

May 24, 2007

The May 24, 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 6:00 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

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, 42-46-4&5 (a) (2) Collective Bargaining Public Works Contract, 42-46-4&5 (a) (2) Litigations and 42-46-4 &5 (1) Personnel and to reconvene in 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 42-46-4-5.

(Sealed)

Colette J. Matarese reminded everyone that on Monday at 8:45 the Memorial Day Parade will be held and will start at North Road. She also announced that the Council held an executive session and will continue the executive session after the regular council meeting. Colette J. Matarese remarked that no votes were taken.

Staff

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2007 meeting.

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

There were no public comments.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #44 in the amount of \$24,899.24, Payroll Warrant #45 in the amount of \$22,481.96 and General Warrant #28 in the amount of \$72,125.64.

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

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept the quarterly reports as submitted.

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

David Fish, P.E., Managing Engineer of Bridge Engineering of the Engineering Division of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation addressed the council on the Hopkins Mill Bridge #96.

Mr. Fish displayed pictures of the existing conditions and Alternatives 1 and 2. He noted that at the last meeting he spoke at the department had suggested a wrought iron looking fencing. He noted that after speaking with Ann-Marie Ignasher and Bradford Gove and the comments from the last meeting a timber type of rail and fencing would be more appropriate at this site.

Mr. Fish said that the first contract would be to repair the slope erosion that has started to creep into the roadway and to replace the existing chain link fence with a more suitable Tudor rail fence. Mr. Fish reported that they had a historical consultant do some research and it has been found that there was an existing timber bridge. David Fish comment that the first option was to replace the existing bridge with a timber bridge. He said it would be a single span bridge structure and the wing walls would have to be replaced and that would be done in-kind and some type of stone look would be used. Mr. Fish said that it would be able to carry modern design loads. He said the other alternatives would be a typical bridge replacement structure with the same span length. He noted that they would replace the existing parapet in kind, a similar concrete type parapet with sandblasted finish and solid and would match the one that there is now. David Fish said that the bridge superstructure would be a more conventional type of bridge. He explained about the steel alternative bridge and the concrete alternative bridge and both would take the modern design loads.

David Fish said it had been asked if the rail project could be done and still pursue the bridge replacement project and he noted that the Department could do that. However, he did note that because of the order of new efficient bridges that exist this project would have to fight with other bridges that are deteriorated and are in the program right now. He said it would be at least 6 years before the Department of Transportation to do the final bridge replacement project.

He asked the council how did they want to pursue the matter, was it with the rail system and alternately going with the bridge replacement project and realizing it would up to six years for the replacement to be done with the budget and priority list.

Council President Matarese asked if the Timber bridge was the way to go would it still cost as much as the other two alternatives. She as told that they were all about the same price and the replacement project was about 1.5 Million to replace the bridge. He said that the steel stringer bridge was slightly more expensive. She also asked if they found the bridges on Route 6 were deteriorating and were going to need repair quickly or an alternate would it move the project up. Mr. Fish answered that it would depend on what type of deterioration and a bridge on Route 6 would be a higher priority.

Colette J. Matarese said that if they went with the pedestrian trail and that would be a first step and then a bridge to replace the original bridge and could it be done sooner than the six years. Mr. Fish said it was budgeted for advertisement for October 07.

Council member John Lewis said so the proposal was to renovate so there would be a walking trail immediately and earmarking it to be renovated one of the three alternatives to carry traffic six years out.

Mr. Fish noted that money that would be spent for the pedestrian trail option is not all to waste as the slope erosion would be corrected now and the embankment would be stabilized.

Council member Lynne S. Rider questioned about the warning signs for eastbound and westbound on route 6 regarding the intersection at Rams Tail Road. Mr. Fish answered that the Traffic section was working on that with the State Traffic Commission.

Mr. Fish noted that he was looking for an official endorsement from council to pursue the pedestrian trail option with bridge replacement.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was unanimously so voted that the Foster Town Council endorses the proposal from the Rhode Island Department of

Transportation of converting the Hopkins Mills Bridge #96 to a trail and with the ultimate goal of replacing the bridge within 6 years.

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

Colette J. Matarese requested that the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board and the Foster Preservation Society submit a written opinion on whether or not the bridge should be replaced with timber or concrete.

The council discussed the motion that was made at the financial town meeting regarding increasing Other Public Safety by \$21,000 for training for the volunteer departments.

John Lewis had prepared a memo to send to the Fire Departments and Foster Ambulance Corps. He read the memo he prepared requesting that they get together to discuss the issue and come up with a proposal for using the funds.

John Lewis moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to authorize the President to sign the memo and forward the request to the departments. Colette J. Matarese asked that Engineering Board also receive a copy. Town Solicitor John Bevilacqua suggested that the Police Chief should be included.

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

Maggie Fenessey, President of the Foster Preservation Society presented the Town Council with a picture frame of various pictures of Foster. The Council will hang the picture in the Town House. Ms. Fenessey thanked the council for giving the Society a new home in the basement of the Town House.

The RI Foundation awarded the Town of Foster a grant in the amount of \$500 for education purposes to help defray the cost of the three night training on Making Good Land Use Decisions by Grow Smart RI that members of the town's boards and committees were attending.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to authorize Colette J. Matarese to accept the grant and sign the grant award.

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

John Lewis read a memo from Town Treasurer and Public Works Director recommending Russell E. Dexter to the laborer position in the public works department.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to hire Russell Dexter as a Laborer in the Public Works Department.

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

The council discussed the meeting schedule for the Personnel Board so they can meet on a monthly basis. It was noted that when they did meet they were meeting on Mondays.

John Lewis moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted that the Personnel Board meet regularly on the second Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

The Tax Collector requested to carryover vacation time from fiscal year 2006-07 to fiscal year 2007-08.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was unanimously so voted to grant the Tax Collector 6 vacation days to be carried over.

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 approve abatement for account #04-0685 in the amount of \$138.57 as recommended by the Tax Assessor.

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

Mark Greenleaf of Round Hill Road noted that he had emailed the President of the Council and had not received a response. Colette J. Matarese noted that she could not remember how to get on the email and the Treasurer was going to change where it went directly to their own email address. She apologized. Mr. Greenleaf asked that the Charter be posted to the Web site. Mr. Lewis told him it was in the works.

The meeting was recessed at 7:50 p.m. and to return to executive session as the council had not finished the session.

The council reopened the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Colette J. Matarese announced that the council authorized the Town Solicitor John Bevilacqua to enter into an agreement with former employee Jonathan Mitchell.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 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.