

September 10, 2009

The September 10, 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 6:30 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to go into Executive Session according 42-46-4 & 5 (1) Personnel and 42-46-5a(2) 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 to provisions of the General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-4 & 5

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

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

John Lewis called the meeting back into order.

There were no votes taken in executive session.

MINUTES Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the meeting minutes from August 27, 2009, as written.

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

Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the meeting minutes from September 3, 2009, as written.

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

WARRANTS Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the following warrants: Payroll Warrant #08 in the amount of \$28,904.32, Payroll Warrant #09 in the amount of \$32,983.52, General Warrant #05 in the amount of \$52,349.31, and General Warrant #29 in the amount of \$2,000.00.

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

REPORTS John Lewis stated that the town received a letter stating that Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner, was appointed to the board of directors of the North Central Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Foster will now have representation on that board.

REPORTS CONTINUED Another report was from the Tri-Town Community Action Agency, thanking the town for participating in the Summer Youth Program. The Town Hall had an intern for eight weeks this summer which was paid by Tri Town. Tina W. Freeman, Town Clerk, stated that the student worked well with everyone and was a very good “employee”.

DAVIDA IRVING John Lewis introduced Dr. Davida Irving, who is the new superintendant at Capt. Isaac Paine School. Dr. Irving said if anyone had any questions or concerns about the school to please feel free to call, e-mail, or stop in to see her.

MONTHLY REPORTS Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the monthly reports as submitted: Building and Zoning, Planning, Police and Tax Collector.

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

CHANGE OF ORDER John Lewis stated that he was asked to change the order of business on the agenda, moving up the letter from the recreation department requesting the town grounds for a community yard sale.

Roger L. Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously voted to approve the change in the order of the agenda, to discuss the letter from recreation.

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

REQUEST FROM RECREATION COMMITTEE John Lewis read the request from the recreation committee asking to use the town house grounds for a community yard sale on October 17th, with a rain date of October 18th, 2009. Danielle Scott of the recreation committee stated that the committee thought it would be a good idea to have a community yard sale, and since the town is so rural to keep it at

a central location. It would be a great way for everyone to clean out their closets. The fee would be twenty dollars for registration, with ten dollars to be given back if the areas are cleaned up. John Lewis clarified that the people would keep their own money from their own sales and recreation would keep the registration fee. There would also be porta-johns for the event.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously voted to approve the use of the town grounds for the recreation committee for a community yard sale from Friday, October 16th to Sunday, October 18th, 2009.

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

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously voted to appoint the following people to the charter review commission; Robert Salisbury, Peter Baribault, Robert Fontaine, John J. Bevilacqua, Jr. and Lisa Carpenter.

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

RECYCLING COORDINATOR John Lewis announced that the Town of Foster has advertised to fill the position of Recycling Coordinator, which is 100% funded through grant money received from Rhode Island Resource Recovery for an amount of \$15,000.00. This person would not be a town employee and would be employed for a period of one year. This person will be reviewing the trash routes and recycling policies to make sure that we are receiving the best services for our money. We reviewed a number of applicants and checked references.

Joe Cardillo moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously voted to appoint Louis Vinagro III for one year, as recycling coordinator for the sum of \$15,000.00.

Lynne S. Rider wanted to reiterate that two final candidates were both qualified for the position but that she felt that Mr. Vinagro was the best candidate for the Town of Foster.

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

REQUEST FROM CHIEF COYNE PUBLIC SAFETY DAY John Lewis stated that a letter was received from Robert E. Coyne, Jr. Police Chief asking permission to use the town grounds at “Green Acres”, 80 Moosup Valley Road to hold a “Public Safety Day” on September 26, 2009. John asked the chief if he wanted to add anything. Chief Coyne added it was just about the same as last year, all of the permits will be in hand, and people can just show up.

Roger L. Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously voted to approve the request from the Police Chief to use the town grounds.

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

REQUEST FOR A TEMP. TRAILER Roger L. Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously voted to approve the request from Bob Gravel of 37 North Road to place a temporary trailer on the property until the issue of his house with mold is resolved. Bob Gravel stated that he and his family has been displaced from their home since July of 2008, and living in a motel since then. The insurance company has cleaned the house twice so far, but the mold is everywhere behind the walls and the whole house is contaminated.

Roger L. Hawes amended his motion, Joe Cardillo seconded, to place a time limit of one year, subject to renewal at that time.

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

The main motion passed.

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

RESIGNATION OF MARK HORNER Joe Cardillo moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded and it was unanimously voted to accept the letter of resignation from Mark Horner, Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector.

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

APPOINTMENT OF PLUMBING AND MECH. INSPECTOR Roger L. Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously voted to appoint Alan Grace of the Town of Coventry as the Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector.

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

FCVFD TANKER 3 Will Paul, Chief of the Foster Center Volunteer Fire Dept., stated that Tanker 3 has a water leak, and when the leak was inspected, they found it was actually a stress crack on the tank suction line that goes to the pump. Upon further inspection, it was discovered that the frame was sagging on the truck which caused the stress crack on the suction line. Tanker 3 has been put “out of service” due to the problems that were discovered, which leaves the station without a tanker. It needs to be replaced as soon as possible. Neighboring towns have been called to see if they could possibly help the situation on a temporary basis. The Thompson Hill Fire Dept. of Thompson, Connecticut returned the call to say that they had a 1985 truck that the town could use. They were asking \$6,000.00 for the vehicle. He stated that Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director, went to the Foster Fire Station to look at the truck. He did not feel that it would be a vehicle that public works would want to use in the future. Will Paul said that the cost of repair for Tanker 3 would be more than what it is worth, and it is not sellable. The cost of a new tanker would be between \$350,000.00 and \$450,000.00. The tanker from Thompson Hill would only be a temporary fix.

John Lewis said that the town could try to find a way to purchase the truck, but in order for the town to come up with the \$6,000.00, for this, we would have to find some place else to take six thousand dollars away. The council needs to discuss this in further detail with the treasurer before any money is spent.

Will Paul also said that the truck from Thompson could not be used because it is not registered to the Town of Foster, and would require a bill of sale to be registered.

John Lewis stated that the tanker issue will be continued until the next scheduled council meeting.

**PUBLIC
HEARING
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING
ORDINANCE**

John Lewis opened the public hearing for the affordable housing ordinance. Fran Gast, Chair of the Housing Board, said that the housing board is a sub-board of the planning board and has been working very hard to be in compliance with the Affordable Housing Plan for Low and Moderate Income Housing with the State of Rhode Island which is applied equally throughout the state. Many times the requirements do not apply to each and every city and town's situation. The ordinance "lays out" the conditions under which the town of Foster will welcome affordable housing. There are many aspects in the ordinance that will help those who have lived in town most of their lives and cannot afford to live here anymore. This new ordinance, which follows the town's comprehensive plan, is designed to protect the town's zoning. A letter is being drafted to the state legislators stating that all affordable housing requirements do not fit every town. They have to realize that, with the town preserving the state's drinking water, a "blanket" approach is not the way to go. Julia Parmentier stated that the copy of the ordinance that is handed out to everyone will have more changes done to it and will be available when completed at future planning board meetings.

Some citizens in the audience had some questions concerning the zoning areas in town that were designated as "low and moderate housing".

No one spoke for or against the ordinance.

The ordinance will be placed on the list for future agenda items.

John Lewis closed the hearing. No action was taken.

Roger Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was so voted to return the ordinance back to the planning and housing board, and town solicitor for further work.

John Lewis reopened the public hearing for further review.

Roger L. Hawes moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously voted to continue the public hearing at a future meeting for review.

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

**CONCERNED
CITIZENS**

No one spoke under concerned citizens.

**FUTURE
AGENDA
ITEMS**

Future agenda items include, mowing of historical cemeteries, affordable housing ordinance, and the tanker at Foster Center Fire Co.

Lynne S. Rider moved, Joe Cardillo 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 8:45 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