

August 27, 2009

The August 27, 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
Joe Cardillo,
John J. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor
Colette Matarese, President, excused

The following department heads were present:

Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner,
Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director,
Kelli Russ, Town Treasurer
Pamela Fontaine, Tax Collector

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES

Joe Cardillo moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the meeting minutes from June 25, 2009, as submitted.

Roger L. Hawes aye, Joe Cardillo aye, John Lewis aye.

Lynne S. Rider abstained from the vote; she was not present at the June 25, 2009, meeting.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the meeting minutes from July 23, 2009, as submitted.

John Lewis aye, Joe Cardillo aye, Lynne S. Rider aye.

Roger L. Hawes abstained from the vote; he was not present at the July 23, 2009, meeting.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the meeting minutes from August 13, 2009, as submitted.

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

WARRANTS

Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the following warrants: Payroll Warrant #06 in the amount of \$28,029.28, Payroll Warrant #07 in the amount of \$29,197.75, General Warrant #04 in the amount of \$25,539.76.

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the monthly reports as submitted: Planning and Public Works.

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

LEAP CONTRACT

John Lewis stated that the Town of Foster has not heard back from the State of Rhode Island concerning the seven signatures needed by state officials in order to move forward with the "LEAP" (Roadway Investment - Local Equity Aid Program) contract. This contract is needed to access the "stimulus" funds for the roads project.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE John Lewis stated that the town has only received three (3) people expressing interest in the charter review committee at this time; this item will be continued to the next council agenda.

Gordon Rogers asked if he was included on the list since he has stated he would be interested in serving on the committee.

John J. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor stated that he should submit his interest in writing.

Joe Cardillo moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to table the charter review committee until the next council meeting.

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

RESOLUTION BINDING ARBITRATION Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the resolution to the Rhode Island General Assembly in opposition to binding arbitration for teacher contracts.

Ronald Cervasio, School Committee Member, stated that he recommends the town council approve this resolution.

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

ABATEMENTS Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was so voted to approve the abatements in the amount of \$922.76 as recommended by Anne L. Carlson, Tax Assessor.

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

ADDITIONS Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the additions in the amount of \$182.33 as recommended by Anne L. Carlson, Tax Assessor.

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

RESOLUTION HEALTH INSURERS Roger L. Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was so voted to approve the resolution concerning the proposed increase in rate hikes from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island and United Healthcare of New England, to cities and towns of New England.

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

STATE BUDGET CUTS John Lewis stated the Governor has made a proposal to not pay the cities and towns the fourth quarter motor vehicle reimbursement excise taxes. This fiscal year 2010 "savings plan" totals \$32.5 million dollars that he proposes not to give to the cities and towns. The Town of Foster will not receive a total of \$209,131.00 if this proposal passes.

No action is needed, this was information only.

SCORPIO FILMS John Lewis stated that the town has received an e-mail from Ted Marr of Scorpio Films stating that the company will be in town sometime soon to film some of the scenes of their new Sci-fi movie. The location will be on Central Pike.

No action is needed, this was information only.

Roger L. Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to table this agenda item until the town council has a chance to review the applicants in executive session

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, also the town's levy has gone down, which is basically the taxpayers' vehicle tax and also the value of houses have come down from the real estate revaluation.

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 %, which has offset it by a decrease in capital. The region set up their budget so that the total amount of increase 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 that reduction in 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 Joe Cardillo 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