

October 10, 2007

The October 10, 2007 Town Council Meeting was called to order by Colette J. Matarese President of the Foster Town Council at the Town House, Foster, Rhode Island at 7:00 p.m.

Colette J. Matarese asked for best wishes to Thomas Mercier, Paul Lander and Mike Wood as they were all volunteer members who were ill at this time.

Colette J. Matarese remarked that with the council members' permission she would like to make minor changes to the agenda by removing monthly reports, bid award for gravel, abatements and additions and the minutes.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the President's recommendations.

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

The following members were present:

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

Staff

Ann-Marie Ignasher, excused
Robert Clarkin, Interim Public Works Director,
Randy Rossi, Treasurer,
Robert E. Coyne, Jr. Chief of Police

Dennis Chretien School Committee Member spoke under public comment regarding the pavement project at the Paine School. He did not that the school committee had not taken any action to do the project as yet. They did believe that something needed to be done to the area in front of the school to make it look nicer but needed to be done properly and professionally. Mr. Chretien noted that there was a drainage problem presently when it rains. He said it would be great if something could be done for temporarily for the winter. He informed the council that they were having someone look at the whole lot to give an estimate on pricing. He did note that some of it was state land. He said that on behalf of Mr. Wallace he was asking if the council would do some crushed stone or something and get them through the winter and the school committee would make in a capital project to present to the Department of Education for approval.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and unanimously so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #12 in the amount of \$29,151.25 Payroll Warrant #13 in the amount of \$27,560.66 and General Warrant #7 in the amount of \$21,096.82.

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

John Lewis read the recommendation for the winter sand bid from the Interim Public Works Director, Robert Clarkin recommending the bid for sand be awarded to Laframboise Sand & Stone, Inc. at \$10.00 per ton and \$6.50 delivered.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to award the bid to Laframboise Sand & Stone, Inc. on the recommendation of Mr. Clarkin.

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

Colette J. Matarese commented that the town had not received any further information from the State on the Hopkins Mills Bridge #96 so no action was taken.

John Lewis reported that Keepspace Grant Program was on the last agenda and he explained that it was for a plan to be put together for appropriate affordable housing for the town. He noted that there was no obligation for construction it was for technical expertise to come up with a proposal.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was so voted to authorize the Town Planner to go ahead and write the grant for the Keepspace Grant Program as long as there are no matching funds required.

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

Colette J. Matarese reported that the town has basically missed the opportunity for paving at this time of year. She also introduced Robert Clarkin to the audience as the Interim Public Works Director. He also said that the opportunity has gone by as know with the leaves falling it is difficult to pave. He also noted that the bids have gone out and he has spoken to vendors as there was an addendum and he extended the bid proposal time. He said that it would probably have to be rebid in the spring as the opportunity has gone by because of the leaves falling and the road hardening at this time of year. No action was taken by the council.

William Abt, Foster member of the Foster-Glocester Building Committee addressed the council. He reported that there was a public opening of the new Middle School a few weeks ago. He noted that the new middle school was the first school in the state that meets the new energy guidelines and Ponaganset is a model on how to build school buildings. Mr. Abt said he was pleased to announce that the Rhode Island Department of Education fiscal 2008 housing aide share ratio of 67.55% reimbursement for the ESCO will be applicable. He said the committee will be meeting with the members of the Department of Education to make sure that they are good with everything the committee is doing. He said that the grass was coming up however there were some bugs in the technology department that had to be worked out and a few furnishings were broken in the move and have to be replaced. He noted that the balancing engineers were still working on the heating and ventilating systems. William Abt reported that for the high school renovations there were 41 bid pages sent out and all but 9 have come in and they will be coming in around the 18th of the month. He said that they were in budget. He said the committee was in the process of awarding the contracts. He said they anticipated in starting the high school project within the next few weeks. Mr. Abt reported that due to the changes at the accounting department the building committee is retaining a CPA or accounting services to manage the books because of the state of flux of the administration at the school.

John Lewis asked who was paying for the CPA service. Mr. Abt said the committee would be paying for it out of some funds they found after the bond for the middle school was sold there was some proceeds from that sale that came back to the building funds which can be used to pay for that. He said they were told by their counsel that it could be done. John Lewis asked what the next step on ESCO was. Mr. Abt answered that they wanted to get the lease revenue bonds sold and kick off the construction of the bio-mass portions of the project and constructing the mechanical system associated with that at the high school. It would not be completed before winter.

There was a lengthy discussion with Mr. Abt, members of the council and audience on the ESCO Project and the school construction and renovations. An electronic tape is made a part of the record for a complete account of the conversation at this meeting. This tape is on file in the vault at town hall.

John Lewis remarked that there was attic space on the town clerk's side that was unfinished, uninsulated and there was stuff there that was not in an organized fashion due to the lack of shelving. He said he would like to move forward in dosing some renovations in the attic area such as installing insulation and installing shelves.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted that the council authorize renovations to the town clerk's side of the attic to include insulation, shelving and lighting.

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

Colette J. Matarese noted that Marsha Bowden drafted a letter to the people who signed up at Old Home Days who were interested in helping the Conservation Commission and she also drafted an article for the Foster Home Journal and was looking for approval Marsha also was look for job descriptions for boards and committees to be placed on the town's webpage.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was so voted to approve the letter prepared by Mrs. Bowden regarding the Conservation Commission. John Lewis noted he had made comments on his copy.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was so voted to amend to include the article also with Lynne S. Rider editing the article.

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

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

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

Colette J. Matarese noted that there was a recommendation from Randy Rossi regarding computer software for the Building Official recommending Opal Data Technologies, Inc as the sole source provider for the building official.

Peter Baribault moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was u so voted to approve Mr. Rossi's recommendation to award the bid to Opal Data Technologies as the sole source provider for the town's building official software.

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

Colette J. Matarese asked the council what their pleasure was regarding piggybacking with the Town of Gloucester for heating fuel oil at a price of \$1.99 a gallon with Reichert and Sons Fuel Oil Co.

Peter Baribault moved John Lewis seconded, and it was so voted that the Town of Foster piggyback with the Town of Gloucester for heating fuel with Reichert and Sons Fuel Oil Co. at a price of \$1.99 effective until 5-31-08.

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

A request was received from the Foster Ambulance Corp for training money totaling \$2100.00

John Lewis moved Lynne S. Rider seconded and it was so voted to authorize the expenditure of \$2100 for Pre Hospital Trauma Life Support course offered on December 19th and 20th for 6 individuals and trainer course for 5 individuals at a cost of \$2100.00.

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

Colette J. Matarese noted that the council received a letter from the Foster Ambulance Corps. regarding the third ambulance which John Lewis read. The request was to raffle off the rescue and they were seeking the council's input in the decision in respect to that issue.

John Lewis questioned the legality of a raffle for the rescue. The council discussed the matter and the following motion was made.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was so voted to table the matter until the council did further research.

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

Colette J. Matarese noted that paving of the Paine School Parking area was discussed earlier noted that number one the state owned part of the area. John Bevilacqua reported that he had a meeting with Robert Wallace, School Superintendent, Robert Clarkin and Joseph McGovern and Ronald Cervasio. He noted that a number of questions did come and one was the ownership of the state which seems to be more than 50%. He said engineering plans were also discussed. He said they concluded that the project should not be done at this time as all the approvals could not be obtained at this time.

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was so voted to reappoint Steven Croteau to the Juvenile Hearing Board for a three year term.

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

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was so voted to reappoint James Janis to the Juvenile Hearing Board for the one year term.

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

Gordon Rogers of Cucumber Hill Road complained about the town council meetings being changed to a Wednesday and it was in the paper for Thursday. Colette J. Matarese said that there was a scheduling conflict for this meeting only and the town has no control over the Providence Journal. She also remarked that according to the Charter the Town Council sets the date of the meeting.

John Bevilacqua remarked that he was concerned about the flag pole at the school and he believed it was a safety issue.

Colette J. Matarese said for the future agenda items it should be ESCO, Hopkins Mills Bridge #96, application process for personnel board, process for appointment for Boards & Committees and gravel award bid and the rescue and at sometime the personnel board.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was so voted to go into executive session executive session according 42-46-4 &5 (2) Collective Bargaining Chief of Police, 42-46-5 (a)(5) Acquisitions, 42-46-5(a)(1) personnel , 42-46-4 &5 (2) Collective Bargaining Public Works Contract (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 to provisions of the General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5.

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

The meeting was recessed at 8:50 p.m. for a ten minute recess before the executive session.

No votes were taken. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 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.