

## September 7, 2006

The September 7, 2006 town council meeting was called to order by Heidi Rogers at the Town House, 180 Howard Hill Road, Foster, Rhode Island at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following spoke under concerned citizens:

Cheryl Wright, Foster Center Road  
Ronald Cervasio, Old Plainfield Pike  
Peter Baribault, Kennedy Road  
Lynne S. Rider, Burgess Road  
Rose Salvadore, Walker Road

Ralph Berkowitz moved, Steven Bellucci seconded, and it was so voted to accept the minutes of April 20, 2006.

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

Ralph Berkowitz moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve the minutes of June 22, 2006.

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

Steven Bellucci moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to approve Payroll Warrant # 6 in the amount of \$20,224.88, Payroll Warrant # 7 in the amount of \$24,180.56, Payroll Warrant #8 in the amount of \$ 21,945.23 and General Warrant G#34 in the amount of \$4,200.83 and General Warrant #G-5 in the amount of \$44,799.90  
Colette J. Matarese noted that the town funded professional services in public works for only \$3,000 and the bill from Homestead Enterprise is \$1,050 and usually mowing comes out of building & grounds. Colette J. Matarese noted again that last year's expenditure reports still have the same errors that she has pointed out prior such as the school being fully expended, the town council salary as being fully expended and the same out amount is still in the heating and this year's current report still no budgeted figures in it. She noted that Lisa Mills wrote a hand written note that no financial minutes from Anne Irons therefore no budget numbers and said that Mrs. Irons did prove the Treasurer's office with the financial town minutes. She also noted that Mrs. Irons wrote a memo to the town council and read it into the record as follows:

TO: Town Council  
FROM: Anne M. Irons, Town Clerk  
DATE: August 24, 2006  
SUBJECT: 2006 Adopted Budget

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At the last council meeting Mr. Steven Woerner stated that the reason Lisa Mills, Town Treasurer was not using the adopted budget 06-07 because there was an internal control problem at town hall. At that time, I did state that the minutes from the financial town meeting had been given to her which indicated the changes in the budget. Mr. Woerner indicated that the budget changes should have been done by me and then given to Lisa Mills. He also indicated that if he had to he would input the figures.

I have been the Town Clerk since 1994 and I have never made the changes to the town's budget after it was adopted at the financial town meeting it was always done by the Town Treasurer. The budget is prepared by the Treasurer on the Town Treasurer's computer and after all budget workshops if the council made changes the Treasurer made the changes to the budget.

I contacted the following communities and asked who made the changes to the budget if it was amended at their financial town meeting and these are the answers I received.

Glocester Town Treasurer stated he made the changes and he would never allow the Town Clerk to touch his budget and he was sure the Town Clerk did not want him to touch her minutes.

Scituate Town Clerk stated that the changes were always made from the finance department.

West Greenwich Town Clerk stated that it was the Treasurer who made the changes to the budget.

Lincoln Town Clerk stated that the budget board made the changes to the budget and the Town Clerk did the minutes.

Will you please inform Lisa Mills, Acting Town Treasurer to make the changes to the adopted budget that she prepared on her computer and let's start to get fiscal year 2006-07 on track.

Thank you for your cooperation in serving the people and taxpayers of Foster.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. questioned the cost of inspecting a town truck for only \$15.00 and was told there were no omissions done on diesel trucks. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. remarked that they were still 3 or 4 trucks that still had expired inspections. Chief Robert E. Coyne, Jr. reported that he did speak with the Public Works Director and three at the time did not have active inspections but they also were not in use. Steven Bellucci said that he did speak with the Public Works Director and said that they were all supposed to be inspected by this weekend.

Mr. Woerner said he did agree that the council should have the actual for actual for 2007 and he said what he said two meetings ago was that he would input the data because it would not take him more than 20 to 30 minutes but the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer even if it was not the past practice should both sign off on what the figures on. He said he has been in many municipalities and they are all different but the communities

that he has been in the Clerk as the recorder of the minutes for the annual financial meeting or the town council meeting signs off on it. He said that logically the treasurer is the one that really keeps track of the numbers because the Treasurer is the number person. He said he thought the Town Council should order the Town Clerk and the Treasurer to sign off on the adopted 2006-07 budget and for the Treasurer to input it immediately.

The Town Clerk asked for clarification that he said the Treasurer to input the information and Mr. Woerner answered right but he thought it important that both the Clerk and the Treasurer to sign off that these are the accurate numbers.

Heidi Rogers said it would be discussed under Mr. Woerner's report so a motion could be done then.

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

Ralph Berkowitz moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted that the monthly reports be accepted that were in the packets. Steven Bellucci asked the clerks from the departments why they did not receive reports.

The Clerk answered that the only department that did not submit a report was the Treasurer.

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

Steven Woerner, Finance Consultant reported that on the performance audit he would like to suggest that if the council does come to an agreement tonight on who they would like to award the audit to they would try to piggy back the performance audit with the audit based on the guidelines he submitted to the council two weeks ago. He said they would be mostly doing the work anyway as to what they should do on the management letter. He said it would be a little more extra work but most of the firms won't bid on one of these jobs unless they at least get \$7, 8,9,10,000 and I think we can get it under \$5,000 if we piggyback with them. He said if we hire a competent auditing firm tonight that it's just a better deal. He said that because it's under \$5,000 we won't have to wait to advertise and spend the money and wait for the process. He said the second thing was the ING Accounts. He said that letters were sent to the 4 affected employees saying give us your ING Statements will match those with the Towns payroll records and reconcile it. He said that as of yesterday morning 2 of the 4 answers had come in. He said that he was confident that the next week they can clean those problems up. He said that the Town of Cumberland Finance Director that the council authorized two weeks of work for does not seem to want to work now as her daughter did get marry and she was supposed to contact him when she was ready to work. He noted that he called her twice and she did not get back to him but he believes she would be in next week and that would give them enough time. He said that on the Land Trust issue, finance did give much of that information to the Land Trust and he did see all the documents. He said that there were certain historical data that was not readily available but the current stuff all was. He said he believed that there was a meeting but if anyone wants to go into the Treasurer's office. He said that on anything that is historical he did not know if they were looking for any individual transactions or whether they were looking for audited fund balances but if it is audited fund balances it is right there and they can come in and get a copy of the audit report page that shows it. He said he did not think the transactions wouldn't be difficult to pull out but he had not looked at them so he did not know. He said that if they are looking for invoices that could be an issue but if they are looking for transactions he did not think that would be hard. He said because the accounting was not very good in those days he did not want to promise anything. Colette J. Matarese reminded Mr. Woerner about the public record law and that the Land Trust said that they had asked for that information many times and had not received it. Mr. Woerner said that much of what they want they got in April. He did say that he agreed that they deserved everything they

have asked for. He said that there is a rule in the public record law that if it cost a certain amount of money to go do the work you can bill the firm. He said if the Treasurer's office was delinquent in not saying that then he said they would be more than willing to provide the information but it would cost so many hours (estimation 15 hours) of research at \$20.00 per hours. Mr. Woerner said again they just keep building up there and they are based on the pensions, Champlain Grants, Homestead Security which is on tonight. He said that in Lincoln the person was aware that there was a requirement that you had to keep copies of all the invoices you submitted on a certain day. He said that whether that is true in Foster he did not know. Colette J. Matarese the Treasurer always handled the grants in the past. He said that there is so many issues and to go back and do things that are simple they eat away the time. He said that there was an issue on Tuesday with the person who cuts the grass submitted invoices and some how they never made it to finance and it took them 2 hours to straighten it out. Mr. Woerner said that even if this is a small town there are issues like everyone else has as pensions, ING issues and it is fewer numbers but it is almost the same transactions. He said if the system is working right, if you do 100 versus 5 it does not make a difference. He said they made a call to Delta Dental and she is talking with the representative trying to straighten it out but if the town overpaid the CFO of Delta Dental worked with him 20 years ago so I don't think we will have a problem.

Colette J. Matarese asked when the council will be getting the payroll warrants 24 through 30 from last year to approve. He said he thought the council was given them and he did speak with Lisa Mills about them and would ask her again.

Ralph Berkowitz said that there was a discussion about the Town Clerk and the Treasurer signing off.....

Mr. Woerner said that there is an easy solution to the problem and he said he could sit here and say he agrees to the numbers.

Mr. Woerner said that the auditors are going to want it and he knows Anne has given it to him for 2006 and he found out Lisa has it. He said that we all know Lisa is a little strong minded but if the two of them sit down and say yes we agree to these numbers they are the right numbers. He said it does not mean it didn't happen in prior years that are the major flaw. Mrs. Irons said she would now survey 38 other communities because she had surveyed the above and they do not do the budget part of the minutes. Mr. Woerner answered that every community he has worked in which is Lincoln, Cumberland, Providence. Mrs. Irons answered that Lincoln told her they do not do it. He said that they do it. Mr. Woerner said that she makes a copy of the minutes of the financial town meeting. Mrs. Irons answered that is what she does and that is what she did. Mrs. Irons again explained that Lisa Mills emailed her the budget and asked to place in the minutes however Lisa did not make any of the changes to the budget that was adopted and it was not her job to change the amounts of the libraries or any other department that was amended. Mrs. Irons continued to say that the budget document came from the Treasurer's computer. Mr. Woerner told Mrs. Irons that here rules may be different but it was her job to do it and that Lisa's job is to managed the budget and **prepare** the budget and if any changes at the financial town meeting or no changes made she is asking for that.

Steve Woerner said his opinion is that the changes made at the financial town meeting, the ones that apply were given to Lisa and that is enough documentation. He said to him that was a decent audit trail. Mr. Woerner said to remember that Lisa's mentality is big corporate America and Anne was Town Government.

Ralph Berkowitz moved, Ralph Berkowitz seconded and it was unanimously so voted that the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer sign off on the minutes of the financial town meeting. Mrs. Irons asked him to clarify "Signing off". He said making sure that the numbers are correct in each one. Mrs. Irons asked if the Treasurer was to put in the numbers. Mr. Berkowitz said that he wants both you people signing off that you have seen the documentation and each one is going to verify the numbers are the same and that

is all he cares about. Colette J. Matarese asked the Town Clerk if it was correct that she did the minutes and signed the minutes. The Town Clerk answered that it was correct. Colette J. Matarese said then what is being said is for you to bring the minutes over to the Treasurer and say sign this. Heidi Rogers said she did not think that was difficult.

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

Colette J. Matarese moved to appoint Randy Rossi as Town Treasurer to fill the unexpired two year term of office which began in December 2004 and ends in December 2006 and also on condition of a successful completion of any applicant background investigation also upon completion of bonding process as out lined in the Charter of the Town of Foster and a probationary period of 6 months be implemented with this hire.

Heidi Rogers yelled at the town clerk for placing the matter on the agenda because the council still did not get a resignation letter from Lisa Mills. Mrs. Irons said that Mrs. Matarese told her to keep it on the agenda. Mrs. Matarese said that if you looked at Roberts Rule of Order you would know that the Town Council President does not set the agenda it is set by the body.

Ralph Berkowitz asked if the town could afford two treasurers. Colette J. Matarese answered that it was her contention and she reviewed all of the minutes and all of the minutes are very, very clear that it was a temporary position an interim treasurer until we hired. She said that the town had hired numerous times and there has been no documentation of anyone saying "Oh gee don't advertise because this is my job". She said also the person involved has not applied for the job and if there is no position such as interim treasurer then the council err and appointed someone to a position that does not exist so therefore we have interviewed people, we have a candidate that is well qualified who has attended more town council meetings than the present interim treasurer and we need to move for the good of the town. She said that the town was what was important right now. She said that she has pointed out over and over again the mess that the finance department is in and nothing has been done. She said that it was time that the council to do the work of the town and to do what is best for the town.

Ralph Berkowitz commented that what she was saying because of the mess the town was in it was because of Lisa Mills.

Colette J. Matarese asked how long has she been here and what she is saying is that there has been no movement to clean up the mess and therefore someone who knows municipal government and interviewed very well, wants the job and has glowing references will be able to do it.

Ralph Berkowitz asked Mr. Woerner if there has been a catch up in the office from the previous. Mr. Woerner said in his opinion yes. Steven Bellucci asked how much of this work has been left over from 2002 and 2003 as we are hearing. Steven Woerner said that he wanted to repeat what he fist told the council in June that he wanted them to know that he cut his hours back drastically last week, this week and probably next week and when the Cumberland woman comes in he would come in and supervise and watch was she was doing on a limited basis. He said that when you get into this kind of disarray it takes massive amounts of resources, human resources to catch up. He said when he went into Cumberland six years ago they were so far behind because there was no proper staffer. He said that little jobs eat up the hours. He said that they are not making a lot of progress and they are behind where he thought they would be. He noted that the intern took time off both for vacation and sickness. He noted that he may have been overly optimistic about the quality of the kid coming out of college with an accounting degree from Bryant. He said that it needs to be stabilized with a full time deputy and a full time person in there. He said he knows that they are working hard. He said that Lisa does have her flaws but is a hard worker and is smart.

Colette J. Matarese said that she would say that this Treasurer has had more help than any other Treasurer town has. She said there was a temporary accounting person for all but two weeks, Stephen Woerner in there for a number of weeks and now the intern full time for a number of weeks when it is a part time position. She said now we need someone else to do back reconciliations. Mr. Woerner said no she would be doing catching up from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 to now that was never done or done incorrectly. He said that the tax entries were all wrong and the revenues have not been made since February and tax entries were all wrong and bank transfers were 80% wrong.

Colette J. Matarese answered that the reality is that there has been more help in that office and the day to day stuff that the council needs to run the town is what is not being done. She said you may be going back and looking back and it may have to be done but the day to day stuff is the important stuff. Stephen Woerner said that you cannot count his time because he is not doing the grunt work that needs to be done. Mr. Woerner said that he is advising the council and advising Lisa Mills but she is till her own person and will do what she wants to do. He said he is not sure that the day to day stuff isn't being done. He said he doesn't know, he doesn't look at purchase orders or payroll warrants. Colette J. Matarese asked if he looked at the expenditure reports. He said that it was catch up too. Mr. Woerner said that she was right that they should be done and Lisa has told him that they are on her agenda. He said that time does getting eaten up so badly in that office. He said that she is aware of what the issues are. Stephen Woerner said that the town was not in a horrible position today. He said that he knew that files are starting to be developed and who ever comes in next will be able to do some research and he did not know if that has ever been done before. Mr. Woerner said that all he does know that if you go into the room that the copier is god knows what's in there because stuff is just thrown in there. Colette J. Matarese answered that Lisa keeps in locked and it was never like that before. Mr. Woerner said what six months. Colette J. Matarese explained that Lisa Mills has been in that position since January and she was the Deputy since October 2005. Colette J. Matarese said that what she sees on the expenditure report the town is not ready for an audit. Stephen Woerner remarked that Colette J. Matarese was right that what she sees on paper is not adequate for an audit and there has to be corrections to that. However, it is not a huge problem maybe 10 more hours. He said that he has given Lisa a list of things from his analysis were incorrect posting and they are simple to correct. He said that the real problem is and that is why the council authorized two weeks ago to bring this clerk in from Cumberland that works on the exact same system to do the exact same work all she will be doing is different account numbers is someone to bang out the work. He said it is manual labor and you have to be accurate. He said that once that is done in his opinion, we are extraordinary close to be able to have the auditors in and clean this up. Mr. Woerner said that we are not dealing with a huge entity here. He said that they know the cash accounts on the little funds are correct and again postings have been paid but Lisa does not trust the intern in there. He said that we know the due/to/from affectively had problems are correct because he looked at them and there is just a question of the doing the cash accounts. He said that is what this woman will do when she comes in is to start running the outstanding check list, posting the cash receipts and do it month by month or on a material basis and do it at the end of the year. Mr. Woerner said that he does not see any issues from the towns' side even we can get some resolution on how we are going to past this it can be done.

Heidi Rogers asked Bradford Gorham, Town Solicitor if the council appoints a treasurer are we going to have a law suit and say the person who we are going to fire going home and we have the privilege of paying that person \$1,000 a week to sit home and do nothing while we have someone who has to give notice to his employer so we have an empty office for three weeks, four weeks whatever while we are being sued and paying somebody to sit home.

Bradford Gorham, Town Solicitor said the question is whether we can have a Treasurer with modification of the title is what you are asking? He said that the Town Charter says you have a Treasurer, it does not say interim Treasurer, it does not say a probationary treasurer as you just made a motion for that and it does not say probationary and it does say anything, it says you have a treasurer and right now we have a treasurer and if we

move to hire another treasurer we are in danger of a lawsuit about it and pay two treasurers. He said it would be extremely inadvisable to move on a new Treasurer before you resolve the situation of the present Treasurer.

Colette J. Matarese said we did not move to appoint a Treasurer we moved to appoint an interim Treasurer and it doesn't exist than we failed we made a mistake. Heidi Rogers said that she made the motion and it was to appoint Lisa Mills as the Treasurer on an interim referral. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. answered that she better look at the minutes. Colette J. Matarese said that time and time again you have said it was a temporary measure she doesn't want the job, she is going to leave once we advertised. Colette J. Matarese said we have advertised and advertised and it is going on too long.

Bradford Gorham, Town Solicitor said he was asked his opinion about what situation the town would be in if we appoint another Treasurer now and he is telling you it would be a very dangerous situation to put the town in.

Colette J. Matarese said she heard him but she respectfully disagreed.

The motion did not pass and the vote was as follows:

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

Colette J. Matarese said that she wanted some reports from Ralph Berkowitz on the Treasurer's office on what is going on as Ralph Berkowitz has not been at the last few meetings and she did not know if it had become too much for him to be the Liaison to the Treasurer's Department.

Ralph Berkowitz answered that she has been talking with Stephen Woerner and received all his report. Colette J. Matarese answered right but she was not the Liaison. He answered that he understood that but for a couple of meetings he had personal issues and she has been in that office more than she has. Colette J. Matarese reminded him that she was not allowed in the office. Ralph Berkowitz said that the information she was looking for she talks with Stephen Woerner all the time. Colette J. Matarese said that the reason she put Liaison on the agenda was if he looked at the expenditure reports and asked if he was satisfied. He answered no and was she blaming Lisa. Colette J. Matarese asked she wanted to know if Ralph Berkowitz wanted to continue as the Liaison to the Treasurer's department.

Heidi Rogers asked Bradford Gorham, Town Solicitor if he looked at the Open Space Grant Contract. He answered that he looked at it and it appeared to be all right.

Colette J. Matarese moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to authorize the signature on the open space grant contract application.

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

Colette J. Matarese summarized the CDBG Grant 2006-07 stating that Five Million Dollars was being awarded to Rhode Island Communities and the Town of Foster received a grant in the amount of \$106,700 which includes \$57,400 for housing rehabilitation, \$47,000 for Abbey Lane and \$2,000 for the food bank and \$300 for administration. The Town Clerk explained that the Program Manager was very concerned about only \$300 for administration and did not know how she was going to run the Foster office. She noted that she would be contacting the council with her concerns.

Walter May of the Friends of the Town House asked the council not to read the first paragraph of the letter that was submitted as it mentioned the dollar amount of the grant and a bid opening was scheduled for repair and painting. The letter was then acknowledged giving the status of the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage commission Grant and The Chaplin Foundation Grant.

Two Bids were received and opened for the town's audit. While the President was unsealing the Bids Stephen Woerner, Financial Consultant asked if he could explain the process. He said that he knew both of the firms as they both do municipal audits. He stated that Prescott-Chatellier does a little more than the Nadeau firm as it is a little bigger and they have both been around a long time. He said that the Auditor General and this was a law that was put in about three years, requires that the Town has to have their bids specifications approved by the Auditor General which we have done. He also said that they have to approve the selection of Auditors but the standards are very strict. He said he did think that all the details had to be looked at and if they looked at the dollar figures it would make a lot of sense. He believed that the major issue tonight was that and it has always been a standard in the profession that you like to change auditors every so often so you can get a fresh set of eyes in there. He stated that if the bids are relatively close to being equal in the same price he and Lisa Mills had discussed it several times that we would recommend that Prescott-Chatellier be hired. He further said that if there was a significant differential cost and the council will be the ones that say what is significant and what is not significant and if Nadeau comes in earlier, much less he then said he knows both principals and likes them and they are competent accountants. He said that reading the management letter from last year and the response to the management letter that he gave the Auditor General that was approved about 4 weeks. Stephen Woerner stated that he believed the management letter was very light and he was surprised that they did not point out more of the issues and maybe addressed the staffing issues. Mr. Woerner said that he knows when he went to Lincoln 3 /12 years ago they had found when the audits were done one of the consistent recommendations in the management letter was they needed a deputy finance director there and it took him a few months but he did hire one and since then things have gone extraordinary well. He said that staffing was critical and he could honestly say that in the most financial part of the State they have gotten in trouble because they hadn't had proper staffing or proper qualifications. He remarked that when he went to Cranston back 1999 they had a series of problems and they did not have 1 CPA and when he went to Providence in 1991 they didn't have 1 CPA or 1 person that understood municipal accounting and then he went to work for the City Council and hired a finance director that was well qualified and then brought another person that was a comptroller and things turned around. He said that Cranston has extraordinary good accounting because they staffed up and Randy will attest to that. He said just that preference if it is the dollar amount that maybe they can come to some decision without a whole lot of.....He said that he did not think the council needed to read all the documentation.

Colette J. Matarese commented to Mr. Woerner that last time he had suggested a committee but with the amount of bids that came in and knowing both principals he did not think they needed one. Stephen Woerner said yes because he knew both of the firms and he knows they will get one that it will be done right regardless of the firm we hire.

Heidi Rogers announced that James Nadeau was \$19,770 for the total all inclusive maximum price for the 2008 audit and for Prescott –Chatellier the total all inclusive maximum price for FY-06 and then asked why was there and 08. Stephen Woerner explained that 08 was the last year as it was for 3 years and what the staffing levels was going to be and draft out pricing on the staffing. Heidi Rogers remarked then that it should be for 3 years and it says it rights which is a little bit scary is \$30,500. Stephen Woerner asked if it listed the number of hours for staff that is expected. Heidi Rogers answered that it listed hours for partners 48, managers 100, supervisory staff, 80, staff 160 Other Administrative 12 for a total of 400 hours.

Colette J. Matarese asked if the \$30,000 was for one year. Heidi Rogers answered it was for the fiscal year 06 and this one says fiscal year 08. Colette J. Matarese reviewed the

bid and announced that it was the same amount for 07 and 08 which was \$30,500 for each year. Stephen Woerner asked if that was for Chatellier and the other one was \$20,000. Heidi Rogers answered that it was \$19,770.

Ralph Berkowitz said why we don't shift it back to or do we have to do it tonight? So why don't we shift it back to Lisa and Steve and let them go through just to make sure that the \$30,000 is for one year. Colette J. Matarese answered that it was and could look at it now. Stephen Woerner said that \$30,000 was a lot for this audit.

The Town Clerk asked Mr. Woerner when the pre-bid conference was. Stephen Woerner answered that it was sometime in August and no one showed up because it was a voluntary pre bid. Anne Irons stated that yes someone did show up Jeff Wadovick did show. Stephen Woerner answered sorry he came and spoke with Lisa. Mrs. Irons said that Lisa did not know there was a pre-bid conference. Mr. Woerner said Lisa did know and she spoke with him. Mrs. Irons answered that was what she told him. Heidi Rogers asked if anyone had any questions.

Stephen Woerner asked how the purchasing worked in Foster and were they allowed to bring the two bidders in and competitively try to cut their price. Bradford Gorham, Town Solicitor said that what we have is the State bidding law and we can negotiate with bidders. Stephen Woerner said that it might be quicker and he thought the bids were two high and.....He said he would try to amend it with the performance audit included and he would see if he could knock them down to include the performance audit.

Ralph Berkowitz moved, Steven Bellucci seconded and it was unanimously so voted that the bids be examined by Mr. Woerner and Ms Mills and they enter into discussion with the two bidders to try to renegotiate the price down and include the performance audit at the same time and come back to the council two weeks.

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

Heidi Rogers opened one bid for the painting of the Town House submitted by Narragansett Construction Co. of Middletown, RI and read the 11 conditions in the amount of \$443,260.

Colette J. Matarese moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted that the bid be forwarded to the Friends of the Town House for analysis and recommendation.

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

Walter May commented that after hearing the amount of the bid they may want to rebid.

Bradford Gorham, Town Solicitor reported that there was a problem with the fuel dispensing system at the town garage as it does not operate anymore. He said it appears to be an emergency as there is no way to tell which person is using fuel except by monitoring every single use of the pump. He noted that the Charter does authorize the council to go ahead with emergency appropriations if it is done in a way of an Emergency Ordinance is adopted. Mr. Gorham said that if the council wishes him to for the next meeting to put it on the agenda he would draw up an ordinance in accordance with the Charter. He then stated that they could also have Mr. Grant solicit bids on the thing because it really is a system that meets a situation that needs immediate attention. He asked the council to vote on it.

Randy Rossi of Cranston, the candidate for the Treasurer's position stood up and asked if there was some type of plan in place for an agenda item to move this forward.

Heidi Rogers said that actually she did want to have a meeting before the next council meeting and we have discussed next Wednesday.

The council had a five minute recess before executive session.

Steven Bellucci moved Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to go into executive session 42-46-4-5 (2) police collective bargaining and not to reconvene and further to keep the minutes of said meeting closed and the minutes of all executive 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 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.