

**November 8, 2007**

The November 8 2007 Town Council Meeting was called to order by John Lewis Vice President of the Foster Town Council at the Town House, Foster, Rhode Island at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

Staff

Ann-Marie Ignasher,  
Robert Clarkin, Interim Public Works Director,  
Randy Rossi, Treasurer absent due to illness  
Patrolman Mario Mennella, Jr.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2007 council meeting.

Harold R. Shippee aye, John Lewis aye Peter Baribault aye, Lynne S. Rider abstained

There were no comments under public comment.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and unanimously so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #16 in the amount of \$27,682.79, Payroll Warrant #17 in the amount of \$28,333.81, and General Warrant #9 in the amount of \$38,385.98.

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

Peter Baribault moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded and it was unanimously so voted to accept the monthly reports as submitted.

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

Lynne S. Rider moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to accept the quarterly reports from the Conservation Commission and Planning Board as submitted.

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

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to award the paving bid project on the recommendation of Robert Clarkin, Interim Public Works Director to Cardi Corporation 400 Lincoln Avenue, Warwick, RI 02888 in the amount of \$54.89 per ton for hot mix and .15 cents per square yard for tack coat. It was noted that Cardi Corporation would hold that price until June 30, 2008.

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

Letter from RIDOT to Senator Blais regarding the Town purchasing the property in front of the Paine school for parking was read. RIDOT was inquiring if the town was purchasing the property or requesting a license for it and asked for a detailed map of the area.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. noted that the Senator Blais already forwarded a map the Department of Transportation and he did not believe the town wanted to purchase the

property for parking only to pave the area for the parking. Mr. Shippee also believed it would be funded by the school department not the town.

John Lewis suggested to forward the letter to the school department and inform Senator Blais that and also forward another copy of the map. John Bevilacqua will also contact the Rhode Island Department of Transportation.

Ann-marie Ignasher, Town Planner gave an update on the Keepspace Grant Program as the council did give her authority to move forward on the grant. She explained that there was a 10% match with Phase 1 and 10% match with Phase 2. Since that time she has been approached by a private nonprofit NeighborWorks. The Executive Director has been in that field for 20 -25 years and has asked to partner with the Town and has offered to take care of the 10% match and had even offered to write the grant proposal for the Town. She believed it would be a plus for the town to have NeighborWorks on board with the Town. She noted that the town does have to meet the state mandates for Affordable Housing and if the Town does not meet the state mandates they can come in do as they desire. Ann-marie Ignasher reported that the Keepspace Initiative was looking for a design concept for rural communities because they know it is a difficult thing for rural communities to come up with.

John Lewis read the recommendation from Robert Fallon, Building Official for the bid award for the installation of the bathroom in the Human Services Department. He recommended that the project be awarded to North American Building, Inc. He noted also that this would be Phase 1 of the project and another phase of the project had to be completed. John Lewis reported that due to the location of the bathroom in the basement of the town hall there would be a need for a pump system that would then pump in the septic system. He explained that there was a need for an external separate tank that would allow solids to settle and liquids to rise and a pumping system that would push the liquid waste in to the existing septic system. Mr. Lewis remarked that it could be expensive for that phase. John Lewis said the council had two courses of action to award the bid for the interior work and then do the exterior work at a later time. He said the bathroom would be installed but could not be used until the exterior work was completed. Mr. Lewis remarked that the council could wait until the exterior work has been researched and consider if the entire project is worth doing. Mr. Lewis also noted that there was one more complicating factor and that was the paving of the Human Services Parking lot and that would be the likely place for the holding tank. Mr. Lewis said it would be not reasonable to pave the parking lot and then dig it up for the holding tank. John Lewis asked if the council wanted to table the matter until another opinion was sought regarding the holding tank installation.

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was so voted to table the bid award for the bathroom installation in the Human Services Department.

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

John Lewis announced that at the last council meeting the council retired the Boston Post Gold Cane that was handed down to the Oldest Citizen in Foster and the council now would recognize the Oldest Citizen with a plaque. He read the plaque as follows: In 1909 the Boston Post presented a Gold-Topped Cane to each of the 700 selected towns in Rhode Island, Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire to be used to recognize the vigor and longevity of the New England people. In keeping with this time-honored tradition the Foster Town Council hereby recognizes Elsie Fasteson as the Oldest Citizen of Foster, Rhode Island and awards her the honorary title of Holder of the Boston Post Cane.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to present her with the plaque and honor Elsie Fasteson as the oldest living citizen in Foster. Her son Eric Fasteson of Balcom Road accepted the plaque in her honor. Elsie Fasteson was 97 years old and her date of birth was April 23, 1910. Mr. Lewis announced that Mrs. Fasteson was the 31<sup>st</sup> holder of the Gold Cane in Foster.

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

Lynne S. Rider read the following Proclamation that was prepared by Colette J. Matarese.

Town of Foster's  
Proclamation of Thanksgiving

**Whereas**, the month of November holds historical significance in giving thanks for all of the Town of Foster's distinguishing characteristics, and

**Whereas**, people in the Town of Foster can view the stars in the night sky, hear the birds early on a spring morning; enjoy the sound of toads in summer at dusk; and view the changing colors of the leaves in autumn, and

**Whereas**, the people of the Town of Foster respect the beauty of our natural environment and recognize their obligation to protect it for future generations, and

**Whereas**, the citizens of the Town of Foster exhibit the spirit of volunteerism as shown by the Volunteer Fire Companies, the Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and service on various boards and commissions, and

**Whereas**, the citizens of the Town of Foster assist those less advantaged by donating to the Food Banks at the Department of Human Services and local churches, and

**Whereas**, the populace of the Town of Foster appreciates and supports the creative works of its people through Fostering Arts and the Swamp Meadow Theatre, and

**Whereas**, the populace of the Town of Foster gathers together and supports community events such as Foster Old Home Days, Foster Safety Day, and Foster Family Fun Day , and

**Whereas**, the people of the Town of Foster recognize and respond to the need for conservation through donation of clothing and furniture to those less advantaged, recycling that which can be recycled to diminish the impact of trash on our environment, and preserving valuable resources through the Foster Land Trust and Borders' Farm, and

**Whereas**, the people of the Town of Foster respect and preserve the past through supporting projects to protect our historical buildings, stone walls, town pound, and cemeteries', and

**Whereas**, the people of the Town of Foster plan for the future through the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Conservation Commission, Library Board, Personnel Committee and Recreation Committees, and

**Whereas**, all citizens of the Town of Foster of all beliefs are invited, once a year, to gather in a spirit of Thanksgiving at this Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Town of Foster affirms on this day, November 8, 2007, its commitment to a positive quality of life for residents and is proud to declare November 22 as Thanksgiving Day in the Town of Foster.

S/Colette J. Matarese

S/Anne M. Irons

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Colette J. Matarese,  
Council President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: Anne M. Irons  
Town Clerk

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to adopt the above Thanksgiving Proclamation for the Ecumenical Service that will be held on November 18, 2007.

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

Bids specifications were mailed out for a full revaluation of property to be done by December 31, 2008. The following bids were opened.

Company	Option 1 Full Reval	Option 2 Hardware
Appraisal Resource Co.	\$ 93,500	\$ 2,400
Certified Revaluation Co.	\$ 94,500	\$ 3,200
Clipboard Inc	\$117,600	\$ 825

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to forward the bids to the Tax Assessor for her analysis and recommendation.

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

A letter of resignation was received from Jane Sroka from the Board of Canvassers.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept the resignation letter with regrets and forward a letter of thanks to her.

John Lewis asked that letters be sent to the town committees for a list of people for the Board of Canvassers.

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

A letter of resignation was received from Lori Mahalides from the Zoning Board of Review.

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept the resignation letter with regrets and forward a letter of thanks for her service.

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

Robert Clarkin, Interim Public Works Director said he had received some quotes for the Human Services Dept parking lot and believed it should be held off after the previous discussion the council had regarding the Human Services Department bathroom.

John Lewis noted that Personnel Committee was placed on the agenda by Ms. Matarese and since she was not in attendance asked for a motion to table both matters.

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to table the matter for personnel committee vacancy and temporary appointment.

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

Lynne S. Rider said that the council has been trying to come up with a maintenance plan for DPW which would encompass all of the aspects of the DPW. She said the plan would stand alone and it would not matter who was the Public Works Director or who was on the Town Council. She said it was to get the town proactive and not reactive in maintaining the roads. She believed the town was in danger of losing some of the roads. She explained that she has had some discussion on how to go about it with two consultants.

John Lewis remarked that they would be having a conversation with the consultants and they would come back to the council with a proposal for the public works department.

John Lewis announced that there was an economic summit held on Monday November 5<sup>th</sup> by the Secretary of State and the RI Economic Development Corporation at the

Kirkbrae Country Club in Lincoln. He said it was for small businesses to exchange information. He noted that the Town Planner, Town Clerk and he were at the summit promoting the Town of Foster. Mr. Lewis said he had several conversations and one of things that came out was that there was no high speed internet or broadband service in Foster and with regards to economic development that was a problem. He noted that he has set up a meeting for next week to discuss a specific way to enhance or grow broadband.

Peter Baribault moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the proration additions in the amount of \$1,187.80 and abatements in the amount of \$248.67 on the tax assessor's recommendation.

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

Gordon Rogers of Cucumber Hill Road said he was working on Burgess Road all week and noticed that all week a tree has been blocking half of the road on Snagwood and East Killingly.

Councilmember Baribault asked if he had called the Public Works Department. Mr. Rogers answered he was informing the town now.

Lynne S. Rider announced that she and the Town Planner went to the Northern RI District dinner meeting and some awards were presented and Robert & Roxanne Greenway of Rockland Cemetery Road received the conservation of the year award for the work that was done on their property that was the abandoned gravel pit. Kudos to them!

Lynne S. Rider moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. 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 (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

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

Recessed at 8:30 p.m.

No motion was made in executive session

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 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.