

**January 25, 2007**

The January 25, 2007 Town Council Meeting was called to order by Colette J. Matarese President at the Captain Isaac Paine School, 160 Foster Center Road, Foster, Rhode Island at 7:05 p.m.

The following members were present :

Colette J. Matarese, President,  
John Lewis, Vice President, arrived during the approval of payroll warrants  
Peter Baribault  
Lynne S. Rider  
Harold R. Shippee, Sr.,

Staff

Anne Carlson, Tax Assessor  
Chief Robert E. Coyne, Jr.  
Donald Delaere, Public Works Director  
Robert Fallon, Building Official  
Pamela Fontaine, Tax Collector  
Nancy Johnston, Human Services Director, excused  
Randy Rossi, Treasurer

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the minutes from the December 28, 2006 and January 3, 2007 town council meeting.

Peter Baribault aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Harold R. Shippee, Sr., aye  
Colette J. Matarese aye John Lewis was absent at this time

Lynne S. Rider moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2007 town council meeting.

Peter Baribault aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Harold R. Shippee, Sr., aye  
Colette J. Matarese abstained John Lewis was absent at this time

No one spoke under Public Comment.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #28 in the amount of \$24,499.09 and Payroll Warrant #29 in the amount of \$21,239.80 and General Warrant #19A in the amount of \$2,282.99. and General Warrant #20 in the amount of \$58,721.60.

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

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve the monthly report from the Planning Department.

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

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve the quarterly reports that were submitted. The Town Clerk was directed to prepare a letter to the Boards & Committees reminding them of quarterly reports and that they should be sent in on a timely matter.

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

Randy Rossi, Town Treasurer reported that the finance department has been working very diligently on the audit as well as keeping up to date on all the current financials and next year budget. Mr. Rossi reported that he has met with the auditor and has provided them with all the information that they needed. He said that everything is on schedule for the audit to be done on time. Mr. Rossi also noted that he has been in close contact with the Auditor General's office.

John Lewis read a letter from the Foster Preservation Society stating that they would pay their share of the utilities at the Town House if the Preservation Society occupied there. It was also noted that they have liability insurance coverage. John Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor noted that those were the two issues that he had spoken with the President of the Preservation Society about. He believed that there would be no problems if they occupied the space in the basement of the Town House. He did note that they did have some storage issues as they have certain artifacts and they would have to address that with the town clerk.

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded and it was so voted to grant the request of the Foster Preservation Society to use the lower level of the Town House as they have the appropriate insurance and they agree that they would pay for the utilities. Peter Baribault asked that the Town Clerk find space for the Preservation Society.

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

John Lewis read a letter from Scott Ulricksen of Balcom Road requesting an appointment on the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Scott Ulricksen was interviewed by the council members

John Lewis moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to appoint Scott Ulricksen to the Conservation Commission as a one year alternate.

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

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to table the action on the Constables until the next meeting.

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

The council received letters of interest for the Zoning Board of Review from Thomas Grabbert, Steven Bellucci, Scott Pollard, Joseph Walsh and Paula Mottshaw.

The council interviewed Scott Pollard, Paula Mottshaw and Joseph Walsh.

Lynne S. Rider moved Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to appoint Scott Pollard to fill the unexpired term on the Zoning Board of Review and to appoint Joseph Walsh to the alternate position on the Zoning Board of Review.

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

John Lewis moved, Harold Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to table the appointment to the Foster Land Trust.

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

The council received interest for the Personnel Board from Terri Snyder and Paul Lander. Ms. Snyder was unable to attend due to illness. The Council interview Paul Lander.

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to appoint Paul Lander to the Personnel Board for a three year term.

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

John Lewis moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to appoint Terri Snyder to the Personnel Board for a four year term.

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

Colette J. Matarese aye

Peter Baribault reported that he was in touch with the Statewide Planning Office and he believed that he had someone for the Planner position however it fell through. He noted that the Statewide Planning office will put a notice in some professional journals and publications for the Planner position.

Anne Irons, Town Clerk reported that she has two potential individuals for the position and would inform the council when she had more information.

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to table the matter of town planner.

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

Lynne S. Rider remarked that it was important for volunteers to have copies of the Comprehensive Plan and she realized it was costly due to the color maps however she believed that the volunteers needed that tool to work with.

John Lewis noted that it will be on the town's webpage and it would be available on CD Rom for a cost of less than \$1.00 per copy.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, John Lewis seconded and it was unanimously so voted to allow printing costs not to exceed \$1500 for the Comprehensive Plan to be printed for all members of the Boards and Committees.

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

Colette J. Matarese noted that the Treasurer reviewed the public works budget and there was money in the budget to hire an additional laborer. The Town Clerk was instructed to forward copies of the resumes to the new members of the Personnel Board.

After discussion with the council and department heads it was decided to continue to hold department head meetings on a monthly basis and Lynne Rider and John Lewis will be the town council members at the February meeting and council members will take turns attending the meetings depending on their availability.

There was discussion regarding the Town Council holding office hours at the town hall. The members will take turns depending on the availability.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was unanimously so voted to hold office hours at the town hall on Friday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

Colette J. Matarese aye

The Town Clerk will make the schedule for the town council members.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. noted that the furnace in the highway garage was in disrepair and could no longer be fixed it needed replacing. He noted that Donald Delaere obtained two estimates one from Wesco in the amount of \$2,930 and one from Restivo's in the amount of \$3,780.

John Lewis moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to authorize DPW to move on the estimate provided by Wesco Energy.

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

Peter Baribault moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the abatements submitted by the Tax Board of Review in the amount of \$414.76.

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

The council held off the discussion on the Council Liaisons until the next council meeting after the next department head meeting.

The council held a discussion on the frequency of the council meetings and they did agree to hold the meetings at 7:30 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. due to the fact that Council Member John Lewis teaches a class until 7:00 p.m.

Lynne S. Rider moved, John Lewis seconded and it was unanimously so voted to hold town council meetings each week in the month of February.

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

Colette J. Matarese announced that it was reported in the newspaper that Federal Allocations had been cut for the TIP program through the Department of Transportation. She noted that the town had already spent some money for the Old Plainfield Pike road project and that was one of the roads listed that might not be funded now. Lynne S. Rider noted that the town has spent money on the engineering project and she assumes that it will be valid should it come up down the road. It was noted that the engineering costs were in the \$40,000+ figure. Colette J. Matarese said that the council will have to look into the project very deeply and said she would place it on a future agenda. John Bevilacqua said that it would have to be looked into whether or not the town has lived up with their part of the agreement and whether or not they had an out of getting out of the project which most of the time they do.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to grant the request from the Canterng Colts 4H Club for the use of the fairgrounds for the Canterng Colts pending insurance and availability for Sunday May 20, 2007.

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

Peter Baribault moved Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve the request from Rhody Riders 4-H Club on April 28, 2007 pending proof of insurance.

A letter was received from Dubay Tractor requesting that a road sign be placed on Wright Road and Cucumber Hill Road. Colette J. Matarese reported that she and John Lewis were at town hall the day the letter came in and they reviewed records and they could not find anything official about Wright Road. She noted that they were told that it was a Connecticut Road up to a certain point but there was some question if it did extend past that.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. noted that there always was a sign there and there was a fire and Foster responded as mutual aid to Connecticut and there should be sign there because there is one house in Foster. Mr. Shippee believed that Foster grades part of the road. He also noted that when the State of Rhode Island DOT resurfaced Cucumber Hill Road they also placed a sign for Wright Road and now it is missing. Colette J. Matarese said that the council could then instruct the public works department to place a road sign on Wright Road.

A recommendation was received from Councilmember Harold R. Shippee, Sr. and Town Clerk Anne Irons to hire Carol Lyn Lyons as the Administrative Planning Clerk.

Lynne S. Rider moved, John Lewis seconded and it was unanimously so voted to appoint Carol Lyn Lyons as the Administrative Planning Clerk.

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

Colette J. Matarese noted that the budget schedule was put together for the 2007-08 fiscal year and the first workshop was scheduled when she would be away at a conference and asked the council if the workshop could be changed to February 17, 2007.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Colette J. Matarese seconded and it was unanimously so voted to reschedule the Saturday workshop to Saturday February 17, 2007 at 8:00 a.m.

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

Colette J. Matarese acknowledged a letter from the Rhode Island Laborers' District Council Local Union 1322 requesting to begin negotiations for a new contract. John Lewis and Colette J. Matarese will negotiate the contract on behalf of the Town of Foster.

John Lewis read a letter from the President of the Tri-Town Titans requesting the use of the Nike site on Theodore Foster Road for a recreation area for the use of football games and other related sports. Robert Fallon, Building Official will check into the water and soil issues at the Nike Site Property and get back to the town council.

Colette J. Matarese remarked that there was a lack of consistency in the reporting format for the monthly and quarterly reports and she believed it was difficult to review them. The Town Clerk and Treasurer will develop a reporting system for the councils review.

A resignation letter was received from Donald Delaere as the Public Works Director.

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept the resignation letter with deep regrets and thanked him for a job well done.

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

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to appoint Bradford Gove, as the Public Works Director.

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

Cheryl Davis of Abbey Lane spoke under concerned citizens about grievances in the public works department.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr., seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to go into executive session according to 42-46-4&5 (a) (1) Personnel (5) Acquisition and Collective Bargaining and not to reconvene in to open session 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 the General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-4.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 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.

