

December 14, 2006

The December 14, 2006 Town Council Meeting was called to order by Colette J. Matarese at the Town House, 180 Howard Hill Road, Foster, Rhode Island

The following members were present:

Colette J. Matarese, President
John Lewis, Vice President,
Peter Baribault
Lynne S. Rider
Harold R. Shippee, Sr.

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #18 in the amount of \$28,524.06, Payroll Warrant #19 in the amount of \$26,389.10, Payroll Warrant #20 in the amount of \$22,290.44, Payroll Warrant #21 in the amount of \$22,752.94, Payroll Warrant #22 in the amount of \$24,659.39

Peter Baribault, aye Harold R. Shippee, Sr., aye John Lewis, aye, Lynne S. Rider aye Colette J. Matarese, aye

John Lewis moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve General Warrant #G-16 in the amount of \$38,480.57. Lynne S. Rider questioned why there were so many payments to WB Collaborative. Colette J. Matarese remarked that they were the January premiums and the finance department was working hard on paying the bills on time.

Peter Baribault, aye Harold R. Shippee, Sr., aye John Lewis, aye, Lynne S. Rider aye Colette J. Matarese, aye

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was unanimously so voted to postpone approval of the minutes.

Lynne Rider read the following proposed town council rules:

1. The Town Council shall meet regularly on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The president of the Town Council will determine the place of meeting.
2. Public comment on agenda items will be entertained after the approval of Minutes, provided that anyone who desires to address the Town Council shall Sign up prior to the start of the Town Council Meeting.
3. Concerned Citizens will be at the end of the meeting, the subject matter shall be other than that which is discussed on the agenda. Individuals who desire to speak must sign in and be recognized.
4. If there is a Public hearing on an issue, comment will be restricted to the Public Hearing and comment will not be allowed during the Public Comment or Concerned Citizens.
5. The Town Council may limit the time that individuals may speak.
6. Proper decorum will be displayed during all Town Council Meetings.

Peter Baribault moved Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded to adopt the proposed rules for the Foster Town Council. John Lewis noted that previous rules were adopted and wondered if the council should adopt something that was redundant and just work on the one document and revise it.

Town Solicitor John J. Bevilacqua noted that the previous resolution only governed that particular council and the proposed rules were this council's rules and no council can enforce any will of themselves on any future council.

Colette J. Matarese remarked that those rules can be revisited at a later time and be placed on another agenda.

John Lewis moved, Lynne Rider seconded and it was so voted to add that the following Town Officials shall attend all town council meetings unless excused by the town council: Town Solicitor, Town Treasurer, Police Chief, Tax Collector, Tax Assessor, Public Works Director, Planner, Building & Zoning Official and other town official may be required to attend on an as needed basis. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. did not believe that the Department Heads did not have to be there at every meeting only when their reports are due.

Peter Baribault, aye Harold R. Shippee, Sr., opposed, John Lewis, aye, Lynne S. Rider aye Colette J. Matarese, aye

Colette J. Matarese asked for a vote on the main motion and the vote was as follows:

Peter Baribault, aye Harold R. Shippee, Sr., abstained, John Lewis, aye, Lynne S. Rider aye Colette J. Matarese, aye

Randy Rossi, Town Treasurer reported that the audit would not be done on time however he was working with the Auditor General on the matter. He explained to the council members that things were getting done and the finance department was moving forward. He estimated that everything would be done by February 28, 2007. He noted that he had a goal to have all the town's finances on the web site. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. commented on all the work that Randy had submitted to the council and told him he did a great job getting that much work done in such a short time.

John J. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor reported that there was grave concern that the Town of Foster may be used as an example of what happens to a municipality that does not meet the December 31st deadline for an audit. He noted that at the request of the President he sent a letter to the Auditor General requesting an extension of time for the audit. He noted that he met with the Auditor General and proposed a detailed deadline commitment that the town would make and that the Auditor General would feel comfortable in granting an extension of time. Mr. Bevilacqua noted that he also spoke with the Jeff Wadovik. Mr. Bevilacqua commented that he was waiting for a response from that meeting regarding an extension for the submission of the audit.

Colette J. Matarese announced that the bid award for the painting of the town house will be on the agenda for December 20, 2006.

John Lewis moved, Lynne Rider seconded and it was unanimously so voted to postpone the bid award until December 20, 2006.

Peter Baribault, aye Harold R. Shippee, Sr., aye, John Lewis, aye, Lynne S. Rider aye Colette J. Matarese, aye

Colette J. Matarese remarked that everyone was aware that the Foster Preservation Society had requested to use the Town House basement for sorting some of their collection and their use and asked what the pleasure of the council was.

John Lewis answered that he believed that Mr. Shippee had asked the Town Solicitor to speak with the President of the Foster Preservation Society. Mr. Bevilacqua said that he will be in touch with the President and will also contact the Trust.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was so voted to postpone until such time the Town Solicitor has time to meet with the Foster Preservation Society and work out the details.

The matter will be placed on all the agenda until it is settled.

Peter Baribault, aye Harold R. Shippee, Sr., aye, John Lewis, aye, Lynne S. Rider aye
Colette J. Matarese, aye

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to appoint Brenda Frederickson as a temporary assistant to the Town Treasurer at \$20.00 per hour with maximum hours of 20 hours per week.

Peter Baribault, aye Harold R. Shippee, Sr., aye, John Lewis, aye, Lynne S. Rider aye
Colette J. Matarese, aye

John Lewis moved, Lynne Rider seconded and it was unanimously so voted to allow Pamela Fontaine, Tax Collector to carry over 4 hours and 2 vacation days to the calendar year 2007.

Peter Baribault, aye Harold R. Shippee, Sr., aye, John Lewis, aye, Lynne S. Rider aye
Colette J. Matarese, aye

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded to adopt the organization of a Personnel Board as follows:

The following is organization and the duties of the Personnel Board.

ORGANIZATION: There shall be a Personnel Board consisting of three members who shall be appointed by the Town Council for terms of three years. No more than two members of the Personnel Board shall be members of the same political party. The members first appointed shall serve for terms of one, two and three years respectively and thereafter their successor shall be appointed to three year terms as their respective terms expire. The Town Council shall fill any vacancy that may occur on the Personnel Board for the unexpired term. Members shall be eligible for reappointment.

POWERS AND DUTIES: It shall be the duty of the Personnel Board to

1. Recommend to the Town Council Equal Employment Opportunity Affirmative Officer, who happens to be the Town Clerk in this case, an a Human Resource Director who happens to be the Town Treasurer, procedures to implement the Town's personnel policy.
2. Recommend to the Town Council as necessary, changes to the adopted job descriptions, pay plan and personnel policy.
3. Receive questions from Town Officials and employees and the Town Council, and provide interpretations to the Town Council of the adopted job descriptions, pay plan and personnel policy.
4. Prior to hiring any appointed official or employee certify to the Town Council that persons who are candidates or applicants for the town's position have the qualifications required by the adopted job descriptions. The personnel Board shall submit to the Town Council the name of up to five persons who stand highest in qualifications.
5. Whenever the Town Council shall deem it necessary to form a personnel search committee to fill any appointed official or employee position, the members of the Personnel Board shall serve as voting members of such a search committee along with others appointed by the Council.

Union agreements: Nothing in the creation of the Personnel Board is to be interpreted as altering agreements reached through negotiations between the Town and any

recognized unions and association of employees relative to proscribed procedures of promotion, appeal and arbitration agreements.

Lynne Rider moved, John Lewis seconded and it was unanimously so voted so amend to change three members to 5 members of the Personnel Board.

Peter Baribault, aye Harold R. Shippee, Sr., aye, John Lewis, aye, Lynne S. Rider aye
Colette J. Matarese, aye

The vote for the main motion was as follows:

Peter Baribault, aye Harold R. Shippee, Sr., aye, John Lewis, aye, Lynne S. Rider aye
Colette J. Matarese, aye

A letter of resignation was received from Renee Bevilacqua resigning from the Zoning Board of Review

John Lewis moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to accept the letter of resignation with regrets and forward a thank you letter for her service.

Peter Baribault, aye Harold R. Shippee, Sr., aye, John Lewis, aye, Lynne S. Rider aye
Colette J. Matarese, aye

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to appoint Carl Saccoccio to the Zoning Board of Review for a 5 year term.

Peter Baribault, aye Harold R. Shippee, Sr., aye, John Lewis, aye, Lynne S. Rider aye
Colette J. Matarese, aye

The Department Heads reported to the members of the council on what they believed the goals for the various departments should be for the upcoming year.

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to place an advertisement in an appropriate publication for the positions of planning clerk and the department of public works laborer.

Peter Baribault, aye Harold R. Shippee, Sr., aye, John Lewis, aye, Lynne S. Rider aye
Colette J. Matarese, aye

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 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.