

**March 13, 2008**

The March 13, 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, Lynne Rider seconded to approve the February 14, 2008 minutes with minor changes. And was so voted to approve the February 28, 2008 minutes as submitted.

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

Gordon Rogers spoke under Public Comment.

**WARRANTS** Harold R. Shippee, Sr. moved, Lynne Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #34 in the amount of \$28,017.08, Payroll Warrant #35 in the amount of \$27,047.57, General Warrant #17 in the amount of \$81,913.99.

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

**REPORTS** Colette Matarese read a report from Western Rhode Island Home Repair regarding the 2008 Community Development Block Grant Proposal. The two activities are for an engineering process to the Abbey Lane Community Association for water and septic system upgrades for the funds of \$25,000.00 and \$5,000.00 for structural concerns that currently prevent the Association from seeking USDA funding. The prioritized list is as follows:

**CDBG GRANT** **RE: 2008 Community Development Block Grant Proposed Activities**

The Western RI Home Repair Program has received the following recommendations proposals for the FY 08 Community Development Block Grant.

The proposed activities are as follows:

**Housing Program:**

Housing Rehabilitation	\$100,000.00
Operating	\$ 44,500.00
Administration	\$ 8,000.00

**Public Facility Improvement**

Bathroom – Human Services	\$ 16,000.00
Foster Senior Housing Water System Improvement	\$ 20,000.00
Abbey Lane Engineering Study	\$ 25,000.00
Abbey Lane Technical Assistance	\$ 5,000.00

**Public Service Programs**

Food Bank	\$ 3,500.00
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**Planning**

Keep Space Initiative \$ 25,000.00  
Community Housing Land Trust \$ 3,000.00

**TOTAL** \$ 250,000.00

Mr. Jeff Gofthen spoke of the CDBG Grant money for Abbey Lane.

Lynne Rider recused herself from any discussion and voting on this topic due to that fact that she is a board member of the Foster Senior Housing.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was so voted to approve the CDBG activities as listed in priority by the Planning Board.

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

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault 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.

**GRAVEL BID AWARD**

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was unanimously so voted to accept the recommendation from the Public Works Director for the gravel bid of \$9.50 per ton delivered, and \$7.50 per ton picked up, from LaFramboise Sand & Stone.

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

**MOWER BID AWARD**

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was unanimously so voted to accept the recommendation from the Public Works Director for the mower bid from Dubay Tractor Center of \$7,695.00 for a '66' mower.

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

**POLICE VEHICLES BID AWARD**

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee Sr. seconded and it was unanimously so voted to accept the recommendation from the Police Chief for the vehicle bids from MHQ Municipal Vehicles for a total of \$71,068.20.

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

**LIQUOR LICENSE APPROVAL**

John Lewis moved Lynne Rider seconded and it was so unanimously voted to approve a Class A Liquor License to Twisted Liquors, with the expiration date of December 31, 2008

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

**BACON & COMPANY, AUDITORS**

Pat Boucher of Bacon & Company, CPA'S, LLC read the audit report for the Town of Foster ending June 30, 2007. Comments made for various departments which included the Capital Assets, School Lunch Fund and Accounts Payable. Other topics included were Segregation of Duties, Purchasing, Grants and Restricted Funds along with School Department comments. A copy of the audit report is available on the web Site.

**RESIGNATION**

Lynne S. Rider read a letter of resignation from the Town Treasurer, Randy Rossi, to be effective March 21, 2008.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was unanimously so voted to accept the letter with regrets.

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

**ADVERTISE-  
MENT**

Lynne S. Rider moved, Peter Baribault seconded and it was unanimously so voted to advertise for the position in the Providence Journal.

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

**POLICE  
CHIEF  
CONTRACT**

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept the contract for the Chief of Police as negotiated.

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

**CLERK/  
TYPIST**

Lynne Rider read a memo from the Town Clerk appointing Celeste Beauparlant as Clerk/Typist for the Planning Department.

John Lewis moved, Lynne Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept the recommendation from the Town Clerk.

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

**RECREA-  
TION**

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to table the discussion with the Recreation Committee per their request.

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

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to send a letter to Mr. & Mrs. Lopes concerning their continued membership with the Recreation Committee.

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

**APPOINT-  
MENTS**

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to appoint Tammy Steinkamp to the Recreation Committee.

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

Lynne S. Rider moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to appoint Marcia Bowden to the Planning Board for the remainder of Don Moyer's term which ends 2011.

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

**ENGINEER-  
ING BOARD**

Lynne S. Rider read a letter from the Moosup Valley Fire Department requesting \$910.00 to be disbursed for a Tempest Shadow Smoke Machine for training.

John Lewis read a letter from the Foster Ambulance Corps requesting \$1,600.00 to be disbursed for EMTC course training.

John Lewis moved, Peter Baribault seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve \$1,600.00 to the Foster Ambulance Corps. and \$910.00 to the Moosup Valley Fire Department.

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

**MOOSUP  
VALLEY  
ROAD**

Colette Matarese read a letter from Preston Arnold concerning the misspelling of Moosup Valley Road Foster, RI, by the US Postal Service.

Peter Baribault moved, Harold R. Shippee, Sr. seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the letter of request to the US Postal Service.

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

**COMMENDA-  
TION**

Lynne S. Rider read a letter from Tom & Maureen Walsh commending Pamela Fontaine as Tax Collector.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to insert a copy of the letter into Pamela Fontaine's personnel file.

## **RECESS**

Colette Matarese asked for a motion to recess and to reconvene for the purpose of executive session at 9:45 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.

## **TOWN BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

Colette Matarese opened the council meeting.

Colette Matarese read through the Various Department's line items, pointing out some of the changes made from last year. She also stated that the Town Council has asked the Paine School to keep their budget under the same 5% cap that the Town has, and so the regional school district as well. The Foster/Glocester Capital is at this time \$911,873.00 which is an increase of almost 100% from last year. This was due to the school that the voters approved last year; the total project is 2.6 million dollars.

Some of the comments from the audience are as follows:

Ronald Cervasio said that the school committee was working on combining some of the positions at Paine School.

Robert Hohler asked about the solicitor's line item.

Robert Peterson asked about the insurance for the town and if it was adequately covered. Randy Rossi, Town Treasurer stated that the Town was adequately covered.

Gordon Rogers stated that there are 264 proposed students going into 08-09 school years for Paine School. The amount per student is \$16,542.00.

Harold R. Shippee, Sr. stated that all of the chiefs for the fire departments should be at this meeting, including the ambulance corp.

Marcia Bowden asked about the travel line item in Human Services.

Heidi Rogers asked about the health care line item.

Gordon Rogers asked what the total increase was for this year. Randy Rossi, Town Treasurer, stated that the increase was \$860,000.00 which was increased by 13.5 %.

Cheryl Wright wanted to know who the retirees were that the town was paying for their health care. Randy Rossi, Town Treasurer stated that there were 8 people who have their health care paid for who are retired or who have surviving spouses.

Linda Proulx asked if the increase was 13.5 %, how could the town go above the 5%? John Bevilaqua, Town Solicitor explained that the only exemption would be for capitol expenses such as the bonds for the new school. Not the operating budget. The State could allow an exemption for the cap in the capitol portion.

Marcia Bowden asked why the amount was higher than what we expected. William Abt, Building Committee President stated that the increase was due to the bonding of the high school before it is completed. Which is the reason for the 98% increase for this year. But in the end, taxpayers will be paying less in the end.

Gordon Rogers asked what portion of the capital budget from last year was spent on paving roads.

Colette Matarese said that the bids have been awarded for this Spring.

Patricia Moreau asked about the buy back amount for employees.

Colette Matarese closed the public hearing.

Cheryl Wright and Gordon Rogers spoke under concerned citizens:

The council recessed at 9:45 p.m.

Lynne S. Rider moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to go into executive session according to 42-46-4-5 (5) Acquisitions 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.

In executive session the council moved to acquire property in town. Personnel was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

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

Submitted By

Tina W. Freeman  
Town Clerk