

July 20, 2006

The July 20, 2006 town council meeting was called to order by Heidi Rogers at the Town Hall 181 Howard Hill Road, Foster, Rhode Island at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Heidi Rogers, President
Steven Bellucci, Vice President
Ralph Berkowitz, absent because of illness in family
Colette J. Matarese
Harold R. Shippee, Sr.
Nicholas Gorham, Esq., Town Solicitor

Steven Bellucci moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded and it was so voted to go into executive session according to 42-46-4&5 for the purpose of discussing personnel for the position of Treasurer and 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.

(SEALED)

The executive session meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. and the council went into the regular session.

Heidi Rogers announced that there were no votes taken in the executive session.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following citizens spoke under concerned citizens:

Ronald Cervasio, Old Plainfield Pike
Rose Salvadore, Walker Road
Lynne S. Rider, Burgess Road
Robert Peterson, Foster Center Road
Cheryl Davis, Abbey Lane

Steven Bellucci moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded and it was so voted to grant Payroll Warrant #52 in the amount of \$23,377.11, Payroll Warrant #53 in the amount of \$19,607.22, Payroll Warrant# 1 in the amount of \$23,117.93, Payroll Warrant #2 in the amount of \$ 24,340.30. Colette J. Matarese questioned when people take vacation or holiday time how was it kept track because she noted that the week of July 4th the Public Works Director took the day off before the holiday and the day after the holiday as vacation time and on the warrant it only listed salary for the week. Colette J. Matarese noted that every other employee has the holiday listed. Heidi Rogers noted that it should be 16 for vacation and 8 for holiday and she would call Lisa Mills the following day. Colette J. Matarese also noted that on the police warrant it lists next to Janet Bagely that she is paying out vacation at old rate when she has retired. Heidi Rogers said she would check on that also.

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

Steven Bellucci moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded and it was so voted to approve General Warrant G-29 in the amount of \$78,084.00. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. questioned why the retirement payment was not to June 30th. Heidi Rogers said that the payroll warrants for June had not been approved yet. Colette J. Matarese also noted that the payment was coming out of account number 10116623000 which is the Miscellaneous Administration Account which is town retirement which is budgeted "0" when each town department has their own budgeted line item for the retirement payment. Colette J. Matarese noted that the account that it is being deducted from has a zero balance as it is

budgeted in each department and she did not know why that was but if you do look at each department town retirement line item money has been taken out. Heidi Rogers said that she did not know why. Colette J. Matarese asked if she could ask Lisa Mills why it was done that way.

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

Steven Bellucci moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was so voted to approve General Warrant # 30 in the amount of \$45,920.56. Heidi Rogers recused herself from the vote as she and her husband were being paid a stipend from that warrant from the Foster Ambulance Corp for rescue runs in the amount of \$180.00 and \$140.00. She signed a recusal form for the Rhode Island Ethics Commission.

Colette J. Matarese noted that on Page 2 there was a payment for \$978.00 for Cyber Communications paid from the civil defense account which is only a budget line item of \$100.00. Colette J. Matarese believed that it should be coming from a grant account and not a line item that it was not budgeted for. She again noted that there are hay bales under capital expense for the public works department and that is incorrect. Heidi Rogers answer that it was talked about before and it was a capital project and it was needed. The Town Clerk reminded the council that capital expense was for items over \$5,000. Colette J. Matarese also questioned the payment under contingency for North American Building for \$15,318.60. She said the council members never approved taking anything out of contingency for that payment. Colette J. Matarese said that it should be taking out of the Western RI Home Repair Program Grant money which the Town of Foster is in receipt of that grant money. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. noted that the project was being held up because the contractor was not being paid.

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

Steven Bellucci moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded to approve Warrant G-1 in the amount of \$118,965.00 Anne M. Irons, Town Clerk remarked that Stephen Woerner, finance consultant had reported at the last council meeting that the legislative legal account was over budgeted \$5,000. She noted that was a red flag to her and when Warrant # G-1 was reviewed she noted that the amount for the July and August payment does not match with the number of people in her department. She noted that a monthly payment for family is \$1,113.08 a month which should total \$5,565.40 for her department and the amount that is listed is for \$6,678.48. Anne Irons noted that her previous Deputy was listed and the town has been paying for her. Heidi Rogers asked if she was paying the Town of Foster for health benefits. Mrs. Irons explained that she was employed elsewhere. Mrs. Irons commented that that was why her account was over \$5,000 for 05-06 and now here the town is overpaying for 06-07. She noted that she started to look at other departments and it does not make sense. She also pointed out that in the finance department there is only one payment of \$1,113.08 and there are two employees in that office that she believed were getting health benefits however Jonathan Mitchell's name was listed and the Tax Collector and Treasurer were not listed. Heidi Rogers noted that Lisa Mills did not have the bill because Nate Wolicki refused to fax the bill to her. Heidi Rogers said that Lisa Mills called her and told her that she never received the bill. Anne Irons remarked that she understood that at a meeting that Heidi Rogers had at the school with Bradford Gorham, Town Solicitor and Nate Wolicki that the invoices from West Bay would be sent to Robert Wallace, the Superintendent and he would have someone bring the bill to the Town Hall. Mrs. Irons noted that a clerk from the school did in fact bring the invoice to Lisa Mills on Wednesday however she already had left early on that day and it was given to the summer intern. Mrs. Irons also noted that the warrants were done on Tuesday and if Ms Mills did not have the invoice how did she prepare for the warrant. Heidi Rogers said that Lisa Mill never had the bill and she would ask her as she knows Lisa never saw the bill. Mrs. Irons said she should have seen the bill as it was hand delivered to her on Wednesday. Mrs. Rogers stated that she did the warrants on Tuesday. Mrs. Irons noted that she knew that and she couldn't figure how a bill was prepared for the warrant if she did not have the bill. Mrs. Rogers answered that she probably estimated the bill. Mrs. Irons noted that the police department was also

incorrect as it was listed for \$10,558.40 and it should have been \$9,031.00 so it was off by \$1526.00 which is the cost of one individual and one family. She noted that the invoice lists the woman recruit and Chief Michael Gawel. Heidi Rogers commented to the Town Clerk that it may have been helpful if Lisa Mills had the bill. Anne Irons noted that she had a copy of the bill on Thursday and Lisa had a copy on Wednesday. She said she received the copy that day because the warrant payment did not make sense to her. Heidi Rogers commented that Lisa Mills would only be with the town for a few more weeks to clean up the June 30th books. The Tax Collector asked if she was listed on the invoice because it had been brought to Lisa Mills' attention previously and she hoped she was covered for health benefits and asked that someone would look into it immediately. Heidi Rogers answered that she would and also she did not know if the warrant should be moved for approval. The Town Clerk commented that maybe West Bay Collaborative gave reimbursements. Heidi Rogers said that the West Bay Collaborative is looking for \$150,000 to give back to them.

Anne Irons also noted that Delta Dental of Rhode Island was also incorrect for her department.

Steven Bellucci moved to table everything but the stipends for the fire department and ambulance corps on Warrant G-30. Colette J. Matarese seconded.

Colette J. Matarese noted that she figured the amount out by deducting the West Bay and Delta Dental amounts from the warrant and made the following motion.

Colette J. Matarese moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to pay \$59,259.31 for Warrant #1 and that the deductions are noted to be the Delta Dental and West Bay Collaborative payments.

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

Steven Bellucci moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was so voted to grant the quarterly reports and they are on file in the clerk's office.

Colette J. Matarese aye, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. aye, Steven Bellucci 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 to add Item D under New Business, Bid Opening, Land Management Study.

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

Heidi Rogers noted that in the executive session portion of the meeting the town council received a letter from Thomas Moon declining the appointment of Treasurer. She noted that there were no votes taken in the executive session.

Steven Bellucci moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded and it was so voted to accept and confirm the declination submitted by Thomas Moon.

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

Heidi Rogers said that there was a second choice of the council and that candidate has indicated interest in being re interviewed. She asked the council if they wanted to reinterview or advertise the position again.

Steven Bellucci moved to re interview.

Council member Colette J. Matarese said that the council could move to re interview him with advertising in the Providence Journal with the same ad and she would second that.

Steven Bellucci moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded, and it was so voted to re interview the Number 2 candidate and to re advertise in the Providence Journal.

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

Colette J. Matarese moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it so voted to approve additions in the amount of \$1,077.61 and abatements in the amount of \$1,54.12 to the 2006 tax roll and proration additions in the amount of \$6,392.04 and proration abatements in the amount of \$1,302.68.

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

Heidi Rogers read a memo from John Lewis, Chair of the Planning Board recommending that the Town Council designate the Planning board as the Local Review Board for Comprehensive Permit applications for affordable housing. Colette J. Matarese read the memo from the Zoning Board of Review recommending the Zoning Board of Review act as the Local Review Board also. Colette J. Matarese asked if the Zoning Board of Review acted as the Local Review Board could they also be the appeal board for the same. No action was taken.

Heidi Rogers acknowledged a letter from Attorney Charles Knowles requesting the town council place the petition of transfer of Class A liquor license for Twisted Liquors, LLC down for a public hearing in August.

Steven Bellucci moved to put the matter on a council agenda. Heidi Rogers stated that it should be advertised for a public hearing.

Steven Bellucci moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded, and it was so voted to advertise for a public hearing for the transfer of a Class A license for August 24, 2006.

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

Heidi Rogers opened one bid for assistance with a land management study for the Foster Planning Board. The one bid was received from Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. in the amount of \$37,250. John Lewis indicated that the Planning Board would review at their next meeting and make a recommendation to the town council.

Steven Bellucci moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded and it was unanimously so voted to place on the next agenda.

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

Colette J. Matarese announced that Verizon was coming in to the Town of Foster and offering Fiber optics. Nick Gorham also remarked that there would be wireless network coming to the Town of Foster also.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Attest:

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.