

August 23, 2007

The August 23, 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, excused
Harold R. Shippee, Sr.
John J. Bevilacqua, Jr. Town Solicitor

Staff

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Colette J. Matarese announced that she had received correspondence from William Abt of the Foster-Glocester Building Committee and that the certificate of occupancy was expected to be issued on Monday and the students would be attending school on Thursday. She also noted that the Biomass building components have gone out to bid with the high school bids. An update will be provided after the bids are opened in mid September.

Colette J. Matarese also announced that a policy for repairs on municipal buildings in historic districts should have been on the agenda however it will be on the next agenda.

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

Peter Baribault 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 accept the minutes of the July 26, 2007 meeting.

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

There were no comments from the public.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and unanimously so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #4 in the amount of \$28,297.73, Payroll Warrant #5 in the amount of \$27,776.28, Payroll Warrant #6 in the amount of \$29,354.29, General Warrant #3 in the amount of \$70,283.58 and General Warrant #4 in the amount of \$72,437.82.

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

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve the monthly reports as submitted.

Peter Baribault 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 as submitted.

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

John Lewis read the recommendation from the Engineering Board regarding the fire hose bid award.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was unanimously so voted to award the bid to Shipman's Fire Equipment of Waterford, CT as per the recommendation of the Foster Engineering Board after reviewing all specifications submitted for 6200 feet of fire hose in the amount of \$30,690.00.

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

Colette J. Matarese remarked that the Foster Center Volunteer Fire Company requested the use of the town's backhoe to work on the memorial garden at the station.

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve the request for the use of the backhoe with coordination with the Public Works Director.

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

Colette J. Matarese read a letter from Jerome F. Williams, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation to Representative Nicholas Gorham regarding the Hopkins Mills Bridge #96. The State of Rhode Island reanalyzed the feasibility of developing a future bridge replacement project and cannot justify committing state resources to pursuing a bridge replacement project. They did not have any objection to the town pursuing a bridge replacement project and also were interested in transferring ownership of the portion of Old Danielson Pike and the bridge to the Town. They were developing beautification plans for the bridge which included landscaping, a rustic wood fence, planters and other amenities to enhance the existing site and removal of the existing parapets as there was a potential safety issue with the parapets. The plans would be distributed within 4 to 6 weeks.

Colette J. Matarese remarked that notice should be sent out to the neighbors of the bridge once a date has been received from RIDOT. Colette J. Matarese also noted that she was not in favor of accepting ownership of the bridge.

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve proration additions totaling \$7,777.79 to the 2007 tax roll as recommended by the Tax Assessor.

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

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve additions totaling \$976.47 to the 2007 tax roll as recommended by the Tax Assessor.

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

Bids specifications were sent out and posted on the town's web page for a 37,600 pound G.V.W. dump truck with an all season combination salt/sand spreader dump body and a ten foot full trip reversible snow plow. The following bids were received and opened.

37,600 GUW DUMP WITH PLOW

Anderson Motors Inc.
170 Amaral Street
East Providence, RI 02915

\$103,947 (GMC)
2206 truck body

Altrui Bros. Truck Sales, Inc.
1100 Warren Avenue
East Providence, RI 02914

\$105,987 (Freightliner)

Coastal International Trucks LLC \$108,195/107,346 (International)
17 O'Keefe Lane
Warwick, RI 02888

Colony Truck Center \$121,626
7 Jefferson Blvd
PO Box 8640
Warwick, RI 02888

JJ Gregory & Son, Inc. No Bid
77 Highland Avenue Route 6
East Providence, RI 02915

Peterbilt of Rhode Island \$109,800
11 Industrial Lane
Johnston, RI 02919

Bids were forwarded to the Public Works Director for his analysis and recommendation.

Bids specifications were sent out and posted on the town's web page for a 350 dump truck. The following bids were received and opened.

350 DUMP TRUCK

Able Truck Equipment & Repair No bid received
6C Bros Lane
Johnston. RI 02919

Colony Truck Center	\$28,821 diesel	\$23,599 gas
7 Jefferson Blvd.	8,365 body	8,365 body
PO Box 8640	4,750 plow	4,750 plow
Warwick, RI 02888		

JJ Gregory & Son, Inc. No Bid received
77 Highland Avenue Route 6
East Providence, RI 02915

Liberty Chevrolet Inc.	\$36,329 CK31003 Gas
90 Bay State Road Suite 2	\$42,845 CK31003 6.6 Diesel
Wakefield, MA 01880-1093	

Automotive Group, Inc.	\$33,918
1300 Pontiac Avenue	5,773 add for diesel
Cranston, RI 02920	1,200 deduct for electric dump & sander

Colette J. Matarese noted that there were a number of people interested in being a member of the Land Trust. Kristen Cole and Gary May were present. Lucy Minturn was not present.

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to appoint Kristen Cole as a member of the Land Trust.

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

Gary May did note that he would be interested in the Stewardship for the Land Trust.

Ann-marie Ignasher, Town Planner will forward information on the Stewardship to him.

John Lewis reported that he had spoken with Mike Grenier who would be doing repairs on the Woody Lowden Building. Mr. Grenier would be replacing logs on the far wall of the building and had given a quote of \$1700. However with further investigation he has

discovered more logs need to be replaced than what was first noted. Mr. Grenier could not give a valid estimate other than it was \$25.00 a foot for the logs. He did indicate that it could be another 100 feet of logs that needs to be replaced but he really did not know until he pulled the wall down and got into the project further. John Lewis said he wanted to keep the council and the public informed that it may be more costly than inspected.

Peter Baribault read a request from Mike Polouski, Recreation Director recommending the plan for the baseball field at the Paine School be discontinued as the Rhode Island DEM has indicated a less than 20% chance to construct a little league field at the site. He also recommended ending the engineering services with the engineering company and using the remaining grant money at the Woody Lowden Recreation Center as follows:

- Resurface the parking lot on the right side of the baseball field
- Improve the playground by adding swings and slides
- Put new infield sod on the field
- Fix and improve the veranda across from the cabin.

John Lewis noted that the grant probably would not allow it as the grant was for acquisition and or construction of a ball field. He did say the projects were worthwhile and could be funded from public works.

Ann-marie Ignasher said she has looked into the grant on another matter but she will write to DEM and ask if the money can be transferred over to that or to another area at the school.

Ronald Cervasio said the school committee will be addressing the field at their next meeting. He said he stresses strongly that the word ball field be continued to be used and the grant be used at the school.

Ann-marie Ignasher noted that the grant award has to be used on or before June 12, 2008 which is ten months away.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to table the matter until such time the Town Planner has clarified the specifics of the grant.

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

John Lewis also asked Michael Polouski to get cost estimates on his recommendations.

Ann-marie Ignasher, Town Planner reported that she and the Public Works Director along with a contractor reviewed the damaged ceiling at the town house. She noted that the contractor believes he can correct it within a historical manner. She will inform the Historical Heritage Commission.

Councilman John Lewis remarked that he had seen in Killingly Connecticut signage that resembled street signs however they were directing people to the local business. He asked the council members what they thought of having signs for the local businesses that resembled the new street signs without the town's seal but it would list the distance of the business and an arrow indicating which direction to go and the name of the business. He said he would send letters to the local businesses asking if they were interested in purchasing such a sign.

Colette J. Matarese said that the issue of legality should be looked at by the Solicitor's office and asked Mr. Lewis if he was looking for an ok from the council and to explore it further.

John Lewis said that if the council thinks it is a reasonable idea he would contact the sign company and request a mockup.

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. Shippee seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to give Mr. Lewis and Mr. Rossi the charge to explore signage for businesses

with the sign company to do a markup and to have a letter sent to the businesses in town and an ad in the Foster Home Journal.

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

Colette J. Matarese asked permission from the council to draft a letter to the fire companies, ambulance corps and libraries regarding the open meeting and open records act.

John Bevilacqua stated that the Attorney General's office would come to Foster to speak to all the volunteers regarding the requirements of the open meeting and open records acts.

The council directed the Town Solicitor to draft a letter to various volunteer agencies regarding the open meetings and open records act.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the pole petitions for Balcom Road and T. Parker Road as recommended by the Public Work Director.

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

Charles Borders of North Road commented that a pole was placed right in someone's yard. He also stated that a rod was placed and he believed it should have been ten feet off the driveway. John Lewis noted that the council approved the plan that was reviewed and approved by the Public Works Director.

Colette J. Matarese noted that the RIRRC awarded the town \$3,800 because the town did recycle 20% for the past fiscal year. She noted that in the 2002 the town received \$1667, 2003, \$1506 and 2004 \$1,610. Colette J. Matarese commented that the grant award was to be used for recycling education.

Colette J. Matarese said that she placed Resource Officer on the agenda because she attended the last school committee meeting along with the Chief of Police from Foster and Gloucester. She noted that both police departments were working together on the matter. She said she placed the matter on the agenda so the members could have a candid discussion on whether or not the council supports a resource officer at the High School.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. reported that the Chief had informed him that in the 180 school days the police responded there on 143 days. He said he believed it was time for a police resource officer to be at the high school and the only problem he had was that the high school was located in the Town of Gloucester. He said he wanted the school department to also pay a portion as well as the two towns.

John Lewis commented that he thought that School Committee Member Ronald Cervasio was looking for funding from the council for the resource officer in the amount of \$18,000 for the Town of Foster.

Colette J. Matarese said that she believed the Chief of Police was looking into federal funding for the position and until the council knows what is available and not available for the funding it was really the idea of whether or not the council supports the idea.

Councilman Baribault said he supported the concept but he had questions that needed to be answered before there was a motion to approve. Colette J. Matarese said that the school committee would be doing the approving not the council.

The Town Solicitor noted that there would have to be an agreement between the two police departments as to the jurisdictional and prosecutorial issues.

After discussion with Ronald Cervasio, the Council and the Chief of Police and Solicitor, Colette J. Matarese noted that three people support the idea of the Resource Officer philosophically, completely and one has reservations and needs more detail.

Colette J. Matarese noted that she has requested brochures and dates regarding the request from the Foster Engineering Board for training monies totaling \$6,940 and since the council did not receive all the information she asked for a motion to table. It was noted that the information was necessary for auditing purposes.

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to table the request from the Foster Engineering Board for training monies totaling \$6,940.00.

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

Colette J. Matarese signed the engagement letter with Bacon & Company to begin the audit for the town.

Ronald Cervasio complimented Harold R. Shippee, Sr. on behalf of the School Committee for instituting the installation of the guard rail in front of the Paine School. He also informed the council that in the next budget session he will propose to have a principal/superintendent position and he wants the school books to come back to the town.

Gordon Rogers of Cucumber Hill Road complained about the mowing on the sides of the town roads.

Under future agenda items the policy on public buildings will be placed on the next agenda.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault 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 Police Chief and 42-46-4 &5 (1) Personnel 42-46-4&5 (5) acquisition 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.

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

The meeting was recessed at 8:50 p.m.

No votes were taken in executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 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.