

February 22, 2007

The February 22, 2007 Town Council Meeting was called to order by John Lewis, Vice-President at the Town House 181 Howard Hill Road, Foster, Rhode Island at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present :

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

Colette J. Matarese, President was absent due to a business trip

Staff

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

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

No one spoke under Public Comment.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #32 in the amount of \$24,146.30 and General Warrant #22 in the amount of \$237,060.58.

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

Lynne S. Rider moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve the quarterly reports that were submitted.

John Lewis, aye, Peter Baribault aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Harold R. Shippee, Sr., 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 the auditors were now out of town hall and working from their own office finishing the product. He said that everything is on schedule for the audit to be done by the 28th of February.

Peter Baribault explained that he has tentatively scheduled a meeting with a candidate for the planner position on Tuesday afternoon. He asked that another member be available to attend the meeting. John Lewis would attend the meeting with him.

A letter from Provost & Rovero, Inc./Town Engineering Inc. regarding the subdivision that has been proposed on Jenks Road was acknowledged. Mr. Lewis noted that the town was notified that the town was declined on placing the matter on the Foster Planning Board Agenda. Mr. Lewis noted that there was an offer to file a quitclaim deed on all of the land that is in the town and deed it over as part of the roadway. Mr. Lewis asked the Solicitor to review the documents.

Mr. Lewis announced that Rhode Island Department of Transportation would like to present a presentation on the Hopkins Mills Bridge #96 on Old Danielson Pike at the March 8th council meeting.

Foster Center Volunteer Fire Co. applied for a Class F Liquor Licenses for March 10th, April 14th, June 9th and September 8, 2007.

Lynne Rider moved, Harold Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was so voted to approve the application for a Class F Liquor License for March 10th, April 14th, June 9th and September 8, 2007 for the Foster Center Volunteer Fire Company and fee be waived.

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

South Foster Volunteer Fire Co. applied for a Class F Liquor Licenses for February 24th.

Harold Shippee, Sr. moved, Lynne Rider seconded and it was so voted to approve the application for a Class F Liquor License for February 24th for the South Foster Volunteer Fire Company and the fee be waived.

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

Harold Shippee, Sr. moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded and it was so voted to table the letter from the Department of Health regarding the Continuity of Government (COG) Plan and the Medical Emergency Distribution System (MEDS) Plan because the Emergency Management Director was not in attendance at the meeting.

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

Lynne S. Rider read a resignation letter from Margaret Shippee resigning from the Foster Affordable Housing Board.

Peter Baribault moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded and it was so voted to accept the letter of resignation with regrets and a thank you for her dedicated services to the Affordable Housing Board.

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

Joseph Tignore, property owner of a seasonal cottage on Pine Tree Lane was before the council requesting the town plow in front of his property so that he could have access to his cottage.

It was noted that the adjoining property was plowed by a private contractor not the town. It was also noted that there was a right of way to get to the property and permission was needed from the current property owners.

The Town Solicitor noted that there was only a civil remedy that Mr. Tignore could seek and the Town did not have standing to seek it for him.

Mr. Lewis explained to Joseph Tignore that he had to speak with the current property owners that own the property that the right of way was located to seek permission to have the area plowed and if the permission was not forthcoming he would have to file a civil complaint. Mr. Tignore questioned if he could plow himself. He was told that it was not the town's property and the council could not answer that question. Mr. Lewis also directed him to check with the Human Services Department regarding grant money to plow in front of his property.

Members of the Foster-Glocester Building Committee were present to explain to the council members about the ESCO system that has been proposed for the new middle school and the existing high school.

Gregory Laramie, Chair of the Foster-Glocester Regional Building Committee distributed photographs of the condition of the progress of the new middle school being built in the Town of Glocester. He noted that the progress is still on schedule and a completion date of June 30th was expected. He noted that the contract documents for the high school portion of the project are under review and he expects to go out to bid by the first or second week of March. Mr. Laramie noted the construction on the high school was expected to begin in the spring. He said that the first leg of the project would be tying in the old middle school septic system with the high school and removing the old and

constructing a new gym. Mr. Laramie noted that asbestos abatement will start in the summer when the middle schoolers vacate the building. And then being the renovations of that building. When that is complete he noted that two phases of work would begin on the high school. He noted that the high school would be completed by December 2008.

Mr. Greg Laramie also distributed a list of 20 most frequently asked question about ESPCs and ESCOs. He introduced William Abt, Richard Sparks, Steven Winsor, Julie Capobianco, representatives from ConEdision Solutions, Celtic Energy.

Mr. Laramie noted that ESPC stand for energy service performance contract and ESCO is an energy service company.

Richard Sparks spoke about how a feasibility analysis came about through Julie Capobianco from the State Energy office and how the biomass came about.

William Abt spoke about the bidding process and the savings of the project and an energy audit.

Julie Capobianco from State Energy Office spoke about energy savings and how that office supports the project.

Councilmember Lewis recapped that the cost of the ESCO project was Thirteen Million Dollars over a ten year period minus 60% state reimbursement. He noted that the 60% reimbursement comes out of Rhode Island Housing. Mr. Lewis said he thought that Rhode Island Housing aid only applied to capitol expenses and this project is being put through the operating budget.

Mr. Raymond Fogarty noted that the concept was approved based on the capital items. Mr. Lewis noted that the concept was approved but not the project. Mr. Raymond Fogarty noted that the project would work by itself without the state reimbursement anyway. Mr. Raymond Fogarty also said it was a 25 year project with a payback of 13 years. Mr. Lewis asked how a 12.4 Million Dollar expenditure gets put into operations and not capital.

Steven Winsor, Business Manager of the Foster-Glocester Regional School District went over the budget for the district.

Mr. Lewis believed that the school committee should reconsider the issue as the process was not done correctly.

John Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor noted that it needed voter approval or approval from the financial town meeting and rules should have been followed.

Ellen Flynn Corneau, Bond Counsel and representatives from ConEdison and Celtic Energy all spoke.

John Lewis thanked everyone for their comments.

Randy Rossi noted that he was able to negotiate with WB Collaborative better health care rates and by returning the \$150,000 that was sent to the Town of Foster a few years would reduce the health care increase of 15% to 3%. He noted that the town did make about \$29,000 on the money while it was in a town account. He recommended transferring the money back to the WB Collaborative.

Lynne Rider moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to return \$150,756 to the WB Collaborative.

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

Ronald Cervasio, School Committee Members asked that the council place parking lot at Paine School on the council agenda and what about Steven Bellucci's son being

recognized for his Eagle Scout project and he wanted an executive session with the council.

The council discussed 5 year maintenance program for town buildings on the future agenda items.

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 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.

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

The meeting was recessed at 9:40 p.m.

John Lewis announced that solicitor's salary was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 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.

