

**April 8, 2010**

The April 8, 2010, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Colette Matarese, President, of the Foster Town Council at the Town House, 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 following department heads were present:

Robert Clarkin, Public Works Director  
Robert E. Coyne, Jr., Police Chief  
Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner  
Kelli Russ, Treasurer

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

No one spoke under public comment.

**REPORTS**

Colette Matarese, President, read a letter from Mr. James Egan of 26 Tucker Hollow Road, stating his appreciation for the great job on the road repair performed on Tucker Hollow Road by the department of public works. The work was done last year and the road has not washed out since then.

Lynne S. Rider, council member, stated that she spoke to Nancy Johnston, Human Services Director, about the misconception of her servicing the Town of Scituate's taxpayers. Scituate did not have a disbursement location for commodities which was distributed from the Cranston Community Action Program so they asked our human services director if she would be willing to distribute the commodities to these residents while she was on CCAP working hours. As of February 9, 2010, the commodities will be distributed by Scituate from their own senior center, so Nancy will no longer need to distribute to Scituate any longer. The Town of Scituate does have someone at the senior center all week long, not just two hours on Friday as previously stated.

**MINUTES** John Lewis moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the March 25, 2010, meeting minutes as written

Lynne S. Rider aye, Colette Matarese aye, John Lewis aye, Joe Cardillo 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 #38 in the amount of \$28,199.71, Payroll Warrant #39 in the amount of \$26,953.97, and General Warrant #19 in the amount of \$257,658.96.

Kelli Russ, Treasurer, stated that the reason for the large amount in General Warrant #19 was because it included a payment for the new ambulance.

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

**MONTHLY REPORTS** John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the monthly reports from the Building and Zoning, Planning, Police, Public Works, Tax Assessor, and Tax Collector as written.

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

**OLD BUSINESS** Colette Matarese continued the public hearing from the previous meeting for Allyson Roche dba Allyson Roche Antiques. At the previous meeting the town council had some questions for Ms. Roche. One question was the hours of operation. Ms. Roche stated that the hours would possibly be 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and that she currently sells mostly wholesale.

John J. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor, stated that the town council should not restrict the hours of operation for any antique shop. The hours are usually dictated by their own economics. The only restriction should be on the Sunday sales license.

Colette Matarese then closed the public hearing.

John Lewis moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the second hand and holiday sales licenses to Ms. Allyson Roche dba Allyson Roche Antiques at 96 Foster Center Road.

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

**OLD  
BUSINESS  
CONT.**

John Lewis stated that the license renewal was granted at a previous meeting with an expiration date of March 31, 2010. Since that date the license holders have complied with all of the proper requirements for the renewal.

John Lewis moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the Holiday license to Hitesh Mehta dba BD Food Mart at 189A Hartford Pike Foster.

John Lewis withdrew his motion. Joe Cardillo withdrew his second.

John Lewis moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve a Holiday license and Victualling license to Hitesh Mehta dba BD Food Mart 189A Hartford Pike Foster, both having an expiration date of December 31, 2010.

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

**PUBLIC  
HEARING  
CDBG**

Colette Matarese, President, opened the public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant application period.

John Lewis Vice President, reviewed the list that was prioritized by the Planning Board; Housing Rehabilitation \$119,807.00, Foster Food Pantry \$3,500.00, Foster Senior Housing \$82,500.00 Abbey Lane Community Association \$44,193.00

Lynne S. Rider recused herself; she is a Board Member for the Foster Senior Housing.

Colette Matarese closed the public hearing.

John Lewis moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was so voted to move forward with the CDBG grant application as recommended by the Foster Planning Board.

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

Lynne S. Rider recused.

**2009 AUDIT  
REPORT**

John Lewis moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the audit report ending the fiscal year ending 2009 as submitted by Bacon and Company LLC.

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

**2010/2011  
BUDGET  
ADOPTION**

Colette Matarese, President announced that there are copies of the budget if anyone was interested in getting one.

Kelli Russ, Treasurer, stated that there were a few changes since the last public hearing on the budget. She spoke to Malcom Moore of Capt. Isaac Paine School and Dennis Chretien, School Committee Member, about the formatting of the school's budget. The school was looking to budget the revenues. They said they were looking to level fund, we are showing the expenditures, the same as last year. So we are level funding them from taxpayer dollars, we are not cutting them. Then once the state determines what the state aid will be, the school will budget it on their side. The town will be giving them what we have always given them, and then move forward. They both agreed that the numbers were accurate; it is just a different way of showing it. The school has always based their budget on the "net" not the "gross". The town is basing it on the "net", what the taxpayers are paying. There are no changes in the Foster/Glocester budget. There is a correction in the Legislative, the office supplies were brought to \$3,200.00. Initially that line item and duplicating supplies were combined but the amount was not shown in the office supplies line item. No changes in Planning. In the Building and Zoning department, the only change was in the travel line item. It reflects an amount of \$1,000.00. In the Finance department, the only change was an increase in the health insurance line item, to show a more accurate amount. No change in the Assessors department. Misc. Administration, there is an increase to \$21,000.00 for the audit. Purchase services/contracts, went up slightly to \$13,000.00 based on the prices that have been coming in, most companies have had a slight increase. No changes in Human Services or Community Funding. Refuse Removal is at \$209,500.00, which is the number that was agreed upon from the contract. No changes in Recycling. No change in the Police budget since the last meeting. In Animal Control, the only change was a decrease in the pound fees to \$15,000.00. Kelli stated that the Police Chief was speaking with the town of Killingly and possibly using their facility with a cost of \$3.00 per taxpayer for the town of Foster. And John Lewis was speaking with the Town of Coventry to see what they have to offer us. In the Public Works department, the only change was in the fuel and lube oil, that was down to \$38,750.00. No change in Conservation, Land Trust or Libraries. Kelli said that she met with Mike Polouski, the recreation director, and the only change in recreation was the director's salary which was increased to \$1,400.00, which is a slight increase from last year, but he will no longer be receiving travel money, which is actually saving the town money. The summer recreation salaries were raised to \$4,200.00 to round it off, maintenance and repairs was changed to \$4,500.00, equipment was reduced to \$1,000.00, equipment rentals was reduced to \$700.00. Activities and events expense was increased to \$3,500.00. That item was combined with field trips, so that makes that line item zero. Fostering arts was increased to \$1,800.00. The only change in the capital line item is the Town Clerk, which is actually for the entire town hall, not just her department, and that amount is \$27,000.00, which also includes part of the Police station network. The network we are looking into is a little advanced for today, but we will be able to upgrade without any problems over the next five years or so. John J. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor, asked if the new system was secure. Kelli Russ, Treasurer stated that it would be more secure than what we have now.

**2010/2011  
BUDGET  
ADOPTION  
CONT.**

There will be a significant change in the 2% capital transfer. Previously the school appropriation equaled the total school budget expenditures. However the town's true transfer to the school is net of state aid to education which was recognized as a revenue source. This year the budgeted school expenditure shows the true value which is equivalent to the net expenditure to the school. This year the town has opted to level fund the school. For example the schools budgeted transfer will now be the proposed education expense less the anticipated state aid for education, based on the previous year, The school expenditure is now shown as over one million less than what it has always been. The 2% capital is now at \$225,766.00. Per John J. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor this is the correct way to do this.

Kelli Russ, Treasurer continued with the "Other Public Safety" items. She met with Carolyn Kerttula, Treasurer for the Moosup Valley Fire Co., because the operating budget that was submitted did not balance. Fire Chief Paul Cunniff stated that the station was asking for \$58,575.00. John J. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor stated that all of the Fire stations and Ambulance Corps. records should be made available to the Town Treasurer when requested. Those are public documents. Kelli Russ, Treasurer said that each department should have a balance sheet for their budget.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was so voted to approve the request of \$58,575.00 from the Moosup Valley Fire Co. which is contingent of the Department giving the Treasurer all of the financial information that she requires.

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

Roger L. Hawes recused himself from the discussion and vote; he is a life member of the Moosup Valley Fire Co.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was so voted to move the amount of \$21,000.00 over to the approved column of the budget.

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

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to adopt the fiscal year 2010/2011 budget with the changes proposed in the amount of \$11,888,137.00 for operations.

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

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to adopt the fiscal year 2010/2011 capital budget in the amount of \$374,060.00

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

Kelli Russ, Treasurer said that she thought it would be a good idea to place the council adopted budget on the town web site for the taxpayers to review before the May 4, 2010 Financial Town Meeting. The town council agreed.

**REQUEST FROM THE ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE** John Lewis moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the request from the Armenian National Committee to fly their flag on April 24, 2010.  
Roger L. Hawes aye, John Lewis aye, Lynne S. Rider aye, Colette Matarese aye, Joe Cardillo aye.

**LETTER FROM ANNE CARLSON** Lynne S. Rider moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to accept the resignation letter, with many regrets, from Anne Carlson, Tax Assessor as of July 1, 2010.

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

**LETTER FROM M. CHIPPENDALE** Colette Matarese read a letter from town resident Michael Chippendale about the exterior sign of the Benjamin Eddy Building. He has donated a handmade sign to the town for the building. The town council thanked Mr. Chippendale for his donation.

John Lewis moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was so voted to accept the donation from Michael Chippendale.

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

**REQUEST FROM ROSEMARY PAOLUCCI** Colette Matarese read a request from Rosemary Paolucci, who is the only student that has been chosen from the Ponaganset High School, to attend a National Student Leadership Conference in New York at Fordham University. The entire program costs \$2,495.00. Rosemary said that any kind help from the town would be helpful, and that she would be willing to report back to the town council what she has accomplished at the conference.

Lynne S. Rider asked Ms. Paolucci if the schools had any kind of program that would be able to help with the funding. Ms. Paolucci said that she has sent a letter to Dr. Barnes, Superintendent and he has not responded back. John J. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor, asked Ms. Paolucci where to send a check for a donation and who to write the check out to.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve an amount of \$500.00 from the council administration fund, to be paid to the National Student Leadership Foundation on behalf of Rosemary Paolucci.

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

**REQUEST  
FROM  
SMCT**

John Lewis moved, Roger L. Hawes seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the request from Swamp Meadow Community Theatre to use the Town House on July 12, 14<sup>th</sup> and 16, 2010, to hold auditions for “Dracula”. These dates are to replace the previous request of the Town House.

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

**DENTAL  
COVERAGE**

Kelli Russ, Treasurer, explained to the Town Council that West Bay Collaborative, who is the Town of Foster’s insurance company, is offering to enter into a group rate with Delta Dental, which is a lower premium for the town. Currently the town has the health insurance with West Bay. This would save the town money, and there would be no interruption in coverage, the employees would not even know there was a change. She stated that the Regional School has agreed to enroll and Paine School had put the issue on their agenda.

John Lewis moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the recommendation from Kelli Russ, Treasurer concerning the dental coverage for the Town of Foster.

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

**RESOLUTION  
HOUSE BILL  
# 7989**

John Lewis explained House Bill #7989 which authorizes every city and town in Rhode Island to postpone their budgets and Financial Town Meetings for fiscal year 2010-2011 for a period not to exceed 90 days. This would allow the cities and towns additional time to receive a more accurate state aid amount that will be given to each city and town, therefore making the adopted budget as accurate as possible.

John Lewis moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to approve the Resolution that allows the town to postpone the Financial Town Meeting.

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

**LETTER  
FROM  
RISPCA**

Colette Matarese stated that the town has received a letter from Joseph W. Warzycha of the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and that he met with Mr. Michael Caparrelli, Animal Control Officer and they reviewed and discussed proper animal care procedures.

This was an informational letter only. No action or votes were taken.

**INSPECTION OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT** Colette Matarese stated that at a previous town council meeting, the council instructed the town clerk to send out a memo to all of the fire departments and ambulance corp. and submit a list of all the equipment that is required to have inspections for fire safety. Colette said that South Foster Fire Co. and Foster Center Fire Co. submitted their lists. John Lewis said that he would like to discuss the costs of these inspections and possibly setting aside money for these inspections from the training fund account to cover these expenses.

John Lewis moved, Lynne S. Rider seconded, and it was so voted to place a restriction on the training funds line item in the amount of \$5,809.00 for the potential expenditure from the Foster Center Fire Co.

Council members were polled; Colette Matarese nay, John Lewis aye, Joe Cardillo nay, Roger L. Hawes nay, Lynne S. Rider nay.

The motion did not pass.

**CONCERNED CITIZENS** A school committee member asked about the ad for the Regional Financial Town Meeting and its accuracy. Another citizen asked when the next budget meeting would be. The town council stated that it would be March 18, 2010.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** Lynne S. Rider moved, John Lewis seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to go into Executive Session according 42-46-5a (1) Personnel 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 moved, Joe Cardillo seconded, and it was unanimously so voted to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

There were no votes taken in Executive Session.

The executive session portion of the meeting adjourned at 10:00 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