZENS OF FOSTER ARE INDEED GRATEFUL FOR THE COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION EXHIBITED BY REVEREND PAUL L. CHARLAND AS A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY, AS HE LEAVES OUR COMMUNITY IN A BETTER PLACE FOR HAVING BEEN A PART OF IT.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE FOSTER TOWN COUNCIL, THE FOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND ON BEHALF OF ALL OUR CITIZENS, HEREBY RECOGNIZE AND APPLAUD REVEREND PAUL L CHARLAND FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE TOWN AND ITS RESIDENTS, AND WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN THE FUTURE.

ADOPTED THIS 22<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2006

TOWN OF FOSTER

S/Heidi Rogers

Attest:

S/Anne M. Irons

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Anne M. Irons, Town Clerk

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Heidi Rogers, President

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Attest:

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Anne M. Irons, 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.