

October 19, 2006

The October 19, 2006 town council meeting executive session was called to order by Heidi Rogers at the Town House, 180 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
Colette J. Matarese
Harold R. Shippee, Sr.
Bradford Gorham, Esq., Town Solicitor

Colette J. Matarese moved, Steven Bellucci seconded and it was unanimously so voted to go into executive session 42-46-4-5 (2) police collective bargaining and 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.

(SEALED)

Heidi Rogers called the regular session to order at 7:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Heidi Rogers announced that in executive session a vote was taken to adopt the police contract.

Steven Bellucci announced that a Perennial Garden was installed by Raymond Boucher and Troop 101 as an Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Bellucci said that Raymond did a great job and thanked all the vendors who donated all the materials for the garden and Raymond Boucher. The Town Clerk will send out letters.

The following spoke under concerned citizens:

Ronald Cervasio of Old Plainfield Pike
Lynne S. Rider of Burgess Road

Steven Bellucci moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2006 town council meeting. Heidi Rogers abstained.

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

Colette J. Matarese moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to receive and accept the following warrants as they were old warrants and not to approve, basically because a document was also given to the council by the Acting Treasurer about errors, Payroll Warrant #25 in the amount of \$19,802.39, Payroll Warrant #26 in the amount of \$19,303.98, Payroll Warrant #27 in the amount of \$20,292.46, Payroll Warrant #28 in the amount of \$20,600.83, Payroll Warrant #29 in the amount of \$19,617.88 and Payroll Warrant #30 in the amount of \$22,173.46.

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

Colette J. Matarese moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #14 in the amount of \$24,115.70. Colette J. Matarese noted that Richard Grant was out and referred it back so that vacation time etc. was being captured. She noted that on the warrant it lists comp time under planning and under public works it lists regular time for the same week.

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

Steven Bellucci moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to approve General Warrant #10 in the amount of \$45,526.20. Heidi Rogers recused herself from the vote as she and her husband were receiving the following stipends for volunteering on the Foster Ambulance Corps. Heidi Rogers \$220.00 Gordon Rogers \$200.00.

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

Steven Bellucci moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to approve General Warrant #11 in the amount of \$423.36.

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

Steven Woerner, consultant for the finance department addressed the council and reported that the major issue was the audit selection. He noted that in his report he included what he had sent to the Auditor General and that the Auditor General probably would want to meet with the council. Mr. Woerner noted that he spoke with legal counsel for the Auditor General which he used to work with and has known for 20 years. He said that he did have a lengthy discussion with him and believed that they should reconsider the auditor and asked if the council could appeal or meet with them. He said he was told firmly that they would not offer an extension this year. Mr. Woerner said that he therefore was recommending to the council as they have no choice but to hire Nadeau & Company for a three year period. He said that he did speak with them and they said they could start next week and would come in and start doing the confirmation part which was sending out letters to the bank asking for the balances on June 30th. Mr. Woerner noted that he would contact them in the morning and they would schedule some time next week and start the process. Mr. Woerner said that frankly they were the only audit firm that could get the audit done by December 31st because they do have everything in their computers and they would not have to type in new fund structures only change numbers.

Mr. Gorham advised that the council should vote to accept Mr. Woerner's presentation and recommendation and as they have already been on the job and it was referred to Steve to review so we should apparently hire Nadeau & Company otherwise we got to go through this process. Mr. Woerner noted that he would also contact the Auditor General tomorrow.

Colette J. Matarese asked the Solicitor what was the right process as the council did already vote on it at the last meeting to have Mr. Woerner go to Bacon & Company and should the council make a motion to reconsider that motion.

Bradford Gorham, Town Solicitor answered that that was just to have him try solve this problem and he was in charge in making a recommendation which he is doing. Mr. Gorham reported that he too spoke with the Auditor General and the Auditor General's attorney and they were absolutely adamant they will not extend the deadline and that there would be penalties. He said he would say to vote to accept the recommendation and appoint Nadeau & Company.

Steven Bellucci moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded, and it was so voted to accept Mr. Woerner's recommendation of hiring Nadeau & Company subject to the Auditor General's approval. Mr. Woerner noted that there was also the subject to clause that the Auditor General would give an extension which did not happen. Colette J. Matarese remarked that therefore the subject to of not giving an extension now knocks it out.

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

Stephen Woerner also noted that Mr. Rossi went to Lincoln for two hours and was trained on both the accounting software and the tax collections software. He believed he would be very comfortable when he comes in next week and would be ready to roll.

Colette J. Matarese said that then he would be able to start the fiscal year 2006-07.

Stephen Woerner then explained that on Monday he would only come in for about an hour on Monday to work out a game plan with Lisa and Randy and to get off on a good start.

Steven Bellucci read the recommendation from Richard Grant, Public Works Director on the winter sand bids recommending Ernest Joly & Son for \$10.90 per ton delivered to the garage.

Steven Bellucci moved Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to award the bid to Ernest Joly & Son for \$10.90 per ton delivered to the garage.

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

Heidi Rogers said that there was a revised bid from Universal Electric for the fuel monitoring system and installation. Heidi Rogers noted that Colette J. Matarese had remarked that it had looked like some equipment was missing from the bid.

Heidi Rogers opened the bid and announced that the price from Universal Electric including all the correct equipment was \$11,400.00.

Steven Bellucci read that Mr. Grant had reviewed the bid that was submitted by Universal Electric for the Fuel Management System and once he receives an updated cost estimate to include software and the installation cost he recommends that the council award the bid to Universal Electric. The Town Clerk noted that he didn't review this bid as Heidi Rogers just opened it.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. said that it should be sent back to Richard Grant, Public Works Director to approve it and bring it back to the next meeting. Mr. Gorham noted that the council reviewed the previous one and they should take a look to see if this one doesn't fit. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. said that Mr. Grant should look at it also. Mr. Gorham said that it would only delay the installation of the system. Colette J. Matarese noted that this bid was much more involved and the council could approve it subject to his approval. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. agreed with that.

Colette J. Matarese moved, Steven Bellucci seconded, and it was so voted to accept the bid that has been presented to the council subject to Mr. Grant's review and assurance that this will cover everything and that it is complete.

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

Colette J. Matarese moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to approve the additions of \$855.36 and the abatements totaling \$4,439.18 for the 2006 tax roll per the tax assessor.

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

Heidi Rogers announced that there was a request for the use of the town grounds from the Little Rhody Chapter of Antiques Trucks to have a show. Roger Violette from the Chapter spoke up and said that they would like to hold it on September 16, 2007.

Steven Bellucci moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to grant Little Rhody Chapter of Antiques Trucks of America the use of the town grounds on September 16, 2007 pending receipt of certificate of insurance and all paperwork is filed with the Town Clerk.

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

Heidi Rogers reported that Marsha Bowden of Maple Rock Road submitted a letter of interest to be appointed to the Conservation Commission. She did note that Mrs. Bowden was unable to attend the meeting however everyone on the council did know her.

Colette J. Matarese moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to appoint Marsha Bowden to the alternate position on the Conservation Commission.

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

Heidi Rogers reported that there was a memo regarding the appropriations to the school from Lisa Mills and basically it was requesting authorization from the council to transfer the sum of \$150,078.62 which was from June 30, 2005 and \$167,136.00 for June 30, 2006 to the school system.

Steven Bellucci moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded and it was so voted to authorize transfer of \$150,078.62 from June 30th 2005 budget and \$167,136 from June 30th 2006 budget to the Foster School Department.

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

Heidi Rogers noted that there were also appropriations for the libraries and that was for the correct appropriations according to the financial town meeting and that it needed to be authorized to transfer that amount. Colette J. Matarese noted that the council already did that vote in August to increase Tyler Free Library to \$17,143.50 and Foster Public Library be increased to \$19,153.50 for their quarterly appropriations and a memo was sent to Lisa Mills already on that matter.

Heidi Rogers announced that the next two items on the agenda G. Gail Sherman retirement benefits disc/action and H. Administrative Clerk Position disc./action have been resolved and they did not need to be addressed.

Heidi Rogers noted that the second town council meeting in November would take place on Thanksgiving and she did not know the pleasure of the council but said she did not want to be at a council meeting on Thanksgiving.

Steven Bellucci moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded, and it was so voted to hold only one town council meeting in November and that would be the first meeting in November.

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

Bradford Gorham, Town Solicitor reminded the council that if one the charter amendments passed at the general election the council would be required to have a “friendly” meeting with whoever gets elected.

John Gustafson of Kennedy Road informed the council that the Woody Lowden Recreation Center needed electrical attention and asked if they would have it checked out.

Steven Bellucci remarked that he would contact the Public Works Director.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Submitted By,

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.

