

August 13, 2009

The August 13, 2009, 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 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

The following department heads were present:

Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner,
Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director,
Kelli Russ, Town Treasurer

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the meeting minutes from July 9, 2009.

Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, John Lewis aye.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to table the meeting minutes from July 23, 2009, all members were not present from that meeting.

John Lewis aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

WARRANTS

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the following warrants: Payroll Warrant #03 in the amount of \$29,826.79, Payroll Warrant #04 in the amount of \$26,082.91, Payroll Warrant #5 in the amount of \$28,041.28, General Warrant #28 in the amount of \$110.00, and General Warrant #3 in the amount of \$87,794.88.

John Lewis aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

REPORTS

John Lewis stated that the town had received a letter from Governor Donald Carcieri with information stating that the town has received \$81,500 in grant money from the CDBG Block Grant Program.

**MONTHLY
REPORTS**

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the monthly reports as submitted; Building and Zoning, Tax Collector, Public Works, Tax Assessor, and Police.

Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, John Lewis aye.

QUARTERLY REPORT Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept the quarterly report from the Foster Center Fire Co. as submitted.

John Lewis aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

LEAP CONTRACT Roger L. Hawes moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to table the contract with “LEAP” (Roadway Investment - Local Equity Aid Program)

Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, John Lewis aye.

BID AWARDS Roger L. Hawes moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the recommendation from Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director, to award the bid for the heating oil to Reichert Oil, with a bid price of \$2.04 per gallon for heating oil. With the conditional approval of the “LEAP” contract.

John Lewis aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

Roger L. Hawes moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the recommendation from Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director, to award the bid for the various paving projects in town to Cardi Corp., with a bid price of \$58.88 for the leveling course, \$1.75 a linear foot for keyways, and \$.25 per square yard for tack coat. With the conditional approval of the “LEAP” contract.

Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, John Lewis aye.

Roger L. Hawes moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the recommendation from Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director, to “piggyback” with the State of Rhode Island for the crack sealing bid. The State cost is \$.26 per linear foot. With the conditional approval of the “LEAP” contract.

Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, John Lewis aye.

Roger L. Hawes moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and was unanimously so voted to approve the recommendation from Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director, to award the bid for the various chip sealing projects to Dosch-King, Co.,Inc., with the bid price of \$1.44 per square yard. With the conditional approval of the “LEAP” contract.

Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, John Lewis aye.

STOP SIGNS AT BALCOM & CENTRAL PIKE Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the recommendation from Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director and Robert E. Coyne, Jr., Police Chief, to place four (4) way stop signs at the intersections of Balcom Road and Central Pike. They both felt the area was a safety issue without the signs in place.

John Lewis aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Roger L. Hawes aye.

“NO THRU TRUCKS” SIGNS

John Lewis stated that Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director asked whether or not there should be some “No Thru Trucks” signs on some of the gravel roads located in town, since there is a lot of heavy truck traffic in town.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the “no thru trucks” signs are placed on gravel roads throughout town. For the purpose of discussion.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

Roger L. Hawes moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded and it was unanimously so voted to table the agenda item until further information is obtained from Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director.

Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, John Lewis aye.

MOVING OF AGENDA ITEM John Lewis stated that the agenda item about driveway runoff was a legal issue and should be moved into executive session under litigation.

BOY SCOUT PROCLAMATION Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was so voted to accept the boy scout proclamation for Brian Caluori as written.

John Lewis aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

“OPEB” ACTUARIAL STUDY

Kelli Russ, Town Treasurer, stated that she was asking for approval to allow a “joint bid cost” sharing for an “Other Personnel Employee Benefit actuarial study” with Capt. Isaac Paine School. This study is a state mandated study that must be done along with the audit to have a complete and thorough audit. John J. Bevilacqua asked the treasurer if there was deadline for this study. She stated that the study should be done prior to the audit being completed. The audit deadline is December 31, 2009. Since total shared cost of the study is \$6,500.00, Mr. Bevilacqua stated that this bid falls under the category where the expenditure is not \$5,000.00 and therefore exempt from the bidding process.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded and it was unanimously so voted to allow the town treasurer to enter into an agreement with the school to perform an actuarial study which is required by law.

John Lewis amended the motion to put a maximum of \$4,000.00 be allowed for town share of this project, which was seconded by Lynne S. Rider.

John Lewis aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Roger L. Hawes aye.

The amendment passed.

Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, John Lewis aye.

The main motion passed

Kelli Russ stated that the funds would be coming out of the contingency budget line.

LIGHTNING RODS ON THE TOWN HOUSE Lynne S. Rider stated that she recommended to the other council members that the town of Foster install lightning rods on the Town House. The rods would not repel lightning, but rather channel the lightning away from the building so that the building is not damaged if it is struck.

Roger L. Hawes moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the placement of the lightning rods on the Town House, by Northeast Lightning Protection, LLC. in the amount of \$2,500.00.

John Lewis aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the formation of a charter review commission which would be placed on the next agenda for discussion and or appointments.

Gordon Rogers stated that he spoke to fire chiefs Paul Cunniff and Gordon Brayton, and that Mr. Rogers should ask to be appointed since they do not have the time to commit to the charter review committee regarding the budgeting of capital improvements for the fire trucks.

POLE PETITION Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approved the recommendation from Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director for a pole petition at 56-2 Cucumber Hill Road.

John Lewis amended the motion to make it contingent that the State of Rhode Island approve that pole petition also. Lynne S. Rider seconded the amendment.

John Lewis aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

The amendment passed.

Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, John Lewis aye.

The main motion passed.

GOLD CANE AWARD Roger L. Hawes moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the issuance of the Golden Cane Award to Dorothy Packard Kilham, who is currently the oldest citizen in the Town of Foster. She stated that she is 95 ½ years old.

John Lewis aye, Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

**ADDITIONS
& ABATE-
MENTS**

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the following request of additions and abatements from the Tax Assessor, Anne L. Carlson; prorated additions in the amount of \$4,139.85, regular additions in the amount of \$119.87, for a total of \$4,259.72 in additions.

Roger L. Hawes aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, John Lewis aye.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the abatements in the amount of \$4,497.87.

**CONCERNED
CITIZENS**

Gordon Rogers asked why the taxes in town went up even though the municipal section of the budget was level funded?

Kelli Russ, Town Treasurer, explained that there are many factors to why the taxes went up, a couple of examples are that the state aid went down over \$500,000.00 from last year, the town's levy has gone down, which is basically the taxpayers vehicles, also the value of houses have come down from the real estate.

John Lewis also stated that the town's budget was decreased by about 8%, Capt. Isaac Paine School went down by a small amount. The regional operations went up by 4.75 %, they off set it by a decrease in capital. The region set up their budget so that the total amount was zero.

Robert Peterson asked if any of the state aid the town receives was earmarked for the schools.

John Lewis stated that yes it was, and the reduction in that state aid has to be absorbed by the town as well.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to adjourn the meeting.

Roger L. Hawes aye, John Lewis aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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