

April 12, 2007

The April 12, 2007 Town Council Meeting was called to order by Colette J. Matarese President at the Town House, 180 Howard Hill Road, Foster, Rhode Island at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present :

Colette J. Matarese, President
John Lewis, Vice President, arrived during the discussion on warrants
Peter Baribault
Lynne S. Rider
John J. Bevilacqua, Jr., Town Solicitor

Harold R. Shippee, Sr., was excused

Staff

Anne Carlson, Tax Assessor
Sergeant William Zeihl
Robert Fallon, Building Official
Pamela Fontaine, Tax Collector
Nancy Johnston, Human Services Director
Brad Gove, Public Works Director
Randy Rossi, Treasurer excused

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Colette J. Matarese announced that the Foster Ambulance Corps. was holding an Open House on Saturday April 14, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to present the new Rescue that was recently purchased.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2007 town council meeting.

Peter Baribault aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Colette J. Matarese aye

Peter Baribault moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve Payroll Warrant # 37 in the amount of \$25,279.05, Payroll Warrant #38 in the amount of \$24,975.32, Payroll Warrant #39 in the amount of \$21,257.98 and General Warrant #25 in the amount of \$141,842.78.

Peter Baribault aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, aye Colette J. Matarese aye

Peter Baribault moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept the monthly reports as submitted. Bradford Gove, Public Works Director noted that the fuel pump system will be replaced on April 30 to May 2, 2007. Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner reported that she would like to bring in GrowthSmart RI, a private non-profit which educates boards and committees regarding open meetings law, access to public records and RI Code of Ethics and Land Use Decisions and has scheduled them for a three day seminar on Tuesday May 15, and Wednesdays May 23, 30, 2007. She noted that there is a fee however she was trying to obtain a grant for the education program from the Rhode Island Foundation.

John Lewis, aye, Peter Baribault aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Colette J. Matarese aye

The public hearing on the Peddlers License application from Pamela Chabot was postponed by the request of the applicant.

John Lewis remarked that the item Ordinance Revisions was tabled at the last meeting and there were two ordinance revisions recommendations from the Planning Board one on Affordable Housing and one on Conservation Development. Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner noted that she had done a quick review of the proposal but she had not seen the contract. She also said that Mr. Lewis had given here a file on the proposal for

the ordinance revisions. Ann-Marie Ignasher noted that the Planning Board would be working on the primary one which is on the Affordable Housing and the Town Solicitor John Bevilacqua is reviewing the contract for that. She noted that the other one was the Conservation Planning and Mr. Anthony Lachowitz is the lead person to take that on. She said that if all goes well at the Financial Town Meeting and she is hired full time she can probably do a good portion of the zoning regulations and zoning ordinances herself. She explained that the Affordable Housing Board was going to meet soon to begin. She noted that two volunteers are still needed.

John Lewis noted that the Ordinance review would then be placed on the next agenda.

Colette J. Matarese noted that one of the things in the beginning of the council's term it was decided that Department Heads would be required to attend town council meetings during the audit process. She said she would like to propose is that the department heads be excused unless there is an item on the agenda that they need to address.

John Lewis commented that there are some Department Heads that the Council should continue to require attending the council meetings such as the Town Solicitor, the Treasurer and the Police Chief and the Director of Public Works and the Town Planner are essential at almost every meeting as there are questions or something that needs to be referred to them. He said he would like to see those Department Heads to continue with attendance. Mr. Lewis said that the other individuals such as the Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, Building Official & Director of Human Services he did not have a problem excusing them. Peter Baribault questioned if the Police Chief could also appoint a designee to attend if he could not attend.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was so voted that future Town Council Meetings that the Town Solicitor, Town Treasurer, Police Chief or designee, Director of Public Works and Town Planner be required to attend all council meetings unless excused by the Council President and that the Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, Building Official & Director of Human Services need only come when there is a specific item they need to address.

John Lewis, aye, Peter Baribault aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Colette J. Matarese aye

John Lewis thanked the Department Heads for attending the council meeting during the transition, the audit and the budget process. Colette J. Matarese agreed and said the Department Head had gone above and beyond in arranging their schedules.

John Lewis reported that the Recreation Committee had been inactive for a while and at the last meeting the Council made two appointments to that committee. He said he took it upon himself to draft a memo to the recreation committee members and read the memo.



Town of Foster

Est. 1781

To: Foster Recreation Committee
From: Foster Town Council
In Re: Recreation Board meeting and organization.
Date: 12 April 2007

Over the recent months, the Town Council has made a number of new appointments to the Foster Recreation Committee so as to ensure a membership quorum. With the two appointments made on April 5, a quorum now exists. As such, the Town Council is calling a meeting of the Foster Recreation Committee to be held on Saturday April 21, 2007 at 9:30 am at the Ben Eddy building. This meeting will be held for the purposes of

election of officers, organization, and planning of summer recreation programs. A member of the Council will be in attendance to help to organize this first meeting of the new Recreation Committee.

An agenda has been drafted (see attached) and will be posted per state requirements to include the following:

Adoption of rules for recreation committee
Election of Recreation Committee Chair
Election of Vice-Chair
Election of Secretary
Storage of recreation equipment (ice rink, summer recreation program equipment)
Planning for Summer Recreation Program
Report from Recreation Director
Future agenda items

The Council desires a vigorous recreation program to include formal organized sports (little league, soccer), a summer recreation program for youth, opportunities for educational day trips, and recreational opportunities for families and people of all ages. In the future weeks, the Council will be drafting a formal resolution to clearly define the relationship between the Recreation Director and the Recreation Committee but at this point a spirit of cooperation between the two is expected.

The Council looks forward to working with the new Recreation Committee and its members beginning at this first meeting on April 21st, to ensure a wide range of recreational opportunities for the people of the Town.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was so voted to approve as written and forward to the Recreation Committee Members.

John Lewis, aye, Peter Baribault aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Colette J. Matarese aye

Colette J. Matarese read a proposal from Randy Rossi, Town Treasurer recommending reinstating health care buyback for full time employees and institute 10% co-pay for all non-union personnel. It was noted that the changes would create an estimation of savings of \$33,000 for the upcoming fiscal year.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded and it was so voted to approve the recommendation from the Town Treasurer, Randy Rossi to amend the following section in the Personnel Policy.

John Lewis, aye, Peter Baribault aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Colette J. Matarese aye

Town Solicitor John Bevilacqua noted that it would alleviate a potential civil liability to the town based on the actions of the previous council.

411 MEDICAL, VISION, AND DENTAL BENEFITS

411.01 All full time or part time (pro-rated) town elected and appointed officials; and town employees shall be eligible to select either individual or family plan medical, vision, and dental coverage as provided by the Town to employees with Collective Bargaining Agreements. All full time employees hired, elected or appointed are required to pay ten percent (10%) of the cost of medical, vision and dental benefits.

411.02 To the extent that a full time employee can establish proof of other medical, vision, and / or dental coverage said employee may waive coverage. This must be done in writing during the first week of the calendar year. The full time employee shall receive a semi-annual cash payment equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the annual premium cost to the town in lieu of receiving medical, vision, and dental coverage, payable in July and January of each Fiscal Year.

411.03 The cost of medical, vision, and dental benefits for part time officials and employees will be pro-rated.¹ An official or employee may either pay the balance of the pro-rated premium or elect no medical, vision, and dental benefits. Part-time officials or employees who elect not to participate in the medical, vision, and dental benefits program shall receive no additional compensation in lieu of medical, vision, and dental coverage.

411.04 Medical, vision, and dental coverage for a terminated employee will be cancelled effective the last day of the month of employment. Eligibility for semi-annual cash payment in lieu of coverage shall terminate effective immediately and shall be pro-rated to the date of termination.

411.05 Under the provisions of Rhode Island General Laws Title 27 entitled Insurance, Chapter 27-19.1 entitled Extended Medical Benefits, an official or employee who is terminated because of involuntary layoff or death, or as a result of the workplace ceasing to exist, or the permanent reduction in size of the workforce, may extend the benefits of the medical plan for a period of up to eighteen (18) months from the termination date.²

¹ A part time town official or employee as defined herein shall also be eligible to receive medical, vision, and dental benefits as outlined in Section 411 of the handbook, but only if the official or employee agrees to contribute toward the cost of that benefit on a pro-rated basis. I.e., a twenty-eight (28) hour per week employee shall contribute 1/5 of the cost of medical, vision, and dental benefits.

² Qualifying officials or employees, or the surviving spouse of a deceased member, must elect to continue participation in the medical plan within thirty (30) days. The qualifying official / employee or the surviving spouse shall be responsible for the payment of premiums or subscription fees directly to the carrier of the surgical, hospital, or medical insurance plan, or the group plan's agent or insurance producer, throughout the extended coverage period.

Colette J. Matarese noted that the Rabies Clinic on April 28, 2007 needs volunteers at 1:30 to 3:00 and asked everyone to consider volunteering that day to write out rabies certificate.

Colette J. Matarese reported that the Conservation Commission requested that the Council permit Scott Ulrickson, member of the Conservation to ride with the Director of the Department of Public Works when appropriate as directed by the Planning Board and the Comprehensive Plan to review roads before they are improved.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was so voted to authorize Scott Ulrickson as designee by the Conservation Commission to ride with the DPW Director when necessary. Colette J. Matarese commented that the Interlocal Trust should be contacted to let them know to make sure we are covered and there is a rider on the insurance.

John Lewis said the motion should be amended to that affect and that it would be contingent upon The Trust. Lynne S. Rider agreed and Peter Baribault agreed.

John Lewis, aye, Peter Baribault aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Colette J. Matarese aye

Gordon Rogers, 61 Cucumber Hill Road said he was concerned that the Treasurer recommended the buyback when he would be receiving a buyback.

Colette J. Matarese said that the council has been shown that it is a good benefit for the town.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 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.