

May 10, 2007

The May 10 2007 Town Council Meeting was called to order by Colette J. Matarese President at the Benjamin Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road, Foster, Rhode Island at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present :

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

Staff

Ann-Marie Ignasher, excused
Brad Gove, Public Works Director, excused
Pamela Fontaine, Tax Collector
Randy Rossi, Treasurer

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Colette J. Matarese noted that Item E Foster Preservation Society asked to be deferred until the next council meeting.

Colette J. Matarese also mentioned the article in May 10th edition of The Providence Journal regarding the wireless internet in the Town of Foster. She remarked that she had made a few phone calls because it was mentioned that the town officials were involved in the planning and no one had contacted her or the other members. She said she was told that there were a number of inaccuracies in the article. Council President Matarese noted that she was also told that they were not affected by the state budget issues and the program will be going forward. She was also told that it was never the intention for the project to cover the whole town and at this time they did not know how much of Foster will be covered. She said that the main input was for it to connect police, fire and rescue. She said that the intention of the whole state going wireless is connected with the state's budget issues. Colette J. Matarese noted that a meeting may be planned for next week.

There were no comments spoken under public comment.

Colette J. Matarese reminded everyone that the Public Comment Session of the council agenda was for any burning item that any individual had on an item on the agenda. She noted it was not to speak if something came up it was to speak on any issues that were on the agenda.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2007 meeting.

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

Lynne S. Rider moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2007 meeting.

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

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, John Lewis seconded, and so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #42 in the amount of \$23,900.28, Payroll Warrant #43 in the amount of \$21,643.52 and General Warrant #27 in the amount of \$40,102.39. Lynne S. Rider questioned what was purchased from Eastern Connecticut Recycling and she was told it was for mulch.

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

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept the monthly reports as submitted. Colette J. Matarese highlighted the Planner's report.

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 Jane Sroka of Foster Center Road to the Board of Canvassers.

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

Lynne S. Rider moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to appoint Paul Morrissey of Howard Hill Road to the Personnel Board for a five 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 Scott Ulrickson of Balcom Road from the alternate position to a regular member of the Conservation Commission. This term would be the unexpired term on Don Manley.

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 Christian Iozzi of Boswell Trail to the alternate position of the Conservation Commission.

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

William Abt and Richard Sparks of Foster both members of the Foster-Glocester Building Committee submitted a report to the Town Council.

William Abt reported that the Legislature had earmarked the funds for the ESCO Project and put them in the budget that is now frozen. He noted that when that was done all expenditures were put on hold. He said that in the consolidated budget report there were certain costs for the ESCO that have been committed to date and certain costs that have been expended and not yet billed. Mr. Abt said that most of the high school design is completed and will be going out to bid soon and possibly they will have a recommendation with 6 to 7 weeks. He noted that the funds that have been earmarked for the ESCO Project have been put on hold until the Legislature makes a motion to go ahead and start hearing the individual cases and releasing funds. He explained the breakdown to the council for the middle school was the roof insulation, lighting upgrades and mechanical system upgrades, lights that turn themselves off when it is sunny out and all of those measures. Mr. Abt believed that that hard costs was the bricks and mortar portion of that which is half a million dollars and the balance is the design costs in incorporating those into the project and the cost to date with the ConEdison Company working on all those items.

Mr. Abt said that the on Tuesday the committee will be voting to ask the School Committee to place the matter on the Warrant and they believed that the School Committee will vote to place it on the Warrant for the regional meeting on May 29th.

William Abt reported that DEM had inspected the septic system and issued a stop work order. He noted that the material that was used for cover would be excavated and then put

the new system in and the rows in between would be backfilled. He noted that Cardi did strip the cover material off and DEM came out and inspected the bottom of the system and approved it. He said that the next step would be for Cardi to start excavating the pits and put down a elgin system and place sand on top and put the back fill material in there. There would be another DEM inspection and approval.

Mr. Abt explained about the contaminated material that was dumped on top of the leachfield. He noted that the Supervisor for HV Collins noticed that it was a different material then the approved material and he stopped it. Mr. Abt reported that it had been four truckloads. He explained that plastic was laid out and the material was removed from the top of the septic system and placed on the plastic and they then over excavated under the area where the contaminated material was and that was also placed on the plastic and then covered. William Abt said that HV Collins hired a company to test the material as well as The Cardi Company hired someone to test and the Building Company hired someone to test the material. He said it was tested as higher than acceptable standards for residential background. It could not be used for backfill against a house. He said a plan was put together by the DOT and Cardi to take the material off site.

William Abt reported that the completion should be at the end of June for the middle school. He noted that the school has been washed and it looked great. He expected the Certificate of Occupancy to be delivered in July and the furniture to be delivered in August.

Mr. Abt said that there was another concern about a passing lane on Route 102 should have been installed. He noted that early on it was drawn on the plans submitted to the Department of Transportation. They were told by the RIDOT that they did not want a turning lane on that side of the road because buses coming up the hill to turn into the site would then have car passing them on the left and would create a more dangerous situation than the one that exists now.

Mr. Abt informed the council that the design for the high school has been completed and going out to bid. He said a prebid meeting had been taken place and they have hired a representative for the building committee for the renovation project on the high school.

Mr. Abt announced that the building committee will be given a quarterly update to the council and invited them to a site visit on Saturday May 19th at 8:30 a.m. at the new middle school.

The Foster Preservation Society had requested to be placed on the agenda however after the agenda was posted they requested to be placed on the next council agenda.

The following Proclamation by the Foster Town Council was read.

Proclamation of the Foster Town Council

WHEREAS, the safety and security of the citizens of Foster and surrounding areas are vitally important; and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of our citizens regularly drive or ride in motor vehicles on our roadways; and

WHEREAS, one in five American motorists (or 18 percent nationally) still fail to regularly wear their safety belts while driving or riding in motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, regular safety belt use is the single most effective way to protect people and to reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes;

WHEREAS, the use of the safety belt is supported by the laws of the State of Rhode Island and the Town of Foster;

NOW, THEREFORE, We, The members of the Foster Town Council, do hereby proclaim and announce the month of May, 2007 as "Click It or Ticket" Safety Belt Enforcement Month, and urge all citizens of our community and surrounding area to always wear their safety belts when driving or riding on our roadways, now and in the future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on behalf of the Town of Foster.

ATEST:

S/Anne M. Irons

S/Colette J. Matarese

Anne M. Irons, Town Clerk

Colette J. Matarese, Council President

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted adopt the above Proclamation proclaiming the Month of May, 2007 as "Click It or Ticket" Safety Belt Enforcement Month.

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

John Lewis read a draft notice to the Chiefs of the three volunteer fire companies and the commander of the Foster Ambulance Corps. regarding the motion that was made at the May 1, 2007 Financial Town Meeting to increase the 07-08 budget by \$21,000 in order to provide additional training of the volunteers in the fire companies and ambulance corps.

Colette J. Matarese noted that she had had not time to review that matter as it was only 10 days ago.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to table the matter until the next meeting.

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

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept the recommendation of the Tax Assessor and approve the abatements for 2006, 2005, 2004, and 2003 tax rolls in the amount of \$782.31 for account #19-1835-00.

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

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept the recommendation of the Tax Assessor and approve the proration addition in the amount of \$259.88 for 2006 for Plat 10 lot 19-A.

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

A claim was received from Dominic A. and Harriet Pope of Saw Mill Hill Road, Sterling, Connecticut for repairs to their vehicle after hitting a pot hole on South Killingly Road in the amount of \$237.40.

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded and it was unanimously so voted to table the matter.

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

An application was received from the South Foster Volunteer Fire Company for a Class F Liquor License for a steak fry on May 19, 2007.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the request for a Class F Liquor License for May 19, 2007 from the South Foster Volunteer Fire Company and the fee be waived.

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

Mr. Robert Peterson of Foster Center Road addressed the council about the Financial Town Meeting stated the Moderator was fair. He believed rules should be given at the beginning of the meeting. He thought when a motion was made that was not debatable should be explained why it was not debatable. He also believed that the committee that makes the reports usually makes the motion and he thought the council should make the motion to adopt the budget as the budget does come from the council. He said that everyone tips around the big gorilla, which is the fact that the school budget is two thirds or more of the tax dollars goes to education. He said that it was about time that someone gets together on the funding process. He asked what would happen to the education budget if three families moved in with severally handicapped children. He thought that burden should be spread out throughout the whole state.

Colette J. Matarese remarked that a coalition has been formed of a few rural towns that have looked at the percentage and his idea on the special education was a unique idea and the council should go forward with it. She said that next year the council will start early and invite the school committees for discussions on what the town can afford for a school budget.-

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) (2) Collective Bargaining regarding Emergency Dispatchers, and not to reconvene in open session and further to keep the minutes of said meeting closed and the minutes of all Executive Session held previous to this meeting be closed and remain closed pursuant to provisions of the General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-4-5.

The Council recessed at 8:30 p.m.

The council went into executive session at 8:40 p.m. No votes were taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 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.

