

April 23, 2009

The April 23, 2009, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Colette Matarese, President, of the Foster Town Council at the Benjamin Eddy Building, Foster, Rhode Island, at 7:00 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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

WARRANTS Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve Payroll Warrant #40 in the amount of \$32,130.81, Payroll Warrant #41 in the amount of \$38,000.22, and General Warrant #21 in the amount of \$122,002.84.

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

REPORTS Colette Matarese read a letter from the Office of Economic Recovery and Reinvestment, State of Rhode Island. The letter stated that their office had received the request of projects for funding and that they were in “consideration”. The OERR were in the process of reviewing all of the submissions. If the projects were considered “eligible”, the Town of Foster would be contacted.

QUARTERLY REPORTS John Lewis moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the quarterly reports as submitted

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

RECUSAL Lynne S. Rider recused herself from the next agenda item. She is a board member of Hemlock Village.

HEMLOCK VILLAGE PILOT PROGRAM John Lewis stated that a few months ago, the board members of Hemlock Village came forward asking the Town Council to approve a Payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) program. Due to the fact that they are considered tax exempt by the Federal Government. At that time they asked that Roger L. Hawes, councilperson and John Lewis, councilperson, meet with them to go over the particulars. John Lewis stated that they had met a couple of times, along with Thomas Walden, who represents Hemlock Village. Hemlock Village would like to contribute \$10,000.00 per year for taxes, with a “lock in” tax for five years, and at that point the Town Council stated that they would consider to renegotiate.

John Lewis moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded and it was unanimously so voted to refer the information to John J. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor, for review.

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

EMERGENCY SHELTER TEAM Colette Matarese stated that the Emergency Shelter Team has eighteen people who have stepped forward to become members. There was an organizational meeting on April 22, 2009 which was last night.

John Lewis stated that he and Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner attended. Fourteen people showed up to the first organizational meeting. This is basically a group of people in town who would “man” our emergency shelter, in case of any emergency, that would require shelter. If there is anyone who is still interested in signing up, there is still time, and to contact Town Hall if they were interested.

BRUSH TRUCK BID OPENING Colette Matarese opened the bids for the Brush Fire Truck, there were two bids, one from Fire 1 Manufacturing; Option 1 was a total of \$132,652.00 and Option 2 was a total of \$87,060.00. The second bid was from FireMatic Manufacturing; with a bid of \$140,000.00.

John Lewis moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to forward the bids to the Foster Center Fire Chief for review and give a recommendation back to the council.

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

REQUEST FROM 4-H Lynne S. Rider read a request from Lori Kelsall, 4-H Coordinator, to build an additional display barn, for goats at Old Home Days.

Colette Matarese asked if the Old Home Days Committee was notified. Anne L. Carlson stated that they were and that there had been a problem last year where kids were feeding the goats balloons, the thought was to move the goats out of the area where they were and the best site would be behind the current rabbit barn. This is contingent of both of the committees raising the money to build them. The committees are not asking the town for any money for the project. There is no guarantee that this will be built this year. Both committees would be responsible for clearing the land, with some excavation done. Asking for permission was the first step.

John Lewis moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to give permission of the construction of the shed, with all of the necessary permits and plans that are required by the town.

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

CONSERVATION COM. Colette Matarese stated that the council received a letter from the Conservation Commission asking for two additional members. The committee needed to cancel two of its meeting due to lack of a quorum.

John Lewis moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to advertise in the Foster Home Journal for additional members for the Conservation Commission, and also to add it to the Town of Foster Web site.

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

REQUEST FROM THE FOSTER LAND TRUST Colette Matarese read a request from the Foster Land Trust to view and print bank and financial statements from the Town's "On-line" banking account, which include the Foster Land Trust. Their concern was their inability to reference an accurate accounting of funds placed in the proper accounts for the Land Trust.

Linda Los Tibbetts, Chairperson for the Foster Land Trust stated that the Land Trust has had trouble in the past getting the information on a regular basis.

Kelli Russ, Town Treasurer stated the Mr. Walter May has all of the information for the Land Trust up to date and that she has no problem continuing to forward the information on a regular basis. If that does not work out, then the council can revisit the issue of computer access at a later date.

Colette Matarese stated that the council could revisit the issue in August of this year.

Walter May, Land Trust member asked if the Treasurer could make a copy of the bank statements once any transactions took place for the Land Trust so that members could see the ongoing and updated account for the Land Trust.

Linda Los Tibbetts, Chairperson for the Foster Land Trust stated that the problem is not current, it is for the future. The Land Trust needs to be sure that they are given updates through this town council, the next town council etc.

The town council referred the request to the town treasurer.

Lori Kelsall of Old Danielson Pike asked how the Land trust could regulate the people or hunting of the Land Trust property, because she is an abutter of them and she cannot walk her own land without wearing orange, due to the hunters there.

CONCERNED CITIZENS Shelly Pezza asked the town council if they could do anything about the actions of School Committee member Ronald Cervasio.

Ronald Cervasio stated that the hiring of a superintendant was on the agenda for the next school committee meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to go into Executive Session according 42-46-4 & 5a (1 &2) personnel and collective bargaining, 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 closed to the provisions of the General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-4 & 5

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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

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

Submitted By

Tina W. Freeman
Town Clerk