

February 8, 2007

The February 8, 2007 joint meeting with the Foster Town Council and the Foster School Committee was called to order by Colette J. Matarese, Council President and Michael Paolucci, School Committee Member at the Capt. Isaac Paine School 160 Foster Center Road Foster, RI 02825.

The following members were present:

School Committee Members:

Michael Paolucci
Dennis Creighton
Ronald Cervasio

Town Council Members:

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

Staff:

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

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Colette J. Matarese stated that this meeting was a pre budget consultation in accordance with RIGL 16-2-21. The School Committee had submitted a budget with a 5.23% increase from last year.

Randy Rossi, Town Treasurer reported his update on the Town budget and stated that the Town could handle a 3.81% increase from the school department which is a reduction from the proposed budget of \$56,791. Making the increase total \$152,906.

Dennis Creighton stated that the way the school budget is put together with contractual and health insurance obligations there are not a lot of ways to cut the budget. The schools committee is trying to restore the budget from previous years of cuts to their budget.

Michael Paolucci stated that 90% of the operating budget is teacher salaries is blue cross delta dental transportation so that leaves only 10% of this budget to operate the school. And it is very tight. We have worked long and hard on this budget. We have even kept it under the States percentage.

Ronald Cervasio spoke of special needs teachers and foreign language.

Robert Wallace, School Superintendent stated that next years budget is \$4,217,477. which is \$209,697. more than the current budget, or the 5.23% increase. He also spoke of the enrollment numbers for the school and the ratio of students and teachers. He also said that the budget has no "fluff".

Peter Baribault asked that the school provide a worst case scenario with the numbers Randy Rossi has just given to them for the upcoming budget workshops for the town council.

Robert Wallace also spoke of the state testing results for the school and all of which were high on average compared to the state's average.

Colette J. Matarese stated that she wanted be sure that we are being as fiscally responsible as possible.

Michael Paolucci adjourned the school committee meeting with the town council.

Lynne S. Rider moved Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2007 meeting.

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

No one spoke under Public Comment.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved Peter Baribault seconded to approve Payroll warrant # 30 for \$22,570.22, #31 for \$21,205.04 and General warrant # 21 for \$111,231.11.

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

Lynne S. Rider moved John Lewis seconded to approve the monthly reports as submitted.

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

Colette J. Matarese opened the Public Hearing and read the Program Performance CDBG report from the fiscal year of 2006 which was a total of \$106,700. The breakdown of the total is as follows:

Housing Rehabilitation	\$36,000.
Abbey Lane Oil Tank Removal	\$47,000.
Operation:	\$21,400.
Food Bank	\$ 2,000.
Administration:	\$ 300.

Colette J. Matarese also read the timeline for the 2007 Community Development Block Grant application process. The total funds requested for the fiscal year of 2007 is \$241,000.

Peter Baribault asked about the timeline workshops for the CDBG.

Jeffrey Grofton of the Community Housing Land Trust of RI Inc. spoke about the affordable housing funding and asked for \$3,000. for the upcoming year.

There were no comments from the audience.

Colette J. Matarese closed the Public Hearing.

Randy Rossi, Treasurer gave his report on the status of the Town audit and stated that everything is on schedule.

Peter Baribault stated there hasn't been any new updates from the State concerning the Planners position. He moved, John Lewis seconded and was so voted to table the item.

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

Police Chief Robert E. Coyne, Jr. recommend that Lt. Eric Rollinson be promoted to Captain.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded and was so voted to approve the promotion.

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

Peter Baribault moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded and was so voted to approve the Additions for a total of \$324.53.

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

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and was so voted to approve the Abatements for a total of \$184.06.

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

John Lewis moved to accept the resignation letter of Robin Fish with regrets, from the Foster Housing Board liaison, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and was so voted.

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

John Lewis read a letter of request from the Old Home Days Committee asking for the use of the Town grounds for Old Home Days July 27, 28 and 29, 200, and to make some electrical repairs to some outdoor plugs.

Lynne S. Rider moved to approve the request, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded was so unanimously voted.

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

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. read a letter from Robert Fallon, Building and Zoning Official stating that George Ostrander, plumbing and mechanical inspector had told him that he was unable to continue as the Town's Plumbing and Mechanical inspector. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved to advertise for a replacement, Lynne S. Rider seconded was so voted.

John Lewis moved to accept with regret the resignation of George Ostrander as the plumbing and mechanical inspector. Colette J. Matarese seconded and was so voted.

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

John Lewis moved to move the claim against the Town of Foster to the Town Solicitor. Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and was so voted.

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

Discussion was made about the Foster-Glocester Building Committee. Dennis Creighton of the Foster School Committee was not present at this time of the meeting to make any comments. Colette J. Matarese stated that this item would be on the next meetings agenda under old business.

John Lewis read a letter from the RIDOT regarding the Hopkins Hills Bridge #96. Colette J. Matarese suggested that this item be placed on the agenda for March 8, 2007 so that the RIDOT can come and speak on the issue of the bridge.

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded to appoint Randy Rossi as the representative for the Town of Foster for the West Bay Collaborative and was so voted.

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

Randy Rossi spoke of the posting corrections that are being made. John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded and was so approved to make the corrections recommend by the Town Treasurer.

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

Colette J. Matarese asked that the Town Clerks office look into restoring the old Town Scales that are currently in the attic of the town hall. Tina Simula, Deputy Town Clerk stated that the town acquired them from the State of Rhode Island in the early 1900's and that the Town of Coventry and the City of Pawtucket currently display theirs.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved John Lewis seconded and was to voted to approve the following people as town constables as recommended by Chief Robert E. Coyne, Jr.

Foster Town Council

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

Town Officials

Anne M. Irons
Tina Simula
Robert Fallon
Bradford Gove
Kenneth Knight

Foster Ambulance Corps.

Sharon Cotter, Commander
Debra Branch

South Foster Volunteer Fire Co.

Gordon Brayton, Chief
Roy Shippee, Deputy Chief
Moosup Valley Volunteer Fire Co.
Paul Cunniff, Chief
Robert Larrivee, Deputy Chief

Foster Center Volunteer Fire Co.

Thomas Walden, Chief
Willard Paul, Deputy Chief

Foster Emergency Management

W. Peter Forstrom, Assistant Director

Foster Police/Fire Dispatchers

Patricia Safstrom
Jo-Ann Law
Linda Niles
Janet Bagley

Julie Ranalli
Jonathan Barrette

Others
Thomas DiRaimo

Robert Moreau and Lynne S. Rider spoke under concerned citizens.

Colette J. Matarese stated that John Vorro, Sr. was in the hospital and he does need all of our well wishes and thoughts.

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and was so voted to go into executive session according to 42-46-5(A)(9) and 42-46-5(2) for the purpose of discussing grievances and negotiations 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 9:00 p.m.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted By,

Tina W. Simula
Deputy 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.