

April 14, 2009

The April 14, 2009, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Colette Matarese, President, of the Foster Town Council at the Benjamin Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road, Foster, Rhode Island, at 5:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Colette Matarese, President,
John Lewis, Vice President,
Lynne S. Rider,
Roger L. Hawes,
Joe Cardillo,
John J. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor

Also present:

Kelli Russ, Treasurer
Russ Dannecker, Budget Consultant

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to go into Executive Session according 42-46-4 & 5 (a1) personnel, and to reconvene in open HEARING 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 42-46-4 & 5

Colette Matarese, aye; Joe Cardillo, aye; Lynne S. Rider, aye; Roger L. Hawes, aye; and John Lewis, aye.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The meeting reconvened at 16:46 p.m. There were no votes taken in executive session.

**BUDGET
WORKSHOP**

Kelli Russ, Treasurer, asks if, dependant upon the Regional Financial Meeting, if the budget should remain the same. Russ Dannecker asks if we adopt, we have to amend the budget as it is now.

Opal Contract: Kelli Russ investigated the Opal Contract. She reported that they usually go up every year. The contract is for maintenance and updates, including motor vehicles. They agreed to level fund us. Current amount is \$4365.00.

Pound fees: Kelli Russ researched back three years and noted that the charges used to be per animal per day, and suggests that there be controls placed and an agreement made. Scituate takes their budget, divides it, and charges a percentage for each town. Currently there is no one to talk to about it, and further talks are needed. Estimate is \$7 per dog, but notes that some people will not pay. Russ Dannecker, Budget Consultant, suggests that we get a contract. It is suggested to budget \$10,000 as that is the amount for the last 2 years.

John Lewis moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously approved to budget \$10,000.

Colette Matarese, aye; Joe Cardillo, aye; Lynne S. Rider, aye; Roger L. Hawes, aye; and John Lewis, aye.

Kelli Russ, Treasurer, will contact Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner, regarding a new ordinance pertaining to pound fees.

Colette Matarese notes that for the last two years, the state has cut our motor vehicle tax money. Kelli Russ, Treasurer, says they will surely cut it this year because our motor vehicles are going down. President Matarese says we need to have contingency funds because we won't be able to make a mid-year cut next year. John Lewis asks what the cut was last year; Ms. Matarese says it was over \$100,000. Ms. Matarese suggests adding contingency money, which would leave us an amount built in. Treasurer Kelli Russ points out that there is no fluff in the budget, so there is no way to make things up.

Colette Matarese moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was so moved to place \$30,000 in the contingency fund.

Colette Matarese, aye; Joe Cardillo, aye; Lynne S. Rider, aye; Roger L. Hawes, aye; and John Lewis, aye.

Russell Dannecker, Budget Director, says the \$30,000 will get taken for the school and will not survive the financial meeting. President Matarese realizes that this will not make up the amount if the state cuts another \$150,000 and perhaps it should be removed. John Lewis notes that the council has already voted.

Gordon Rogers, Foster resident, asks what the taxes would be with the adjustments made. Russell Dannecker states that taxes will be \$15,033 less than last year; a decrease of 0.2%. He confirms that the budget will be adopted Thursday night. A discussion ensues regarding the impact the school will have on the budget. Russell Dannecker requests projections for 2009 from Treasurer Kelli Russ for the Thursday meeting.

ADJOURNMENT John Lewis motioned, Joe Cardillo seconded and it was unanimously approved to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.

A digital sound file is made a part of the record for a complete account of the council meeting.

Submitted By

Carol Lyons
Deputy Town Clerk