

**February 14, 2008**

The February 14, 2008, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Colette Matarese, President, of the Foster Town Council at the Town House, Foster, Rhode Island, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

Staff

Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner,  
Randy Rossi, Treasurer,  
Robert E. Coyne, Jr., Police Chief  
Pamela Fontaine, Tax Collector  
Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**MINUTES** John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded to approve as presented, and was so voted to approve the January 24, 2008 minutes.

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

**No one spoke under public comment.**

**WARRANTS** Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, Lynne Rider seconded, and unanimously so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #29 in the amount of \$33,571.59, Payroll Warrant #30 in the amount of \$27,738.21, Payroll Warrant #31 in the amount of \$28,792.34, General Warrant #15 in the amount of \$120,758.00.

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

**REPORTS** Two reports were announced that have been received by the town. One from the State Traffic Commissioners office concerning a possibility of installing a working traffic signal. The other was a letter from Message Center Management renewing the Removal Bond for the Cucumber Hill tower. Two other reports were updates from the Gloucester Building/Zoning Office for the High School and Middle School. The last report was on economic development and a seminar was being held on Wednesday, February 20, 2008.

**MONTHLY REPORTS** John Lewis moved, Harold Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept the monthly reports as submitted.

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

**QUARTERLY REPORTS** Lynne Rider moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept the quarterly reports as submitted.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING CDBG** Colette Matarese, council president opened up the public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Fiscal year 2008. Colette Matarese read the letter from program manager Elinor C. Tetreault. The Home repair program will apply for the same funding as last year. Housing Rehabilitation \$100,000.00, \$44,500.00 for operations and \$8,000.00 for administration. The Town of Foster is eligible to apply for up to \$250,000.00 with a deadline of April 17, 2008 no later than 3PM. Requests from the town planner Ann-Marie Ignasher include a bathroom for the Human Services Dept. \$16,000.00. Also requested \$25,000.00 to assist in the engineering of the design work for possible housing under the KeepSpace Community Initiative. If not accepted into the KeepSpace initiative the money could be used to hire a consultant to do the preliminary

engineering study of the proposed site. There was also a request from Community Housing Land Trust of RI Inc. for the amount of \$3,000.00 for Housing Land Trust and Foreclosure Property Recapture Program as well as continued technical assistance in the implementation of Affordable Housing Plans. C & E Engineering wrote in behalf of Foster Senior Housing for a amount of \$20,000.00 to replace existing underground concrete water storage tank. A letter of intent from Nancy Johnston, Director for the Department of Human Services for the food pantry in the amount of \$2,500.00.

Mr. Jeff Goffton was present for the Community Housing Land Trust. He said the he had been working with Abbey Lane with repairs that were needed there.

Colette Matarese asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak for or against any of the proposals. Elinor Tetreault, Program Manager asked for \$152,500.00. All of the others together was \$66,500.00 for a total of \$219,000.00. The Town is eligible for \$250,000.00.

Colette Matarese then closed the public hearing.

Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded, to approve the Human Services request for \$16,000.00, Keep Space Community Initiative Engineering for \$25,000, Foster Food Pantry for \$2,500.00, Hemlock Village Water System \$20,000.00, Community Housing Land Trust for \$3,000.00, and the Western RI Home Repair for \$152,500.00. The motion was amended to add \$30,000.00 for the removal of the oil tanks at Abbey Lane.

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

The main motion was unanimously so voted for a total of \$249,000.00.

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

#### **APPOINT- MENTS**

Colette Matarese, council president appointed Sandra DiRaimo to the Foster Board Of Canvassers for the term ending December 2012.

Peter Baribault moved, Lynne Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to appoint Joseph L. Walsh as an alternate member of the Zoning Board.

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

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to appoint Lynne A. DeStefano to the Housing Board.

#### **LAND TRUST RESIGNA- TION**

Colette Matarese read a letter of resignation from Karen Mueller from the Foster Land Trust. Lynne Rider moved, John Lewis seconded to accept with regret the resignation of Karen Mueller.

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

#### **USE OF TOWN FAIR GROUNDS**

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to allow the Northern Rhode Island 4-H District Horse Show to use the Foster Fair Grounds on Sunday May 11, 2008, provided the proper insurance documentation is provided before the event.

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

#### **BOARD OF ELECTION CHANGES**

Mr. Franklin Arnold, Town Moderator, spoke of the new legislation initiatives from the Rhode Island Board of Elections that would change the Warden portion of the Town Moderator/Warden to an appointed position and not an elected position. The Moderator would then be included on the ballot but with significantly reduce the responsibilities.

There was no discussion on this agenda item.

#### **CLASS F LIQUOR LIC.**

Lynne S. Rider moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was unanimously so voted to grant a Class F liquor license to Foster Center Vol. Fire Co. for the dates of February 9<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup> and September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 with the fee waived.

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

**CLASS F LIQUOR LIC.** Lynne S. Rider moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to grant a Class F liquor license to South Foster Vol. Fire Co. for February 23, 2008 with the fee waived.

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

**RESIGNATION** Colette Matarese read a resignation letter from Clerk/Typist Nancy A. Woodlock.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept with regret the letter of resignation.

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

**ADDITIONS** Peter Baribault moved, John Lewis seconded and it was unanimously so voted to approve the additions from Anne L. Carlson, Tax Assessor in the amount of \$1,539.26

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

**GOLD CANE** Colette Matarese read aloud some information about Mildred Farrell who is the recipient of the Gold Cane Award. Mildred Farrell is 95 years old.

**POLICE VEHICLE** Colette Matarese read bid specifications for two new 2008 police patrol vehicles and one new police SUV. The bids specifications were sent out to Bernie Span c/o Tasca Ford, Paul

**BID** Leon c/o MHQ Municipal Vehicles and Anthony Saporita c/o Putnam Ford. The only bid received was from MHQ Municipal Vehicles for the amounts of \$50,533.00 for both 2008 Fords and an amount of \$26,391.00 for the 2008 Ford Explorer XLT. The trade allowance for the 2007 Ford and the 1999 Ford Crown Victoria is \$10,000.00.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to forward the bid information to the chief of police for a recommendation.

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

No one spoke under concerned citizens.

**RECESS** Colette Matarese asked for a motion to recess and to reconvene for the purpose of executive session at 9:00 PM.

Lynne S. Rider moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was so unanimously so voted to recess the council meeting.

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

**WORKSHOP: SCHOOL COMMITTEE** Colette Matarese opened the council meeting.

Michael Paolucci, School Committee member, opened the Foster School Committee meeting with the Foster Town Council.

Michael Paolucci reported that, overall, the Paine School was running fairly smoothly and going in the right path. He reported that finances at the region are a major concern of the school committee with the Town of Gloucester mainly because they have not been paying their fair share. He also stated that it was becoming a burden to the Town of Foster. The region is looking at a deficit of about \$476,000 to \$474,000.

Ronald Cervasio, School Committee member, also added that there will probably be a layoff of teachers at the region due to the fact that the Town of Gloucester is not paying their share at the region level.

John Lewis asked if the council would like to write a letter to the Town of Glocester and the Board of Regions with the concerns of the Town Council and the School Committee Members.

Dennis Chretien, School Committee Member, also spoke of the concern of the impact of the nonpayment of monies from the Town of Glocester. He also mentioned that bringing back the sixth grade would not necessarily save any money for the town.

Colette Matarese asked about moving Western RI Special Education from the Nike Site to the Paine School because it is very expensive to keep them at the Nike Site location. Would it be feasible to do so?

Michael Paolucci, School Committee Member, said that he and Mr. Wallace have been discussing that issue for Paine School. The administration and the School Committee has been pushing very hard to keep the budget in line.

Ronald Cervasio, School Committee Member, suggested to the Town Council that they write a letter to the Board of Regions and the Town of Glocester and request that they make a ruling of the issue of non-payment from the Town of Glocester. He also spoke of the Regional School Audit that was approaching.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was so voted to send a resolution to the Board of Regions and the Town of Glocester to resolve the matter.

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

Dennis Chretien moved, Michael Paolucci seconded, and it was so voted to recess the meeting.

**No one spoke under concerned citizens:**

The council recessed at 9:10 p.m.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to go into executive session according to 42-46-4-5 (5) Acquisitions, 42-46-4-5(2) Police Chief Contract and 42-46-4-5(1) Personnel and to reconvene in to 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.

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

No votes were taken in executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

An electronic tape is made a part of the record for a complete account of the council meeting.

Submitted By

Tina W. Freeman  
Town Clerk