

July 26, 2007

The July 26, 2007 Town Council Meeting was called to order by Colette J. Matarese President at the Ben Eddy, Foster, Rhode Island at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present :

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

Staff

Ann-Marie Ignasher,
Brad Gove, Public Works Director, did not attend
Pamela Fontaine, Tax Collector
Randy Rossi, Treasurer,
Robert E. Coyne, Jr. Chief of Police

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Colette J. Matarese announced that she had received a call from Stewart Freeman who was working on the pilot program for wireless network. She explained that he informed her the pilot program was on hold indefinitely because the low interest loan was not approved by the Legislature and more importantly Brown University had gotten a license for the signal and they decided that they wanted to go out to bid for the use of it and they demanded that the company that was looking into stop using that signal by August 6th. Council President Matarese also reported that Mr. Freeman was going to go to individual business vendors and try to see if he could sell space on the tower to provide the service and if he could provide the service that way the town would be able to access the wireless internet through buying into. Colette J. Matarese said they she informed him that the town would work with him in any way so that we could have internet service for Foster.

Colette J. Matarese showed the Town's Boston Post Cane that had been sent out to be repaired. She noted that it took longer to repair this time as when it was repaired before it was repaired with lead and not gold. She noted that it would no longer be given out to the oldest citizen that they would receive a certificate and the case would be on display.

Colette J. Matarese also announced that the applicant for the Kennel License has withdrawn the application.

Joseph Malouin and Julie Singleton of T. Parker Road had signed up under Public Comment but when asked to speak they informed the council that they were there for the Kennel License.

Gordon Rogers of Cucumber Hill Road signed up but did not speak under Public Comment and only noted that he would sign up at every meeting.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was unanimously so voted to table the minutes of the July 12, 2007 meeting.

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

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and unanimously so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #2 in the amount of \$27,475.63, Payroll Warrant #3 in the amount of \$27,167.91, and General Warrant #2 in the amount of \$130,208.69.

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

Colette J. Matarese opened the public hearing Public Hearing on the application for a Kennel License Class B 6 Dogs from Gina Manfredi at 26 T. Parker Road, Plat 3 Lot 33.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to close the Public Hearing on the application for a Kennel License Class B 6 Dogs from Gina Manfredi at 26 T. Parker Road, Plat 3 Lot 33

Colette J. Matarese remarked that as she noted earlier the applicant withdrew the application for a kennel license.

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

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the quarterly reports that were submitted from the Board of Canvassers, Foster Land Trust, Human Services department, South Foster Fire Company, Western RI Home Repair program and the Zoning Board of Review.

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

John Lewis read a request from C& S Specialty, Inc. asking for a postponement of the bid award for the purchase of the 7000 feet of fire hose until the Engineering Board had been able to view a product demonstration.

John Lewis moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to table the bid award for the 7000 feet of fire hose until the Engineering Board had an opportunity to review the contents of the letter.

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

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to authorize the Planning Board Liaison to the Housing Board and the Land Trust Liaison to the Housing Board to become voting members and to allow to be counted for a quorum.

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

Lynne S. Rider moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the proration additions in the amount of \$7034.01.

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

Lynne S. Rider moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the proration abatements in the amount of \$1530.77.

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

Lynne S. Rider moved, John Lewis. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the abatements in the amount of \$587.61 and additions in the amount of \$418.55 to the 2007 tax roll.

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

Ann-marie Ignasher, Town Planner reported that the Borderlands Grant Application was a dual project between the Nature Conservancy and the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation. She explained that they have recognized that the borderland

between Rhode Island the Connecticut was a very special area with the state. She noted that the town that would be selected would be financed up to approximately \$125,000 to help with experts to come up with a village concept or on a village center. She noted that the Planning Board was behind the application. She noted that the application had to be completed by August 1st and was asking permission to do that. She noted that it was a 2-3 step process and would not know the outcome until January 2008.

John Lewis moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to allow the Planner to move forward with the Borderlands Grant process and to keep the town council posted as it progresses.

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

Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner reported that the 2007 Planning Challenge Grant Round was being offered by RI State-wide Planning and the total amount that can be given out \$400,000 a year. She believed that two projects in Foster could fit into the grant which was the updating of the GIS and the Route 6 rezoning. She noted the deadline for the application was August 24th.

John Lewis moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to authorize the Planner to move forward on the grant application and to keep the council posted as it progresses.

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

Colette J. Matarese reported that Council Liaisons have come before the council time and again and this council has been holding productive monthly management meetings and the council has been working hard staying informed of everything. She commented that in the past Council Liaisons started to make decisions on their own and that is not what a Liaison is as it is to exchange information or planning from two or more people or groups. Colette J. Matarese noted that the Liaison system for this Council should be the coordination and exchange of information to the town council, a conduit of information and not a decision-making person. Colette J. Matarese noted that she has had requests from multiple people and looking at the strengths of the members she has looked at it as function and she suggested that there would be a Liaisons for Public Safety and that would be Council Member Shippee as he was a Fire Chief for many years and the town; Infrastructure would be Peter Baribault and Lynne S. Rider because of their expertise and Administration and Finance would be John Lewis and herself. She asked for a motion and discussion.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded and it was unanimously so voted to adopt the President's recommendation that the Council have a Liaison to Public Safety, Mr. Shippee, Liaisons to Infrastructure/DPW, Mr. Baribault and Ms. Rider and Liaisons to Administration and Finance Ms. Matarese and Mr. Lewis

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

The council was in receipt of a letter from Richard D. Larocque of Balcom Road announcing that he had closed his asphalt business and had a paver, roller and trailer for sale. Colette J. Matarese explained that she contacted Mr. Larocque and was told that the Paver was a 2003 with 1000 hours which originally cost \$45,000 and a roller that was 2000 which originally cost \$13,000 and at this point in time was looking about \$40,000.

She said she would hand it over to Ms Rider and Mr. Baribault to investigate it more and to work with Mr. Rossi to see the cost of a new paver, to see if there was money in the budget and to explore if it was appropriate to see if the town could even do it as there was only one vendor, and if it would have to go out to bid and see if anyone else had any used pavers. She asked them to explore all of that. John Lewis asked if it could also be referred to the Solicitor to look into the issue of the bidding and the Charter requirements.

The Council was in receipt of a letter from Jeffrey Cathcart, Director of Tech Transfer and Outreach for Public Works asking for the use of the Town's grader for a workshop on grader training on August 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Town of Coventry.

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded to permit the town's grader to be used for the workshop as requested by Jeffrey Cathcart, Director of Tech Transfer and Outreach. Lynne S. Rider questioned who was handling the transportation of the grader. John Lewis questioned who carried the insurance if someone was injured, was the Town libel or the people putting it on libel. John Lewis also asked who would pay to repair it if it was damaged. The matter would be reviewed by the Solicitor's office. The Treasurer said he would check on the insurance matter and the Solicitor could review the repair question.

John Lewis moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to amend the motion if they provide evidence of appropriate insurance and the grader will be returned in good repair.

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

Colette J. Matarese asked for a vote on the main motion amended and the vote was a follows:

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

The Council was in receipt of a Rhode Island Municipal Inspectors Mutual Aid Plan. Vice President John Lewis reported that the State of Rhode Island was putting together a Disaster Plan and the gist of it was if a Hurricane was to hit South County and damage hundreds of buildings in the area the State wants to be able to call upon all the Building Officials in the State and go an evaluate the damaged buildings to see if people could go into them and they want the town of origin (the Building Official's town's origin) to cover his insurance while he was there. John Lewis said what they are asking for if there was a problem in Narragansett they want Foster to authorize Robert Fallon to go down there and inspect buildings and if he was injured in Narragansett doing work for the State he would be covered under the Town of Foster's insurance. John Lewis said that after speaking with Robert Fallon, Building Official he asked him to forward the plan to the Treasurer to check with The Trust. Randy Rossi noted that the Trust was reviewing the matter and he also forwarded it to the Town Solicitors for their review.

The Town Clerk reported that the Building Commissioner or representative from the State of Rhode Island would be visiting all communities in Rhode Island to explain the proposal.

John Lewis announced that the jail house has been restored and would be opened at Old Home Days. He said he had spoken with the Chief Police regarding a fund raiser project by using the jail. He said people could bring their children to the old jail house or the grandparents who ever that want to see locked up. He said a picture could be taking of the person behind the bars and the cost of nominal fee they could keep the picture and the funds would go to the Dare Program.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to authorize the Chief of Police the use of the old Jail for a fundraiser for the Dare Program. Council President Matarese offered her photo printer and paper for that weekend.

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

The council was in receipt of a letter from Charles Borders of North Road regarding his concerns of the accuracy of the color blue that was used on the old Jail house when it was painted.

Colette J. Matarese answered that the full council did not vote on the color for the jail. She noted that it was a discussion between John Lewis and her and that there were problems other than the paint.

John Lewis remarked that when he took office he was committed to preserving the town's history and resources and over the past years there has been a lot of conversation about the jail such as moving it to another location, remain where it is, restored or left alone and essentially nothing has been done it was just left there and it had been decaying and deteriorating. He said that was not acceptable as the building needed attention and he was willing to give it the attention it needed. Mr. Lewis commented that he did spend a lot of hours there with Mrs. Rider. He noted that the door was padlocked it would not shut completely and there was always a gap and the weather was getting into the building. Mr. Lewis also noted that one window was down a portion and there were broken shingles exposing the underlying wood and all of those things allowed the weather into the building and would have led to its demise. He reported that inside the building was trash such as old signs, old screens, and sheet metal, pieces of wood and he pulled them all out and disposed of them. John Lewis said he found a large mouse nest the size of a beach ball inside the stove that was in there. He explained that when he opened the stove the jail smelled like mouse fumes and he cleaned that all. Council member Lewis said that the jail was also filled with insects and he got rid of them. He said that the door was repaired, the mouse nest was cleaned out, and the building was added to the list to be done by the exterminator. He said the corner board was rotten and was replaced as well as some shingles and there was a mishmash of boards and it was all tied in together. Mr. Lewis said that in regards to the color he could be blamed as he was responsible for the choice as he wanted a little bit of color in town and the blue was a historical color from a list of historical paint chips and can be seen on Benefit Street and see it on Strawberry Bank in New Hampshire and on Derby Street in Salem Massachusetts and he has seen it in all those places. He said that some people don't like the color and some do and he added that he does like it. He noted that the shingles were going to have to be replaced someday as two sides were beginning to curl and they will not last much longer and the color can be changed tomorrow if the council chose too but because of the work that was done he was confident the building will still exist tomorrow so the choice can be made in the future and before the work was done he was not so sure of that.

Lynne S. Rider remarked that it was only a shoe string stop to keep from getting decayed further as she noted that when they were applying paint shingles were dropping and agreed that they needed replacing. She said that they would not be that color blue for long. Lynne S. Rider also noted that the corner boards would have to be professionally scrapped down and there was no money set aside for the project and it was just to keep it from falling apart until they do.

Colette J. Matarese said that she could not let John Lewis take all the blame for the color because when they were talking about the jail white was mentioned and she had commented that there was so much white in town it would be nice to have some color and she had mentioned cape cod blue. She noted that he went did it and got it done where she would probably would still be envisioning the project.

The council was in receipt of a letter from Chief Robert E. Coyne, Jr. requesting permission the use of the town grounds for a presentation of Foster Public Safety Day for Sunday August 26, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. to dusk with a rain date of Monday August 27th. The purpose of the event was to provide a fun-filled afternoon for residents while showing the public some of the town's equipment and programs. The following activities would be available. Two Inflatable Moon Bounce, Karate Demo Team, Child Fingerprinting, Canine Demo, DWI Demonstration, Mass. State Police "Rollover Simulator", Public Safety Vehicles on display, Jaws of Life Demonstration, Animal Education (Snakes, lizards, turtles) Pony rides, Rock Climbing Wall, Fast Pitch Baseball (radar) Face Painting, Firework's Display and Mateo Luca Band, Free Admission, Food, drink and giveaways.

John Lewis moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to authorize the Police Department conjunction with the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps. to host Foster Public Safety Day on August 26, 2007 or August 27, 2007 waiving permit issues.

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

Colette J. Matarese acknowledged receipt from the Co-Chair of the Foster-Glocester School Committee requesting her to attend the regional school committee meeting on August 7th to discuss a Resource Officer at the high school. Colette J. Matarese will attend the meeting.

Colette J. Matarese acknowledged receipt from the Co-Chairs of the Foster-Glocester School Committee requesting consideration that a councilmember attend school committee meetings. Colette J. Matarese said that since she was attending the next meeting she would ask them individually what is they would like and she would report back to the council.

Ginny Colwell of Salisbury Road requested permission to use the town backhoe to make improvements of the Memorial Garden at the Foster Center Volunteer Fire Company.

She was told that the council could not vote on the request as it was not on the agenda. The matter would be placed on the next agenda.

Colette J. Matarese added the backhoe, bid award for the 7000 feet of hose, purchase of paver roller and trailer and municipal inspections plan, report on the insurance for the grader regarding liability

Lynne S. Rider moved, John Lewis 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 and 42-46-4&5 collective bargaining and 42-46-4 &5 (1) Personnel 2-46-4 &5 (5) Acquisitions 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.

The meeting was recessed at 8:05 p.m.

The council went into executive session at 8:15 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

No votes were taken.

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.