

**January 27, 2011
Town Council Meeting**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The January 27, 2011, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Gordon E. Rogers, President, of the Foster Town Council at the South Foster Fire Station, 5 Mt. Hygeia Road, Foster, Rhode Island, at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Gordon E. Rogers, President
Lynne A. DeStefano, Vice President
Neal C. Whitelaw,
Marianne Knight,
Michael E. Dillon,

David V. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

(Interview with Pamela Fontaine held in open session. Letter to Ms. Fontaine referred to in this exhibit is included as Exhibit A.)

GORDON ROGERS: Okay. Now what we got for the first order of business.

ARTHUR READ: Point of order, Mr. President.

GORDON ROGERS: Ah, just so you know. Only a council member can call point of order; no member of the audience.

Atty. Arthur Read Esq.: I'm raising a point of order.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay.

Atty. Arthur Read Esq.: My name is Arthur Read and I have, and I told Mr. Igliazzi earlier we were doing this so the matter is on the record, uh, the issue that I bring before you is that with regard to the Open Meetings Act. Today is the 27th and a scheduled meeting of the town council was properly noticed, uh, filed with the Secretary of State's office. Today there was a snowstorm of, uh, unfortunately I can't say "epic proportions" lightly, but it's a pretty substantial snowstorm. As a result, a state of emergency was declared for certain parts of the state, requiring state workers not to appear, except for essential ones. The meeting was originally to have been held at Paine School down the road which has ample parking, uh, unfortunately the roof apparently caved in from the snow. At 2:31 today, the Town Clerk filed with the Secretary of State, and I assume elsewhere, a notice that the meeting would be continued—held I should say—but the venue changed to the Foster Fire Station—South Foster Fire Station—which is where we are now. The South Foster Fire Station is located on 94, which as I came up, it has snow piled right up to edge of it, there is no parking on state highway 94 and the highway anyway. It has parking outside in the lot, which I hope you didn't shovel, Ms. DeStefano, for as much as twenty-eight cars. At my last count, there were twenty-eight cars in the parking lot. We have, as of my last count, forty-six seats taken and except for the several people who just came in, there were thirty, thirty-eight people in attendance, if I had to guess the number is thirty-two or thirty-four. I suggest that this meeting is in violation of the Open Meetings Act because of the failure of notice, and for the other reasons contained in the act that it cannot be continued, even for a reason such as a roof falling in, as I read the Open Meetings Act. I can find no authority to the contrary based on (unintelligible).

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, to speak to the parking issue, there's lower parking here.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Excuse me, are you referring to the, to the parking lot?

GORDON ROGERS: Please, I'm...I'm

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Are you referring to the parking outside?

GORDON ROGERS: I'm running the meeting.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: I understand you are, I'm just asking for you to clarify, are you referring to that parking outside in front of the four bays out of which the fire and rescue equipment has to go?

GORDON ROGERS: If-if-if you let me finish.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Is it?

GORDON ROGERS: Please sit down.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: I just asked a question.

GORDON ROGERS: I'm just gonna tell ya, if you're try and to disrupt this meeting...

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Not at all.

GORDON ROGERS: Excuse me. You'll be told once, you're on the second time, the third time, I'll ask you to leave the meeting.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: You can do anything you want.

GORDON ROGERS: Thank you.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Are you referring to those bays?

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GORDON ROGERS: Tina, did I call you today because of the Paine School that the roof caved in and asked you to post the, uh, building change on the Paine School, where it was gonna be held and you just informed me that you did that, correct?

TINA W. FREEMAN: Yes I did.

GORDON ROGERS: Alright, so. I also asked that it be, you said you were gonna do it on the Secretary of web—State's, which was done this afternoon?

TINA W. FREEMAN: Ah, that's correct.

GORDON ROGERS: So I don't think we're, in my opinion, violating anything. Uh, I did refer to the solicitor about it, and uh, we concurred that we can move forward with the meeting, and you can file the appropriate motions on—that you feel are incorrect and they'll move forward on that mail.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Thank you very much.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, now we'll start the meeting for the interview for Tax Collector for Pam Fontaine, discussion/action. Pam, would you like that in open or closed?

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: We have another issue to raise, and I represent Mrs. Fontaine, and I would just like this placed in the record: uh, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, notice, uh, that, uh, Mrs. Fontaine was eligible under 42-46-5(a)1, the Executive Session section of the Open Meetings Act was given to her at 5:45 p.m. in this building, in my presence, I have a copy of it. Ah, and I presume that a copy of that letter is in, will be in part of your record, sir? Or not, if not, I'll put this in as part of it. Will it be part of your record? May I make this letter part of the record of this proceeding? Thank you very much. It's a letter dated January 27, 2001, (sic) from you Ms. Freeman to Ms. Fontaine.

GORDON ROGERS: Would you like to see that?

TINA W. FREEMAN: Ya—it's the letter to the—

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Is that your letter?

TINA W. FREEMAN: Yes it is.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay. So you're aware of that?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: I am aware of it.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, so do you feel there's a need to stop or can we move forward with the, ah...

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: I don't know the objection to the letter. The letter—he just wanted it to be a part of the record, to be a part of the record. Okay, it's a letter from the clerk.

GORDON ROGERS: So we'll move forward with the, ah, interview for Tax Collector.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Again, for the record, in response to that letter, Mrs. Fontaine waives any right that she has in regard to having a closed session. She's happy to have all of this discussed in public in an open session. As a matter of fact, she prefers it.

GORDON ROGERS: Thank you.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: You're quite welcome.

GORDON ROGERS: Now we'll move forward. Are there any questions? Neal, I know you were pretty interested in interviews and questions.

NEAL WHITELOW: I-I was.

GORDON ROGERS: So.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Let me bring Mrs. Fontaine forward so you can talk to her.

NEAL WHITELOW: Oh, thank you.

TINA W. FREEMAN: Would you like the chair in front or sit at—

NEAL WHITELOW: All set?

PAMELA FONTAINE: I'm set.

NEAL WHITELOW: I guess my first question is, you work for the town for a while, ah, how many years?

PAMELA FONTAINE: A total of fourteen.

(requests from the audience to speak up)

NEAL WHITELOW: My question was how long has she worked for the town and her answer was fourteen years, in, I assume, two separate stints.

PAMELA FONTAINE: Eight years beginning. I left on my own accord, and returned six years ago.

NEAL WHITELOW: Uh, in that time, in your fourteen years, have you have any disciplinary complaints, anything filed against you, anything in your personnel file that says you're an employee, or a bad employee or?

PAMELA FONTAINE: No. Nothing.

NEAL WHITELOW: No complaints, no late for work, no calling out sick, no, no disciplinary action...

PAMELA FONTAINE: Absolutely not.

NEAL WHITELOW:...at all for fourteen years.

NEAL WHITELOW: I don't want to take up everyone's, if you have some questions, I'd certainly prefer other people. I don't want to take up everyone's...

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Well, my, my only...

GORDON ROGERS: Lynne, would you like to ask some questions, Neal's asking.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: No.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: I have a question. Pam, were you aware of the change in the time for your meeting?

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PAMELA FONTAINE: I was not aware. Uh, I was not aware of the time change until the posting of the agenda, um, on Tuesday afternoon after the Town Council president came in, made that change and spoke to the Town Clerk and said that he had spoken to me and, no, he did not speak to me.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: And what did he say that you...approved it?

PAMELA FONTAINE: He did say to the Town Clerk that I approved the change to six o'clock.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: And you did not speak to him.

PAMELA FONTAINE: I did not approve it. I made myself available for this evening. I did have a previous commitment at six o'clock.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: Excuse me. Are you saying that I changed it?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: I'm asking her because I, um, was told that you went to Tina and told her that she okayed the change in the time.

GORDON ROGERS: I absolutely did not say that, I-did I say that Pam okayed, you were there.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I think you mentioned that, um, Nancy Delaere had...

(calls to speak up)

GORDON ROGERS: The schedule wasn't set till that day, at which time I told Tina to inform the applicants when their, ah, interviews were, and Pam's was a six and Nancy's was at six-thirty. Up until then, I didn't think it was written in stone when they were until I showed up and the agenda, so that can be ended right there.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Well, not ended. I'm just saying.

GORDON ROGERS: What does this have to do...

MARIANNE KNIGHT: With the fact that she may not have known.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Excuse me, sir. I represent Mrs. Fontaine.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: He represents her.

GORDON ROGERS: Excuse me sir. What's your name?

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: My name is Read.

GORDON ROGERS: I was not talking to Pam or you.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: But I thought...

GORDON ROGERS: That's three. That's it. Any more and I'm gonna ask you to leave.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: You can ask me to leave any time, but I'm not gonna give up my responsibilities. There's no reason for the council to fight during my client's interview. She's here to be interviewed for a job. That's what she's here for, not to put up with your silliness.

GORDON ROGERS: Please sit down. Is there any further questions?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Do you have one now?

NEAL WHITELOW: Sure. I-I just want, if someone else has questions? Ah, actually I was thrown a copy of questions that I guess had to be written down, and I don't know who actually put these together, but they seem to be questions that someone made up and sent an email out to, and wanted us, or wanted someone to answer these questions. And I don't know if both applicants got these questions.

GORDON ROGERS: That's a good question. I don't know.

NEAL WHITELOW: Does anybody else have this? It was an email that was sent to everyone.

GORDON ROGERS: I believe it was the Treasurer stated she wanted a few questions asked and she asked if she could write 'em up cause she couldn't be present, so that's where they came about. Ah, I'm, that's all I know about it.

NEAL WHITELOW: So, I guess I'll ask her the questions. I mean, I just, I assume that the applicants also got a copy of these questions. I don't know that for sure, but uh, and I guess I'll ask both applicants this at the proper time. The first question, and if someone else wants to ask these go ahead 'cause there all on paper here. What have you done to stay current in tax law, and I don't know what that means, but this is somebody else's questions, so...

PAMELA FONTAINE: I'll just stand so everybody can hear me or whatever. Um, as far as staying current in, um, state law or whatever, I am currently on the executive board of the Rhode Island Tax Collector's Association, um, very much involved in State Statutes and whatever, we are trying to pass new legislation. I'm also a past vice president of the northeast region when we had a conference in Newport two years ago and whatever, and also chair on the executive board there. I'm very, very much involved in both organizations as far as professionalism, continuing education credits, um attending seminars, ethics, uh, ruling, uh, all kinds of seminars on everything, bankruptcies, tax sales, you name it.

NEAL WHITELOW: So I guess the answer is yes, you've been current in tax law...

PAMELA FONTAINE: Absolutely.

NEAL WHITELOW: and you've actually...

PAMELA FONTAINE: I love it, I love staying current and knowing what's going on.

NEAL WHITELOW: I guess, I guess I got a little question from this question, in your past, and it was six years your last, or your present stint in the...

PAMELA FONTAINE: Six years is my present stint, correct.

NEAL WHITELOW: Just, and not a specific number, how many laws have changed in the past six years, has there been a binder full or just a couple?

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PAMELA FONTAINE: Quite a few laws have changed in regard to the tax sales procedures. One of them is absolutely the Madelyn Walker Act. Um, that is major. There is also legislation, the RI Housing is involved in that, Elderly Affairs is involved in that, and there are also new legislation for them in this current session that I'm aware of that we are fighting. I have also when we were at, um, the Northeast Region in, it was in Lake George as a matter of fact, and we wrote to all of the U.S. Senators or whatever, because there was a bill going to be passed at the federal level for the collectors to be able to go after, if there was a refund coming from the IRS so that we would be able to get money, and so we all signed letters, we faxed them, we emailed them, we sent them or whatever. Unfortunately it did not pass, but we tried, and we continue to try.

NEAL WHITELOW: Any follow up questions? Uh, the next question, I guess it's from the, from the finance director. What is the legal definition of a tax levy?

PAMELA FONTAINE: Legal definition of a tax levy is the amount of taxes needed to be raised to cover your expenditures.

NEAL WHITELOW: Everybody understand that?

GORDON ROGERS: Yup. I know the answer to that one.

NEAL WHITELOW: Uh, the next question is when are the tax bills due in the Town of Foster?

PAMELA FONTAINE: Tax bills are due July 15th, October 15th, January 15th, and April 15th. However we do give until the end of the month before interest accrues.

NEAL WHITELOW: Any follow up questions? I have one, have you, or have you in the past set up different payment schedules for people so they can pay weekly, biweekly...

PAMELA FONTAINE: Yes I have.

NEAL WHITELOW: ...monthly, rather than just saving up the money and paying it per quarter.

PAMELA FONTAINE: Yes I have. Yes I have. I've taken that responsibility on by myself. I feel that in these times or whatever, and we are a small community that we need to work together. I have no problem making out payment plans to help people. Um, if it's going to save their houses and save their livelihoods, keep their children and their families together, absolutely. I think it's a good...you're not going to find that in a big city, and you're not gonna find that, and when I talk to people even at Rhode Island Housing and I mention that to them, they're amazed and they wish that more people would be doing that.

NEAL WHITELOW: Uh, any follow up questions? Uh, what is the State legal limit of interest per year and per month, and I assume that's on unpaid taxes.

PAMELA FONTAINE: It's twelve percent anum, one percent a month.

NEAL WHITELOW: Any follow-ups? No? Uh, how would you determine interest on a payment made August 31st, I'm sorry August 31st, due July 15th. And that seems backwards to me, that it would be July 15th and...

PAMELA FONTAINE: Due July 15th but paid August 1st.

NEAL WHITELOW: There ya go.

PAMELA FONTAINE: It would be one percent interest. Excuse me, let me correct that, it will be one percent interest depending upon what year they were paying.

NEAL WHITELOW: There ya go. And how would you handle collection of delinquent accounts.

PAMELA FONTAINE: Again, I've taken that upon myself. Um, there is no State statute, actually there's no State statute that says that you even have to send out tax bills, it is a courtesy, although people don't realize that. Um, one of the things that I did take upon myself, actually a coupla things, was to, um, if a person paid late, and there was interest charged or whatever, their not going to know that. Most people are not gonna be aware of that. The bigger cities and towns are not gonna send you a letter. I do send a letter. So we can get that extra money, people will be current, and that type of thing. As far as the delinquent taxes, I've taken that upon myself, I send out delinquent notices at the, after the end each quarter for motor vehicles, real estate, and tangibles. And I try to get them out within a week or two weeks after the closing of the quarter, once everything is posted.

NEAL WHITELOW: Excellent. Those are the questions from, I believe, the, ah, Town Treasurer.

GORDON ROGERS: I got a question. Ah, when it gets to the point where it isn't paid, do we sent it to an outside agency for collections, or is it done in house?

PAMELA FONTAINE: Motor vehicles, um, if it's, I do report to Rossi Law Office which is our collection agency. They have a skip and trace system, they are able to get a better collection rate than us because, first of all when you've get an attorney's letter, people respond a little bit better than the tax collector. Um, I do, after July, after all the bills are sent, if anything that comes back with that address and we cannot forward them, I give them all of those. I also link them to any of the past accounts that we've sent to them.

GORDON ROGERS: How long have we had the collection agency used?

PAMELA FONTAINE: Since 1993. I implemented it. We were actually one of the first customers of Rossi Law Office.

GORDON ROGERS: Did you work for them?

PAMELA FONTAINE: Nope.

GORDON ROGERS: No. And we've used them continually since 1993 to current.

PAMELA FONTAINE: Yes.

GORDON ROGERS: That's all I had.

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MARIANNE KNIGHT: Um, I have a couple of questions. Um, what form of payment is acceptable for back taxes? Um, motor vehicle versus real estate.

PAMELA FONTAINE: Motor vehicles for, um, registration purposes, it needs to be cash or a cashier's check. We now presently have an ATM machine in the middle of the Town Hall in the hallway there or whatever, so it works out very well.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Okay, what about real estate?

PAMELA FONTAINE: Real estate could be cash or a cashier's check. If it's on the tax sale list, it has to be cash or a cashier's check.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Okay. Um, what do you do if you get a return check, and how does that affect the accrual of interest?

PAMELA FONTAINE: If a return check comes in, we redeposit it second time. If it comes back a second time after that, it—we will redeposit. After three times, we send a certified letter saying that it will be turned over to the police department, you need to back up that payment and interest will accrue on the last payment that was just made.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: When, when is somebody placed on a tax sale list, according to State Law?

PAMELA FONTAINE: State Law is two years.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Two years. Okay. Um, what's the legal procedure for a tax sale?

PAMELA FONTAINE: Quite lengthy. Thanks to Madelyn Walker. It's actually a nine month, um, it's around a nine month process.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Okay.

PAMELA FONTAINE: Um, I send out letters, first letters go out usually in October/November.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Mmhmm.

PAMELA FONTAINE: The second would go out in December, the third would be the ninety day notice, by State Law you have to do that. You also have to notify Elderly Affairs and Rhode Island Housing.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Okay.

PAMELA FONTAINE: After that, it goes to the Title Company with a listing. They will come out and do the title searches or whatever, the ninety day letters go out, the certified go out to any of the mortgage holders, the lien holders or whatever, on those properties. You keep a listing of those that come back if they're deliverable, if they're not, if there's an address, we forward that on to the title company or whatever. After that, people are still, once they're notified, that when you get the phone calls, they still have a chance to pay up or whatever before it goes into advertisement, it needs to be advertised in the Providence Journal, three weeks ahead of time.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Okay.

PAMELA FONTAINE: The first ad has all the properties with the plats and lots and addresses. Second and third and fourth ads are just to say when the day is and the time.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Wow.

PAMELA FONTAINE: It is lengthy.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: What about redemption for properties sold at tax sale?

PAMELA FONTAINE: Redemption for a property at tax sale, if it's purchased by an outside person, rather than Rhode Island Housing...

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Mmhmm.

PAMELA FONTAINE: Well, let me back up. Rhode Island Housing, according to the Madelyn Walker Bill, has first dibs on properties. They do not even have to come and bid. They can say to you, we're gonna take these properties. We need the check before the tax sale, otherwise it can still be up for tax sale. If an individual comes in and there are people who do this for a living, let me tell ya. So people come in, they bid or whatever, the original owner has a year from the day of the tax sale to redeem it. It is ten percent interest on the first six months, and one percent after that. When they go to redeem it, it is to bring everything current, they have to pay all the advertising fees, all the certified, everything. They also have to pay the redemption deed to be recorded and that's to be prepared. It's lengthy.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: How often to you report delinquent taxes to the collection agency, Rossi?

PAMELA FONTAINE: Yes, again I do that usually in August after the bills are out, after they come back.

Again, if we need to link them to other bills because there are people for years, people move, they don't—they forget to change their addresses, give us their addresses or whatever. As things come in, and I still cannot find them, if I sent out a delinquent notice and it comes back undeliverable, I immediately turn it over to the collection agency. Again, the sooner that you turn over to them, the sooner you're gonna get some money.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Um, one more. Uh, when a delinquent tax bill is paid, how do you apply the payment?

PAMELA FONTAINE: Interest is always applied first, and then the rest goes to, um, the principle.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Okay, that's all I have.

PAMELA FONTAINE: And that is by State Law.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: That's all I have.

MICHAEL DILLON: Something easy.

PAMELA FONTAINE: Really.

MICHAEL DILLON: Go back to payments.

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PAMELA FONTAINE: Yes.

MICHAEL DILLON: Uh, the Town has online payments. Uh...

PAMELA FONTAINE: That's also something that I instituted with Rossi Law Office...

MICHAEL DILLON: Okay, there—there's a fee for online...

PAMELA FONTAINE: There is a fee for on—for online payment. When people call and ask me if-if we accept them, I do say that. I give them the option to let them know that there is an online payment. It is anywhere up to three percent and actually at the Rhode Island Tax Collector's Association Meeting that we just had, we had Webster Bank there doing a presentation on that. It is three percent of whatever that you put on. We do not get that, the banks get that.

MICHAEL DILLON: The bank gets that.

PAMELA FONTAINE: We do not get any of that. The only thing that we get is the tax payment and if there's an interest payment. That's all that we get.

MICHAEL DILLON: Wow.

PAMELA FONTAINE: And I let people know that because it's your decision whether you want to do that. That's personal and I'm not gonna get into that.

MICHAEL DILLON: I was gonna pay online, and they were gonna charge me \$61.00 to go like that.

PAMELA FONTAINE: Yes. That's why I tell people all the time, it's your decision.

MICHAEL DILLON: Why, uh, well...

PAMELA FONTAINE: The more you put on, the bigger the payment, the bigger the fee is gonna be.

MICHAEL DILLON: Why is that the bank charges, do you have any idea?

PAMELA FONTAINE: Even if you go to a retailer, you're charged something or whatever, you're not seeing that fee but that's part of it. All of them do that. Anything with a credit card, there are fees. You're just not seeing them, you're seeing it on this one.

MICHAEL DILLON: Uh, well, you're not gonna see if, the fee, if-if you have credit cards to pay off, if that you can pay off without.

PAMELA FONTAINE: No, if you go to uh, uh, the supermarket and charge...

MICHAEL DILLON: I'm not questioning you on the fee, it just...

PAMELA FONTAINE: No, I understand.

MICHAEL DILLON: I just thought it was a little ridiculous.

PAMELA FONTAINE: It is a lot, and that's why I tell people, that's why I tell people. I mean, personally for me, would I want to do that between the interest that you're gonna pay on your credit card, the fees and whatever, I'm not sure it's worth it. But that's not my decision to make for somebody else. It is a convenience for people, we do have some people who do it all the time or whatever, they're fine wi—some-some people with their credit cards get reward points, get free mileage, and whatever, so, it's a personal decision and you can't get into it.

GORDON ROGERS: Is that it? Okay, I guess that concludes the...

NEAL WHITELOW: I just said I would like to thank you for coming and is there something you'd like to add that maybe be haven't asked, or your attorney would like to put on the record.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Yeah, if I may speak for... In the six years that Mrs. Fontaine has served in the position as Tax Collector for the town, uh, the efficiency of the office is not only measurable, you can measure it in dollars and cents. Prior to her arrival and taking the tax assessor's office, you were losing about two-hundred thousand bucks a year, about two percent on a ten million dollar budget. Since she took over as tax collector, your money, your cash flow has increased by two percent. That means you got \$200,000.00 to give to South Foster Volunteer Fire Department to fund your programs, and to supply your, supply your municipal services. That's why (unintelligible) The predecessor didn't hold tax sales. Mrs. Fontaine does. She runs the office professionally and puts on a good case for the town council. People going to the town hall and have to do business, most people in this town, the only connection that they have with the Town of Foster is this little lady right here. They don't get stopped by the police. They don't have the occasion to talk to you except every two years when you knock on their door. They don't have occasion to be with the highway department or anything of that nature. They—everybody has to pay their taxes, well almost everybody, uh, but they have to pay their taxes, and they see her. And people like her, I mean, there's a lot to be said for being liked. I know that tonight I may have been disliked by some of you, but there's a lot to be said for being liked. And she puts on a real professional face for you. She's kept herself current, and up to date on the law. She stayed in the law, she stayed, as far as I know, pretty much out of controversial things, politics and religion that might otherwise interfere with the exercise of her office, and people—the fact that there's all these people here, look at, the room's full of people—and I'll guarantee ya, I-I know, ninety-eight percent of 'em on here on her behalf. And so all that applause you just heard, really, is for you because she's your public face. People we see are here, w-w fightin' with the town council president or talking to Mr. Iglizzi or something. She's really a wonderful face for you, you should be proud to have her. You should be really, really proud to have her. I know that my town would be proud to have her. I think that the audits show that she runs a clean shop. There hasn't been a penny that's gone the wrong way. Every audit that's come out from 2006 on, and I've got 'em all, show that the shop is run as professionally, as clean, as the U.S. Treasury, and probably a little better with today's policies. So I think you, your lucky that you have somebody, ah, who has the skills, the personality the acumen, and the

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relationships with your taxpayers, your citizens, your constituents, to make you look good, and I think that, quite frankly, I don't like to say, uh, bad of anybody else and I don't know the other candidate at all, but I think that she's have to be pretty impressive, uh, to force you to the position where you're gonna fix what ain't broken by, uh, not renewing Mrs. Fontaine's term. It's just unnecessary. Thank you so much.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: Thank you. Anything else, Pam?

PAMELA FONTAINE: Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: Thank you very much.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Mr. President, I have a question, if I may pose to you.

GORDON ROGERS: Is this pertaining to, ah, the interview.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: No, pertaining to the—

GORDON ROGERS: Sorry, it's not on the agenda.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: No, the next interview is.

GORDON ROGERS: It's gonna be enclosed.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: That's the question. Hold on, hold on. With all respect...

GORDON ROGERS: No.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Fine. Then I'll...

GORDON ROGERS: This is to interview candidates.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: I understand that. You're not listening to me.

GORDON ROGERS: That's right.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Okay, but the record is. So let me put it on the record so when the court gets a chance to look at this, they'll have an opportunity to understand why I think you're wrong. Now maybe you're not.

GORDON ROGERS: Please. That's not called for right now. We're doing interviews, it's not on the agenda.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: It's the next interview!

GORDON ROGERS: It's in closed session.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: I understand that.

GORDON ROGERS: Good. No.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: That's what I want to talk to you about

GORDON ROGERS: That's it. No.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: That is wrong.

GORDON ROGERS: Good. Then it's wrong. File your papers with the court. We're moving on. Thank you.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: You're welcome.

GORDON ROGERS: Next we have an interview which is enclosed, ah, in Executive Session. It's a closed interview.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Where're you gonna hold it, Mr. President?

GORDON ROGERS: Right here.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: We're not leavin'.

GORDON ROGERS: Yeah, we're gonna make the motion right now.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I move to go into Executive Closed Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42.42.4 ...

MICHAEL DILLON: Can't hear ya, Lynne.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I move to go into Executive Closed Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42.42.4 for the reasons stated in the Rhode Island General Laws 46.46.5 for the discussion of personnel or job performance according to Rhode Island General Laws 42.46.5(a)1.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: You need a second and a roll call vote.

GORDON ROGERS: Is there a second on that?

MICHAEL DILLON: Second.

GORDON ROGERS: Tina.

TINA W. FREEMAN: Neal?

NEAL WHITELOW: No.

TINA W. FREEMAN: Gordon?

GORDON ROGERS: Yes.

TINA W. FREEMAN: Mike?

MICHAEL DILLON: Yes.

TINA W. FREEMAN: Marianne?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: No.

TINA W. FREEMAN: Lynne

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Yes.

GORDON ROGERS: 'kay. We are gonna now convene into Executive Session, ah, everyone will have to go outside.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: It's twenty-two degrees outside.

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ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Do you have another place to go.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: That was part of the objection I...

GORDON ROGERS: I'm discussing this with the solicitor. Please—

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: I'm discussing it with you.

GORDON ROGERS: That's it. Enough. Stop. Stop. Stop. Mr. Igliazzi.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: What am I, a petulant child?

GORDON ROGERS: Yes you are, you're acting like one. Mr. Igliazzi.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Mr. Chairman, you can do one of two things, you can either (unintelligible) you can conduct the interview, not to go into closed session, the council could there, people don't have to go outside, there's no place for them to go.

GORDON ROGERS: Well, I can check the back room, I think it might be locked. Unless you want to go down in the bays...

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: It doesn't matter. If you want to do that, you certainly can do that, and then, and if you want to do that, you can go in another room.

GORDON ROGERS: I'll check it, I think the room is locked, the office, but, would you like to go in the bays? Or you wanna do it here?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: It doesn't make a difference.

GORDON ROGERS: Makes no difference to me, they don't want to go outside in the cold.

NEAL WHITELOW: Ah, I wasn't informed about any of this.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: I'm saying right now.

NEAL WHITELOW: Having no place to go. I understand that.

MICHAEL DILLON: This was planned.

NEAL WHITELOW: No it wasn't planned.

GORDON ROGERS: No there's not, we can go down in the truck bays. You guys don't wanna go outside, right?

(multiple people say no)

LYNNE S. RYDER: There are elderly people here.

GORDON ROGERS: They can go downstairs then.

LYNNE S. RIDER: No, it's not handicapped accessible.

GORDON ROGERS: It's Executive Session.

LYNNE S. RIDER: Feel free to go downstairs.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: That's the point we tried to bring to your attention.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Is there a place to go?

GORDON ROGERS: The kitchen? Or downstairs in the bays.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Either one.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: No not in Executive Session.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Not for the reason you called. Unless you're gonna talk about job performance...

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Yes, we can go into Executive Session.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, we'll go downstairs.

Michael E. Dillon moved, Neal C. Whitelaw seconded, and it was so voted to come out of Executive Session according to 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

A roll call vote was taken.

Marianne Knight aye, Gordon E. Rogers aye, Neal C. Whitelaw aye, Michael E. Dillon aye, Lynne A. DeStefano aye.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

GORDON ROGERS: We now reconvene in the open session after the Executive Session. There was a vote taken to allow the representative from the Treasurer's Department to be in the meeting and the interview and, uh, other than that all the minutes will be sealed until they're pertinent. Now moving on...Public Comment. Tina Freeman.

TINA FREEMAN: Tina Freeman, Town Clerk, I just briefly wanted to, uh, update the public. I'm sure you've all been aware of the budget changes and with the current reductions done so far with the increase in co-pays, uh, the furlough days, um, the Town Hall employees, including myself, to this day has taken a three percent cut in pay, which does include the DPW workers and directors. If the additional six furlough days are implemented, excuse me, um, the, uh, reduction in pay would be nine percent as of July of last year. I did ask Kelli to include me in those six furlough

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days if it was needed. I know I am not obligated to be included in those, I am an elected official, but I asked her to include me to support my staff and my coworkers. GORDON ROGERS: Excuse me if I don't pronounce it right, it's kind of hard to read the writing—Arthur...Rill?

Atty. Arthur Read Esq.: Read. Thank you, sir. Mr. President, Mister Vice President, members of council, I'd like to direct my attention to the matters of the 6 o'clock meeting. Uh, as I tried to indicate earlier to the town council, there were some legitimate issues that were raised concerning whether or not the meeting was properly noticed under our law. I understand that the Capt. Isaac Paine School, Capt. Isaac Paine School, roof fell in today and that there was something unusual nature; nevertheless, I think it important, and our legislature has thought it important, that people be not only able to attend meetings but that they receive proper notice of it. Even given the exigent circumstances of today, posted notice—literally less than three hours, I think two and a half hours, prior to the scheduled time for the meeting is as I suggest, inappropriate.

The last session was held in executive session. Now I understand that people, including other than the town treasurer who certainly I think was an appropriate addition to that interview, attended that meeting. Now I haven't heard, perhaps the record will show us, but I believe that at least two, perhaps as many as three people other than members of the town council that's sitting, the Town Clerk, the Town Treasurer and the candidate went into Executive Session. I suggest that that's improper; and I also question why the council felt it was necessary to go into Executive Session, I think it's important because, although they indicated a section of the law under which they purported to operate, it might be instructive if you knew what the law said. This says, it's a proper (unintelligible) to go into Executive Session when there will be discussion referring to job performance, character, physical or mental health of a person. That's all private stuff, and that's stuff we're not entitled to know about. Now I understand that the person in the Executive—who was interviewed in Executive Session, Nancy Delaere—I know her—but my understanding is that she couldn't possibly be talking about her job performance because she hasn't been in the job for some six years. I can't imagine that her character is at issue, but perhaps it was, or her physical or mental health was at issue. And unless the town council is going to show us in the minutes, which I presume we'll get at some point, that those were the issues, then that interview should have been held just like Ms. Fontaine's was here. And I also suggest that, um, fair is fair, and that politics is a blood sport, and I've been playing it for many years, but to comply with the law 16 minutes before the beginning of a meeting and to give, in this case Mrs. Fontaine, but really it could have been anybody, perhaps Mrs. Delaere, too, I don't know, the letter that the Open Meetings Act requires, that says that if you want to have it public, you can have it public. To do that, and to give them the option to make that decision moments before the meeting begins, flies in the face and spirit of the Open Meetings law, and it's just not good government, it's just not the way people should be treated in our daily lives. So I direct my comments to the agenda, uh, I am, uh, personally sorry that I found myself in dispute with your president, and that's not what I came for here at all. And I-I-I hope he feels the same way, uh, but procedure is sometimes as important, or more important, than the result. And the process is important here and that's why he is there to protect Mrs. Fontaine's interest as we go on. Now, it is an appointed position, she serves at the pleasure of the council, so does Mrs. Delaere and so does anybody else including the police chief; and if you want to get rid of Mrs. Fontaine, or the police chief because you don't like them, that's perfectly okay, you don't have to like them. You can't get rid of them because you don't like their religion or a display of politics, you can get rid of them. (unintelligible) but to drag this out and have things the way we saw them tonight, and from what I heard on the CD from the last meeting, it's just, uh, government gone awry. So I appreciate the opportunity to address these issues that concerned me on your agenda, and I'll speak at the Concerned Citizens section with regard to the actions that you take. Thank you, sir. GORDON ROGERS: Pam Fontaine.

Pamela Fontaine: I would like to first thank everybody that came here this evening. I know that it's kind of terrible out there tonight, it's been a crazy day or whatever and we're all dealing with snow piles up the ying yang. I'd like to thank the town council for taking few minutes of their time to interview me tonight, and I also like to remember to remind everyone here that it is very important to have your taxes collected on a regular basis, on a prompt time, and the dollar amount. The dollar

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amount is the bottom line here, regardless of whether it's my position, the DPW, your police department, the town does not run without the tax dollars, that is the bottom line, regardless of anything. If you think you can afford to lose one percent of a ten million dollar budget, that's major. We are in a crisis. We are in a crisis, not just this town but across the state, every city and town is in the same dilemma. It's not going to get any better. The state's not going to give us more money, we know that, so let's just try to work together and get through this, and make the town better. Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: Kathleen Swanson.

Kathleen Swanson, School Committee Chair: Thank you. Hi, Kathleen Swanson. I just wanted to say you've probably all heard about the roof collapse at the school, and we're gonna need a pretty massive volunteer force to try to get things back to order; we're needing to move all the classroom supplies, desks and chairs to a new location. So if you're interested in being contacted to help with that, I put a sign-up sheet in the back of the room, and you can just indicate your name and phone number and any nights or days you are available. We don't have a plan yet but when we do we'll certainly need help from the community if you're able to. Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: That'll be up here if you want to sign it. Next we have Lillian Jackson.

Lillian Jackson, Deputy Town Treasurer: Good evening. (reads from a letter) I have worked with Pam Fontaine for two years now, and I just wanted to express the dedication and the ability that she has shown with all the taxpayers in the Town of Foster. She has helped a lot of people with their taxes with putting them on a payment plan and also caring for, uh, all the people she has shown and understands completely and is up-to-date on all State Laws and Mandates. She is also involved with the Rhode Island Tax Collectors Association and also the Northeast Region Tax Collector and Treasurers Association. So I sincerely hope that you will consider Pam for the Tax Collector's position, not only for Pam, the Town of Foster, but for yourselves to make this the right decision. Your decision will not only be a reflection of yourselves but for the benefit of the town. Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: Please state your name and address also, I forgot to mention that. Uh, Patricia Morgan.

PATRICIA MORGAN: Patricia Morgan, Danielson Pike. I'm curious... you have an excellent Tax Collector with every kind of credential she would need who has done the job excellently for as long as she has been there, and suddenly you come into office and you decided to bop her out and bring a new person in. Now I'm from the old school which says "if it's not broke, don't fix it". And I remember back before she came, before there were other people, I was afraid to send a check to the office because it wouldn't get cashed for seven months, or it would get lost, or I would get a notice that I hadn't paid her taxes when I had—and the point is, that's never happened with her. We have a good Tax Collector, let's keep her!

GORDON ROGERS: Ginny Colwell.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Ginny Colwell, Salisbury Road. I'm also speaking for my husband, Steve Didow, he has also signed this piece of paper but he's unable to be here tonight because we have a 97-year-old uncle who lives with us that one of us needs to be home with him. Um, it became apparent at the end of the Town Council meeting held January 13th what the intentions were of the majority of the council considering the hiring of a Tax Collector. Pam Fontaine has been doing her job well for many years and stands, so it stands to reason that she is, if she is fired, it would be personal; in other words, without merit and at a cost to the taxpayers. We do not care what favors you have promised, we care what it will cost us. Not only can the taxpayers not afford to replace an individual who has been more than competent in their position in such a critical time of the year, the taxpayers cannot afford to pay unemployment in the amount of over \$20,000.00. It will be irresponsible for the Town Council to impose such a penalty on the taxpayers. Furthermore, how can a Town Council member justify cutting support to services that support the lives and home of the taxpayers only to wastefully spend that money replacing a valuable employee of the town? There is no logical reason for doing so. Remember, you are responsible to carry out the wants and the needs of the taxpayers and no one's personal agendas. As taxpayers of this town, my husband and I urge all town council members to vote your own mind and remember the taxpayers have spoken in the form of overwhelming support for Pam...for Pam...for Pam Fontaine, excuse me, received at the last meeting and I'm sure the support will be equal if not more at this meeting. I would to ask each of the town council members, based on the interviews

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you have held, do you feel that it should cost the taxpayers over \$60,000.00 for a Tax Collector?—which is what would happen if Pam was replaced—and this is no reflection whatsoever on Mrs. Delaere, I don't know her personally, that is irrelevant. Um, Mrs. Knight do you think it would be appropriate to spend what would end up costing taxpayers \$60,000.00?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: No.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Mr. Whitelaw?

NEAL WHITE LAW: No.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Mr. Dillon?

MICHAEL DILLON: Are we being interviewed?

GORDON ROGERS: It's Public Comment. We don't have to—there's no discussion at all.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: You don't have to answer it if you don't wish to, I suppose. Mr. Rogers?

MICHAEL DILLON: I'd have to verify the numbers.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Ms. DeStefano? No...or?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I'm not understanding the question. Could you repeat the question?

VIRGINIA COLWELL: If we hire a different Tax Collector, we will then—on top of that salary—have to pay over \$20,000.00 in unemployment for Pam being dismissed. So if you add the two of them together, the Tax Collector will then cost us over \$60,000.00. Would you hire a Tax Collector for \$60,000.00?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I'm not sure that would be the figure used. So I can't...

VIRGINIA COLWELL: It would be, it would be ballpark. If that is indeed the case, would you spend \$60,000.00 for a Tax Collector.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Well, that's a lot of money.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: So would you?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: That's a lot of money.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: If it is the case, if it is the case—granted I don't have—

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Right.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: So if that is the case, would you pay \$60,000.00 for a tax collector?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: That is a lot of money.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: If your answer is no, then your choice is simple, you keep the person who is already doing the job well, and save the taxpayers over \$20,000.00. Thank you very much.

GORDON ROGERS: Polly Cairone.

POLLY CAIRONE: Polly Cairone, King Road, Foster. I just got a message from the Superintendent, Michael Barnes, and they're cancelling all the schools for tomorrow so that they can evaluate all the structures of the schools to make sure the children are safe.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: All Foster-Glocester Regional schools?

POLLY CAIRONE: All Foster-Glocester Regional schools are now closed for tomorrow. They're gonna reevaluate the roofs...

LYNNE DESTEFANO: On all the schools?

POLLY CAIRONE: On all the schools, because of what happened at Paine today. All the Foster-Glocester schools have been working together today because of the crisis at Paine, you know, they've opened up their doors to the Paine students to take them in—Glocester, the Middle School—wherever we can put them. And I'm encouraging you all to spread the word of the help needed to pull this crisis together. Foster residents have a history of pulling together for a common cause, like the playground when it was first built behind Paine school. So I'm encouraging you all to spread the word and saying, you know, the kids need help, the parents need help, the teachers need help. Paine School is a family school. Everybody knows each other and works together, and I think Foster should do that too, residents too, as America should, but everybody's too political, so, but I'm just reminding everybody, it for the goal of the students to work together and help. Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: Douglas Thoman.

DOUGLAS THOMAN: Doug Thoman, 33 Balcom Road, I've been a resident of Foster for 74 years: 02825. I'd like to, uh, address the issue of the Tax Collector, Pam Fontaine. It seems to me she's done an ex—exple—excellent—exemplary job in all the times I've been paying my taxes and I've lived here for, like I said, all my life. Uh, she never received a bad letter from the townspeople...the Town Council stated. She's

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never been late, she dresses appropriately, and, uh, she seems to bond well with people who are having trouble with their taxes, and that's not easy. Uh, one of the big issues—I did a little homework—the Providence Water Supply Board was delinquent in their taxes for a few years, and, uh, Pam, uh, got the back taxes and in an amount to a lot of money, and they haven't been late on their payments since; and that's money for the Town of Foster, not for Pam, not for me, but for the Town of Foster. The other thing was, um, amongst her peers, and she spoke about that she belongs to, th-- the organizations, she was rated with a 97.8 percent average of knowledge and good works, and I think that's amazing. Now, one day when all of you are standing before your Maker, and He asks if you've been fair, honest and impartial, what are you gonna to say? What are you gonna say? And that's all I have to say.

GORDON ROGERS: Ron Cervasio.

RONALD CERVASIO: Ron Cervasio, 142A Old Plainfield Pike. Tonight you have a budget...I'm gonna change the subject. Um, it's about the town. Tonight you have a budget before you and I hope you're gonna do the same thing, you're gonna talk about line items. I hope you would start with projections of where you are as of July 1st. Me being not smart, my projection is you start July 1st \$500,000.00 in the hole. It really does—I wasn't here for the interviews, I don't care about the interviews. The last council spent a lot of time protecting jobs so that we couldn't save money. There seems to be a few people here protecting jobs so we can't save money. This has nothing to do with these interviews tonight. You do have one opportunity in front of you that will be very unpopular: your Paine school is, at this point, defunct. You could send the fifth grade to the region by the charter and you could send the rest of the Paine school to Gloucester and cut the administrative overhead by about—uh, since I was on the school committee last year before you didn't vote for me—probably \$200,000.00. So, uh, everybody wants to save money; everybody talks about \$2000 of this and \$4 worth of salt, and who should we hire. You need, in my mind—and I'm sure your Treasurer has done this, I know she's got projections, uh, for the council, I know you know them right? You're starting \$500,000.00 in the hole. Okay?

GORDON ROGERS: Robert Hohler.

ROBERT HOHLER: Robert Hohler, Weatherbee Road. I got a two-fold question. First one is, many of you know, many you don't know, but I put my resume in for Highway Director. Um, I looked at it like “if it wasn't broke, why fix it?”...so, and I, and Mr. Clarkin obviously is doing a good job so if it's not broke, why try to fix it? Alright so that's my thing, if it's not broke, don't fix it. The second thing, the second part of it is, could we move the New Business of appointing of our probationary officer who has his family here up, so he could get sworn in sooner instead of having them stay through the entire meeting which, you know, is gonna be pretty lengthy. I'm just throwin' that out, I think you can do it as a council and it would be a nice thing to do.

GORDON ROGERS: Debra Duarte. Deb Duarte.

DEBRA DUARTE: Hi, I'm Deb Duarte, 11 Abby Lane. I've been in town for 26, 27 years. I've dealt with Pam who has been tremendous. She has never had any issues. I go in, I pay my taxes in person. She's always been professional, she's been right there, she's been friendly, and like they're sayin' why do you need to fix something that isn't broken? She gets along great, she helps those that need help. I say stay with Pam.

GORDON ROGERS: Lynne Rider.

LYNNE S. RIDER: First like to address the issue of, um, the Tax Collector. According to RI Law, uh, General Law 36-14-1 which is the declaration of policy for the Code of Ethics. It says, “it is the policy of the state of Rhode Island, that public officials and employees must adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct, respect the public trust, and rights of all persons, be open, accountable, responsive, avoid the appearance of impropriety, and not use their position for private gain or advantage.” Aside from the obvious fiscal benefits of keeping Pam, which is, you do not have to pay out—and I asked the Treasurer—it will be between \$21 and \$25 thousand dollars of unemployment benefits, plus, I'm sure that you kept the audit and checked the collection rate for the past 10 years and you noted that Pam has been consistently 2 to 3 points higher in her collection rate than the former Tax Collector who you are considering hiring again. Each point represents \$100,000.00. This is not a time that this town can afford to throw away 2 or 3 hundred thousand dollars. Also, as far as the appearance of impropriety, she personally cannot get away from the fact, that three members of this council who owe back taxes: 1) the president chronically owing back taxes, are going—

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GORDON ROGERS: There will be no personal attacks—

LYNNE S. RIDER: Hiring—hiring someone who owes back taxes—“

GORDON ROGERS: Miss Ryder, Miss Ryder there'll be no personal attacks under public comment.

LYNNE S. RIDER: That is public record, on the record.

GORDON ROGERS: Second time, you'll be removed.

LYNNE S. RIDER: I'm sure you'd love that.

GORDON ROGERS: No personal attacks. You've been removed before.

LYNNE S. RIDER: Most of us in this room know that the reason for Pam's renewal is because she fell out of favor with the current insurgent-run Republican Town Committee. Also on that point, I'd like to address the status of the Town Planner.

Now perhaps you're not well aware of what the Planner does. She is basically the person who oversees the Comprehensive Plan, the Comprehensive Plan that needs to be updated this year. The Comprehensive Plan that is basically the “bible” outline for the Town of Foster going forward. Mrs. Ignasher is also a lawyer which has helped tremendously. She has been on many, many committees, and I'd like to read a letter that, I'm sure you read it, as part of her resume. This is from Joseph F. Garlick, Jr. who is the Executive Director of Neighborhoodworks, (sic) Blackstone River Valley: “I am writing to voice my support for the appointment of Ms. Ann-Marie Ignasher as Foster Town Planner. We know you've reappointed her, but you plan on cutting her hours down. I have worked with Ms. Ignasher over the past two years as she has diligently worked to address the issue of Affordable Housing and Community Development. She is an informed and forceful advocate for the town and for its rural character. Her professionalism and commitment are acknowledged widely by myriad regulatory and planning bodies that she much interact with in her day to day work. I have been very impressed with the team approach that she brings to her work involving other town employees as situations warrant, in order to cut through bureaucratic road blocks and reach a solution that benefits the town, residents and property owners. She is very adept as a fund raiser and grant writer, bringing in a significant amount of outside resources to benefit the town and improve the quality of life for its residents.” And you will notice that on the sheet of budget cuts, the amount of money to be saved by cutting Miss...the Town Planner's hours down to 20 is less than the back taxes owed by the President of the Council.

RONALD CERVASIO: Your indulgence, I forgot one thing I was gonna say. Uh, it's very interesting—Ms. Ryder actually reminded me of this—taxes are triple per thousand of the taxes in Narragansett. I think the planner is a highly-trained professional; however, she serves as the behest, or bequest—whatever—of the planning board, and your town has no plan. None. You have no plan for the future, you're in the spot you're in because you haven't had a plan for this point. You could have, in 1978, predicted, an actuarial could have predicted, the financial collapse that you're in because you were gonna spend at 3 percent of gross in more than the state is now allowing you to tax, and you've picked up no other revenue but the 200 or 250 houses you built since 1980, and those houses at some point are 2.2 kids which cost you more than you bring in. You have no plan.

GORDON ROGERS: Mike Carpenter.

MICHAEL CARPENTER: Mike Carpenter, 42 Danielson Pike. You know there's an over-riding consideration here for someone like himself who works out of town and have been in Foster for 30 years, and the overriding consideration to me is it's great to come to a meeting like this and express your opinion; and I think all of us who left comfortable homes to come out in the cold weather and the snow after a long, hard day, we don't want to remember tonight as the night the roof fell. What we want to remember tonight is that every one of us is a member of this town, including the folks sitting up at the table. The difference between the folks here, all around, who came to support and express their support for Pam and for Ann-Marie, okay, you don't have the vote, you don't have the power. What we did as a town, i' gave the power to the folks who are sitting up at this table, okay, and it's absolutely imperative that every member of this town council separates himself as an individual taxpayer tonight when they make a decision that's good for the town. This isn't about where you're seated, it's about what's good for the town; and I don't think anybody could have said it any better than all the folks who stood up and made arguments for what they truly believe in. They may be a little one way or the other, but the fact is, we all live in Foster, and we want to live in Foster, and we don't want to live in Narragansett where the taxes are less. We want to live in Foster because we like it. We want to take care of our

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school because we like that we're a—we like to know that that's where our children will receive an exceptional education, or our grandchildren. With that, okay, I think that what we're here for is to support our town and to do what's right for our town. People will remember what happens here tonight, not because of what party you're in, not because of what you want, but because you've got the courage to do the right thing. Think about the fact that there's a bunch of 18-year-olds in Afghanistan right now who were trained to standards, the value is the standard, and who perform to standard. We've got standards. Our revenue comes from our taxes, and we do have a plan, and we've got a great plan, and it's all about keeping Foster the way it is, and that depends on people paying their taxes. These are two things that are working well that we want to retain. Let's go after problems, let's not go after agendas. Okay, let's stop this nonsense because there isn't enough time to do all this. You can't be arguing about what's logical and reasonable and separate yourself from what you need to do as a member of a small town which is to support your town. Now listen to these facts, okay, these are critical positions! We've got good people in these positions, that's why you're here. They bring in a lot of dough. More dough than the best minds that we put up behind the table can come up with in savings. Come up with seventy-grand in savings. Here sits a young lady who gets us a hundred thousand extra every year just by doing her job correctly. There's another nice young lady in the front row who gets grants that total almost two-hundred-thousand every year for our town so we can do great things. That's what matters, okay? The percentages are up: one percent of ten million dollars—a hundred thousand dollars; two percent, two hundred (unintelligible)—I'm pretty good with numbers, that what I do for a living, okay? There's no mystery to this, okay? The folks who are sitting behind that table have got to act appropriately. Don't think that what you do is going to go unnoticed. People will not forget what you did tonight. It's important to do the right thing. Search your conscience. Okay, make sure you make the right decision because you're gonna be accountable for that. That's why you were elected, and I really want everybody here tonight to feel proud that they're here. They care enough about their government, and about their town, and mostly about each other to be here. That's what really matters folks. As you saw the roof fall in tonight. Nobody expected it, but we've got to deal with it, and everybody knows we're all about...because we're Foster, we're not Narragansett. We don't send our kids all over the place to school, we send them to Foster to school. So trust each other, and let's do the right thing tonight, folks. I'm directing this at the council. Every single person at that table has got to make an individual decision as a taxpayer and a member of this town to retain the confidence of the folks in this room, and the people who elected you. Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: Myra Mercier.

MYRA MERCIER: Myra Mercier, Burgess Road. I'm only going talk—Amen to Mike, Amen, and Amen. I've only been a taxpayer here for twenty-five years, but I've been a title examiner for fifty years, and as such I have dealt with Collectors, Tax Collectors, Tax Assessors, Clerks, sometimes not pleasantly, but I have to say quite honestly and quite sincerely that Pam Fontaine is one of the best Tax Collector's I have ever dealt with. She is professional at all times, she is more than helpful to the, uh, title community, and to--and to the lawyer communities and especially to the taxpayers, and I hope that you listened to what Mike had to say, and individually decide in your own hearts and your own minds what's best for this town. She's highly thought of here, she's highly thought of in the state and professional organizations and we need to remember that. As for Ann-Marie, she's the best. She is number one on everybody's list in the entire state, environmentally, policy-wise, and every other wise. If we lose her, God help us all.

GORDON ROGERS: Linda Walden.

LINDA WALDEN: Linda Walden, Central Pike. I wanted to thank the people that gave the school update, that was something I was going to ask. I'm here to talk about VII (e) Appointment of the Tax Collector and I'd like to say a few words on behalf of the planner, although I know for one person on the town's list it's usually the "kiss of death" if I support something. I'd like to speak to the arrangement of tonight's meeting, and also the budget. I've been an employee of a municipality in Connecticut for twenty-three years now and during that time I've been involved in employee interviews. I do say that, granted, you're a very new council, but some of the members of the council do need some direction and instructions on how to conduct an interview. I was very impressed with Mrs. Fontaine's credentials, how she carried and deported herself in a very difficult situation. I, too, once had a public interview for a

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position, but actually the candidate sat in the room with me and got to second, so they could hear everything I said. So I'm glad at least there was separation of the two candidates. I had the opportunity to read excellent credentials and letters of reference that were supplied to Mrs. Fontaine on behalf of quest to keep a job that she's has been doing excellently for six years. And I do know the other candidate and I do have respect for the other candidate, but again I would like to echo "you don't fix it if it's not broken". And from a selfish point, I'm a taxpayer, I don't want to spend twenty-one—twenty-five thousand dollars in unemployment if I don't have to. And plus, this evening I was very glad to see that she had excellent attorney representation. I don't want to pay the legal fees should this go to court, and that's where the final decision is made. The process is important, the procedure's important, but so is perception, and I echo other speakers that you need to look for what's best for the town at this point in time. Now I understand you mention that there was a vote taken, I'm not sure if that was the vote on who to appoint or not, the State's I'm familiar with, you can do all the discussing you want in an executive session, but all votes are made in public so the taxpayers can see how their elected representatives are actually representing them. So I hope all of this isn't in vain, but I would urge every one in this room who supports Mrs. Fontaine—it's a little nerve-wracking to stand up here and talk—I admit that. This president on this first day said he would never...he would let everyone talk so all you have to do is stand up, give your name and address and say, I am in favor of retaining our current Tax Collector, so that should it go to court there's an excellent, a better record of what happened and transpired this evening, so please I urge you to do that.

Budget, another favorite topic. I have the FTM number two sheet, and I have the budget reductions that are dated tonight. I see the Ambulance Corps in a shaded gray area as \$3,440.00. After the Public Comments of the council to speak, I would ask for an explanation of that. Will this be another \$3,440.00 taken off on top of the five percent you did last meeting, and the thirteen percent, was a cut in the Spring because it was below last year's funding, for a total of approximately twenty-three percent cut. So I request an answer, is this a consideration to make further cuts. In conjunction with that, I ask that you not look at any services that volunteers are heavily involved in to cut, and I think that the excellent work that Mrs. Knight did, looking through the budget and trying to find other places to make cuts that would not impact those volunteer services, an excellent idea. I was a little dismayed at the last meeting with how it was wrapped up and summarized when the question was asked, you know, what was going happen tonight and the perception was given by the chair, well, we're not going to do one or the other but both are under consideration, so I'd like you to please consider carefully the cuts you make this evening.

Libraries. I see again, libraries may have no change but they've had a reduction, so I just ask that all those volunteer services, please be respective (sic) of the work of volunteers do.

Planner. I've been the planner of the—Director of Planning and Development for thirteen years, again in a Connecticut municipality. I've been involved in the planning field for twenty-three years and paid attention, and I actually started in volunteer positions here in Foster, the Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, and helped to get the town on track for the Land Trust currently in place. The current planner is highly respected and well-known on both sides of the State, especially having attorney background is one—to have that combination of planner and attorney in one person is a trait that is highly valuable and not very often. She brings intense...she usually the planner is the first person in town that any business coming to town will contact if there's not a formal Economic Development coordinator. The planner coordinates all of the other town positions in the meetings with that individual, potential business, so that they know that the town is looking forward to welcome them, is business-friendly and will help and assist them in what their interest is. I urge very highly that the hours of our current valued planner not be cut.

I also want to talk about the arrangement of tonight's meeting. You had one individual request a public interview; you had one that wanted an Executive Session. The public one was at six o'clock, with half an hour between six-thirty and the start of this public meeting that the public, if we had listened, would be out in the cold for half an hour. So I thank the council for allowing us to remain, but wouldn't it have been better to have the executive session one at six o'clock, have the public one at six-thirty and then we could have been here for six-thirty on to the meeting without that

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half hour interruption? Perception and process and procedure are very important. Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: Julia Parmentier.

JULIA PARMENTIER: Julia Parmentier, 15 Biscuit Hill Road. Um, I think everybody has spoken so eloquently here tonight that I'm going to be one more redundant person, but I do want to say that I fully support Pam Fontaine as the Tax Collector. Um, I think it's absolutely amazing that the Town of Foster has in our Tax Collector and in our Town Planner, and I'm sure in a lot of other people who have positions, people who are the most, the most highly respected in their fields in this state and we're a small town. I think that's incredible. I think that we're incredibly lucky and I think that we'd uh, be shooting ourselves in the foot if we did away with, uh, the, uh, Tax Collector. Um, and if we cut Ann-Marie's hours. Uh, I'm standing up, uh, mostly, uh, tonight because some of the other people have spoken so well for Pam Fontaine, I'm-I'm actually very concerned about cutting the planner's hours. I spoke about at this at the, uh, the meeting two weeks ago. I, um, would like to reserve part of my public comment—I don't know what's appropriate—I have some questions that I would like to have the board answer directly if this cut does in fact come up, and so I'd like to reserve my public comment...part of my public comment, for a discussion of that line item if in fact it does come up.

I don't know what we're going to do with a half—with only a half time, um, planner with the revisions that need to be made to the comprehensive plan this year. The last Comprehensive Plan went in two or three years late because we did not have a full-time planner, sometimes we didn't have a planner at all, and without a Comprehensive Plan in place, in town, the town as far as I know, is not eligible for some State grant funding, and things like that, so we have to have our Comprehensive Plan updated to support any kind of grants that we want to go forward with. Ann-Marie has done an absolutely outstanding job bringing these kinds of grant monies into the town; grant monies that we did not get before we had Ann-Marie as our planner, so I just want to make that point, um, very strongly. And I do appreciate the members of the board who are actively looking at me and actively listening to me, because I think that (interrupted by applause, words unintelligible), I-I guess I was always taught that it was just polite to look at someone when you're talking to them, so Mr. Rogers I would appreciate having you acknowledge my existence when I'm speaking. Um, I think that's all I'm going to say right now, and again I do have some specific questions that I would like to ask, um, if this proposed cut in the planner's position, um, comes up...n...under the budget reduction. Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: Excuse me if I pronounce this wrong, but as Gail Kivey? Or...

GAIL KEIGHLEY: Gail Keighley, 196 Plainfield. I've been a resident of Foster for over 30 years, this is the first time I've ever spoken and it's a little nerve-wracking. I-I have to say that I'm surprised at the attitude of the people behind the table. I think that when...I would reiterate that when someone's speaking, I think that it's good to feel that you're being listened to. As a Foster resident this is, this is what I'm looking for. I think that it's important for our town to keep the people who are serving our town so well in their present positions. I think the town planner is clearly bringing more money into the town with her grants than we would be saving by reducing her hours. I also would have to say that I think Pam Fontaine has been extraordinarily efficient and professional in her position. Pa--nobody likes paying taxes, nobody enjoys it, she makes it, um, a duty that, uh, people can respect and understand. And, uh, I also want to mention the libraries. I-I-I think it's important for us to continue to fund our libraries fully, it's such an important resource for our town, everybody needs it, everybody uses it, and I'd like to see those-those issues addressed in a very positive way.

GORDON ROGERS: That concludes the—anybody else? Go 'head.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Ginny Colwell, Salisbury Road. Um, could we have an even ball park total for amount of funds that Ann-Marie has brought in since being town planner through grants?

GORDON ROGERS: That can be discussed when we go over that part of the budget, I'm sure that will be brought up then.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: We'll have time before you make the decision on th—

GORDON ROGERS: Absolutely.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Um, if is okay if I just, if she gives a quick answer if she has that figure now?

GORDON ROGERS: We'll discuss that when we get to it, there's no sense in

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discussing it twice. I'll entertain when we get to the part of budget cuts.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: So the answer to that is "no", she can't give it now?

GORDON ROGERS: That's correct. She'll have plenty of time.

DOUGLAS THOMAN: Mr. President.

GORDON ROGERS: Yes.

DOUGLAS THOMAN: Doug Thoman again.

GORDON ROGERS: Yup.

DOUGLAS THOMAN: I'd like to say something of the volunteers of Foster.

To me they hold a special place in my heart. My wife and I was in an accident at Cucumber Hill Road and Route 6. Within minutes I had a few broken ribs, my wife had a bashed up knee. Here was fifty people—well it seemed like fifty people—all there—

MICHAEL DILLON: It was probably fifty.

GORDON ROGERS: I was there.

MICHAEL DILLON: Coulda been sixty.

DOUGLAS THOMAN: —calmin' me down, helpin' me while I was a little dazed and controllin' me, and also taking care of my wife; and I didn't even know who they were, and I didn't know who they were till the last council meeting, and one of them who took care of my wife was Mr. Fontaine, and someone else took care of me on the other side of the ambulance. Well, I'll tell ya, when your house is on fire, and someone's in it, and they're in danger, you're not gonna care if Moosup Valley shows up, South Foster, Foster Center—they're all volunteers, and by golly, it takes something to be a volunteer. Now I know you gotta keep your bookwork—that was brought up at the last meeting, there's really no excuse for that—but I think that can be worked out; but I commend the volunteers of Foster.

GORDON ROGERS: Thank you. Mr. Lewis.

JOHN LEWIS: John Lewis, Rams Tail Road. I just want to say a couple of things. I want to say that I am in favor of retaining Pam Fontaine as the Tax Collector for the Town of Foster. We've heard her responses in the interview. We know her credentials. We clearly know she had the support of the town people, but I wanted to reaffirm and make sure that everyone knows that she's also recognized as a superior tax collector by her peers. She's currently on the executive board of the Rhode Island Tax Collector's Association, and has been for many years. Of all the tax collectors in the State of Rhode Island, she's recognized as one of the top ones to be on the executive board. In addition she's been on the New England Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association where she was the past Vice President and on the executive board. Now that organization isn't just Rhode Island, it's all of New England, it's New York state, it's Pennsylvania, it's Quebec in Canada and Maritime Provinces. It is a huge quarter of the North American continent, and the tax collector from the Town of Foster was the vice president of that organization. That speaks volumes alone that her peers have recognized her to that extent; that there's people up in Quebec and New Brunswick and Pennsylvania that are voting to make her the vice president. We need good people like that in the Town of Foster, we have good people like that in the Town of Foster. To be recognized on that level, and to consider setting it aside for whatever reason, just doesn't make sense.

I also want to speak on behalf of Ann-Marie Ignasher the town planner. I am in favor of retaining her as a full-time employee and not cutting her hours. Clearly she has the support of the town, clearly she has the background. Ms. Parmentier alluded to the Comprehensive Plan, how that is up for renewal, it has to be done by September. Now one thing that is part of the Comprehensive Plan by every town in the State of Rhode Island is the Affordable Housing Plan, it's an integral part of the Comprehensive Plan. If a town does not have an accepted Affordable Housing Plan, not accepted by us or this council, but written and accepted by the State Department of Planning in the Administrative building on Smith Hill. If it is not accepted by them, then any developer who wishes to come into town and build affordable housing can bypass our zoning. Our zoning can essentially be set aside by any developer. That's what's important about a Comprehensive Plan. We have one. It's due in eight months. We need the capacity, the capability, the quality of Ann-Marie to be able to get that done. It will be a very costly endeavor to farm that out. We've heard the letter by Joe Garlick, we will certainly hear again this evening all the grants that she's brought in. The grants that she's brought in has more than paid for her salary since the time that she's been here. It's easy to research that. In summation, we need good people in these times. These aren't the best times, we need the best people; we have

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the best people. They are recognized people, they are professional people. We need to keep them. Thank you.

CHRISTINE CRUM: My name is Christine Crum, 31 ½ Boswell Trail. This is dedicated to Kathleen and to Shelley, I have a moving company called Gentry Relocation, please contact us. We'd like to help volunteer in some way to help out with, um, with the situation at the school.

GORDON ROGERS: Anybody else?

ARTHUR READ: Thank you for the courtesy. Uh, Mrs. Rider spoke earlier. My name's Arthur Read. I live at 5 Kenmore Court in Barrington—I got my visa stamped to come out here today. I followed the bread crumbs. The uh, town council president was pretty quick with that gavel earlier with Mrs. Rider, uh, and the issue which, ah, perception—the word “perception” has been used here a number of times, the perception that I personally see, and I-I go to town council meetings all the time, is not good. This isn't a friendly thing for some reason. I don't know why. I, too, was raised in an earlier time, than I think you, Mr. President, and was taught apparently that, ah, when someone addresses you or talks to you, your look at him, in the eye; and I've tried to do that with you, and I don't know why I don't get the courtesy of a return, and that's been mentioned by others, and it's just odd.

In today's paper, there was an article with regard to new rules that the Commission on Judicial Tenure review is considering adopting because, uh, there was a-a judge—a friend of mine—who was appointed recently to a judicial position, and after that judge was appointed, uh, even though it was apparently known to the judicial review committee—thank you, sir, I appreciate the courtesy—the judicial review commission, it was not known generally to the public. Not that there was anything wrong about it, but that there was a bad perception. It left a bad taste in people's mouth and a good friend of mine, quite frankly, had her name, I think, slandered because of the way in which this came out. It's wrong. And I-I don't choose to do that, but I think it's important and instructive to learn from what that commission is doing, and I want to just bring it to your attention. And what I'm about to say, uh, and the facts I'm about to, uh, reference you to were provided to me pursuant to a-a request under what we call the Public Records Act, the Open Meet—the Open Records Act—so anybody that I'm looking at, including the town council members, can get the same information I got. It seems odd to me, especially in light of today's article in today's paper that it is inappropriate-inappropriate to appoint somebody to such a lofty position as a judge on a court in Rhode Island if they have income taxes that are due, federal income taxes that are due, that was in today's paper; and although I—at least a bad, bit of a bad taste in my mouth because of the way in which it was handled—I understand the reason why that perception is out there. I don't feel it's necessary to name names, I don't feel comfortable doing that, but I think it is appropriate to note that the candidate who's being considered tonight in—for the position of Tax Collector, and I hope that this matter came out in Executive Session, I really-I really hope it did, is herself, according to the records I obtained, in arrears in her taxes. Now I don't understand that. I don't understand how she gets past her resume coming in, and this has nothing to do with her. If you were considering her for police chief, perhaps, I might not be as concerned about it, but that's like putting the fox in charge of the chicken coop, isn't it? Isn't it like that? Because the—because the position that she would be assuming is to collect taxes, and I suppose she's gotta start at home first.

Now I'm not used to facing a town council that's got three of its members, according to the public records that I've reviewed, also in arrears in their taxes, and I'm not-I'm not gonna address that issue other than the fact to note it, 'cause that it puts you in an awkward position. It puts you in a very awkward position.

MICHAEL DILLON: Can I say something?

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: And I ask you to think about it.

MICHAEL DILLON: I don't like being slandered.

GORDON ROGERS: No.

GORDON ROGERS: Can I make a comment?

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: No.

GORDON ROGERS: Yeah I will.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: No. No. It's my comment. No.

GORDON ROGERS: I think what you're doing is disgusting, it's what you're doing.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: It's my comment and you don't have a word to say about it. Thank you. So I appreciate the opportunity to exercise my right to speak

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publicly—

MICHAEL DILLON: That's disgusting.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: —and to bring these issues to you. Thank you. Now I'm finished.

GORDON ROGERS: Mike Dillon.

MICHAEL DILLON: Um, Mike Dillon, Mt. Hygeia Road. Well, probably, uh, I guess it started probably a month ago with the, uh, the tax, who owes tax situation. Uh, words come up tonight "perception", uh, the perception is that I owe real estate taxes. I don't owe real estate taxes.

(unknown) I never said you did.

GORDON ROGERS: Perception.

MICHAEL DILLON: Perception. The word was "perception". The perception is that I owe real estate taxes. I do not owe real estate taxes. I owe a hundred and twenty dollars in car tax, because the bill came out after the fact. My wife didn't pay it, and it's being paid when this one come—in—with the next bill. So pe—the word is "perception". The perception is, the perception in the room, the perception that's passed around, the comments that are made...another word that came up: "slander". I'm being slandered. I don't like that.

(unknown) So pay your taxes.

MICHAEL DILLON: I don't like being slandered. I'm being—

(unknown woman) Pay your taxes.

MICHAEL DILLON: I don't expect you people to understand, I really don't. Maybe if it was you sittin' in this position.

GORDON ROGERS: Hey, Mr. Dillon has the floor. Show him the respect that we showed you, please.

ARTHUR READ: I beg your pardon.

GORDON ROGERS: He has the floor. Please show—

ARTHUR READ: Is that what you said? "Please show him the respect you showed me" is that what you said?

GORDON ROGERS: Hey. Please. Hey! Mr. Dillon has the floor, please.

ARTHUR READ: I just want to make sure—

GORDON ROGERS: He does not interrupt you!

ARTHUR READ: No he didn't, but you sure as heck, did.

MICHAEL DILLON: You did interrupt me because I had the floor. I thought I had the floor.

GORDON ROGERS: Officer, I've had enough. Please remove him from the room! He is disrupt (sic) this meeting from the very beginning. Please take him outside and instruct him to be appropriate please.

JOSEPH CARDILLO: You cannot remove him from the room!

GORDON ROGERS: Mr. Solicitor! If somebody is disruptive, do I have the right to have him removed from the floor?

JOSEPH CARDILLO: You do not! No you don't. You do not.

GORDON ROGERS: You are disrupting this meeting, sir! This is-this is your last warning! This is your last warning! You will not ridicule this meeting.

JOSEPH CARDILLO: This meeting is a joke!

PATRICIA FOUNTAIN: I'm a member of the Foster School Committee. I beg you to please stop this conversation; there are children in this room.

JOSEPH CARDILLO: It's a travesty.

PATRICIA FOUNTAIN: I ask you, I ask you to bring the officer forward to swear him in so these children don't have to...

GORDON ROGERS: Alright, I'd like to speak on the Public Comment, too. I believe I was slandered also. Please understand I work very hard. I struggle seven days a week to provide for my family. There are times...I am in construction. I bale hay all summer. I worked all day from 3 o'clock this morning. I have a hard time paying my taxes. I've been in this farm community for over forty-five years. I'm out at 2 o'clock in the morning when my neighbor needs my help when my tones go off, I run into a burning building. I ain't gettin' a dime or accepting a dime for what I'm doing up here. I'm giving every cent back. I coulda used every penny of that to pay my taxes, but I'm not gonna do it. I'm givin' back to you people, and I'm trying to do the best I can, and all I've gotten from the very start is being attacked, and I don't appreciate it. Thank you.

LYNNE S. RIDER: Resign. Yes.

GORDON ROGERS: Now, is everybody done with Public Comment?

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NEAL WHITELOW: No, just one, I have paid my taxes.

MICHAEL DILLON: Thanks, Neal. I knew that, I knew that.

NEAL WHITELOW: They said “three”; they didn’t mention names. Well, I just want everyone to know I’ve paid my taxes. He’s not speaking to me.

GORDON ROGERS: Do you have something to say, Neal?

NEAL WHITELOW: I’m done.

GORDON ROGERS: Does anybody else want to speak under Public Comment? Yes sir.

Edward Balfour: Ed Balfour, 16 Foster Center Road. You’re an elected official, sir. All of you are. Being an elected official, every record—whether it be an arrest record, a tax record, or any other public record—is public information. You may not like being told by the community that you are supposed to be representing that you are derelict in your duty or you have been derelict in your taxes. It makes no difference if it be property tax, car tax—the fact is, you are public officials, you are supposed to be held to a higher standard. The last two meetings, this one and the one prior, you have been an insult to this community. You have not done what you have sworn to do. You are not representing the people. You are carrying forth some kind of agenda which is beyond our comprehension. I’ll speak again when we get to the next section.

EVA SZOSZ: Eva Szosz, 45 Old Danielson Pike. I would just like to voice my support for Ms. Ignasher and her full-time position, and Ms. Fontaine to continue hers.

GORDON ROGERS: Go ‘head, Patti.

PATRICIA FOUNTAIN: I’d once again just appeal to the Town Council to please, I’m begging of you at this point, to move VIII C forward.

GORDON ROGERS: I had planned to bring that motion up when we got done with Public Comment.

PATRICIA FOUNTAIN: I’m asking you now, sir, suspend Public Comment maybe for a time, and bring this officer forward and let his family...

GORDON ROGERS: I’ll entertain a motion to suspend Public Comment.
(unintelligible)

MICHAEL DILLON: Second.

GORDON ROGERS: Discussion.

NEAL WHITELOW: I’m sorry I didn’t hear the motion.

GORDON ROGERS: There’s a motion to suspend the Public Comment so we can move and take item C under New Business and move it up. That’ll be this one here. Is there a second to that motion?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I second it.

NEAL WHITELOW: I don’t—I didn’t hear the—I’m not sure that. I just want to make sure that we’re doing the right thing.

MICHAEL DILLON: We’re suspending Public Comment—

NEAL WHITELOW: Suspending Public Comment

MICHAEL DILLON: And your moving

NEAL WHITELOW: And moving VII C to—to where? To Item IV?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Under...no.

MICHAEL DILLON: Three and a half.

GORDON ROGERS: Under where Public Comment would be. We’ll entertain that right now.

MICHAEL DILLON: Three and a half. III A.

GORDON ROGERS: Any discussion on that? (no response) Are you clear on the motion? All those in favor?

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye.

(The motion passed unanimously.)

TINA FREEMAN: I have a question.

GORDON ROGERS: Yes?

TINA FREEMAN: Who moved and who seconded?

GORDON ROGERS: Lynne moved, Mike seconded. Okay, now we have moved the appointment of probationary officer—what’s that Marianne?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: No, I was just looking for my pen.

GORDON ROGERS: I’ll entertain a motion under—to appoint a probationary

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police officer, discussion, action. Is there a motion to appoint probationary—do you want the chief to put up a—

NEAL WHITELAW: I'll make a motion to appoint the appointment of the probationary officer. I make a motion to appoint a probationary officer.

MICHAEL DILLON: Second.

GORDON ROGERS: Discussion.

NEAL WHITELAW: Yeah, I'd like to meet the officer.

GORDON ROGERS: Yuh, I'd like to meet the officer and speak to the chief.

Ah...hey chief.

CHIEF ROBERT COYNE: Good evening. Ah, thank you all for comin' out tonight to see me. We recently had a resignation from our department, and uh, in Executive Session a couple weeks ago, we asked the council to allow us to replace him with another officer who was desperately needed. We came up with Officer Paul Manzi. Paul was with the Johnston Police for fifteen years. Um, he is our newest probationary officer. He lives on Hopkins Avenue in Johnston. He's a 1995 graduate of the Rhode Island Police Academy. He's been a member of the Johnston Police Department for fifteen years. He's a graduate of LaSalle Academy. He holds both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree in Administration of Justice from Roger Williams. For the last year and a half he's been a member of the detective division of Johnston PD. During Paul's career with the Johnston PD, he's been the recipient of a number of awards and medals for his service. He is married and has three children. We welcome Paul and believe he will be a great asset to our department.

TINA FREEMAN: Do you—state your name—

PAUL MANZI: Paul Manzi

NEAL WHITELAW: There should be a motion. Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

TINA FREEMAN—solemnly swear that you will be true and faithful unto the Town of Foster...

PAUL MANZI: ...solemnly swear that I will be true and faithful unto the Town of Foster

TINA FREEMAN:...and support the Town Charter...

PAUL MANZI: ...and support the Town Charter...

TINA FREEMAN:...and that you will be true and faithful unto this state...

PAUL MANZI: ...and that I will be true and faithful unto this state...

TINA FREEMAN:...and support the laws and constitution thereof...

PAUL MANZI: ...and support the laws and constitution thereof...

TINA FREEMAN:...and the Constitution of the United States...

PAUL MANZI: ...and the Constitution of the United States...

TINA FREEMAN: ...and that you will well and truly execute the position of probationary officer...

PAUL MANZI: ...and that I will well and truly execute the position of probationary officer...

TINA FREEMAN:...for the term for which you have been appointed...

PAUL MANZI: ...for the term for which I have been appointed...

TINA FREEMAN:...or until another be engaged in your place...

PAUL MANZI:...or until another be engaged in my place...

TINA FREEMAN: ...or until you be legally discharged therefrom...

PAUL MANZI: ...or until I be legally discharged therefrom...

TINA FREEMAN:...So help you God.

PAUL MANZI: So help me God.

GORDON ROGERS: Now that we put the cart before the horse...

MARIANNE KNIGHT: I'd like to make a motion...

GORDON ROGERS: The mot—alright.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Do you want to?

GORDON ROGERS: Well, I thought the motion was already made to appoint the probationary officer, was seconded, we discussed it and brought the chief forward, so all I think we have to do is vote on it.

MICHAEL DILLON: By name.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: By name, we have to make the motion by name.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, you want to revise the motion, and put his name in it?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Oh, right.

MICHAEL DILLON: We have to put the name in the motion—the name wasn't in the motion.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Amend the motion to include the name.

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GORDON ROGERS: Amend the motion.
MICHAEL DILLON: Did you get that, what he said? Amend—
ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: To add...add the name.
GORDON ROGERS: I'll entertain a second on a motion—on the amendment.
MICHAEL DILLON: Second.
GORDON ROGERS: Any discussion on the amendment which included the name to our original motion? (no response)
GORDON ROGERS: All those in favor?

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye.

GORDON ROGERS: Now back to the main motion. All those in favor?

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye.

(The motion passed unanimously.)

MICHAEL DILLON: Now it's official.
(Pictures taken.)
GORDON ROGERS: Alright, now we'll go back to, uh—unsuspend, do we need a motion to bring the Public Comment back up, out of suspension?
LYNNE S. RIDER: Speak louder, we can't hear.
ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: You suspend it, now move, proceed with Public Comment.
GORDON ROGERS: We're gonna move to proceed back with Public Comment. So we just
ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: We need to suspend, pending that, move to come out.
GORDON ROGERS: Now we're back into Public Comment. Is there any Public Comment? Any further before we move back to the agenda? Patty?
JOANN LAW: JoAnn Law, Jencks Road. I want to put my support behind Pam, to keep her job, and Ann-Marie as well.
ANN-MARIE IGNASHER: Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner. I just want to thank everybody for coming out tonight and supporting both myself and Pam. You don't realize how much that means to us. Thank you.

MINUTES

GORDON ROGERS: Anybody else? Seeing none we will move forward to ah, minutes from December 21, 2010. I'll entertain a motion to accept the minutes that were tabled at the last meeting.
LYNNE DESTEFANO: I make a motion to accept the minutes.
GORDON ROGERS: Is there a second.
MICHAEL DILLON: Second.
GORDON ROGERS: Any discussion? (no response) Hearing none, all in favor?

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye.

(Motion carried unanimously.)

GORDON ROGERS: Opposed? (no response). I'll entertain a motion on warrants.
LYNNE DESTEFANO: Um, I make a motion to approve payroll warrant number 28 in the amount of \$33,242.51, and payroll warrant number 29 in the amount of \$31,613.66, and general warrant number 17 in the amount of \$45,064.46.
GORDON ROGERS: Is there a second to that motion?
MARIANNE KNIGHT: I second.
GORDON ROGERS: Discussion?
NEAL WHITELOW: I-I do have one question. The first item on the warrant is, uh, an expenditure from the Council Administration expenses.
(multiple voices saying "I can't hear you") The first item on the Warrant number 17 is Council Administration expenses, and did we really pay \$21 for that gavel.
TINA FREEMAN: Yeah.
GORDON ROGERS: Actually I bought this one.

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NEAL WHITELAW: Well, where's the \$21 one?
GORDON ROGERS: She has it.
TINA FREEMAN: It's at Town Hall.
NEAL WHITELAW: And, I guess, who asked for it?
GORDON ROGERS: I asked if we had a gavel.
TINA FREEMAN: You had asked me to order one.
GORDON ROGERS: I do believe I need one, but I went and bought one myself.
You want me to pay you the \$21 for the one the town bought?
TINA FREEMAN: I'm not asking you.
GORDON ROGERS: Anything else, Neal?
NEAL WHITELAW: Nope.
LYNNE DESTEFANO: I have a question.
GORDON ROGERS: Yup.
LYNNE DESTEFANO: Um, wait a second. Oh, I just have a question regarding where is, uh...
NEAL WHITELAW: I'm sorry I can't hear you.
LYNNE DESTEFANO: I have a question regarding the first page of general warrant number 17...um, excuse me, the um, excuse me, page two, "Certified water operator, MILLENIUM WATER", I just wanted to know what that was for.
ROBERT CLARKIN: It's the certified water operator for the well system, uh, transient but not transient, we need the certified water operator to test our water in addition to what the state does. They take water samples. It's a contract that we have with them for a year.
LYNNE DESTEFANO: Thank you.
MICHAEL DILLON: What is it, a once a year thing?
GORDON ROGERS: I think so, is that a once a year thing? Mr. Clarkin?
ROBERT CLARKIN: I think we're, uh, either quarterly, or is that the annual payment on that now, \$600.00 whatever the fee is, it's \$1,200.00 a year.
GORDON ROGERS: Okay, so that's the quarterly right here. Any further discussions? Neal?
NEAL WHITELAW: No.
GORDON ROGERS: All those in favor?

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye.

GORDON ROGERS: Opposed?
(The motion passed unanimously.)

**QUARTERLY
REPORTS**

GORDON ROGERS: Next we have Quarterly Reports. I'll entertain a motion to accept Quarterly Reports.
NEAL WHITELAW: Ah, I do have kind of a question on Board of Canvassers...
GORDON ROGERS: Can we get a motion on the floor first before any discussion.
NEAL WHITELAW: Do you want to do it individually?
GORDON ROGERS: If you would like.
NEAL WHITELAW: I make a motion to accept the Board of Canvassers report, quarterly report.
GORDON ROGERS: Is there a second on that.
MARIANNE KNIGHT: Second.
GORDON ROGERS: Okay, discussion.
NEAL WHITELAW: I-I, on the second page, I-I found something that kind of disturbed me, that it seems that when we had our last, our last election, that the campaign workers weren't really treated very well, at least in their opinion at the Moosup Valley Fire Department, and I wondered if the Chairman would want to speak to that, or if I could exactly find out what happened?
PATRICIA MORGAN: I would be glad to. It was handled by the gentleman in the wheelchair, and by the Town Clerk. When the entire kitchen was blocked by people what...thing, their computers, 'cause I guess they have the, uh, a way of getting on the internet there, chairs were pushed in front of the doors. They, he couldn't get through. We needed a phone to report a machine down. They wouldn't give it to us until they finished the conversation, somebody took it away from him and handed it to us so we could do it. Um, machines were run, um you know, engines were run outside in the barn, people were trying to vote and people were trying to do paper work. There were too many kids hanging around there. I'm-I'm sorry, that's the only

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way I can put it, too many people hanging around. I ran on the ambulance, you don't have to be at the barn, you don't have to be there. You can make it to the barn in ten minutes. Why were they all on their computers, why were there wires running from chair to chair to table, cords to wall, whatever? Why were the telephones always being used? It was a very uncomfortable situation. Now it was handled, but I'm very uncomfortable with that place as it stands. Somebody should take sensitivity training, my person who works with me is a wheelchair person, he's a paraplegic. He couldn't get in the room half the time and the bathroom's on the other end. That's not right. And I mean I don't expect it from people who run on rescue. I don't expect it from firemen. They usually have a lot more sensitivity. I mean Gordon has more sensitivity, I know, I've seen a lot of people have more. Something was wrong that day. So that's why I complained. I wasn't going to put anything in, Bobby didn't want to. But I said, no, we have to have some sensitivity done so that they understand, you can't hang around there when they're having a voting. It just can't be done. Alright?

NEAL WHITELOW: Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: Anything else, Neal?

NEAL WHITELOW: No, that was my concern with the report is I didn't know what happened and I wanted an explanation.

GORDON ROGERS: Any further discussion on the Board of Canvassers quarterly report? (no response) All those in favor?

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye.

GORDON ROGERS: Opposed? (no response)

(The motion passed unanimously.)

GORDON ROGERS: Next, we've got Moosup Valley Fire Department quarterly reports, discussion/action. I'll entertain a motion on that one.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I make a motion to accept the Moosup Valley Fire Company quarterly reports.

GORDON ROGERS: Is there a second.

MICHAEL DILLON: Second.

GORDON ROGERS: Any discussion? (no response) All those in favor?

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye. (The motion passed unanimously.)

GORDON ROGERS: And the last on the quarterly reports.

MICHAEL DILLON: South Foster Fire Company.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I make a motion to accept the South Foster Fire quarterly reports.

GORDON ROGERS: Is there a second on that one?

MICHAEL DILLON: Second.

GORDON ROGERS: Any discussion? (no response) All in favor:

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye. (The motion passed unanimously.)

**BID AWARD
REVALUA-
TION**

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, under old business. Bid award for statistical re-evaluation. I believe they were handed out, you got them last time, right?

PATRICIA MOREAU: Yes.

GORDON ROGERS: I guess I'll entertain a motion to get it on the table.

NEAL WHITELOW: I make a motion to accept the stastic-statistical re-evaluation bid from I believe it's CRC Certified Reevaluation Company for \$49,500.00.

GORDON ROGERS: Is there a second

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I second.

GORDON ROGERS: Now we'll have any discussion.

NEAL WHITELOW: I'd like to hear from the assessor.

GORDON ROGERS: I-I know what it says here, but if you can give us any other information, so the-so the taxpayers understand.

PATRICIA MOREAU: A bid was put out for a statistical re-evaluation which is state law every three years, we have to have a re-evaluation. Uh, three years ago we had a full re-val where the re-evaluation company went to everyone's home, inside

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inspection. Uh, this one's just a statistical which would go on basically construction, sales of property, and, um, if anyone wants an interior inspection, they may request it by the reval company and we'll go in, but they won't be going door to door on this one. And, um, that CRC, has been doing the re-evaluation since 2000. We've had them for ten years now. Most towns have them now. Um, we have all their software so there's no, no extra money for the software or hardware, so the computer system will stay the same, and, um, (unintelligible question asked) This is better than is was, yes. This is the only bidder so, um, usually on a statistical you get a lot of bids. It's full reval where all the re-evaluation companies will bid, statistical revals—it's not profitable for them, so that why they were the only bidder.

NEAL WHITELOW: Just a quick question.

PATRICIA MOREAU: I sent a note to eight reval companies.

NEAL WHITELOW: The uh, did this price come in less than you would propose to the Planning Board in the capital budget? The number?

PATRICIA MOREAU: Yes, it did.

NEAL WHITELOW: Thanks.

GORDON ROGERS: Any further discussion? (no response) All in favor of accepting the bid award from CRC, signify by saying aye.

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye.

GORDON ROGERS: Opposed? Hearing none, the motion passes.

**LIQUOR LIC.
TWISTED
LIQ.**

GORDON ROGERS: Next we have Liquor License renewal, Twisted Liquors, discussion/action. I'll entertain a motion to get it on, uh, on the floor.

WILLIAM FORTIN: Bill Fortin from 106—

GORDON ROGERS: Can we just get a motion on the floor first, then we get a second, then we can move forward, formality. I'll entertain a motion to renew the liquor license, please.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I make a motion to renew the liquor license for Twisted Liquors.

GORDON ROGERS: Is there a second?

MICHAEL DILLON: Second.

GORDON ROGERS: Discussion. Mr. Solicitor, I think...

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: I was, ah, with regard to this liquor license, I spoke with the, ah, clerk as well as an attorney, Mr. Fortin himself, as well as an attorney representing a proposed transfer. My understanding of the status right now that this liqu-license was originally continued to January 31st, the end of this month subject to numerous conditions that were described at that time that the prior council. My understanding based on my conversation with Mr. Fortin is that circumstances have changed, there is now an application being proffered for a transfer. That application, having been filed, it's my recommendation that the transfer application which requires a public hearing be heard prior to this renewal. So I believe—and I don't want to speak for Mr. Fortin—it's my understanding that Mr. Fortin is asking—I'll let him speak for himself—to continue this matter either to a date after the renewal, or if we knew what date the renewal public hearing was, the same day. My recommendation is just, you know, it should be continued, um, unless he has a something else. I don't know if something's changed since you spoke to me on the phone?

WILLIAM FORTIN: Uh, yes.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Okay.

WILLIAM FORTIN: I have two plans. Initially my sale had fallen through. I applied to the Zoning Board for a mixed use at my house, at 106 Winsor Road is Highway Commercial which is permitted, but under the conditions I live in my home, it's not permitted unless I go for Mixed Use. And since I have applied for my Mixed Use, a gentleman has stepped forward, as Mr....Igli...Igliazzi?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: I know that's a tough one, that's a mouthful.

WILLIAM FORTIN: ...has said I do have a strong potential buyer for the transfer.

GORDON ROGERS: How much time would you need?

WILLIAM FORTIN: I would say four months. What I'd like the board to do is base their-base their decision on two things. If the sale falls through for me to continue goin' through with the Zoning Board to get my Mixed Use change, and to have the

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package store at 106—

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: May I suggest that you just continue this matter to a date in the future.

GORDON ROGERS: Yup.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Just pick a date in the future, whatever council meeting date that is. In between now and then I assume there will be a renewal hearing, and/or a petition pending before the Zoning Board. You don't want to start thinking about those things until they're before you, so I think my recommendation would be just to continue this matter for a future date. And pick a date.

WILLIAM FORTIN: The Zoning Board hearing is February 9th.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: I understand, but I don't want to start making those contingencies 'cause if they don't have them because of weather, s-this could fail on him. I would just continue that matter to—

GORDON ROGERS: The prior continuation was, what? Sixty days?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Sixty days to the thirty-first—

MICHAEL DILLON: Four months.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Sixty days.

GORDON ROGERS: We could pick a sixty-day or a number like that and you could revisit it.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: That's my recommendation, just pick another date.

GORDON ROGERS: What's the-ah

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: A council date in the future, that's my recommendation.

GORDON ROGERS: So thoughts of the council.

MICHAEL DILLON: Sounds like a plan.

GORDON ROGERS: Lookin' for a number then.

MICHAEL DILLON: I make a motion to extend—

GORDON ROGERS: No, an amendment—

MICHAEL DILLON: An amendment to the motion?

GORDON ROGERS: Yup, we already got a motion on the floor.

MICHAEL DILLON: We got a motion on the floor. I make an amendment to the motion to extend the renewal time—

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: —continue the application for renewal until a date—

MICHAEL DILLON: Sixty days from today.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Whatever date, whatever date the clerk can tell us is...

TINA FREEMAN: I would recommend—

GORDON ROGERS: Are you comfortable with sixty...we can revisit it again.

TINA FREEMAN: —March thirty-first?

WILLIAM FORTIN: I'm comfortable as long as we can revisit it again.

That will give him over sixty days.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: March 31, 2011.

TINA FREEMAN: That will give him over sixty days.

WILLIAM FORTIN: Okay. Thank you.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: You can always come back to the council before then.

GORDON ROGERS: Yup, yup. Alright. So is there a second to that amendment to extend the license?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Second.

MICHAEL DILLON: (unintelligible) Is that good?

GORDON ROGERS: Is a second—any further discussion to the amendment? (no response) All those in favor?

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye.

Opposed? (no response) Motion passed unanimously.

MICHAEL DILLON: Back to the main motion or do we?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: No it was amended to continue it; until March 31st.

GORDON ROGERS: Right. Until March 31st.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Am I clear on that?

TINA FREEMAN: Yes. Yes.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: I think that motion has been made and seconded, and voted on?

GORDON ROGERS: And voted on, yes.

WILLIAM FORTIN: Okay.

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GORDON ROGERS: March 31st. Thanks, Billy.
WILLIAM FORTIN: Thank you.

**LIQUOR LIC.
WOODLAND**

GORDON ROGERS: Next we have Liquor License Renewal, Woodland Meeting House, discussion and action. What is the pleasure of the council on that one?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: We need a motion.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: (unintelligible) I make a motion to renew the liquor license of Woodland Meeting House.

GORDON ROGERS: Yup. Is there a second?

MICHAEL DILLON: Second.

GORDON ROGERS: Discussion. Mr. Solicitor, you've had talks with Mr. ah—

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Um, Mr. President, I've not only reviewed, um, this is a matter that's pending before the council for renewal. It's my understanding again, based upon my conversation with the Town Clerk, that all items are in line for renewal, confirm, I m-whatever those conditions normally are.

GORDON ROGERS: Have been met.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Are met. Police, fire, zoning...they're in line for renewal. This was originally continued because there's a Declaratory Judgment action pending in Superior Court in which the prior solicitor, Mr. Bevilacqua, filed an answer. The attorney was here at a meeting, ah, Mr. McKenna. I have spoken to Mr. McKenna, I've spoken with Mr. Bevilacqua, I'm satisfied that the Declaratory Judgment action has nothing to do for our purposes with the renewal. That's gonna proceed in court and do either resolve or it gets decided by a judge. My recommendation is, if this license is in order if I'm correct, then I would just ask the council to go forward with this.

GORDON ROGERS: Just for a clarification with this. Is she, ah, up to date on everything that pertains to her license renewal?

TINA FREEMAN: Yes she is. Everyone has signed off for the application.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: And would get renewed until what? Ah

GORDON ROGERS: December 31st, correct?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: December 31st, 2011?

TINA FREEMAN: December 1st for liquor licenses.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: December 1st. You should put that-put that, that specific date in there.

NEAL WHITELOW: Ah, is that, uh, that application, all the sign-offs available, 'cause there's nothing in the packets, so if we could get something and make it part of the record?

TINA FREEMAN: Everything has been approved as far as—are you asking for copies of those?

NEAL WHITELOW: I'm asking for, usually we go through the list of taxes been paid, police signs off, and...

GORDON ROGERS: We got that.

TINA FREEMAN: Correct everything is sufficient, taxes have been paid, no zoning violations, ah fire inspections—we're still waiting on the state with that—

NEAL WHITELOW: I see, because we didn't have anything in our packet that actually says that. Can we put something in the record?

GORDON ROGERS: It was in the first packet.

TINA FREEMAN: Our previous minutes, too, Neal, but I'll be glad to...

NEAL WHITELOW: Okay, I just want to make sure there's something in the record that's in writing, not just our motion.

TINA FREEMAN: Oh sure.

GORDON ROGERS: We all set to vote? All those in favor of renewing Woodland Meeting House liquor license, signify by saying aye.

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye.

GORDON ROGERS: Opposed? (no response) Motion passed 4-0.

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**BUDGET
REDUC-
TIONS
09-10**

GORDON ROGERS: Now we move down to fiscal year 09-10 Budget Reductions, discussion/action. Alright. Again the reason why we're doing this is at the second financial town meeting, the taxpayers of—I believe there was over 300 people present—voted not to absorb in their tax bill, uh, the \$700,000.00 exemption being stopped from the State. The original council made some cuts, and of those, they had on the table a total of several things, furlough days, uh, and since then we've had a couple budget workshops so I guess, we can start with the first one we had, the second workshop with Marianne and the council worked through, uh, some budgets. Don't know if you guys all had them, if you want to see them, they're up here. On this one, that would be the one, that are highlighted like this one but it looks something like this. And the second one is this big one here. Okay. What's the pleasure of the council on, uh, this one?

NEAL WHITELOW: This one?

GORDON ROGERS: The highlighted one.

NEAL WHITELOW: Sure, I'll make a motion to accept the budget reduction analysis, dated 1/27/11, that—well I'll just leave it at that—and when we get into discussion, I'll have my discussion then.

GORDON ROGERS: Is there a second on that motion?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I'll make a second.

GORDON ROGERS: Now into discussion.

NEAL WHITELOW: Just so everyone knows, this, with this budget reduction analysis, it keeps everyone whole. There are no reductions to fire departments, or libraries, or planners, or anything else in town. This is all done through expenses that are within the town. Ah, what I would like to see happen is that this passes, and this makes us whole until July 1st, so we don't need any more reductions, other than this, to get our budget through July 1st. In twelve weeks, we're all gonna have a financial town meeting and we're gonna discuss all these other cuts; and if people at that point want to cut the fire departments, and the libraries, that's the place to do it. I don't think that this is the place that this council or five people should makin' decisions for the people. Again, this gets us through July. So no other cuts need to be made other than this document. Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: And this was adjusted, first presented and then through the workshop, uh..

MARIANNE KNIGHT: That's correct.

GORDON ROGERS: There was stuff in here on, uh, overtime and stuff that was put that we kinda backed out, and salt and sand 'cause of the hard winter we're having and the one that's being projected, so it has been adjusted.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: I'd like to ask Kelli a question. Kelli, does this cover us, my-my and Neal's proposal, does this cover us for the year, as far as what we needed and what this shows.

MICHAEL DILLON: No.

KELLI RUSS: We need the Foster-Glocester Regional reduction, yes.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Yes. That's why. Because that we're not gonna have to worry about.

KELLI RUSS: Not that's already been approved and acquired.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: That's correct. That's correct. So this covers us completely, barring any

KELLI RUSS: The balances are covered. Is that the question you're asking? It balances out.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Yes. That's the question I'm asking. It balances out.

GORDON ROGERS: That is if we move forward with-with not giving the region the money that they're suing us for that we held back on them, correct?

KELLI RUSS: Yes.

GORDON ROGERS: Of which we're spending money on lawyers that were hired by the previous council to do so.

KELLI RUSS: Currently, um, it's already been removed from the budget because the town council (unintelligible) to do so. So with that reduction (unintelligible) being made (unintelligible).

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Then we can actually set up a reserve account for when, if-if in fact we lose the case, we would have to pay it. We can set up a reserve account and put any extra money that we can find in that account to possibly pay for that \$180,000.00, but I have a feeling we're not gonna lose it.

RONALD CERVASIO: I didn't hear that, could you say that again?

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MARIANNE KNIGHT: The \$180,000.00

RONALD CERVASIO: That we are, or that we're not gonna lose it.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: I said I don't think we're going to lose it.

RONALD CERVASIO: Oh. Yes.

MICHAEL DILLON: Is that your legal opinion?

GORDON ROGERS: Uh, are we done discussing? Or, vo-we're not. Any further—
Mike?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: I see hands up.

MICHAEL DILLON: I didn't now it was that easy, y- to balance a budget. We just eliminate a line and we're balanced.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: No, we just don't eliminate a line, we go through each line and see what the percentages are that we have not used and that what we could use.

MICHAEL DILLON: My point is we're assuming that we're gonna get \$188,000.00 or not have to pay \$188,000.00.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: No, we're assuming that if the chance is that in fact we lose, that we can set up a reserve account between now and then and this is not going...this is going to drag out for about two years, so we have two years to get our act together and put aside some money.

MICHAEL DILLON: Well, I'm not arguing with you, if just it's a matter of, its very possible that we're gonna owe this money and I don't believe that it should be forgotten.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: It's not forgotten, we're gonna put it in a reserve fund.

GORDON ROGERS: Well, I think an important thing to mention here is, of the lawsuit, and we're going to be paying the lawyers if this council, and I think we're going into Executive Session tonight, decides to move forward with the lawsuit or drop it, we made be owin' that \$188 when we walk out of here tonight, or at the next meeting.

NEAL WHITELAW: If that in fact happens...

GORDON ROGERS: Yes. That's what I want to address.

NEAL WHITELAW: Okay, then we owe \$188,000.00. Between these two budgets, we're talkin' maybe \$80,000.00 Where're we gonna get another \$100,000 to pay these people. If the lawsuit stops tonight, they want their payment...so are we just gonna close three fire departments?

GORDON ROGERS: That's not even being looked at.

MICHAEL DILLON: That's not the point.

NEAL WHITELAW: The point is you, if you're gonna make cuts and you're gonna get us through this year, and you're gonna make up the \$188,000.00, where's the other \$110,000.00 coming from. If you stop the lawsuit tonight, you owe them a check. What are you gonna close that's worth \$110,000.00 in town?

GORDON ROGERS: So here's my point. We ignore any further cuts and we turn it over to the taxpayer in the next financial town meeting and say "sorry we didn't, we want you to pay for this?"

NEAL WHITELAW: Listen, I would much rather turn it over to the people, then to have us make that decision.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay.

NEAL WHITELAW: That's my proposal. Is that this gets us through to July 1. And in twelve weeks we're gonna have a financial town meeting. If someone on this council wants to put a line item on there of \$188,000.00 to send to the region, so be it, and the people decide what we do. We're in this situation because 250 people at the first financial town meeting voted for expenditures, and a second financial town meeting, those expenditures, or the levy wasn't made to represent the first financial town meeting's expenditures. Any of that clear? The problem is the people didn't get to speak at the second budget. It's now up to the previous council and this council to make these cuts. That, to me,, is unfair. It should be the people who make the decision, not us.

GORDON ROGERS: Did they not make the decision at the second financial town meeting? I guess I'm kinda confused. I thought the decision was made at the second financial town meeting.

MICHAEL DILLON: The people should decide where the cuts come from?

NEAL WHITELAW: Absolutely, the people should decide where the cuts come from, not the council. This just gets us through to July 1, when we can give it back to the people in twelve weeks, we're gonna have a financial town meeting and the people can decide what we want to do from there. Excuse me. That's my position.

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MARIANNE KNIGHT: I agree.

NEAL WHITELAW: This keeps everybody whole...until July 1st.

GORDON ROGERS: I don't agree if we don't move forward with the lawsuit.

NEAL WHITELAW: If we don't continue the lawsuit, then ya gotta come up with another \$110,000.00 tonight. I'm not prepared to do that to these people.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: No.

NEAL WHITELAW: I'm not closin' a fire station, or a library, or having who knows how many furlough days \$110,000.00 comes to.

MARIANNE KNIGHT:: There's not even that many.

NEAL WHITELAW: My point is the people should decide this, not...

GORDON ROGERS: Please, you'll have your turn. Please be quiet. My point is, and I don't want to be it washed away, it's not that I don't agree with you, but we were elected what was presented by the taxpayer. And I have a concern that they said, "Don't raise my taxes" so all we're gonna do is kick the can into the next financial year if we decide not to move forward and put it on them to say the same thing. How many times do they need to come out to a financial town meeting and say don't raise my taxes, and we bury our heads in the sand, and don't make cuts. I think we can...I'm not saying close fire departments and ambulance corps, but I think there's still some cuts in here that we can go in and say, "now we've cut as much as we can". I think we—there's a little bit more there that we can do without shutting down fire departments, and this is where we differ.

NEAL WHITELAW: We differ on the \$110,000.00 that I don't see where we can up with and actually keep the town running. If you stop the lawsuit, they want their money today, not in three weeks.

GORDON ROGERS: Is that what they told you?

NEAL WHITELAW: That's...exactly, if the lawsuit stops, they want your money. I would assume that.

GORDON ROGERS: Are you assuming they won't work with us?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: They won't work with us.

GORDON ROGERS: Please, please.

NEAL WHITELAW: We haven't even had this conversation. We haven't even had this conversation with the region to say, "Gee, if we settle this lawsuit, will you take less money?"

GORDON ROGERS: I'm just trying to throw ideas up there to help us through this tough time.

NEAL WHITELAW: And my point is this gets us through to July 1. In twelve weeks like I mentioned we're gonna all sit down and go through this and if the people decide that's what they want to do, then I'm with them, but I don't think it's fair for us to make cuts that we don't need to make until July 1st, 'cause I think the lawsuit's gonna continue on, my own opinion, because we don't have a choice, we don't have money to give them today. That's my...

GORDON ROGERS: So we pay lawyers to kick the can down the street.

NEAL WHITELAW: You're gonna pay lawyers, if you don't pay lawyers, then you've got to come up with 110,000 bucks. Is that a good solution? No. All respect for the attorneys here, I don't-I don't want to begrudge them their pay, but we don't have the \$110,000.00 we need.

GORDON ROGERS: This is what I enjoy about politics, these discussions. I really do.

NEAL WHITELAW: I just want to give it back to the people. That was my point.

GORDON ROGERS: Yup.

MICHAEL DILLON: I'm just still not sure.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, now I'll entertain some...Ron?

RONALD CERVASIO: Yeah, I don't know the total of the different proposals but I'm gonna suggest you cut everything in both proposals. Ah, you are gonna be in deficit territory next year, and what Mr. Whitelaw is talkin' about, I don't know. There's one place to get money in this town and that's from people's taxes. Um, the lawsuit, I don't know why Mrs. Knight is thinking that we're gonna win that lawsuit. Gloucester wouldn't join us because their attorney thought we were gonna lose. The only person who thought we were gonna win that lawsuit was the last solicitor, who when he filed it, you heard \$65,000.00 and you only has a charge \$65,000.00, and I have two receipts or, or, ah, whaddaycallits over here for a total of \$77,000.00.

NEAL WHITELAW: Point of order, this has nothing to do with this discussion.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: It has nothing to do with that.

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RONALD CERVASIO: Excuse me.

NEAL WHITELAW: Mr. Chairman, point of order, this has nothing to do the budget discussion.

RONALD CERVASIO: So the budget discussion is yes.

NEAL WHITELAW: No, he's talking about solicitor's salaries from last year.

RONALD CERVASIO: She brought up, she brought up that you could win the lawsuit and I'm sayin' you can't. You brought it up.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: That's your opinion.

RONALD CERVASIO: You brought up that we would have to pay immediately.

There was a time not too long ago that the region let us pay over three years, so you're mistaken also. The thought that you people are arguing about, about what and how to save money when, I don't know why you refuse to understand you're in deficit next year. The State is what, 5-5 million? Five hundred million, excuse me. Providence is in five hundred million. What do you think you're gonna get from them to help you? So, you're gonna raise people taxes. Neal, you ran as a fiscal conservative and went to people's houses and said I'm a fiscal conservative. See that smile? I love catching you, Neal, I love having you come out in front of everybody.

NEAL WHITELAW: You know, and I'm gonna respond to that.

MICHAEL DILLON: Tell him he can't do that.

NEAL WHITELAW: It is up to the people to decide what they want to do. I have a vote at the financial town meeting as everyone else, and I can vote the way I want, so can people. If they decide they want to put their tax money into a library to keep it, and they want their taxes raised, so be it, but it's their choice.

RONALD CERVASIO: The state of Rhode Island is not gonna allow you to raise, continue to raise taxes, I'm tellin' you, the State wants to lower taxes to bring in industry to support libraries in the future. The whole State is in the hole. Neal, you know that.

NEAL WHITELAW: Your opinion.

GORDON ROGERS: Alright, moving on.

RONALD CERVASIO. Excuse me, I love it. I love it. (unintelligible)

GORDON ROGERS: Mr. Hohler.

ROBERT HOHLER: I'm looking at both, both documents, and, um, and reading the first, um, with the budget analysis, ah, we'll say \$49,300?

GORDON ROGERS: One quarter of that savings that you see of the \$49,300 is the savings on hiring a most cost efficient solicitor. That's, there's \$15,000.00 of savings in that of the \$49,000.00, that's—yes, yes.

ROBERT HOHLER: Now in this one, um, it's eighty-three, is that right?

GORDON ROGERS: Just--there is a difference between the two. This one's being voted on as a whole, this one's being discussed section by section, so...when-when we talk about...

ROBERT HOHLER: It's a cons (unintelligible)...right?

NEAL WHITELAW: No.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: No.

ROBERT HOHLER: No no. But I mean it-it's for the budget.

GORDON ROGERS: Yes, right.

ROBERT HOHLER: This is over the

GORDON ROGERS: This one's being address in a whole through line items and voted on as a bottom line.

ROBERT HOHLER: You're gonna accept one of these.

GORDON ROGERS: No, we're gonna address both of 'em.

ROBERT HOHLER: And try to put something together?

GORDON ROGERS: Right. One is savings other than from the—there's two different types of savings there.

ROBERT HOHLER: There's only twelve weeks.

GORDON ROGERS: Yup. I heard him.

ROBERT HOHLER: And, I-I, you know, (unintelligible) away from him and then over him (unintelligible) right? When I get...

GORDON ROGERS: When I get to this one, you'll understand what I'm talking about, it's pretty fair I believe, when I get to this here, when I have that opportunity.

ROBERT HOHLER: I'm pretty familiar with budgets, so I—

GORDON ROGERS: So am I.

ROBERT HOHLER: I know, so, ah, we're on the same, ah, wavelength, alright.

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LINDA WALDEN: Linda Walden, Central Pike. During the Public Comment, I just asked about the difference in the two documents, um, right now, just to clarify so I understand what's going on. You have a motion on the floor for the budget that's dated 1/27/11, correct?

GORDON ROGERS: Yes

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Yes.

LINDA WALDEN: I understand you're considering it as a whole. Should it fail, there's no reason why you have to go to this FTM #2 and that as a whole. You could do both documents and make your selections from each, so what I just heard, I don't think it's accurate. You could look at both documents, not just throw one out the window if you don't like it, you could look at both. So again, if FTM#2 is put through, I hope it won't be, will the ambulance corps take another \$3,440.00 hit for a total of 23 percent from last year's budget, that's the question I asked, so I'd like that answered.

GORDON ROGERS: I can answer that question when we get to workin' on this document, after we work on the motion that we're workin' on this one, so again you're puttin' the cart before the horse. We will get to that and I will discuss things on that.

LINDA WALDEN: The other thing I'd like to say is I sat through the on—the all of the budget reviews, and maybe it was the last meeting, we got through department by department when my experience with the school budgets for a planning department budget is that—you're at the half year mark—and you have expenditures, substantially below approximately fifty to sixty-six percent of your budget, that budget will not be used up in its totality when you get to June 3rd, and the reason for that is, with the exception of the highway department, obviously has no control over the weather, they will have a lot of expenditures that can't be foreseen, that can't be forecast. However, other budgets, unless it's a department that spends all its money in the Spring for whatever reason, or they go out at the last minute and use up their budget so they have zero percent when they come back to you next year for their increases, that might be the case, they'll use up all the money quote "just to use it up", and if you're at the halfway mark—which you were December 31st, and the department budgets are not at fifty to sixty-six percent of their total budget year, some of those budgets are going to have surpluses when we get to June 30th, so please keep that in mind. What the numbers are, I can't tell you, but in principle that generally works.

KELLI RUSS: I just want to explain briefly how this-how this document was created. When we met at the, uh, budget meeting, we determined at that point in time—all the department heads had a chance to defend their budget to determine if we could make those cuts, and these are the cuts that we agreed on at that point in time, so that's what's in this document. When we went forward to the other document, I was asked to, uh, basically just do the second page, but, uh, a-and then move some of these things around so that they were representative once. If you notice on the last—you were at the budget meeting, the last budget meeting—that ambulance corps stipend, that ambulance corps deduction was on this worksheet, so I didn't want to take it off completely, but that was already approved at the last council meeting, so that's the original five percent.

LINDA WALDEN: This is not in addition.

KELLI RUSS: This is not an additional five percent. It's the original five percent, and on this large document, you can see, ah, clearly see some shaded areas, these-these items on the shaded areas are on the first worksheet, it was just to get a total in order to figure out a total by department on this whole document, I had to put the total from this on here. Those are in the shaded areas, okay. It's the second page, (unintelligible) your first sheet of the document, that (unintelligible) but to figure out the totals deducted by department we took what we are planning on cutting from here, adding it to here, so we could get a projected total. So that we could (unintelligible), but this is the document that we went over the other day, and all the department heads had their chance to discuss any changes. That's the first thing that we're voting on, so. We've already discussed it, and I made the changes, I think maybe you should address this first, expedite this, then possibly move to the second one.

GORDON ROGERS: Any further discussions from the audience?

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JULIA PARMENTIER: Yeah, I'd like to really, uh, commend, uh, Mr. Whitelaw and Ms. Knight, the for the, uh, work that they put into putting the together the second budget, which actually preserves jobs or preserves, um, people from taking ten percent cuts disguised as furlough days. Um then for trying to work, uh, within the expenses—we're Fosterites, we're Yankees, we, you know, pinch pennies as much as we can, and I think everybody in every department has been doing that this year and that does leave us with some surpluses which I think, you know, is really appropriate to, uh, to tap into those to try to reduce our expenses and not take it out on the backs of the and the libraries, and the backs of the public safety officers and the-the fire departments, ambulance corps, and the backs of the Town Clerks, so I really appreciate the effort you made to do that. I-I fully agree with the idea of, in twelve weeks, bringing it up, bringing a new budget to the townspeople, um, making your proposals for whatever you want at that time, and then it can be basically thrashed out on the floor of the financial town meeting.

GORDON ROGERS: Any further discussion from the council on the budget and motion?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I have a question, um, under...

GORDON ROGERS: Council administration expenses.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Right, right, and it comes under the direction of the Treasurer that we do not go forward with that expense only because all the expenses that we've been incurring with, you know, having to pay—

GORDON ROGERS: Paine School

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Paine School and whatnot, I think that we actually need it, um,

LYNNE S. RIDER: Can you speak up?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I believe that we need, uh, and then I'm going by the referral and the recommendation of the treasurer about the council administration expenses because I did not realize, as I don't think any of us did, um, the amount of funds that actually used during...

GORDON ROGERS: That green highlighted \$2,300.00 means that we should be careful of that because you think we have expenditures coming up, that if we do put that in this we're gonna have to get it from somewhere else. You want to explain that?

KELLI RUSS: I'm not gonna say you can't cut any of it, but the original decision at the budget workshop was to—

MICHAEL DILLON: Cut it all—

KELLI RUSS: —cut the \$2300, and if you, we need some of it because you meet at Paine School, and like for example we had met (intelligible) we met at Paine School tonight we would have had to pay the custodian because he wasn't working today. Our last meeting we had to pay the custodian, there's no other place to charge that, that's where it would come from, so maybe you should, you can still reduce, but the \$2300—

GORDON ROGERS: I don't think we'll be using Paine School.

KELLI RUSS: But we already have that bill, we gonna have that bill, and a few other things, yeah.

NEAL WHITELOW: If I could address the comment. We have over \$10,000.00 in the contingency account, and to have both I think would be redundant.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: I agree.

GORDON ROGERS: I agree also. I'm game for cutting.

KELLI RUSS: Don't forget about the contingency fund, the legal fees you're referring to aren't budgeted, we've reduced the solicitor's salary down to what his actual salary is, and we've reduced the benefits what they are, we don't have a budget for anything like that so that's where it would go, and there are always things come up other than that but that's a good portion of that we really don't want to reduce that much either, and it is inappropriate, if you were to charge something like that, that's the appropriate line for council expenses, so it's not a contingency, it would be there so I would reduce it a little bit there you know and hold off on the contingency until we know where we're going with that, let me know soon.

NEAL WHITELOW: Just so everyone knows, the council administration in the original budget was \$2,500.00 and so far we've spent \$176.00 of that line item. Uh, it just seems appropriate to take \$2,000.00 from that line item, in my opinion.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: I agree.

NEAL WHITELOW: This doesn't take anything from anyone, and there's even \$24.00 left to pay for the gavel.

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GORDON ROGERS: Ha ha ha ha ha, I'll take you up on that later.

NEAL WHITELAW: Okay.

SHELLY PEZZA: I'm sorry, just a question. Do you have a general fund where you take money to pay the solicitor for the arbitration that you are anticipating.

GORDON ROGERS: That's what she was just explaining

SHELLY PEZZA: That's what, yes, she was trying to, trying to, it was hard to follow.

GORDON ROGERS: That is the, ah, contingency fund is where that stuff comes out of.

SHELLY PEZZA; What, I'm sorry, I'm trying to find it. What is the amount?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Second page.

GORDON ROGERS: Second page.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Third one down.

GORDON ROGERS: \$20,000.00, we've expended \$7,900.00, ah and most of that is lawyer fees for the previous solicitor and the ones that are fighting the region.

SHELLY PEZZA: Right now, there's \$10,000.00 balance?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Right.

GORDON ROGERS: Yes, twelve.

SHELLY PEZZA: Twelve, and that's from now until June.

GORDON ROGERS: Right, and if this passes that will be reduced by \$2,000.00 so that'll be a \$10,000.00 balance, correct. And that will be from now until June and then you start all over again.

GORDON ROGERS: Right. And again, during budget talks, which I-I went to, I did argue the \$20,000.00 contingency 'cause prior years were \$10,000.00 and they explained that's what they had spent in previous years, but I even have a problem at budget talks having such a large line item 'cause that what we really do as a citizen, you know, go through line items at a budget talk, budget workshop.

SHELLY PEZZA: Now just out of curiosity, Mr. Rogers, did you happen to receive the post budget from the region with the anticipated raise?

GORDON ROGERS: Yes, ah, no, coming forward, the enrollment change in the bond in the new school—

SHELLY PEZZA: Yes.

GORDON ROGERS: Yes, we did receive that.

SHELLY PEZZA: And then an increase, a possible increase in, um, money that Foster is going to have to pay if approved?

GORDON ROGERS: Yes, yes.

SHELLY PEZZA: That's where I was going with that, and then if you...

GORDON ROGERS: Then again, it's all preliminary and it's-it's several hundred thousand plus...

SHELLY PEZZA: Exactly.

GORDON ROGERS: Uh, that we're looking at.

SHELLY PEZZA: And then if there's any chance we did have to make up this \$110,000.00...

GORDON ROGERS: \$180,000.00.

SHELLY PEZZA: Okay so that would be close to \$500,000.00.

GORDON ROGERS: Actually \$188,000.00 and change.

SHELLY PEZZA: So then we're looking at the taxpayers having to make that decision...

GORDON ROGERS: About \$400,000.00, pretty close to what Ron was sayin', half a million. Yes, yes exactly, and if you don't start cuttin', you're gonna get run over by that train. And again, as being elected, I have to represent what I was told and what I said door-to-door, and I'm gonna stand with that, and if I think we can save money...we may not come up with the \$220,000.00 or total \$180,000.00 plus what we knew, now Neal may be here, and I may be here, that's what democracy is about, and this is what we're workin' on, so, we're—yeah—and I agree with cuttin' this, too, and I do have some ideas on here, and some of it are projected, my idea, so if we do, don't move forward the lawsuit before the twelve weeks are up, we've already got a head up on this budget; because if you don't do it in this budget, those days are gone in twelve weeks to save that money, so that's where I'm at and right now there's a motion on this one on which I agree with. And again, a quarter of this savings was done when this council took effect, a quarter of that total number was already done at our first meeting, was a serious savings.

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LYNNE DESTEFANO: I'd like to ask Councilman Whitelaw regarding the \$2,300.00 again, I'm just going back to this. When you mentioned that, uh, so far, in the first we, in over a month and we've already expended \$175—

NEAL WHITELOW: No that's for the whole year.

GORDON ROGERS: That's for the whole year.

NEAL WHITELOW: It's July 1st, so in seven months we spent \$176.00 out of the \$2,500.00 line item.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: So, okay, so the— when we talk about—obviously, Paine School's out right now—but um, additional expenses are due from...a couple hundred dollars here, a couple hundred dollars there...you know, I mean I'm just wonderin' if...I'm all for...but I just don't want to cut ourselves short.

NEAL WHITELOW: But just so we're clear, we went through this and we could've gone further in cuts on each line item, but we only took 25 percent of what was left, not 50 percent. So there's still, at least I feel that there's still wigg-wiggle room within these budgets, if something does go wrong, there's still a little bit of money...

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Right.

NEAL WHITELOW: left in certain line items. It wasn't a 50 percent cut as Mrs. Walden had mentioned, this is only a 25 percent cut in each line item.

GORDON ROGERS: Well, actually the council administration expenses was budgeted at \$2,500.00, you're cuttin' \$2,300.00 so it's...

NEAL WHITELOW: But we made that decision at the...

GORDON ROGERS: ...but that's not a 50 percent cut, that's like an 80-90 percent cut.

NEAL WHITELOW: Correct. But the original proposal that we had at the workshop was a 25 percent cut, we decided to go the \$2,300.00.

GORDON ROGERS: And again, I think we went a little lean on the, uh, contingency, only \$2,000.00 when you probably coulda cut more than that.

NEAL WHITELOW: Well, that's the point, if you wanna take each thing to zero and try to get through July 1st on a wing and a prayer, than that's okay, too. If you want just a little bit in case we do have some type of emergency, we have a little bit.

GORDON ROGERS: The other should consider is road signs I know there was a discussion with the...

MARIANNE KNIGHT: We did the road signs didn't we?

GORDON ROGERS: No, the reason why I'm saying that, Marianne, is you see the little green bar down here that says "should be reconsidered"?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Yeah, but didn't we decide that we were going to take that..

GORDON ROGERS: Yeah but it's green, so I don't think we should ignore the green, we should discuss and reconsider, and get it out there, why we should consider it.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Kelli, how much do we—bottom line—what we need to balance the budget now?

KELLI RUSS: To what?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: To just balance it. I mean if we...

KELLI RUSS: To balance with the one (unintelligible word)

MARIANNE KNIGHT: No, no, without the one, to balance it...from these figures.

KELLI RUSS: It needs more to balance it, I think if we did this, it would be...uh

MARIANNE KNIGHT: In the black?

KELLI RUSS: Yes.

NEAL WHITELOW: So, just so I'm clear, up until July 1st, you need...I'll throw out a figure: \$35,000.00, we've proposed a \$49,000.00 reduction, so there's still some room in there if something goes bad that we can still take a little bit out of this budget and still be whole July 1st. And I don't want to put you in a spot, saying it's \$30,000.00 if it's \$5,000.00.

KELLI RUSS: It's true if we're successful with the 188.

NEAL WHITELOW: Correct.

KELLI RUSS: It all comes down to the region.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: That's right.

NEAL WHITELOW: Correct. We-we, I think we agree on that.

GORDON ROGERS: The only thing we don't agree on...

MICHAEL DILLON: So we'll be balanced on paper? Is that what you're saying?

NEAL WHITELOW: Yeah, we're as balanced to day as we were then.

GORDON ROGERS: And we'll be paying lawyers to stay balanced so costing money to fight something we made...

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KELLI RUSS: If we can balance on paper, balance in theory, but not necessarily balance in reality.

MICHAEL DILLON: That's right.

GORDON ROGERS: The can will stop down the road and we will have to address it then with legal fees and everything else.

MICHAEL DILLON: You gotta pay 'em.

KELLI RUSS: If we don't...

NEAL WHITELAW: You got 180 thousand bucks?

MICHAEL DILLON: No.

NEAL WHITELAW: So how you gonna pay 'em?

MICHAEL DILLON: I don't know.

NEAL WHITELAW: Well, that's the problem.

KELLI RUSS:... (most of sentence unintelligible) your course of action (unintelligible) end result, yes.

MICHAEL DILLON: Well, that's why we should continue to cut. To pay that.

GORDON ROGERS: Well, when we get to the second page, I'll explain that.

NEAL WHITELAW: I'm proposing to put it to the people. In twelve weeks we go for a financial town meeting, and the people can decide what they want to do.

GORDON ROGERS: And in my opinion, five months ago, the people, it was put to the people, and they did make a decision. They didn't make a decision to...

GORDON ROGERS: No, they made a decision not to raise the taxes and put it in the hands of the council to balance the budget.

NEAL WHITELAW: Excuse me, excuse me. But they didn't propose, the people didn't say "we want six furlough days" or "we want ten furlough days" or "we want to close a library", they didn't say that. They just said, "we're not gonna spend that much money" and put it into the hands of the council which I think is inappropriate. I think the people should have a say in what we do, not us five.

GORDON ROGERS: I think you're shirking your responsibilities as an elected official to balance a budget that was dictated at the second August financial town meeting.

NEAL WHITELAW: But they didn't dictate a budget, they dictated a reduction in funds, not, went through line by line and said "this is what we want to reduce", like the first financial town meeting did. Those, the first financial town meeting...

MICHAEL DILLON: Can't do that.

NEAL WHITELAW: went through a budget that said, we agree to all these numbers. The second financial town meeting didn't go through line by line and say, "this is what we want to cut" they just said, "reduce our funding by this much amount."

MICHAEL DILLON: You can't, you can't do it line by line.

GORDON ROGERS: Again, I clearly disagree.

NEAL WHITELAW: Why can't you?

MICHAEL DILLON: We're just talking about the financial meeting.

GORDON ROGERS: Financial—you can only cut the bottom line.

MICHAEL DILLON: You can only do bottom line on that.

GORDON ROGERS: At the special financial town meeting the only motion was not to transfer the revenue shortfall to the taxpayer but to cut the balance, the balance...

NEAL WHITELAW: I'm—I'm uncomfortable speaking, when the people have a voice, I'd like to hear it.

GORDON ROGERS: I heard it, August 17th, again this is where we differ, and again, I mean, we can beat this...

NEAL WHITELAW: What you heard on that date was to give furlough days, and to close libraries and what you're proposing?

GORDON ROGERS: No, that was proposed by the previous council, nine furlough days.

NEAL WHITELAW: I don't care about the previous council. This is this council, and we've now, and you've now proposed taking money away from the ambulance corps, the fire station..

GORDON ROGERS: When we get to that, we can discuss that, no, when I make a motion on that when we go over the line item, you'll see, so don't start puttin' words in my mouth that aren't there yet. We're working on this one. Is there any further discussion?

MICHAEL DILLON: We'll get there.

GORDON ROGERS: We'll get there. This is a democracy.

NEAL WHITELAW: I'm done, I'm done.

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GORDON ROGERS: Kelli?

KELLI RUSS: Can I, ah, recommend that we just talk about the first one first so that we can make some progress on this, because we've already discussed it. I thought we going to...

GORDON ROGERS: Yeah, well that's all we're tal—that's what I'm trying to do is talk about this one. There's a mot—there's a motion on the floor for this one. We haven't even...we'll get to this one next.

KELLI RUSS: So is this still not what you wanted? This is what I'm asking, I guess, 'cause this is what I prepared based on what I thought you wanted.

GORDON ROGERS: Yeah.

KELLI RUSS: If that's the case, then can we discuss this one and maybe go to the next one after, you know...

GORDON ROGERS: That's what I've been saying.

KELLI RUSS: we really didn't want that many disagreements on this one.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Correct.

GORDON ROGERS: That's what the motion's on...so is there any further discussion on this one here from the council?

MICHAEL DILLON: No.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I'm sorry, I missed what you said 'cause I was...

GORDON ROGERS: I'm asking if anybody has any further discussion on this one.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: No.

GORDON ROGERS: We're all set.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: All set.

GORDON ROGERS: The motion's been made, are we—who's in favor of the motion to pass this, signify by saying aye?

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye.

GORDON ROGERS: Opposed? Hearing none, it passes. Okay, now...

KELLI RUSS: So with the twenty-three as is, and with the five hundred, just to be clear.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Yes.

GORDON ROGERS: Yes.

KELLI RUSS: Okay, as is.

GORDON ROGERS: Now this is where it gets tough. And again, the ones I'd like to anti—now that the furlough days wasn't my idea, or anybody's idea, that was what the treasurer worked out, nine furlough days for the year.

LYNNE S. RIDER: No, the former council did not.

GORDON ROGERS: You have not been recognized yet. Kelli, now were there not...

KELLI RUSS: Yes that was the plan to balance the budget at that point in time.

GORDON ROGERS: I mean you were the one who mentioned nine furlough days and said three were already taken, and six more.

KELLI RUSS: We come up with how much, what we needed to reduce to get to the thirty-seven, or whatever that was what it was originally, that was nine days, the council did not approve. They approved only three because they thought it was too, too great, so at that point in time they included three and said we would re-evaluate that in January as we went forward based on our current needs. So, ah, at that time that is what we needed with the \$188,000.00 with the reduction the departments made, that when, that's when we opened all the contracts to do whatever, and this is what we did from a same, from an equivalent standpoint at this time, for the nine, the nine furlough days. They did not approve that.

MICHAEL DILLON: Now again, I mean, these are not even gonna be bothered with.

KELLI RUSS: They approved the three.

GORDON ROGERS: Now, the furlough days are just up for discussion, so, and the reason why I brought this up is if we're gonna, if we're gonna try and save any more money, we can't bury our heads in the sand, we have to at least schedule some furlough days, because there's advertisement that has to be done...well, depends if we're gonna shut things down, but again, do we want to go with some more furlough days? What is one furlough day worth all the way through that you can multiply it by six?

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KELLI RUSS: One furlough day is about \$3,800.00, and that's what it all, that's with the DPW—

GORDON ROGERS: And the Town Hall?

KELLI RUSS: —and the entire Town Hall all the way across. Everybody but the police.

GORDON ROGERS: So six of them would be about \$18,000.00?

KELLI RUSS: For six days, six days.

GORDON ROGERS: Right. It said \$3,800.00 so...

KELLI RUSS: He's saying \$3,800.00 times six.

MICHAEL DILLON: Twenty...twenty-three...twenty-two thousand

KELLI RUSS: It's here by department.

GORDON ROGERS: Right, right.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Kelli, can I ask a question. Kelli? Does the union have to approve these furlough days?

KELLI RUSS: The first we were all in agreement the first time, they didn't argue with the furlough days, no we all and there's no disagreement, but it's my understanding that, as you see, the union will fight additional furlough days.

MARYANN PAPA: Can I speak on that please? Maryann Papa, Cranston, Rhode Island. I work for the Town Hall. The union, you have to discuss it with the union. We agreed to the three; we're not so agreeable to the six, so that's where we stand on that. Arthur could not be here this evening 'cause he was out working like you, plowing. Uh, he tried to get here but we are not going to give up furlough days with no out—cuts in anoth—in any other department, we're not gonna take the hit alone again.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, I just got the answer on that, so that probably locks that one out and leaves us only a few other opportunities. Thank you.

KELLI RUSS: So (unintelligible) calculated price you cut it when (unintelligible).

GORDON ROGERS: Alright, does anybody want to take any action on the furlough days? Sue.

SUSAN BOUCHER: Susan Boucher, Shippee Schoolhouse Road. Um, I just want to say, I'm in the union at the Town Hall. We have a contract. We are not going to open the contract, uh, and so if-if you guys try to give us furlough days, uh, there may be repercussions; that's all I can say, and we will probably file a grievance.

MICHAEL DILLON: What is she saying?

GORDON ROGERS: They don't want to take the furlough days without the union help, fight it, so we can try.

MICHAEL DILLON: She tells us.

GORDON ROGERS: Yup. Lynne.

LYNNE S. RIDER: You not only have the three clerks at the Town Hall, but you're also assuming that the DPW workers are going to take six more furlough days, which I sincerely doubt. So that effectively, if you were counting on over \$14,000.00 using furlough days for the—

GORDON ROGERS: We'll see how far we can go.

LYNNE S. RIDER: um, Town Hall, and another twenty-nine for the DPW, that equals fifty-three, four twenty-two. You probably will not realize, um, you probably have to reduce your cuts of \$85,000.00 that you say you can get by at least another \$40,000.00. Now that gives more weight to what Mr. Whitelaw was saying about going forward with the, um, suit pursuing the region because now, you don't even have the \$100,000.00 you thought you had cut. Now you've gotta make up even more.

GORDON ROGERS: Any further discussion on that? Well, I guess that's gonna fall. Uh, next, Planner. Twenty hours a week. I know the Planner sat down with Lynne to let her know how, what she does, she requested, she sat down, uh, I asked Lynne what her opinion was on this one.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Well, um, Ann-Marie Ignasher is a fantastic Planner, her work is impeccable...

LYNNE S. RIDER: Can't hear. Please speak up.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I spoke with Ann-Marie, we sat down, I do realize that the work she does is excellent. We've had the opportunity to work together on the Affordable Housing Board. Uh, it's not, uh, nothing personal. I just don't think that our budget, right now, can afford. As you can see we're struggling with a large gap that has to be closed, um, for this town's budget, and that's the only other reason that I can see, um, at this time. So...

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GORDON ROGERS: What's your recommendation?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I rec—make a recommendation that we reduce the amount of hours to...

MICHAEL DILLON: Is that a motion?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: —to

GORDON ROGERS: Here is twenty.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: —twenty hours only because we can't afford, uh, the salary, and the work is impeccable, but we just don't have the funds. We're struggling here to balance this budget. I mean, if anyone else would like to sit behind this table right now and try...

MICHAEL DILLON: Is that in the form of a motion?

GORDON ROGERS: Are you going to make a motion to reduce her hours?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Yes.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, state it.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Oh, I make a motion to reduce the hours to twenty.

GORDON ROGERS: So we can discuss it. Twenty hours for the Planner. Is there a second to that for discussion?

MICHAEL DILLON: Second.

GORDON ROGERS: There's a second, now we can go into discussion on the council.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Kelli, can I ask a question. Uh, on this budget here, under the Planning, on the description it says, there's a credit of \$6345.03, is that just the salary that we're, we would reduce or is that the furlough days?

KELLI RUSS: I'm sorry, I don't see where you're looking at.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Over here. First page.

NEAL WHITELAW: Number twelve.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Number twelve, Planning.

KELLI RUSS: Okay, so where do you see the sixty-three...

GORDON ROGERS: Over here on the bottom, underneath.

KELLI RUSS: Oh, sixty-three forty-five, um, I guess that would be the net savings, for her, the total net savings.

NEAL WHITELAW: What...back up a sec, the total net savings of six furlough days or a reduction to 20 hours?

ANN-MARIE IGNASHER: The reduction to 20 hours is nine five.

GORDON ROGERS: Nine thousand five hundred.

KELLI RUSS: The reduction to twenty hours is \$9,500.00. The furlough days is, the six furlough days for her would be \$1,200.00.

MICHAEL DILLON: That's not what the motion is about though. Okay.

KELLI RUSS: The reductions that we've already just approved two seconds ago is the three hundred and ninety. That six thousand over in the far corner, if you look at the FTM adopted budget, to the adjusted budget, that what the total is about, and the reason for that is, um, originally her salary was cut back at the financial town meeting and restored.

GORDON ROGERS: So if this motion passes, the nine five ninety two will be added to that six.

KELLI RUSS: It is in that six. It's in the six, it won't be added to it, it's already in the six.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: So the six is a net figure?

KELLI RUSS: If you look at the FTM adopted budget from May.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Yup.

KELLI RUSS: And you look at all the changes we've made, or proposed, the final net, adjusted budget would be \$52,000.00.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Hm hmm.

KELLI RUSS: The difference between the \$59,000.00 the FTM adopted budget to the fifty two thousand is six thousand three point five.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: So there's really no sense. It's chicken feed.

GORDON ROGERS: With this savings moving forward years ahead too. Any further discussion from the council.

NEAL WHITELAW: I'll just go back to my original point, that in twelve weeks, if people want to reduce the Planner to twenty hours, it's their will.

GORDON ROGERS: Ginny.

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VIRGINIA COLWELL: Ginny Colwell, Salisbury Road. Um, again I'd like to pose that question: how much revenue through grants that Ann-Marie has brought in, even in the past year, regardless of previous years.

ANN-MARIE IGNASHER: In response to that, um, I went through in my letter saying I was interested in being reappointed to continue as Town Planner. I went through my three-and-a-half years. The grant, uh, the amount of grant funds that I personally wrote the proposals for and received grant awards for, \$219,781.00. The amount of additional grant funds that either I rediscovered were owed to the town due to poor grant management before, and therefore reimbursements for for the town, totaled \$78,349.68. As you know we were talking about affordable housing, the only true area that's known as affordable housing in this town is a place Hemlock Village where our senior citizens, um, tend to live. They are at a point where they need to restructure their water tanks. Two years ago they went for a community development block grant. They were turned down. There was a letter that came back to the town that said, if you have problems with this, please call. I called three months later, I got the Hemlock Village \$20,000.00 for their grants, and in this past year because of what had happened the year before when we were going to the grant program I pulled people out of the state, I got people from Providence, state officials, out here, west of 295 which I don't do often, um, and Hemlock Village got an additional \$80,000 to continue and complete that project, so that's an additional \$100,000.00.

GORDON ROGERS: Just-just an additional note. Several years ago, four years ago, and backin' up prior to that there was a part-time Planner's position in the town at a fee of \$8,000.00 a year. So overnight, when that council took over in, I think, '06 we went from \$8,000.00 to 60-plus thousand dollars overnight for a Planner's position in the Town of Foster.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: May I finish the fact that I was standing up here, may I finish.

GORDON ROGERS: You asked the question. I'm responding to.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: I was just

GORDON ROGERS: So it can be done with a part time Planner. It was done with a part-time planner. Grant money was brought in.

LYNNE S. RIDER: He lost \$78,000.00.

GORDON ROGERS: And before that it was Mr. DiLibero that was doing it also part-time.

MYRA MERCIER: Also not a professional, also not bringing you any money.

GORDON ROGERS: Mr. DiLibero.

NEAL WHITELAW: Point of order. You have a person standing here.

GORDON ROGERS: You want to finish?

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Yes. We'd like to finish. Over the course of three years, do I, I was quickly doing the math over here. Is it a total of \$400,000.00 ball park over the course of three years?

ANN-MARIE IGNASHER: It comes to \$398,130.68.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Okay, so ball park, \$125,000.00 in grants per year, ball park figure.

MYRA MERCIER: What did your part-time guys bring in?

VIRGINIA COLWELL: I myself, not being a fiscal genius or anything, would invest \$10,000.00 knowing I was gonna get back \$125,000.00 any day of the week. How much does...your three peers, planners, how much did they pull in per year at that greatly reduced salary, how much did they pull in per year in grants?

GORDON ROGERS: I believe several hundred thousand.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: So you don't have an exact figure...it's...

MYRA MERCIER: Show me. Show me.

GORDON ROGERS: Are you done?

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Well, with that figure, does Kelli have any idea, is there any, do you have any...

KELLI RUSS: I wasn't here then, I wouldn't conjure a guess.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: And aren't you really glad you weren't? So do we have any, do we have any documentation as to how much the previous...was brought in.

GORDON ROGERS: No, I was involved. They did a lot of stuff.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Personally, for the sake of \$10,000.00 to me, it seems just absolutely ludicrous to not maintain her for the sake of \$10,000.00 knowing that she's gonna put the effort in, as well as the upcoming...the name

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ANN-MARIE IGNASHER: The Comprehensive Plan

VIRGINIA COLWELL: That we're gonna have to hire lawyers...this is just...it boggles my mind, it boggle my mind.

GORDON ROGERS: Heidi.

HEIDI ROGERS: I'm just curious as to how much town money was used to match these grants, and do you have any surplus remaining from which to take back the funds from to match any grants that you may get.

GORDON ROGERS: A lot of grants do need matching funds, yes, for example, the DPW's looking for a truck, but we have to buy a used truck and it, matching funds are needed for these grants, so grants aren't free, and grant money that does come in is our money too, which we are taxed on through the federal government.

LYNNE S. RIDER: Oh please.

HEIDI ROGERS: Do we have surplus to take funds out of to match.

GORDON ROGERS: No absolute—no have no surplus to match any grants coming in to the future.

LINDA PROULX: Linda Proulx, Round Hill Road. Um, at one of the last town council meetings, it was mentioned, and I think again tonight, that there would be some legal fees, um, with the Comprehensive Plan, and if Ann-Marie doesn't have time, her hours are cut to twenty hours, if she's not able to do more than, um, just the basic stuff, she's not able to take care of the Comprehensive Plan then that's gonna be a legal cost for us.

PATRICIA MORGAN: Okay, I'm getting a little confused here. She's paying her own way. The money she's bring in is paying her salary. We can't afford that. Okay, we can afford part-time people who are costing us money, but we can't afford someone who is bringing in money. I'm beginning to wonder who's gonna si—who's gonna really benefit by getting rid of Ann-Marie. My (unintelligible) is that the people who are angry about Route 6 changes because they bought a lot of land on Route 6 want her out because if they don't get her out, they won't be able to build what they wanted to build on Route 6. And under those situations this is a mean spirited thing because she's paying her way, now she's pay—hey Hemlock Village would cost me money, it would cost all of us money—she paid for it. I've got a feeling here; you've got to start taking the personal out of this. You've got to stop feeling nasty about everybody because this town was torn in half this last election. It's time we started paying attention to what's good for this town, and this town needs a good planner, not a half-baked one. They need a good planner. They need someone who's gonna back it up with legal situations and we can't be upset because we bought land that's not gonna fit into the plan.

ROBERT HOHLER: We're just talking about \$6,300.00 right, and I think we're gettin' a good bang for our buck here. Um, I-I think she's a lawyer, a lawyer too, am I right? I been...

ANN-MARIE IGNASHER: That's correct.

ROBERT HOHLER: You're a lawyer, too, so we're—we're saving, you know, \$135.00 an hour.

ARTHUR READ: What? Come see my young man, come see me.

ROBERT HOHLER: Okay, no problem. So-so, just from a legal point I just think that \$6,300.00 that's taken up quickly.

GORDON ROGERS: These are all very good points.

ROBERT HOHLER: I think-I think, and I really do think you need to keep her.

MICHAEL DILLON: Isn't our solicitor up on that stuff? Isn't our solicitor up on that stuff?

(unintelligible)

JULIA PARMENTIER: Uh, I was going to ask a question of each of the council members, uh, what really is your underlying reason for reducing those hours, and I think I'm not gonna ask that question.

GORDON ROGERS: I've already answered it.

JULIA PARMENTIER: It's the budget, well, I'm sorry. It's \$6,300.00 until the end of this fiscal year, and it actually looks to me like an effort to get rid of Ann-Marie because I can't guarantee that Ann-Marie is going to stay at 20 hours a week. She's an extremely skilled person. Her skills are very, um, needed widely in many communities and may easily lose us—part-time Ann-Marie cannot do even half of what she does as a full-time employee. I would not expect a part-time employee to put in the extra hours that Ann-Marie puts in that are not compensated. She comes in here on the Fridays that people don't—that-that above and beyond the hours that she works for

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town hall. She comes to Saturday meetings, Saturday workshops that the rest of the Planning Board has. She contributes that as part of her salaried full-time position. A part-time person works the hours that they get paid for, they have to because they probably have to have another job to make ends meet. So if you are, I'm sorry, but I'm gonna say this, if you are stupid enough really to try to reduce Ann-Marie's hours to half time, it-it's going to cost the town, and in the long run, in the short run, it's going to cost the town. Um, just in the, um, the chaos that is going to ensue when we cannot get organized all the materials that we need to have organized to complete the Comprehensive Plan (unintelligible), when we need to come up with all of the rationales for the Community Development Block Grant coming up in a month or so. When we need to do our budgeting. I mean, if we don't have, um, Ann-Marie here, it-it isn't...we cannot work nearly as effectively as we have worked over the last few years, and the, and the Planning Board has worked very effectively over the last few years. It's a great bunch of people and we do a lot of good work for the town, and um, we really need Ann-Marie, I making an impassioned plea that you keep her on. Um, if-if by chance you vote to cut her, I can guarantee you that I will bring to the Planning Board at our next meeting, a proposal for our budget that we will need—I'll have to sit down and figure out—how much money we will need in our budget for next year to get outside consulting help to help us with what Ann-Marie can do for us just working here as a full-time employee of the town. I think you really need to sit down and think about this very carefully. For \$6,300.00 till the end of this fiscal year, I'm sorry, but that is—it's not even 100th of a percent of the entire budget. I mean it's just trivial. It's pocket change. And, and going on beyond this fiscal year, think very carefully about what you cannot do with a part-time Planner that you can do with a full-time Planner, and I'm sorry, but this business about matching funds and no we can't take grants because we can't come up with matching funds is crazy. We can find matching funds for things that are important to the town, they will take "in kind" as part of the matching funds, so there are ways of finding matching funds. If you're gonna get a \$100,000.00 and you have to come up with \$10,000.00, you can pinch some pennies and find that \$10,000.00.

LINDA WALDEN: Linda Walden, Central Pike. A statement was made before, and we can't afford not to have a Planner, especially when you look at that balance sheet, and what the actual savings would be. The people have spoken very eloquently out to save her reputation is respected and known on both sides of the Connecticut-Rhode Island state border. Um, the grant information, and the other thing is you have full-time—part-time, she has now become unemployed for a certain number of hours. Has anyone investigated whether she can be entitled to unemployment for reduced work hours and what does that cost, and what are you actually really saving, when you have an excellent person who is doing a fantastic job with the support of the volunteers that she is serving. Please do not cut her position to 20 hours.

LYNNE S. RIDER: First of all, I just want to point out the size of the Comprehensive Plan. This is not a pamphlet. This is going to take many, many hours of the Planner's time and also her legal side in order to complete in a timely fashion. Plus one thing you keep saying is that we need to increase the tax base in town, we need business in town. Ann-Marie, since our rezoning of Rte. 6, and in other areas, she has in contact with people who want to come in and put businesses, potential businesses, potential jobs in this town. Now she's not going to have time to go out and seek these people, and a lot of that is all confidential because like anybody else if they're doing some kind of a business deal, they don't want it public until it's a done deal, but she has been working on stuff like that. It's not out in the open, it's not public, but we would lose that, and I go back to what Neal says, for \$6,300.00 which is covered by what you already voted to pass, we are in the black till the end of June for \$6,300.00. To risk losing Ann-Marie, is ridiculous. You know something, I know how you feel Mr. Rogers, you want a part-time planner, that was part of your platform. If the people want a part-time planner, at the financial town meeting, they will make it known. You don't have to do it four months ahead of time. Why risk losing someone of her caliber to save \$6,300.00. That's ridiculous.

JOHN LEWIS: John Lewis, Rams Tail Road. Um, you alluded to earlier that the, uh, there used to be a part-time Planner for \$8,000.00 and then the council, all of a sudden a new council came on and put one in place. That's not exactly true, I mean, when we talk about the financial town meeting, the financial town meeting is the one that approved the full-time Planner. We presented, I know this is the case because I made the presentation in front of the financial town meeting in 2007. This is what we

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need. We have a full-time Planner that we'd like to have, these are the benefits, this is the cost, the financial town meeting already supported it. They've supported it every year since—

GORDON ROGERS: Except the last one.

JOHN LEWIS: —Every year since, Mr. Rogers, you made a motion to cut the Planner, every year since then the financial town meeting has reinstated it, has not allowed her hours to be cut, every single year since 2007. So to do it now, you are contravening, or attempting to contravene the clear will of every financial town meeting since 2006. I just want to be clear about the \$400,000.00 grants, in grant money that she's brought in. She's brought in \$400,000.00. She hasn't made that much in salary and benefits combined. It's a net gain for the town. Every dollar we pay her, she's paid this town back a dollar and a half. So we're going to forego—you tell me you can read budgets—we're going to forego \$400,000.00 which is what she's gotten in the past three-and-a-half years for the sake of saving \$6,300.00. \$6,300.00 / \$400,000.00, I can do the math. What makes sense? What makes sense for the town is to keep this qualified individual in place, drawing money into this town, drawing businesses into this town, providing appropriate legal counsel to our Planning Board and our Zoning Board and our Housing Board for no cost. You say we can't afford it, based on the numbers we've heard tonight, we can't afford not to have it. We'd make money having her in this office. Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: Just make it short, everybody has spoken once before, I ask anybody to speak the second, if they want to speak a second time. Rocky?

CARL RICCIO: Rocky Riccio, Barb's Hill Road, and I'm gonna speak as a Department Head of Building and Zoning. I've worked with her fourteen months. I've seen the residue of the part-time Planner from before, and we're still trying to clean it up. Her at 21 hours, her at 70 hours a week, we can't live long enough to clean up the mess that was left, physically impossible. Alright? Nobody understands how close we have to work together; subdivision comes up... it gets done wrong, nobody has the time to do it right, we end up with six lots when we're supposed to have three? From what I heard earlier in the night, every time we put a house up we lose money because we have more kids in school that we're getting revenue from. She gets cut to part time, I'm not gonna be able to do my job properly, because I'm not gonna be responsible for crappy work from somebody else that's gonna come in and take her place 'cause nobody's gonna do that job for that kind of money, so it's gonna affect more departments than even thought of.

CAROL LYONS SHOLLY: Carol Lyons Sholly, Deputy Town Clerk, and I really don't wanna trash anybody, but I started as the Planning Clerk, and I'm sorry, the place was in chaos. There was no one in Planning who could even tell me how many subdivisions were in process. The damage that was done was so severe that it is, it's been taking all this time to try to straighten out a lot of what happened, and I don't want to say things like that because I don't want to trash anybody. I certainly don't want to name names, but this woman puts in 40 to 60 hours a week going to meetings, working all day, she's not working 35 hours, she's working much, much more than that, you're gonna think you cut her to 20 from 60, and it's all gonna work? It's immensely complicated. We lost, uh, that it was a miracle that she found for this town, so please reconsider. It's not a personal thing, it's about the town and the fact that we're on the right path, that illegal subdivisions are not being done, everything's been done properly. We know it's-it's written properly so that years from now you can go back and look at the document and you know exactly what happened with the lot, and that it was done legally. Please.

KATHLEEN SWANSON: I was just gonna say, you know, to make an educated decision, you have to have real information in front of you real fast, and it sounds like the resumes what is being said in this room tonight, and I think, the resume of part-time is also been demonstrated and presented, but it didn't work, and I think, to make an educated guess, you know, to just-to just say you don't think the grants work, equivalent to what this woman was bringing is an uneducated decision. It makes me nervous to hear someone making guesses about what might have gone on versus what you know has gone on.

MICHAEL DILLON: I know, I know.

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PAMELA FONTAINE: Pam Fontaine, 8 Danielson Pike. Um, I actually have two things. I actually, Pam Fontaine, Danielson Pike, Tax Collector, present Tax Collector. I work with very closely with Rocky and Ann-Marie on different projects of different things, they come to me, they ask me for information or whatever, we work very well together. I respect both of them entirely. Second of all, I do believe it was a Charter Amendment that was voted on in a public election that the people voted on that there would be a full-time Planner.

GORDON ROGERS: Just a Planner.

PAMELA FONTAINE. My mistake.

ANN-MARIE IGNASHER: It was at the financial town meeting in 2006 that the...

PAMELA FONTAINE: But I will agree that you need to stay. She is very professional, she is there every day, Rocky's there every day, we work well together. To disrupt the Town Hall working as good as it is just so you can balance your budget and just do your vindictive stuff is ridiculous.

GORDON ROGERS: Anyone else before I—somebody in the back.

ROBERT HOLLIS: Bob Hollis from Balcom Road. I want to first just thank the council for, ah, giving us the right to talk, for giving us a chance to speak, that doesn't always happen, so I want to thank you for that.

GORDON ROGERS: Thank you, Bob.

ROBERT HOLLIS: Ah, I don't think I need to say anything else in support of Ann-Marie, um, it seems awfully obvious, um, when somebody brings in more money that it costs you to have, that's a good thing to have when you don't have enough money. What I'm gonna beg the council, each and every one of you, um, is to stop a vote of three to two, and think independently, 'cause obviously there are times when one person or another can't see what's obviously true. Can we please have some votes of four to one?

GORDON ROGERS: Shelley.

SHELLEY PEZZA: I was just wondering, do you have any numbers to support success?

GORDON ROGERS: Yes, the prior grants that were brought in were from the TIP grant that repaved Old Plainfield Pike, and there was some stuff up on Dolly ah, Mt. ah, Mt. Hyg., Jerimioth Hill and stuff, those were all started from previous.

SHELLEY PEZZA: Those were all grants that were brought in previous.

GORDON ROGERS: Yup, yup, yup. She has the floor, please. Is that it?

SHELLEY PEZZA: Did you happen to know of any of the turmoil that went on with the part-time?

GORDON ROGERS: I don't know of any turmoil, I do know, I do know even under the current Planner at full time that we have sub-contracted out jobs for remediation of dams and stuff, so not only has it cost us that, we've also incurred in this...please, I have the floor...additional costs that couldn't be handled in house and it added to it hiring subcontractors to do additional work that was done through capital, it was gonna go through capital, but it got enveloped into their planning budget one financial town meeting.

SHELLEY PEZZA: Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: Anybody that hasn't spoken once already, before I go on to the second? John.

JOHN BEVILACQUA: John Bevilacqua, Salisbury Road. When I first met Ann-Marie when she first came on, the planning board was so to speak, misdirected, not through their own fault, but probably because of a lack of attention by the previous administration. Ann-Marie developed a relationship with that planning board that this town should be very proud about. She put her heart and soul into it, and she provided them with the necessary guidance that they needed from a real planner. Fortunately Ann-Marie has a legal background which gave it an extra plus, and I had the pleasure of working with her, and when you get phone calls from lawyers who are representative of various people who are developing plats or subdivisions in this town, calling the solicitor of the town begging them to please take control of Ann-Marie because she's unreasonable. Well, you know it may be funny in some respects, but in another respect, what are we really looking for? We're looking for someone who will dedicate themselves professionally or otherwise for the benefit of the town, and that comes first, first and foremost because when you work for this town, you become part of the community of this town, and you really cherish the environment.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Excuse me, can we hear him, 'cause your conversation, private conversation, is blocking me being able to hear him.

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JOHN BEVILACQUA: So aside from the fact that she's generated \$400,000.00 in grant, and I don't look at a TIP grant as being something that is difficult to get, ah, it's like a pool, you take the best shot, you get it, you go to work. The grants that she was able to obtain was because of her personal knowledge of the people involved and the contacts that were necessary in order to obtain the grants, and they were not grants that were easily obtainable by any previous Planner, part-time or otherwise, that I know personally. The fact of the matter is, there is more to it than just the grants, because you're not gonna get the grants unless you demonstrate a professional ability to handle the jobs that require the work that the work is being paid for, so let's look at what's good for the town because Ann-Marie has been as asset to this town, and to remove the time that is necessary to do the job as Planner is totally in contradiction to the performance that's been displayed over the past three-and-a-half years, and the intent of the people of this town to preserve their rural character of this town, I can assure you my own personal knowledge that she has protected it, as the planning board has protected it and as the zoning board has protected it. Thank you.

BRIAN CRUM: Brian Crum from Boswell Trail. Uh, just a quick question, I just (unintelligible) her to say that even with a full-time planner that we still has to sub out some work?

GORDON ROGERS: Yeah.

BRIAN CRUM: Does that only make sense that part-time you'd have to sub out more and wouldn't that cost more money to get a subcontractor than an in-house person.

GORDON ROGERS: Well, we don't sub stuff out all the time

BRIAN CRUM: I understand that, but logically speaking, if she's full time and we're still subbing stuff out, a part time person would have to sub out more stuff, correct?

GORDON ROGERS: Truly in my opinion, it's a savings for the town, to reduce the hours of the Planner. I ran on that, I knocked door-to-door, and I talked to hundreds and hundreds of taxpayers that aren't in this room, hundreds of them, and it was not a surprise on my ideas when I went door-to-door what my thoughts were, and I got elected on what I said...and it's rude to interrupt me, please...so that's what I did, and this is what I stand for, and I know there's savings there and that's my opinion and I'm gonna move forward with it. Patti, you haven't spoken yet.

PATRICIA MOREAU: Patti Moreau, Tax Assessor, Central Pike. Um, I'm sorry, Gordon, what did you say had to be subbed out? Dam remediation, ah, and there was one other thing, it was like a \$4,000.00 subcontract. Aren't dams the DPW?

GORDON ROGERS: No this was to be done by an engineer.

PATRICIA MOREAU: Ann-Marie isn't that on..

GORDON ROGERS: Ah, address your questions to the chair, please, there's no cross-talking, it's customary...I'll let her speak to that in a minute, to keep the normalcy of this, you have to address your questions to the chair, we'll let her answer them but everything has to go through the chair to get things moving correctly.

PATRICIA MOREAU: I'm asking Ann-Marie if it's DPW.

ANN-MARIE IGNASHER: The issue at hand were some, what we call, emergency dam plans. We have private and public dams is in—within the Town of Foster. Rhode Island Department of Environment Management went out and certified which dams were of significant danger, which ones were not. Okay, that's done by engineers, that's not done by a town Planner. Okay. When they did that they required us to put in what they call emergency dam plans in case the dam was to ever break and flood. Again, the results of what the predictions of that would be is something that has to be done by an engineer, that was a requirement of DEM. I don't have an engineering degree, neither did the town Planner before me, or the town Planner before that, so it doesn't matter who was sitting in that chair as the town Planner at that time, it would have been put out for bid because it was a DEM requirement that it be done by an engineer, and that's all it was, it was an emergency management plan. Even though we do not own those dams, the town does not own the dams, the town had to put some sort of plan into place if those dams were to break, and I will let you know, that during March, in the middle of that torrential storm, when everyone was bunkering down, your building and zoning official and I and your EMA director were out in the field watching those dams. Alright, we were taking pictures, I have photographs. Some of those photographs that I took in the middle of that storm were the photographs that are allowing this town now to get funding through RIEMA for some of those repairs.

GORDON ROGERS: Mr. Lewis.

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JOHN LEWIS: John Lewis from Rams Tail Road again. Ah, I'm glad that Ann-Marie cleared that up. I mean, you sort of raked her over the coals for having to send out for something that was put out to bid for a consultant that was, required an engineer to do. Certainly I don't think anyone on the council would expect an attorney to do the job of an engineer. That just doesn't make sense. Of course it has to go out to an engineer. The Planner can do many things, the Planner can do legal work for us, ordinance work for us, the Comp Plan, affordable housing, many, many things that will not have to be sent out to a consultant if she's on board. I'm glad you spoke to a hundreds, hundreds of people during the campaign, Mr. Rogers, I'm glad that you did. I'm sure you didn't have the data at the time, I'm sure no door that you knocked on, they knew she brought in \$400,000.00 worth of grants, and this proposal will only save \$6,300.00. That is what was missing in your campaign was the actual data that you need to make the decision. Now you have it, you say you can budget, I hope you can do the math. I hope you'll do the right thing, each of you. Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: Julia.

JULIA PARMENTIER: Yeah, I-I'm glad Ann-Marie brought that up because that was one of the points that I was going to make was that the, uh, work that Ann-Marie did together with the, um, overseeing was done by the engineer is allowing us to apply for Federal money to replace one of the bridges that got knocked down. So that's more money into the town. Um, and again, if we didn't have Ann-Marie, if we don't have Ann-Marie full time, that's not gonna happen this Spring when guaranteed we're gonna have, when this snow ever melts, we're gonna have a lot of floods, so um, I really hope everyone on the Town Council will just spend two or three minutes of quiet thought and reflection, and maybe, and maybe change their minds if they had it made up previously or different plans. Think about what you've heard tonight, think about the information that's been put in front of you, and think about what's really in the best interest of the town, alright? You have until the next financial town meeting, actually, to put this to the taxpayers one more time and see if they want to keep Ann-Marie as a full time Planner or if they feel a half-time Planner is in the best interests of the town as a whole. But from now on, from now till the end of the year to cut our Planner to 20 hours a week, um, I think it's mean spirited. It doesn't save us any money and it's just I don't think the right thing to do. Thank you.

EDWARD MORGAN: Ed Morgan, Foster, RI. Um, what I understand here is you're trying to fulfill a campaign obligation that, what you promised, and you're doin' it at the cost of the town. It's gonna cost us more money than you do this so you can get, uh, you...I'm sorry.

GORDON ROGERS: Pat.

PATRICIA MORGAN: Gordon, let's be honest. I've read all the articles in the paper. I've heard all the things you told the people as you went door-to-door, and if truth were here, this is where your discussion was. You never really had all the facts, but I'm not blaming you. I'm saying there's a lot of people in this town who didn't have the brains to go check out the facts so that's not your fault. The point of the situation is this, you're stamping your feet like a little boy saying, "I am not gonna give in here". I'm gonna tell you now, you'll look better if she brings in another couple hundred thousand in then you will look if the dams go and we have more problems. We have the school that's collapsing. We need somebody who brings in grants, somebody who know the people to maybe bring in a green grant, to get us a school built. We need stuff like that. We don't need this vendetta stuff. We need someone to bring the money in, and it's not gonna happen for your six thousand dollar savings. They're not gonna come in and give us a grant, say maybe to put a roof on the school, maybe to build a wall, maybe to tear something down, they're not gonna give us grants anywhere in this town with a part time, know very little or nothing person. And I don't see a woman of this talent and this caliber sitting there being insulted, being irritated by people who don't understand how much she's done and how much she knows. Now I, I like everybody I work with at the Town Hall, at one time I even liked you a lot, the situation is...

MICHAEL DILLON: That's terrible.

PATRICIA MORGAN: ...I'm getting irritated by this anger in this town, and you stirred it, you did stir it. I want my town back together again. I ran on the rescue for years, I know everybody who did run on the rescue for years, I love all these people, and this anger has gotta stop. I don't care if you own forty-two pieces of property on Rte. 6, which you didn't don't pay that much, but the point is, you can't have it your way. People have seen what this town can look like. They're not gonna go with it. I

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don't care if you go door-to-door-to-door. And that's why all those people you talked to are here tonight. They woke up. They came out of this dream I'm afraid of my taxes going too high. Okay? I'm worried that petulance is gonna kill this town.

GORDON ROGERS: I'm worried, moving forward with what we're looking at, coming up this year in the next year in this budget of being about a 3 to 4 hundred thousand dollars behind the eight ball, and if we lose this, there's another \$188,000.00. We're gonna need to make some corrective cuts.

PATRICIA MORGAN: Fine but...

GORDON ROGERS:...I'm not done, I'm not done.

PATRICIA MORGAN: Six thousand will not do the job.

GORDON ROGERS: I'm not done. That's where you get confused. If moving forward into the new budget, this is not a \$6000 savings, it's more like a \$20 to \$25 thousand dollar savings.

PATRICIA MORGAN: It's still not enough.

GORDON ROGERS: That's a big savings moving forward when you need three hundred thousand.

PATRICIA MORGAN: And if she brought in three hundred thousand, it's not enough, \$60,000.00.

GORDON ROGERS: Tina, you haven't spoken, right?

TINA FREEMAN: Actually a couple things. Um, number one is the taxpayers—I don't see the uh, the common sense in saving \$6,000.00 and throwing away \$400,000.00. Um, I'm an elected official also, and, you know, I thank everyone who did vote for me. I'm here trying to do my best job for you. You're my boss, they're not my boss. You are. I respect each and every one of you for coming here, voicing your opinions because it's your money, along with ours, because we are taxpayers also, and as an employee of the town, um, I'd like to donate \$1,000.00 of my salary to Ann-Marie to shortfall this \$6,000.00 to keep Ann-Marie at full-time status.

MARYANN PAPA: I'll second that. I'll do it.

TINA FREEMAN: She's too big an asset just to throw away for \$6,000.00. It doesn't make sense to pay credit cards with...

MYRA MERCIER: Tina, I agree with that one, I'll add \$1,000.00 too.

GORDON ROGERS: So how many're we up to now?

MARYANN PAPA: You got \$3,000.00 so far.

(Unknown): You've got \$4,000.00

(Unknown): \$5,000.00

GORDON ROGERS: Are you serious? (affirmations called out). Sold!

MARYANN PAPA: No thanks to the voting officials.

GORDON ROGERS: Are you guys really gonna do that?

MARYANN PAPA: Absolutely. I'm a woman of my word Mr. Rogers. You will learn that very soon.

TINA FREEMAN: In my capacity as Town Clerk, I was Deputy Town Clerk for three years, Anne Irons had left so I moved into the position of Town Clerk, uh, for one year before I decided to run for the position. It is very hard, I'll say very, very hard, to get a bunch of people to have personalities match and blending well, hard workers, and helping each department, helping each other out, no matter what that thing might be, whether it be answering the phone, trying to get answers for taxpayers, everyone in Town Hall goes out of their way to help each other's town department out. That's, I have never ever seen that in Town Hall and I've been there for twenty-three years. I don't want to see that leave, and I'm sure you taxpayers don't want to see that leave either. Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: There's a motion on the table. They're still talking.

DOROTHY WHITELAW: Dot Whitelaw, Jencks Road. Uh, and I might be prejudiced on this because I'm married to a member on the council, but I think I understand where you're comin' from, Gordon, but I don't think it's this council's decision. I think that should be made at the financial town meeting so that everybody has a say as to whether to keep her at 20 hours or not. Uh, you've heard everybody here speak in favor, and I-I'm personally in favor of keeping her on as a full time employee as well. Um, so I'm not gonna, it's directed at you because you're the chair, but I'm imploring the other members of this council to maintain her at her current hours, and not to cut this and let it be decided at the financial town meeting. I don't see where twelve weeks is gonna make such a big difference.

GORDON ROGERS: I see a fresh hand up.

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ANNALISE PARMENTIER: Hi, Annalise Parmentier, 13 Biscuit Hill Road. Um, I just wanted to make the point that if this does go to a town meeting, your constituents will also be there; those people that you knocked door to door and you got them to say this, they will be there, too. If you let this move forward to the town meeting, you decide it there, you'll hear everybody's voices. So please, like, as everybody else has said, like, keep Ann-Marie now. She seems to be doing a fantastic job for our town. Let her stay through the next town meeting. Pass this now, and your voices will be heard too.

GORDON ROGERS: I take a lot of beatings up here and I got big shoulders, I really do. I-I want you to understand, there are tough economic times ahead. I take personal attacks, and I take because that's the position I'm in, and I understand I'm gonna get 'em, but I've been in this town forty-five years. I volunteer thousands and thousands of hours a year, from everything you can think of. My name's right here on Paine School. I helped put in that playground and work on it for nothin'. I don't want to hurt this town. We do have a tough time ahead, and it's hard, but we've gotta balance a budget. It's tough.

GAIL KEIGHLEY: I think that given the fact that we need to—Gail Keighley— ah, given the fact that the tough times are upon us, it's important to get the best value for our money. It is clearly what we..

GORDON ROGERS: And I-and I understand you and I-I believe that. But where do we cut then? We have X to come up with

GAIL KEIGHLEY: Okay then but why cut, why cut somebody who's bringing in more th—

GORDON ROGERS: I-I understand that, but where's the solution, where do you go?

GAIL KEIGHLEY: Somewhere else.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, that's not a solution.

GAIL KEIGHLEY: Why cut, you'll be cutting somebody back who's bring money in that you actually losing.

MICHAEL DILLON: Can I make a suggestion..

GORDON ROGERS: Semantics. What d'you say?

MICHAEL DILLION: Now is there a suggestion for a cut? I

GORDON ROGERS: No, he's saying somebody made a suggestion on a cut somewhere, I didn't hear it. Ah, Myra.

MYRA MERCIER: It's, we-we have, you know, we're all stressed out with taxes, and we've gotta cut and we know that. Uh,

GORDON ROGERS: Some people are on the edge. Really on the edge.

MYRA MERCIER: My husband hasn't been able to work since his first heart attack on the seventh so, you know, I understand titled this is, real estate, you know, construction, we are all in the same positions. Um, not to cut Ann-Marie, it was a financial town meeting that made it a full-time job, and it should be a financial town meeting that decides whether or not it should be a full-time job. Also you are not gonna get a part time Planner with a brain for \$8,000.00. You can't get a secretary for \$8,000.00 and I used to be a secretary several years ago. So, if you think that your just going to go out and—

GORDON ROGERS: That's not reducing, not even near the \$8,000.00. I don't know where you're gettin' that number, that's what it used to...this reduction does not bring her down to \$8,000.00, I want to be clear on that.

MYRA MERCIER: But she does have, also put in way more overtime, and she does work on the Land Trust, now which would cost us we'd have to have legal fees if it wasn't for her generosity.

GORDON ROGERS: I do the same for the land trust.

MYRA MERCIER: Which she doesn't include, and we appreciate every bit of it since our budget is "this big". The financial town meeting is where it should be decided.

GORDON ROGERS: Any fresh hands before I go to second time speakers and third. You didn't speak yet on this issue have you?

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: I have no documents cited, I just have a-have a question. I understand exactly your position and I-I spent ten years on the Plannings Committee in the House, and I know exactly what you're going through, it's not fun. However, ah, I just wonder if, if in calculating the savings, you took into account, ah, the-ah, reduced unemployment compensation that would be paid.

GORDON ROGERS: There would be no unemployment compensation at all to be paid, that was checked with unemployment first.

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ATTY. ARTHUR READ: It was? Because I think if you go to part time, you get reduced unemployment.

GORDON ROGERS: No, no. It was checked with the Treasurer. Yes. There was not unemployment cost to this decision at all. Ginny.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Ginny Colwell, uh, Salisbury Road. And y-and you brought this up, Gordon, so this is something that occurred to me when you said that when you went door-to-door and people liked your idea of cutting the Planner down to, um, 20 hours in an effort to save, did you give them the full story? Did you give them all the revenue that they, that she had brought in?

GORDON ROGERS: Yup, I mentioned grants.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: I have—been different. Um, as far as grants concerned, are all grants matching grants? Or are some of them.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Some are, some...so

ANN-MARIE IGNASHER: Some are, some are not.

Some are 50/50 matches, some are 25/75 and some of them are 10 percent to 90. It depends on what you have. Um, with the, what was left at, you know, before I came from what I can gather, there was no one person who actually managed the grants on a regular basis, did the reporting on a regular basis, one that I found, too, was through the Champlain Foundation, because they had not had a report. You're supposed to report to them annually; they had not had a report in when I came in, ah, March 2006, in March of that year, they had not had a report on one of their grant proposals for four years, so they were not gonna give up any money, whatsoever. And we are still, the only reason why they allowed us to—they could have asked straight out for those funds back, and the reason why they didn't is because they knew me, they knew I would find out what was going on with that grant and I did.

GORDON ROGERS: Just bear with me for one second, I just want to get a water.

MICHAEL DILLON: Call a recess?

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Gordon may I finish now that you're all sitting back again?

GORDON ROGERS: We're ready to go again, thank you for your patience.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: When writing grants, there's, uh, those who are issuing the grants look at the organization itself, how it's run, and are they capable of managing the money as part of the grant, wh—as part of the criteria, they gonna look at that?

GORDON ROGERS: Are you asking me?

VIRGINIA COLWELL: You told me I had to ask you. So I'm asking you.

ANN-MARIE IGNASHER: May I respond to that.

GORDON ROGERS: Yeah.

ANN-MARIE IGNASHER: Yes, they absolutely do.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Okay.

ANN-MARIE IGNASHER: Um, and also our auditors look at that. Um, and they look at the management, as a matter of fact, one of the ones that we got was money coming back from DEM; someone had written it, they had been awarded, our funds—it was one of those where you pay 100 percent up front and then DEM reimburses you 50 percent—our funds had been paid 100 percent up front, they had not been reimbursed yet. I'm sorry. Um, and that is something that as appearing on our audit report for I don't now how many years saying that this is money outstanding to us. They were gonna have to write it off. That was a group effort between the then Treasurer, um, a past Treasurer who had been there, and myself to contact DEM and get those funds, and that was—if I remember correctly—it's approximately \$20,000.00.

GORDON ROGERS: Cell Tower.

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Basically we are less likely to get grants in the future if we are not presenting ourselves as a full-time, well-round organized situation.

ANN-MARIE IGNASHER: Could be, yes.

GORDON ROGERS: I see a new hand back there.

EVA SZOSZ: Eva Szosz, 45 Old Danielson Pike. Um, so what you're saying is because we have to cut \$6,300.00 from the Planner, we can't wait until the financial town meeting to do that, correct?

GORDON ROGERS: No.

EVA SZOSZ: If we had the \$6,300.00, would you be willing to wait for the town meeting so that everyone in town could vote on it.

GORDON ROGERS: I'm just one vote.

NEAL WHITELAW: Just to be clear, when you have the money already there till July 1st, this is in excess of that money.

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MICHAEL DILLON: We went down that road before.

EVA SZOSZ: Which is \$6,300.00?

GORDON ROGERS: Shelley.

NEAL WHITELAW: It is this proposed budget. The second part of the, the budget that we're talkin' about now.

EVA SZOSZ: So we can't vote on it at the financial town meeting...

GORDON ROGERS: You can still vote on it at the—at the financial town meeting no matter what happens tonight.

EVA SZOSZ: But in the meantime for four months, she'll be...

GORDON ROGERS: Depends on how the vote goes. You can do whatever you want at the financial town meeting as a taxpayer; you can vote up budgets, increase 'em or decrease 'em by the bottom line. But, in the same token, only the bottom line, the town council still has the right to have a 20, or part-time, or 40 or 50 hour Planner.

EVA SZOSZ: So the decision would still be made only by the people at the table?

GORDON ROGERS: It's been done in the past where where motion's have been made to discuss a salary increase, say it was \$15,000.00 or \$17,000.00 increase in salary, and it upset some taxpayers, and they voted to cut that even though they were told they couldn't cut that, the council still gave the raise, even though it was cut from the bottom line. They took money elsewhere to still give them raises. So again at the financial town meeting, you can only vote up or down on the bottom budget, but the council still operates within that budget to do as they wish. If they still want a part-time planner, or if they want two planners, and they can do it with that bottom line, they can still do it. So the talk about the financial town meeting, it's kind of splitting hairs.

EVA SZOSZ: That's what I'm saying, in essence it's still the decision of the people—

GORDON ROGERS: Yes, by your elected officials, yes. That is the truth. Shelley.

SHELLY PEZZA: In the attempt to move this along.

GORDON ROGERS: Thank you.

SHELLY PEZZA: You have \$5,000.00, do I hear \$6,000?

MICHAEL DILLON: Somebody needs to move the question.

SHELLY PEZZA: Going twice. If you have that money made up this evening, would that assis—help with moving along and letting it be until the financial town meeting? To move it along? 'cause you have, what's here? \$5,000.00 so far? No, no, no, but that's not what I'm asking, to move it along. The money that they were cutting was \$6,000.00, and...

NEAL WHITELAW: If I may respond to it.

SHELLEY PEZZA: Wait a minute, but did I, hold on. But did I...did I not hear concessions being made? Was I hearing things? Okay I wasn't hearing things. So I did hear concessions being made to compensate that money that was going to make up the finances from now until July.

GORDON ROGERS: Yes.

SHELLEY PEZZA: I understand Mr. Whitelaw that you' say your budget is...

NEAL WHITELAW: I wasn't going there.

GORDON ROGERS: Again that's hearsay, and I don't wanna say that somebody's not saying something truthfully gonna do.

TINA FREEMAN: Mr. Rogers, I don't lie.

GORDON ROGERS: You can sit here and say one thing, but if it isn't in writing and you don't see it...

SHELLY PEZZA: I-I understand.

GORDON ROGERS: It's on good faith.

SHELLY PEZZA: I know, but I think in open meeting...

GORDON ROGERS: Yup.

SHELLY PEZZA: ...hopefully, with many witnesses, people would have the good faith. And I understand you, I'm just trying to push this along.

GORDON ROGERS: Well somebody could move the question.

NEAL WHITELAW: Just so I could respond to you. This is one of five more people who we're gonna talk about who have furlough days and cuts, so they you start saying we're gonna pay one person through donations, how're you gonna pay the other five through donations?

SHELLY PEZZA: Well, I'm not saying, but I'm not saying they offered to make the concessions, that's all I was saying, I didn't make the concessions for them, they started making concessions.

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NEAL WHITELAW: Understood.

SHELLY PEZZA: I was just trying to move it along Mr. Rogers, sorry.

GORDON ROGERS: Go 'head, Rocky.

CARL RICCIO: Can we just get one thing straight on this? We've already voted on the previous budget that Marianne and Neal did. That's been voted on and approved, and it was five, if I recall right.

GORDON ROGERS: It wasn't three to two. No there's been other votes.

CARL RICCIO: Well that was one I remember personally tonight was the five, 'cause I wrote it down. Now we're gonna move to this next one. We're gonna look at this item by item and item, and beat it to death, and we—you're gonna vote on that as a, as a whole as you did the other one?

GORDON ROGERS: No. We've already addressed the furlough days, that already fell on discussion, we didn't make any motions on it. That—the only one I'm bringin' forth was this one page. Kelly actually added this one. I told her we weren't gonna address that one, it was just this one page that had the furlough days, and the 20 hours for the planner. That's it. We've already addressed the furlough days, we're on the last one. Once we get done with this, we move on to the next area of the agenda.

CARL RICCIO: Okay.

NEAL WHITELAW: Excuse me, but you have Building and Zoning, Finance and Assessor has furlough days. You're not gonna vote on those?

GORDON ROGERS: We discussed furlough days. You want to discuss them again, I'm fine.

NEAL WHITELAW: I thought you discussed furlough days for legislative...

GORDON ROGERS: No I was talking all of them. You wanna—you wanna discuss the other ones, we'll bring 'em back up again. Is that what you wanna do?

NEAL WHITELAW: No, I misunderstood the motion. I'm fine with that.

GORDON ROGERS: There wasn't a motion.

NEAL WHITELAW: Well, whatever we didn't approve.

ANN-MARIE IGNASHER: Again I just want to thank everybody and their show of support. Ah, I was voted full time at a financial town meeting, and I was also voted full time at the same financial town meeting when another department head went to part time at the same time. Um, and I do appreciate again all of the support that everyone has, you know, shown for, but if you look through again, um, it's glaring to me—'cause it's me that being done—that I'm the only one being cut back to part time.

GORDON ROGERS: Go ahead.

LYNNE S. RIDER: No I-I think it's very obvious that you, Gordon, are gonna vote the way you're gonna vote.

GORDON ROGERS: Yup.

LYNNE S. RIDER: And I think it's also very obvious that you...this...you have been saying for years "we only need a part time planner", and in fact, I believe at the last financial, well, the financial town meeting in May, when you were cutting the planning department, um, you said that the planner actually cost the town money because you wanted to put a barn across the road, and they wouldn't let you because there wasn't a house there, so you had to build a house, and so you built a house—you never built a barn—and now there are kids in school and it's costing the town money. I think that's kind of a personal thing, and I think you're afraid to let this issue go to town to the people at the financial town meeting because someone may actually make a motion to put money into the planning department budget and you wouldn't get your way to cut the person that you perceive—it wasn't even Ann-Marie who wouldn't let you build the barn, okay, but you don't want anybody to tell you what to do with your property. So, you know, in the fairness to the rest of us, why don't you let this go. You have the money to finish out the year. Towns aren't supposed to be making money. You're supposed to have a balanced budget. You're not supposed to be this way (waves to left), and you're not supposed to be this way (waves to right), you're supposed to be this way (points hands to the middle). Let the people decide at the financial town meeting, what they want to do, and you can stand up and you can make impassioned plea to the people to cut the town planner to 20 hours and see how far you get. Maybe you'll win, maybe you won't. But at least it will be voted on by the people, and the perception will be that it was the people's decision and not your decision. You say you're one vote. I don't think so, but there is absolutely no down side to you waiting until the financial town meeting. You are in the black until the end of June, and that's all you have to be. You're not supposed to

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be creating a slush fund.

GORDON ROGERS: I said, again, we may not be in the black as early as tonight's—the end of tonight's meeting, the Executive Session.

LYNNE S. RIDER: That will be your own foolish mistake.

GORDON ROGERS: No, that will be a waste of taxpayer's money if my decision goes that way. Again, I do believe that a town of this size, and everybody in this room, ninety-nine percent of them don't agree with me, but I do believe in a town of this size, we don't need a full-time planner.

LYNNE S. RIDER: You are a, a one person on a—why don't you let the people decide? Let the people of this town decide. In twelve weeks, it is \$6,300.00. That's it. That isn't going to pay for the region. That isn't, you know, and you know something, when you have all that money at the end? Okay? It isn't like you get to say, "Oh boy," you know, "now I get to put it wherever I want to." No, you don't get to say that. You don't need it now.

GORDON ROGERS: You want to move the question or do you want to keep taking...?

MICHAEL DILLON: Ask the question.

GORDON ROGERS: You want to clarify that? Mike wants...go 'head.

MICHAEL DILLON: I think somebody already answered it.

GORDON ROGERS: How much was donated? What do you wanna do, you wanna move the question or keep taking...

MICHAEL DILLON: Let's move the question.

GORDON ROGERS: I'll need a motion to do that.

MICHAEL DILLON: Motion to move the question.

GORDON ROGERS: Is there a second?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Second.

GORDON ROGERS: There was a motion to move the question, there was a second. We need a two-thirds majority, I believe, to move the question.

LYNNE S. RIDER: What is the question?

GORDON ROGERS: The motion that was made. There's a motion to move it.

LYNNE S. RIDER: Alright, but what was the original motion? It's been so long.

GORDON ROGERS: To-to-to cut the planner down to 20 hours.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Or to cut off debate.

GORDON ROGERS: Is there a motion to cut off debate?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Yeah, yeah, move the question.

GORDON ROGERS: Is...there was a second.

TINA W. FREEMAN: They moved and it was seconded.

GORDON ROGERS: Mike?

MICHAEL DILLON: Yes.

GORDON ROGERS: All in favor?

Gordon Rogers, aye; Michael Dillon, aye.

GORDON ROGERS: Opposed.

Neal Whitelaw, no; and Marianne Knight, no.

GORDON ROGERS: Two nos. Anybody else? The motion fails so we'll continue with the audience. Pat.

PATRICIA MORGAN: My heart is full. You haven't given up. You're two sidekicks are gonna vote with you whether you said jump off a building.

GORDON ROGERS: Nope. Linda.

LINDA WALDEN: I just want to clarify. \$6,300.00 doesn't take you through twelve weeks, it takes you through five months, to June 30th. The May financial meeting is (unintelligible) begins July 1st. So for \$6,300.00 we're getting five more months of full time, excellent planner. Please keep that in mind.

(request to review the vote someone)

GORDON ROGERS: Yes, we move— There was a vote to move the question, to stop debate and move the question. Ah, it failed, it needed a two thirds majority for that to pass. We didn't get the two thirds so we're back to letting the audience discuss what their opinion is. Anybody else wanna...? Seeing no more hands.

LYNNE S. RIDER: How did the—could you poll the...

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Why don't you amend the motion, ah, to cut here to 20 hours, okay...

GORDON ROGERS: That's the main motion.

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ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Hold on. Amend the motion to cut her to 20 hours, however, if you get the, if you get enough money to carry her through to the financial town meeting, which is what? Twelve hundred bucks.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: We already have the money.

NEAL WHITELAW: We already have the money.

GORDON ROGERS: Seeing no more discussion from the audience. To clarify the motion, Tina, what was the motion for clarification?

TINA W. FREEMAN: The motion was to cut the town planner's hours to 20 hours.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay. All those in favor signify by sayin' "aye".

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye.

GORDON ROGERS: Opposed?

Neal Whitelaw, no; and Marianne Knight, no.

GORDON ROGERS: Motion passes.

**APPOINT-
MENT
OF TAX
COLLECTOR**

GORDON ROGERS: Next. Okay. Next we have appointment of Tax Collector. I'll entertain a motion.

MICHAEL DILLON: I make a motion to appoint Nancy DeLaere as Tax Collector.

GORDON ROGERS: Is there a second?

GORDON ROGERS: Second.

GORDON ROGERS: Discussion.

NEAL WHITELAW: Did I hear a second? I'm sorry.

GORDON ROGERS: Motion has been made and seconded. Discussion from the council.

NEAL WHITELAW: Yeah, I'm, um, I do have some—I'm not sure how we got here. This council voted not to accept resumes or have an interview process, and now all of a sudden we're into an interview process, where I was given a resume from Mrs.

DeLaere from the council president after we voted not to take resumes. I'm confused.

GORDON ROGERS: I-I believe you made three motions.

NEAL WHITELAW: I did.

GORDON ROGERS: Two passed, the one failed.

NEAL WHITELAW: Correct. The one that failed had the tax collector's position on it.

GORDON ROGERS: Right.

NEAL WHITELAW: And failed.

GORDON ROGERS: And then, at the following meeting, when we went to address this, there was a motion made and discussed to have interviews...

NEAL WHITELAW: But I already had a resume.

GORDON ROGERS: And you got other ones.

NEAL WHITELAW: How did I—no I didn't.

GORDON ROGERS: I gave you one.

NEAL WHITELAW: That was before the second motion to accept resumes.

GORDON ROGERS: Well, you didn't want to accept it, you took it.

NEAL WHITELAW: Well, how did we get here? You guys said you didn't want resumes, you didn't want interviews, and now we're having interviews.

GORDON ROGERS: You said you did want to have interviews.

NEAL WHITELAW: I most certainly did, but why did we vote the first one down?

GORDON ROGERS: You're talkin' in circles, so I don't know how to answer ya.

NEAL WHITELAW: Apparently.

GORDON ROGERS: Any further discussion from the council.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Yes, uh, I have questions because the questions I asked Ms. DeLaere, and nothing against her, um, she did not know what the Madelyn Walker Bill was, she did not know how to apply the tax payments, um, y-y—on the delinquent tax, um, she said that she felt that people are in dire straits, therefore, she would be lenient with them, and in this time, we cannot. She also, when she was the tax collector, she had an average—

HEIDI ROGERS: Marianne Knight is discussing things that took place in Executive Session, and...

GORDON ROGERS: That person is not present.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Where is she? She should be present.

GORDON ROGERS: Mr. Solicitor, is it okay to discuss this although the minutes haven't been released from Executive Session even though the person's not present. I'm referring it to the solicitor.

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ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Executive Session meetings were sealed.

GORDON ROGERS: Yup.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Um, you know, there's no—there's no, unfortunately...

GORDON ROGERS: So are we violation...

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: ...there's no provision for that provides that a council person can't disclose that. I mean, that's, the problem is there's no penalty. The—they have the right to keep it sealed. That's what the law provides. The minutes sealed. They have that right. People disclosing what happens in Executive Session is up to the individual people. Now, it's up for debate on whether there's any recourse, but there's no way, there's no way to stop a person from disclosing Executive Session minutes.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, I just wanted to make sure we weren't treading on an area that was brought to our attention. Go ahead Marianne.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Um, the average rate of collections, um, during the second interviewee was 95.72 percent while she was the tax collector. Now with the tax collector we have, the first interviewee was 97.68 percent over the period of time as an average. That's almost 2 percent. That's \$200,000.00, and I would not, even on the outside, I would not hire someone who did not know the job.

GORDON ROGERS: I do believe the increase in the tax...

MARIANNE KNIGHT: This is—

GORDON ROGERS:...going up was taking on Rossi, not only, at one point it was just vehicles, but they were also hired and paid to do real estate and that's when the spike went up—

MARIANNE KNIGHT: No.

GORDON ROGERS:...in tax collections, from what I understood.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Well, the tax collections, when the second interviewee, we were in good economic times. We are in poor economic times, yet the rate of collections is higher.

GORDON ROGERS: I feel confident that Nancy DeLaere can step up to the plate, and do the job just as good or better than the current one. Is there any further discussion from the council?

NEAL WHITELAW: Um, I'm sure there will be...(unintelligible) some hands.

GORDON ROGERS: The council now, then the hands.

NEAL WHITELAW: I'll let them speak first. I have some other questions.

MICHAEL DILLON: What's the—what's the motion.

GORDON ROGERS: The motion to appoint Nancy DeLaere as tax collector. Seconded.

Edward Balfour: At the last town council meeting, I had the pleasure to speak on behalf of Pam Fontaine. At that meeting the chairman stated on the record that Pam would stay in her position and no replacement had been selected. With that, I and several others—including other members of my family—left the council meeting. It was with some surprise that I learned that prior to the close of the meeting, the question was raised asking to the effect that the town have a tax collector. Then without any consideration as to the previous stated position on the record, a vote was taken to replace Pam, and then schedule the things that went on tonight. I consider that action improper. I refer to the original stated position, a violation of the Open Meetings laws by misleading residents as to the position being continued until or unless future action was taken, which should then require notice (unintelligible). As a citizen, I feel that some on the Foster city council feel they can ignore the citizens who attend these meetings and that by virtue of an election they obtained some type of impunity to representing the wishes of citizens, and can do anything they wish. Perhaps along with filing a complaint with the Ethics Commission at 40 Fountain Street, which I am in the process of doing, it is time to review with the Secretary of State the process of recall. There are others of the same opinion, I encourage you to weigh your options and then (unintelligible) a meaningful change in the action of the chairman, we should organize for the good of the community.

GORDON ROGERS: Pam.

PAMELA FONTAINE: I want to make a clarification. Rossi Law Office does not do real estate taxes. I don't know where you got your information, Mr. Gordon Rogers, but maybe you should check your facts, and if you feel that Mrs. DeLaere is more qualified after answering those questions incorrectly, if they were the same questions that were asked of me, in public session that everybody that is here tonight heard, you're wrong.

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LYNNE S. RIDER: I would like to know what the compensation package is that has been offered to Ms. DeLaere.

NEAL WHITELAW: Join the club.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Yeah.

GORDON ROGERS: We can discuss that once we move forward I guess.

LYNNE S. RIDER: I know this is public. I want to know how much this appointment is gonna cost us above and beyond what we are paying now, because you have to add twenty to twenty-five thousand dollar unemployment package on top of that. So I would like to know what you, Mr. Rogers, have already discussed with Mrs. DeLaere in private...and you're not gonna answer. Did I not do the Ethics, uh, Code of Ethics statement of policy which was, um, that you were supposed to be responsive to the people? Why can't we know what you have offered her moneywise? It's our money.

GORDON ROGERS: I didn't offer her anything. Excuse me, cross-talking, please. I'm trying to address somebody whose raising their hand. Go 'head.

LINDA WALDEN: Linda Walden, Central Pike. Three of you just voted to cut the planner down for the rest of the year when the money was there to save \$6,000.00 and now you're on the verge of, it's certainly lining up that way, to spend \$21 to \$25 thousand dollars in unemployment to replace somebody who has proven she does the job, she does the job well. This is incomprehensible, and if I, and I do know Nancy, I would hope that she wouldn't put herself in the position of accepting the job, and have a cloud over her head for the next two years until the next election comes because of perception, which has once again reared its head (untelligible). Please think about what you're doing and vote independently. Use the brains that you have and vote the way you feel is best for this town.

GORDON ROGERS: One at a time please.

LINDA WALDEN: \$25,000.00 plus attorney's fees.

GORDON ROGERS: Anybody else?

RONALD CERVASIO: Gordon.

GORDON ROGERS: Ron.

RONALD CERVASIO: Yeah, uh, I love this show. I went home, had a beer and a sandwich (unintelligible) and you're all still here. A point, a point...uh, it's amazing to me that here are people from the last council talking about fiscally responsible. The second point is, nobody...I don't care who the tax collector is, it's got nothing to do with me, you're town is in financial difficulty. Excuse me. Excuse me.

GORDON ROGERS: Please.

RONALD CERVASIO: I can say for I'm sure that when Mr. Whitelaw ran as a Republican campaign twenty years ago, I love that smile on you, Neal, because you know what's comin'—

NEAL WHITELAW: Good, good thoughts.

RONALD CERVASIO: ...major tenets was to replace everybody and put your own people in.

NEAL WHITELAW: I'm getting' old but I coulda remembered that.

RONALD CERVASIO: This, this is all crap. You've got to move on.

GORDON ROGERS: Anybody else? Ah, Kathleen.

KATHLEEN SWANSON: Kathy Swanson, I just wanted to say how refreshing it would be to see people change their mind about how they're gonna vote on something after hearing a reasoned description of why you should consider—I—it just would be incredibly refreshing to see someone be willing to change their mind when they hear some comments.

GORDON ROGERS: Thank you, Kathleen.

JULIA PARMENTIER: I want to ask each and every one of you, individually for the record, and I'll start off with you, Neal.

NEAL WHITELAW: I'm sorry I didn't hear your question, I was...

JULIA PARMENTIER: I was asking everyone, the thing is, I really want to know because I'm a lower end taxpayer. Who do you think is the most qualified person based on your interview.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Pam.

NEAL WHITELAW: Absolutely Pam.

JULIA PARMENTIER: Mr. Dillon. Who do you think, based on the interview...

MICHAEL DILLON: We're gonna vote on this in a minute.

JULIA PARMENTIER: ...is the most qualified person.

MICHAEL DILLON: Are we being interviewed?

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JULIA PARMENTIER: No, I'm asking a question of you.

GORDON ROGERS: I think that will be clear when the vote is taken.

JULIA PARMENTIER: No, I'm asking for an individual response from Mr. Dillon, based on his review of the, and his interviews with these people. I don't think it's an unreasonable question to ask him personally, who does he feel is most qualified person for this job? Mr. Dillon, I'd like an answer please. Who do you believe is the most qualified person for this job based on the interviews, based on the resumes that have been presented to you?

MICHAEL DILLON: I don't have an answer.

JULIA PARMENTIER: You don't have an answer, sir? And you are going to vote on it?

GORDON ROGERS: Please. One person speak at a time.

JULIA PARMENTIER: How can you not express your opinion out loud. I—you must have an opinion. I—you're allowed to have your own opinion. You are certainly allowed to say based on these interviews I believe one or the other is the most qualified person for the job. Who do you believe is the most qualified person for the job. I'm asking you as someone...

MICHAEL DILLON: We'll wait till the vote.

JULIA PARMENTIER: Excuse me?

MICHAEL DILLON: Wait for the vote.

JULIA PARMENTIER: No, I want to know right now. I wanna know, and so does everybody else here, right? They want to know what your opinion is. The most qualified person for this job.

GORDON ROGERS: He already answered that.

JULIA PARMENTIER: I'm sorry, why can't he answer that question?

GORDON ROGERS: He already answered that. You just didn't like the answer.

JULIA PARMENTIER: I want him to say one or the other. I don't, you know, you're allowed to have your own opinion.

GORDON ROGERS: If you want to speak, stand up and be recognized.

JULIA PARMENTIER: Mr. Dillon does not have an opinion, so I assume will be abstaining from the vote. Mr. Rogers.

GORDON ROGERS: When I vote, I think it will be clear who I think is qualified. If you don't like that answer, I sorry, I can't help you but that's your answer.

JULIA PARMENTIER: Why is it, why can't you let the townspeople know...

GORDON ROGERS: I answered you.

JULIA PARMENTIER: ...what your opinion is ahead of time? Why this secrecy.

GORDON ROGERS: There is no secrecy. If you let us vote, you'll see.

JULIA PARMENTIER: I'm sorry, I'm asking you, based on your review of these documents, I'm not even asking you who you're gonna vote for, I'm asking you who you think is the most qualified person for the job.

GORDON ROGERS: Sorry you didn't like my answer, but my answer stands.

LYNNE S. RIDER: You are supposed to answer to the people.

GORDON ROGERS: I do with my vote.

LYNNE S. RIDER: Open and accountable.

GORDON ROGERS: Too many people cross-talking.

JULIA PARMENTIER: Ms. DeStefano. Could you please say who you believe is the most qualified person for this job?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Yes, um, I think that, uh, Ms. DeLaere, held the position as well as, uh, Ms. Fontaine, and um, I think that we need, that ah...

MICHAEL DILLON: I got it! I believe they're both qualified.

GORDON ROGERS: It's getting out of control. Let's rein it back in a little bit, please.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Ms. DeLaere has been...

DOUGLAS THOMAN: She don't even know the answers.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Obviously Ms. Fontaine (unintelligible) more qualified, but Ms. DeLaere (unintelligible) for a period of time.

GORDON ROGERS: They'll get their only vote.

MICHAEL DILLON: They'll get their one vote. This is-this is, this is, you see what time it is?

GORDON ROGERS: They don't care.

JULIA PARMENTIER: (unintelligible) more qualified then.

MICHAEL DILLON: I know they don't care.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: (unintelligible) fully qualified.

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JULIA PARMENTIER: Well, I appreciate your courage and respect your opinion. I value that as a councilman. Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: I'm gonna go to the back. I see a hand up. Patti.

PATRICIA FOUNTAIN: After listening to all the debate on all of these positions tonight. I share the council's, ah, concern in payment, this council has a lot of trouble financially. Uh, as a member of the school committee, the other two school committee members are here, we don't always agree at our meetings, but we respectfully disagree because I, I'm speaking for myself, but I respect both of them, and I hope they respect me. I want to remind everybody tonight what just happened today across the street. This is very divisive for the town. We're gonna need the town to pull together because right now we don't have a school for our kids, and we quarreling about \$6,000.00 here or there. I've got to make one statement about the tax collector. I know both of these women. I think you put them in a horrendous position, both of them. I have respect for both of them and I will tell you that from the information I've heard tonight, it's pretty clear who's qualified to do the job, and so if you're gonna base your judgement on facts, which is what I assume you will do, then the answer is clear. I'm not gonna canvas any of you, but my expectation is everybody at that table is gonna vote for the person who has the best qualifications, who has the best interview, who has the best percentage, and I told myself that I wasn't gonna talk at this meeting tonight, but you forced me into doing it. And the only reason why I'm doing it, really, is because we're in so much trouble across the street. We can't have this kind of an atmosphere continued.

GORDON ROGERS: Patti.

PATRICIA MORGAN: I've said it, I think five times. You're in his pocket, he's in his pocket. What he says, goes. You want directions from Heidi in the back seat, the sixth member on there. As far as I'm concerned, I don't have a representative town council. If you three are going to just do what he says, then we are not represented by a town council. We are represented by two people who think alone, and one person who has puppets. Do you want that? (voices call out no) Then I'm thinking maybe this gentleman was right. Recall would be a nice thing.

ANNALISE PARMENTIER: Annalise Parmentier, 13 Biscuit Hill Road. Um, I have a question regarding the budget. I believe that thrashing around numbers for the past god knows how long, but—no, no I know—but if we do change tax collectors, that has just been said, there will be about twenty-thousand more in expenditures. How are we planning to compensate this money in the upcoming budget? If you guys have suggestions for that, please I'd like concerned citizens.

MICHAEL DILLON: How about a reduction in salaries.

ANNALISE PARMENTIER: Do you have any suggestions for how you're going to compensate?

Mr. Dillon, what was that?

MICHAEL DILLON: How about a reduction in salaries?

GORDON ROGERS: Please if you want to speak, raise your hand.

ANNALISE PARMENTIER: In whose salary? In the current, in the-in the, if the new tax, if the new tax collector that you'd like in office, you're gonna dock her salary to pay the unemployment? Is that what you just said?

MICHAEL DILLON: Say that again.

ANNALISE PARMENTIER: I'm sorry.

MICHAEL DILLON: Just say, just say, just repeat what you said.

ANNALISE PARMENTIER: Uh, my question originally was, if there's \$20,000.00-plus added to this budget for unemployment, where is that money gonna come from? Are you going to go to the town meeting and ask the townspeople for an increase in the budget of \$20,000.00 that could go to...anything, to pay unemployment for somebody who's wonderful, and does a wonderful job for the town. Where is the money gonna come from? And that I pose to you because you are very concerned with the budget, we're all very concerned with the budget, so \$20,000.00. You just saved \$6,000.00 on cutting an employee, but you're will to spend \$20,000.00 on a new tax collector. That's all.

GORDON ROGERS: Patti.

PATRICIA MOREAU: You just said that it would be a reduction in salary. How much does the tax collector get paid? So if you're gonna deduct \$25,000.00 out of her salary, she's gonna work for \$12,000.00?

GORDON ROGERS: Does anybody else have a question?

PATRICIA MOREAU: Why couldn't you answer me?

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KATHLEEN SWANSON: I'm just gonna say that, um, Lynne, it sounds like...

LYNNE S. RIDER: She's got the floor.

KATHLEEN SWANSON: Oh sorry.

PATRICIA MOREAU: I was waiting for an answer. I have the floor.

GORDON ROGERS: When we move forward, we'll have those answers when we vote. Thank you.

PATRICIA MOREAU: (unintelligible) Dillon made a comment that he's gonna reduce salaries by the \$25,000.00.

GORDON ROGERS: If he wants to address that after we make an appointment, he can make a motion to do so.

NEAL WHITELOW: After we make an appointment?

GORDON ROGERS: Why not? It says discussion and action. Right now we have a motion on the floor, if you want to make an amendment to that motion, we can do it now.

NEAL WHITELOW: And discuss salary with someone who's not here?

GORDON ROGERS: W—I don't think somebody should start in that job in the highest rate allowable; that's always been my problem from the beginning.

NEAL WHITELOW: Well, we don't know that. We haven't made an offer to a new—to a new collector, because she's not here. I've—this is the first I've heard about someone getting a reduction in pay. You haven't even talked about it.

GORDON ROGERS: You—you don't agree with puttin' somebody in at the high...

NEAL WHITELOW: I don't even know about it. I don't even know what to agree with. We didn't answer the questions. You're asking me to agree with something that no one's proposed yet. How do I do that?

MICHAEL DILLON: It's just an idea. She asked. She asked what her salary was.

NEAL WHITELOW: So you don't know if the new collector wants the top pay or bottom, you don't know?

MICHAEL DILLON: I didn't ask her.

NEAL WHITELOW: So no one asked her, and you're already giving her a pay reduction that she doesn't even know she's gonna get.

MICHAEL DILLON: Well, you can make that motion.

KATHLEEN SWANSON: Can I ask Lynne a question, is that inappropriate?

GORDON ROGERS: G'head. I don't know if I can answer it.

KATHLEEN SWANSON: Well, when you were talking about those two candidates, it seemed like you were, like, they're pretty close, not so much of a difference, so, how can you want to pay the additional unemployment if it's not even a clear distinction, you know, if they're si-similar, why not leave the person...and I'm not saying I agree with that, but why not keep the person in the position rather than incurring those additional unemployment costs? But the comment sounded like, "Oh, I don't know, they're both pretty good." So if they're both pretty good, and the one who's there is not gonna cost additional money, why make a change and bring on that em—unemployment cost?

LINDA WALDEN: Speak for yourself, please.

GORDON ROGERS: Ginny.

LYNNE S. RYDER: You promised her the job.

VIRGINAL COLWELL: Ginny Colwell, Salisbury Road. There's something...just inexpl—I can't even come up with a word, just unbelievable fishy about the fact that we have two council members that sa-sat in on that meeting that aren't even aware of how much you plan on paying this new tax collector, and I can't believe that anybody would take the position without saying, "Hey, how much is it?" You're gonna tell me this woman accepted a position without even knowing how much she was gonna be paid and you can't tell us that? A—a-a – you've actually rendered me speechless...(unintelligible).

SUSAN BOUCHER: I just wanna say, I just wanna say that the salary's in the budget already from last year, but it doesn't seem like the money, except for Pam's unemployment would be an issue. Um, she brings in more money, its-its harder economic times, it would be so much more sense to keep her in the job because her track record speaks for itself. I think this is just a political promise that you must have made.

GORDON ROGERS: Thank you, Sue. Dottie?

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DOROTHY WHITELAW: Uh, I agree with Pam, ah, I mean with ah, Sue, I think it is a political promise that you made but ah, Ms. DeStefano also made, political promises that she would vote her conscience, that she did not necessarily agree with everything that you did, that she ran her own campaign, she ran on her own, uh, and I'd like to see her uphold that promise.

RONALD CERVASIO: Vote please, and move on.

GORDON ROGERS: Bob.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Just an observation and a question. An observation and a question that I propose to you as you've been the only council person who has been willing to at least express her mind in response to somebody over here. The observation is this: if you vote as I anticipate you're going to vote, to put Ms. Delaere in office with the expectation that you're then going to go to her and ask her to take a salary reduction, please, can I give you my card and ask you to give it to her, because I know what she's going to say. She's gonna say "no", she has to, and you have no bargaining power at that point. That's just an observation, I mean, you're going to lose all your bargaining power. As soon as you make the vote, you've lost it. You might think you can fiddle around within the budget and you can, but only to a certain extent. The question I pose to you, councilwoman, is this: Have you had any discussions prior to this evening with anyone else on the face of the earth concerning this vote and appointment of the town tax collector in Foster.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: No, do you mean did I know that, uh,

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: Nancy was going to win the vote, yes. Did you know that.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I didn't know she was gonna win the vote.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: You didn't know that. Have y—have you had a discussion with anybody concerning that issue?

(voice from the audience) Yeah, I called her.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Not really. Yeah, I spoke to

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: This is all, this is all just happening in front of us.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: No-no-no, I spoke to a lot of people. A lot of people have called me, expressed their interest in who was going to be the tax collector. Absolutely. I talked to (unintelligible), I've had emails sent to me.

ATTY. ARTHUR READ: My uncle was the vice president of the council in Coventry and he, as he used to say, "I'm not a smart man but I can count to three" and so can I, and must have (unintelligible). I almost want to ask the old famous McCarthy army hearing, "you have no shame?" I mean I just, it's so just transparent, and I take you to word. Frankly, uh-uh, you've made a good impression on me, uh, not that that matters for anything, but I just cannot, it strains credulity to expect a rational person to believe that you three independently tonight are making up your mind—it is so clearly rigged that it-it's transparent, and I just don't understand why. I'll be honest with you, I've been practicing law for forty years, this is the, this is one of the memorable ones. That's the only question for you. Thank you for answering.

GORDON ROGERS: John.

JOHN LEWIS: John Lewis, Ram Tail Road. During the American Revolution, we used to take tax collectors out and tar and feathered them. During the French Revolution we used to knock their heads off, but here tonight you have a room full of people who are saying things about your tax collector, the person who takes our money, saying that she's wonderful, that she does a good job, that she's qualified, that she's respectable, that she's respectful. I'm curious what Ms. Knight suggested regarding the qualifications of the other applicant. I'm a—I'm aghast that we're having such a long qual—conversation. That she doesn't understand how to apply interest, that she doesn't know the Miriam Walker Bill (sic), that she hasn't paid her taxes...it's worrisome, that you're even considering it. It's worrisome to me that we spent so much time talking about how to save \$6,300.00 we have to rake the planner over the coals to save \$6,300.00 but so cavalierly now half an hour later we gonna give it away on unemployment. It makes me think that I'm awfully glad that you passed this previous budget and left the \$24.00 in the Council Administrative expenses because you need to buy calculators for yourselves.

GORDON ROGERS: Anybody else? Mr. Hollis.

ROBERT HOLLIS: Bob Hollis, Balcom Road. Nothing personal, but I gotta ask you, Mike, heart to heart, could you please do the right thing? And do what you really believe it right. I don't understand what's goin' on. I don't understand, Mike, don't.

GORDON ROGERS: Anybody else?

NEAL WHITELAW: I have a coupla questions if nobody else has any.

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GORDON ROGERS: Go 'head.

MICHAEL DILLON: I would like to know where the \$25,000.00 line item is coming from. Ah, where in the budget...if you could give me a specific line or series of line items. Obviously it just doesn't appear, so where does it come from?

GORDON ROGERS: That's projected out over two years, right?

LYNNE S. RIDER: We can't hear.

NEAL WHITELOW: I-I don't care if it's fifteen cents. I want to know what line item you're gonna reduce to pay unemployment insurance.

LYNNE S. RIDER: Have the guts to answer.

NEAL WHITELOW: I guess they're not gonna answer that question. I-I-I sat here and I listened to, ah, ah, Pam's interview and Mr. Dillon was the only person who had a question. I'm not sure how you can make a determination in an interview without asking a question, and I guess we're not gonna answer that either. Ah, the third point is, I find it really uncomfortable to be sitting here and having, and me and Mr. Dillon disagree, but have three people who owe back taxes hiring someone who owes back taxes. That just makes no sense to me. And I guess that's a statement because no one's gonna go out there tomorrow and pay their taxes, and I guess if I want to step further, I would be very concerned as a taxpayer, that there may be something happening in the tax collector's office to make things disappear.

GORDON ROGERS: That-that statement right there is bordering on slanderous.

NEAL WHITELOW: I said it was a concern. I didn't say it was gonna happen, I had a concern.

MARYANN PAPA: I couldn't hear because of the applause, could you repeat that please?

NEAL WHITELOW: He-he explained to me that I was bordering on slanderous.

MARYANN PAPA: Again with the slander?

NEAL WHITELOW: And I just, I just informed that I have a concern about that, and I guess I would say now that that would be looked at very closely by public records.

GORDON ROGERS: Absolutely.

NEAL WHITELOW: And I guess that one other statement is that this—I've also been involved in politics a long time and I've seen a lot of political maneuvering, and this is not about job performance, guys. This is about politics. It has nothing to do with job performance as they've all sat there and said, she had fourteen years of not even a note in her file, so this has nothing to do with job performance. It has everything to do with promises and politics. And I am kind of-of un-uncomfortable sitting her on those circumstances.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: I agree.

NEAL WHITELOW: And that's my statement.

GORDON ROGERS: You all set?

GAIL KEIGHLEY: Gail Keighley, Old Plainfield Pike. If the tax collector doesn't pay her taxes, and the town council doesn't pay their taxes, why should I pay my taxes?

VIRGINIA COLWELL: Neal, sitting up there, I'd like to ask another question. Neal sitting up there, you do not have to feel uncomfortable sitting up there, 'cause it's obvious there are three people who should feel uncomfortable and it sure as heck isn't either of you two.

NEAL WHITELOW: I appreciate the kind words, but it's-its'

(unknown speaker): You all passed this to balance the budget tonight. You can make this one decision and meet back here in the coming weeks to try to be balanced, 'cause right now you're now gonna be out of balance. Is that even allowed? Now that you've balanced this one at last, you're gonna put us right back in the red, with one vote. Think about it, if you're all fiscally conservative, you won't do this.

PATRICIA FOUNTAIN: Patti Fountain, Winsor Road again. I just wanted after what Mrs. Whitelaw said and I'm gonna ask councilor DeStefano, keep her campaign promise, and to independently vote her conscience. Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: I'll get to you, Doug, after her. She had her hand up before you.

ANNALISE PARMENTIER: Annalise Parmentier, Biscuit Hill Road. I just want to ask the council to please, remember your position on the budget when you make this decision. Thank you.

DOUGLAS THOMAN: I called Ms. DeStefano, and she told me that she thought that Pam was the best qualified person.

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LYNNE DESTEFANO: Actually I did, but I also mentioned that, um, positions, appointed positions, are...

DOUGLAS THOMAN: appointed by the town council.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Correct.

DOUGLAS THOMAN: We agreed on it.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: That's right.

DOUGLAS THOMAS: But we're talkin' about your personal vote tonight.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I-I reviewed her resume. It's quite extensive.

GORDON ROGERS: Lynne.

LYNNE S. RIDER: I don't know what kind of pull Mr. Rogers has over Mrs.

DeStefano and Mr. Dillon. I can't imagine anyone being able to control my life to the point where I'm gonna go off the cliff with him. That is ridiculous. If you don't think that his reputation, (unintelligible) Do you honestly think that all the people in this room could be that wrong?

GORDON ROGERS: How did I get elected?

MICHAEL DILLON: I don't know.

LYNNE S. RIDER: And this is, believe me, if you had—we were at Paine School, it hadn't collapsed God forbid, there are probably a lot of people who went to Paine School and then didn't come here. I'm sure there would be many more. What can he possibly do to you to make you give your vote to him? Do you think that everybody here is lying? Do you think that what you heard in Executive Session compares remotely to what Pam, her qualifications? Do you know how much less Mrs. Delaere would work for? Which we apparently are never gonna be privy to know? What can he do to you? He can't do anything, he's a bully. You must confront bullies because they are cowards at heart.

GORDON ROGERS: Lynne, when you didn't reappoint in '06, the DPW Director, the Treasurer, the Planner, the Rec Director and the Solicitor.

LYNNE S. RIDER: No, that wasn't us that was your wife!

GORDON ROGERS: Alright, speak when you're recognized. I haven't recognized you yet.

JOHN LEWIS: Actually, speaking to your comments Mrs. Rider, we accepted applications for those jobs and all those people you referred to, the Treasurer, the Planner, the Solicitor, did not apply to be reappointed at the time our council was elected.

RONALD CERVASIO: That's not true. Deputy Kettelle did apply.

JOHN LEWIS: Ducky Kettelle did not reapply.

LYNNE S. RIDER: He was gone.

JOHN LEWIS: He did not reapply.

GORDON ROGERS: Any more questions from the audience?

MARY THOMAN: I'd just like to say that the town council, I always understood was supposed to go along, go with the will of the people, and all these people here want to have Pam remain in that job because she's doing a good job, an excellent job, and compared to the person you're thinking of hiring, by your own admission she answered many questions wrong. She didn't know the job.

GORDON ROGERS: I thought she did fantastic.

MARY THOMAN: What did you say?

GORDON ROGERS: I thought she did good in her interview. Raise your hand.

MARY THOMAN: We were told that she answered many questions wrong.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: That's correct.

NEAL WHITELAW: That's correct.

MARY THOMAN: Now how can you possibly put someone in who doesn't know their job, as compared to someone who knows the job who's doing a fantastic job, who people want to be in the position? I don't understand why you can go against that.

GORDON ROGERS: Does anybody else have anything to say? Seeing none. All those of favor of appointing Nancy Delaere as Tax Collector, please say "aye".

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; and Michael Dillon, aye.

Opposed:

Neal Whitelaw, no; and Marianne Knight, no. (Motion passes 3-2.)

LYNNE S. RIDER: Shame on you!

GORDON ROGERS: Motion passed.

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**LETTER
FROM B & Z
RE: H. HUNT**

GORDON ROGERS: Next on the agenda. Next. Next. Next on the agenda is letter from BZ concerning request from H. Hunt, discussion/action.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: (unintelligible)...letter to the town council from Carl Riccio in regards to an inquiry for a wedding reception. The letter is from Helen Hunt, ah (unintelligible).

GORDON ROGERS: Got that letter, Neal? She just read the letter, Neal, I know you had concerns about this. A license is required. There was a concern about alcohol consumption, too. And the chief.

MICHAEL DILLON: Did he verify that?

GORDON ROGERS: The chief says there's no alcohol on the, uh, premises.

MICHAEL DILLON: Do they know that?

GORDON ROGERS: I don't know. Tina, did you contact, you contact and told them we were having this tonight?

TINA W. FREEMAN: I did call her (unintelligible).

GORDON ROGERS: So I would table to continue this because of, uh, (unintelligible) referred back to Tina's...that's what I said. So to table, we don't need a motion to continue do we?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Yes, motion to continue to next...

GORDON ROGERS: A motion to continue...

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: ...to the next council meeting.

MICHAEL DILLON: (unintelligible) a motion to continue it to the next meeting.

GORDON ROGERS: No. Yes. There's been a motion to continue this in a second because she hasn't got back to Tina. All those in favor to continue it.

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye. Opposed? Marianne?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: I can't hear.

GORDON ROGERS: Are you voting aye or no on the motion?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: What motion is that?

GORDON ROGERS: The motion was to continue.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Yes.

GORDON ROGERS: Mike made a motion, Lynne seconded it. The majority to table it.

**BID SAND
AWARD**

GORDON ROGERS: Next on the agenda, I will be recusing myself from the bid, sand (unintelligible).

LYNNE DESTEFANO: So, um...for the bid award I entertain a motion that we approve.

(calls to speak up)

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Everybody is making a lot of noise.

MICHAEL DILLON: Did you hear what she said?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Okay, I will entertain, I will entertain a motion to the bid award winter sand, I will entertain a motion...for approval.

MICHAEL DILLON: Oh, you're asking?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Yes.

ROBERT HOHLER: Could you speak up a little bit? I just, I can't hear the bid.

MICHAEL DILLON: This was from them, right? I make a motion to award...what's this a sand bid? Winter sand bid to LaFramboise, uh, this with Robert Clarkin's recommendation.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Is there a second? Have a second? Anyone? Is there a second. We have no second. Neal? Marianne?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Nope.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: No second?

NEAL WHITELAW: No second.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Okay, so, so this will go, could you advise me, Solicitor, as far as?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: If there's no action on the matter, it gets continued. Obviously the matter hasn't even been voted on. The motion..

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Alright, so we just continue it?

ROBERT CLARKIN: May I ask a question to the Chair, may I ask a question, why there wouldn't be a second on winter sand bid?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I don't know.

MICHAEL DILLON: I did make a motion.

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ROBERT CLARKIN: It was the low bidder, it was an open bid.

MICHAEL DILLON: Oh, okay, so we just, it just goes away.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: It goes away.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I'm not sure, it didn't get a second, so...

MICHAEL DILLON: Okay, so it continues automatically?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: No, you can put it on the agenda for the next meeting or you can make a motion to continue, one or the other. Either make a motion to continue the bid, or it gets put on the agenda again by somebody's request.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Okay, so.

MICHAEL DILLON: I make a motion to continue.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Can I second, can I second that? Okay, I second that.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Yes. But you've got to take a vote to just continue. You've got to make a motion on the motion to continue.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Okay.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: If you don't want to continue it, then the matter won't be continued, and that matter would fail. You'd have to put a new matter up next council meeting.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Okay this is for the DPW winter sand that we're not, that we're going to continue?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Make a motion to continue and second. Is there any discussion or action from that motion? If not, take a vote.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Okay, so.

MICHAEL DILLON: Any discussion.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: So that, we continue it?

MICHAEL DILLON: We're voting to continue it.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: All those in favor—

LYNNE DESTEFANO: In favor.

Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye. Gordon Rogers recused. (Motion passes 4-0.)

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: It gets continued to the next meeting.

MICHAEL DILLON: Is there something else?

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Ah, we, uh, we're entertaining the, um, we tried to make a motion to accept the winter sand bid award for the DPW. Uh, we did not get a second, therefore, we are moving the item on the agenda to a future agenda item. I don't know why, but, whatever.

LYNNE S. RIDER: I have a question. At the last meeting there was a question about which company Mr. Rogers hauls sand for.

GORDON ROGERS: If we're gonna be talking about this I have to come over here.

LYNNE S. RIDER: I'd like to know which company he hauls sand for.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I honestly don't know which company it is. I don't know.

LYNNE S. RIDER: Well, maybe Mr. Rogers would enlighten us?

GORDON ROGERS: No, I don't have to.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: He recused himself.

LYNNE S. RIDER: I know, but on the recusal form, he never wrote down the company, which would be a matter of public record.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: That I'm not sure about.

LYNNE S. RIDER: Must be somebody else he promised money to.

NEAL WHITELOW: Just to a point, I haven't seen a recusal form.

LYNNE S. RIDER: Oh, you haven't.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I think he filled them out the last, um, meeting.

NEAL WHITELOW: He may have filled out, I don't have a copy. I haven't seen it.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I think, um, the town clerk has a copy.

NEAL WHITELOW: I haven't seen it.

MICHAEL DILLON: It's alright, you'll see it next time.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: So we move on to New Business. New Business?

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**COMPUTER
UPGRADE
PRESENTA-
TION**

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, new business. Town Hall/Police Computer Server Presentation, discussion/action. Kelli? You got somebody who wants to give a presentation...

KELLI RUSS: The poor guy (unintelligible) has four and a half hours.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay.

KELLI RUSS: This is a discussion about, what we were talking about, the fact that, you know, emergency versus...

GORDON ROGERS: Alright, just so we're clear, this is, uh, this is a capital budget project.

KELLI RUSS: (unintelligible) last year to the, to the planning department and capital...

GORDON ROGERS: How much?

KELLI RUSS: For \$27,000.00

GORDON ROGERS: For \$27,000.00.

KELLI RUSS: To include the police and the wiring the police and, uh, the Town Hall.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay. Now you're here to explain...

WES (unintelligible) yeah. As best I can.

GORDON ROGERS: You gotta explain, me and computers are.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Okay.

NEAL WHITELAW: I'm sorry, your name again.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: I'm Wes.

NEAL WHITELAW: How ya doin', Wes?

NEAL WHITELAW: For the record. Your name and the company you work for?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Wes Wingate. I work for Genesys. I've been here for about, maybe, I think it's over five years. I've been with Genesys for three. Um, working on the police department.

GORDON ROGERS: Yeah, I remember when we went to Genesys.

LYNNE S. RIDER: Could we hear, please.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: I'm sorry, okay. What's happening is, um, they have a server. You guys have a server in your, in your Town Hall, okay. Um, the server is running out of space, it's end of life, is what we call it. It's also, how can I explain this, there's two partitions on the server, okay. There's a C partition, and there's an E partition. The C partition is everything that runs the server. No day, just runs the server. The E partition had all your data on it. All your tax data, everything that these guys enter on a daily basis, email, everything. All correspondence, documents, anything you can imagine. Okay, what's happening is the C partition is down to about 600 megabytes, which is to give you an idea, the program, the program Office that you put on your machine is about 400 megabytes, so you have like zero space left. What will eventually happen, okay, the machine will go to reboot, or you'll lose power, or one of those things, and it will not come back up. And if it doesn't come back up, you are screwed, okay. Your data...pardon my language, I do use salty language...sorry. So what happens is your data is on, is on a RAID drive, okay? It's called RAID 5, but it's basically three disks there, okay. So even though the data is intact, the server does not come back up, it means the RAID controller does not come back up, and you will lose this data. You will have no data, you will have no data, because the fact that the server's so low on space, we can't do an accurate back up of your data, which means you have no disaster recovery. The, the machine really, if it goes down like I'm talking about now, that's one thing. If it's a power surge or loses some piece of hardware, um, then you will be in a situation again which is the same thing where you'll lose everything 'cause you don't have a valid backup. So everything that this town does at Town Hall, and, now the police doesn't go to use that, that, so that everything in the Town Hall that feeds into that server is gone. The other thing is, the antivirus auto...you can't load your antivirus on the server because the antivirus that we're gonna put on it would probably exceed the amount of space that's left or come very close to the end so then you're in the same situation again, so the idea is to get that thing out of there as soon as possible because, you know, it may not happen today, it may not happen next week, it may not happen a month from now, but when it happens, you're gonna pay a whole lot of money to see if we can get anything out of it, and then put a new server in. So that's where they are right now, it's not a very good spot to be in. Now, did I explain that.

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GORDON ROGERS: Yeah. My concern from the beginning in talking with Kelli is—no expenditure over \$5,000.00 not, is-is not to go out to somebody unless it goes out to competitive bid. When we get up in the \$27,000.00 range, that clearly exceed that, and that's been a concern of mine in watching that, and again there are certain things that are considered emergencies but you can accelerate the bid process if that's the situation that you're in. Ah, that's my sole concern. I understand the problem with it. I agree with it. I know the money's there. My whole concern is the bid process by charter, specifically states that. Are you gonna be putting a bid in for this?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Yeah, yeah-yeah.

GORDON ROGERS: So you'd be one of the bidders tellin' us it's an emergency, it must be changed. Again that throws a little bit more concern in, so, if you were a party that was just giving some information, and I'm not saying you're giving false information, I'm just concerned about the process of bidding. So if it's an emergency...

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Yeah.

GORDON ROGERS: I think we should conduct the bid process.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: It's an emergency. Whatever you need to do, I can get you numbers by...

GORDON ROGERS: Yeah but it also has to go out...in my opinion it has to go out to bid for-for competitive bid.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Oh, okay.

GORDON ROGERS: Is this a common thing or is this something you, and only you and Genesys can supply/

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Well, in terms of how we, in term of how we would restructure your network, including the police department, is—I don't know any other company—

GORDON ROGERS: But that's separate from the computer bid system.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: I don't understand.

GORDON ROGERS: I mean purchasing the computer, this is...

J. WESLEY WINGATE: You're purchasing a-a special computer to run special software.

GORDON ROGERS: That only your company has.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: I don't know of anybody else...I know of one other company in New England that could even touch what we do. An-an-and what we do is what they call virtualization, okay? And I'll just give it to you fast so that you, basically what you're gonna do is buy...okay, if you say, "Look, I want to replace the server in the police department. I want to replace the server at Town Hall. I want to replace the server at a school coming up, or I want to put a server here or there." Every time you do that, you're gonna buy a physical box.

GORDON ROGERS: Alright.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Okay? Which is gonna cost you anywhere between six to ten thousand dollars a box, okay? You're gonna put that box in, you're gonna spend money to migrate the data, you're gonna spend money to set up the network, you're gonna do all these things, okay. If you virtualize it, you're gonna buy one box, one big box that is wicked fast, okay? And then what you're gonna do is put a piece of software that you need to be certified to do, which we are, to put on the box and then you can run as many servers on that box as you want. You can probably run up to—we've flow—we wouldn't sell you the same server that we use, but you can put probably 20 to 25 servers on one box. So if you said to me, "I need a server for the police department. I need a server for the Town Hall, for starters." I'd say, okay we'll build those two servers. The only cost to you is the license from Microsoft which you'd have to pay anyway, and then for us to set it up. There's no, you don't spend that extra money on a physical box. Then if you said a month from now, "Hey, we're looking to put a new server in the school system." I'd say, well, you know, I would get, I would get what do you need to run, what software you were gonna need to run on that, and I could have it built for you the next day, because I would clone one of the ones that were there and make it save you all kinds of cash. Again, you're not buying a box, okay? We have twenty to thirty companies right now that we've already done this for, some of them we run right out of our data center. When they log in, they log in to my data center, they don't have any physical boxes on site, okay? But I think because of the police department, you guys have to have a box on site, and then that also would bring up a question of, well look, I've got all these boxes on the same, I got all these virtual servers on one box, what happens? Can people see other people's

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data? No. What happens is you have all these NIC cards. I can put as many networks on there as you want, so these guys don't see these guys, these guys don't see these guys, and the school system doesn't see anybody else, or if he wants one machine, and he wants a machine over there, I can do that, I do whatever you want. Okay? And that will save you, you can do the math, I mean, if you think about how many physical boxes you're gonna try to put in at all these, you know, that are worth it, but you want to try to get six, seven maybe eight years out of a box. Okay, you don't want to buy a box for four grand and then have, and then you know, three years later, it's gonna be obsolete. So that's the situation you're in now. You can also virtualize all your PCs when they become end of life, I can actually put ex—I can virtualize the, um, the towers and the workstations that the employees use, both at the police station and here, or for anybody else, we can put those on the VM server too and guys when you log in you have a little thing like this, and instead of an \$800.00 PC, you buy a \$300.00 WinStation, it's called a WinStation, it's about this big, monitor, mouse, keyboard, Ethernet, you plug it in, and you get your things virtual, okay? You're not spending money on, um, like a reformat. One of these guys gets a virus, the machine had to come into us, we reformat it, we bring it back, the whole thing's probably costing you probably 400 or so dollars, okay. If you call me on a Monday and you're like, "Dude, I think I got a virus, there's something wrong with my machine" I think I could have it to you in about an hour. Okay? Because I just carve out a brand new machine, attach your data to it, you're up and again, you're saving, you know, how many hundreds of dollars. So that's what we would do, okay, and I can give you 300 references if you want to call every one.

GORDON ROGERS: Believe me, it's not the references and knowledge on what you want to do. My whole point is the bid process. That's my concern. It's been my concern, right, when somebody says I want to spend \$27,000.00 and it don't go out to bid, you know, my eyes are well, you can't do that. So, that is my concern.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Okay.

KELLI RUSS: Are we sure it's gonna (unintelligible) Steve said the technology has gone down since the time that they originally gave us an idea.

GORDON ROGERS: Is it gonna be over five thousand?

KELLI RUSS: Yes, the other thing is we're nickel and diming our way to thousands of dollars—

GORDON ROGERS: No doubt.

KELLI RUSS: We've already done it at the police station and we've already done with the (unintelligible) computer is on its way out, so it already failed once and their wiring has shorted out the entire thing (unintelligible) we were down, that's why we were down 'cause of their wiring. We were down all day, uh, (unintelligible) all the next day, and all the wiring (unintelligible) and eventually—

GORDON ROGERS: Yeah, but this doesn't address my concern.

KELLI RUSS: One day we're just gonna come in and we won't have computers, just like they did. They came in one day and they—they...

GORDON ROGERS: From what I know, this has been going on for a couple months, correct?

KELLI RUSS: They started like two months ago, they just came into work, we knew that this was going to fail and that's why we did the \$27,000.00, that's why we got that approval. Um, one day they just came into work and it did, it failed.

GORDON ROGERS: What I'm trying to say is, that-that happened two months ago, you know, we knew there was a problem, so I mean, my concern is the bid process, uh, that's only my concern.

KELLI RUSS: They fixed it and then their fix wasn't a fix, so then they had to go out and spend more money on their fix and now we're like seven or eight thousand dollars in the price to fix their fix, and I don't want to keep putting bad money after good.

GORDON ROGERS: How long would it take to put out an emergency bid, Tina, we can get, what's the normal bid procedure.

TINA W. FREEMAN: For something like this, probably two, possibly three months.

GORDON ROGERS: What is the process for something like this?

TINA W. FREEMAN: Well, you have to send out RFPS, who would come up with the bid specs on them.

KELLI RUSS: We have to come up with the bid specs and (unintelligible) two weeks from that (unintelligible) and then two weeks after that. We figure it out the average bid takes about two and a half months.

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GORDON ROGERS: Any other concerns from the council?

KELLI RUSS: I'm just afraid that truly we're gonna come in one day and just we're not gonna have it. We have problems every day. The system makes noises all the time, it goes down, we have to reboot.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: No, I think we understand the severity of the case, we're just trying to go through the procedure as far as (unintelligible) over \$5000.00. I mean, you know what I mean.

KELLI RUSS: This is why I'm saying it's an emergency situation because they're not being properly backed up. I don't want to keep spending money to get their system working the way that they should.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Right, but my question, too, I mean, we've had this discussion before, at length. Is that, uh, do you have, a-a emergency document that, you know, it's full, I might have an answer, here I hope.

LYNNE S. RIDER: I don't have an answer. I just had a question. Obviously this is a very specialized—not problem—a very specialized company to take care of something like this.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Any company can throw a server.

LYNNE S. RIDER: Could throw a server, cut that would not last us any time at all?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: If it was done properly? And we put a new server in, yeah, it could last you. If you're saying that if you want to, you everything I've heard tonight from all you wonderful people was just about budget budget budget budget budget. I'm telling you, this will do it as cheap as you can get it without sacrificing any performance at all and last you a long time.

GORDON ROGERS: That-that's not, don't get me, don't understand me, that's not my argument.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: I'm answering her question that's it.

LYNNE S. RIDER: N-no I just had, ah, obviously it's just very specialized and I wasn't so worried about the cost as much as the expertise, um, is there certified, are computer technicians certified? I mean is there—

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Yes. To-to do what I want to do, it's I mean you have to have at least one certified individual in DMware, you, ah, you get two and we spent hours and hours and hours at classes and all over and

NEAL WHITE LAW: Do you have a computer science degree?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Um, Steve does. I do not, actually I have a music degree, but I've been doing this for about seventeen years, working on (unintelligible) computers.

GORDON ROGERS: Lot of cross-talking going on here.

LYNNE S. RIDER: I have one other question, and that is, when you go into someone's system, do you have access to all of that information, are you, do you have to be bonded?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: We have access to anything.

LYNNE S. RIDER: So are you bonded?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Yeah, I mean, we have a S

LYNNE S. RIDER: Sas?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: It's a special, ah, like if you want to work with banks and financial companies and things like that, they-they come in, the FDIC comes in and, you know, (unintelligible)...

LYNNE S. RIDER: We would need something like that for-for Finance.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Absolutely. In fact we may have something in place with you guys now. Usually that's the case. Or at the very least, there's a nondisclosure.

LYNNE S. RIDER: Okay. Patti had her hand up for a little bit. Go ahead Patti.

PATRICIA MOREAU: Just a quick question, what if we went in next week and the server just crashes, what happens?

GORDON ROGERS: They probably can't get it in by next week.

PATRICIA MOREAU: No, I'm just asking, like, what if the server crashes and we can't do a thing, we can't get on.

GORDON ROGERS: Well then we're in the same position, 'cause he can't get it in by that time.

PATRICIA MOREAU: But does it go under, does it go...what—

GORDON ROGERS: I just thought there'd be a faster way to expediate (sic) the bid process. Ah, I, I state it flat out, I have a concern of putting something out to bid over \$5,000.00 and here, and again nothing to do with you, of the person that's saying it's an emergency is gonna be puttin' a bid in and getting it without it going out to

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competitive, so, you're listening to the person who's gonna get the bid telling you, it's an emergency we gotta do this. Again, I have, for me it conflicts and it concerns me. If it was some guy that wasn't putting a bid in, and he was saying well this should be done, that should be done, you know, the person that's saying it's an emergency, we gotta do this, is the one that's s-that's gonna get the bid if we don't send it out to bid. J. WESLEY WINGATE: But, just a rebuttal, I'm also the person that you guys have had working on your (unintelligible) for five years.

GORDON ROGERS: Again, another reason to be concerned because you're somebody who's in the house, already workin' and maybe this is being passed to you because you're a friend of somebody in house. Again... I have concerns. The Charter states anything over five thousand has to go out to competitive bid. There's nothin' against you or your office.

KELLI RUSS: But they're independent.

GORDON ROGERS: I can't hear you, what?

KELLI RUSS: At the police station, they received a second independent opinion, that they'd actually gone forward to try, to try to do a lot of this work that we stopped because, um, we wanted to do what we originally planned as one—but in the meantime they had already done this, they had their own opinion, who also said that their, their, they were about to fail. They did fail. They're not—they don't have the proper virus protection, they don't have the proper back up system working in there, and their IMC computer's in jeopardy, and their IMC switches, and that's their entire operation, which is all, and that's a separate, that's not them.

GORDON ROGERS: You-you're getting confused, I don't disagree that we need to do something, okay.

KELLI RUSS: It's an emergency, but you said that he was not dependent, and I'm saying they have their own independent person, but went out and got their own opinion who gave them...

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, I got a couple hands in the back, over here.

(UNKOWN): They have a brand new file server at the police station, and they do have a functioning back up, there's a Dell server with 3-year onsite.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: We're not talking about the police station, but I appreciate you telling me something.

GORDON ROGERS: Ron.

RONALD CERVASIO: I think, I think the State, there's a State-accepted bids for computer stuff, um, that the State has accepted as the lowest possible bid, we've given at the schools. I'm assuming that it's available to you guys, ah, so that would tell you what the lowest, I might be wrong. That's in the schools. Thank you very much.

GORDON ROGERS: Now, now, I'm confused, what was that? There's a State what?

RONALD CERVASIO: There's a State accepted low bid for a lot of things. One of them is computer work. Um, the accepted product and the accepted bid, so that may fall into.

GORDON ROGERS: So that may be, ah, where we can go ahead and do this without having to go out to competitive bid.

PATRICIA MORGAN: Let me tell you about the State. My printer's been going down regular. They blew out, they blew out one computer, they come out replace a part, and it blew out again, and they come out with another part—

MICHAEL DILLON: Do we have a motion on the floor?

PATRICIA MORGAN: —only this time they gave you something else—

GORDON ROGERS: No, it's just a presentation.

PATRICIA MORGAN: —and they couldn't get it started because they bought all Dells and the ones they use are all repaired Dells.

GORDON ROGERS: Now is this part of this system or completely separate?

PATRICIA MORGAN: It a State, I worked for the State.

GORDON ROGERS: It's a completely separate system, okay, so.

PATRICIA MORGAN: You don't want the State, they're gonna have Dells, and they're gonna be replacement Dells that have been fixed.

GORDON ROGERS: Nobody said we were going to the State.

PATRICIA MORGAN: But what I'm saying is he's saying go with that.

GORDON ROGERS: No, he said there was a Dell at the police station.

PATRICIA MORGAN: I've been through two weeks of hell.

GORDON ROGERS: There was a Dell at the police station which this isn't what he's talking about.

PATRICIA MORGAN: No, no.

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KELLI RUSS: Ron is talking about the price agreements through the State of Rhode Island, but that's mostly computers, it's not for servers or specialized, so I thank Ron but that's not what we're doing. Thank you, but no. So I think our question here is whether or not you going forward basically it was, it was your opinion and the auditor's opinion that as long as you agree that this is an emergency or spec—and specialized, based on whatever, then we can move forward. If you don't agree then we need to move forward one way or another so that we need to determine right now what the procedure needs to be so that we can move forward.

EDWARD MCCLELLAND: Ah, do you plan on using the existing specialized software that is on the current server in the Town Hall? Specialized like accounting software—

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Absolutely.

EDWARD MCCLELLAND: Okay, now, are the original disks still available and are they usable?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Uh, they're probably not because they probably upgraded already, and...

EDWARD MCCLELLAND: Are they scratched? Can you actually read the data...

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Well, I don't think I would use those, I have relationships with all the companies that they—that they have software with already, I'd just download their software and have them help me install it if I needed help installing it. I've installed just about everything they use.

EDWARD MCCLELLAND: Are there multiple drives existing right now in the server, (unintelligible), is there more than one drive function?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: All the drives are functioning. They're—they're, there's a RAID one and a RAID—a RAID one and a RAID five, okay? Which...do you want me to explain what they are, I can.

EDWARD MCCLELLAND: No I'm perfectly (unintelligible)

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Okay, okay good. So and they-they both function perfectly, but if you know what, how RAID works there's a RAID controller and if you don't have a partition on your C Drive that those-tho-those drives get striped by the RAID controller, okay, so if the thing goes down and the C partition is wiped out, trying to get those other data drives in the same RAID array to come back up with a different, with a new partition, is virtually impossible.

EDWARD MCCLELLAND: Okay, could you not pull one of those RAID control—I never tried it—can you not pull one of those drives out and just back it up occasionally.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: You can't do that. You can't pull a RAID drive out a RAID, man, you're just toast. I mean, you, never mind. No, you don't want to do that, man, you don't want to do that. If the drive fails you will replace it, but you do not want RAID rebuilding itself if you don't have—if it doesn't need to be rebuilt. My understanding is every time something like that happens, you risk losing—I'm just saying, it's not-not my—I mean it's all of your data. It's everybody in this town's data. If it gets hosed, it's, you guys got to explain to them why it's gonna take you X amount of time to get them their stuff. Why it's taking so long to do their taxes, why it's you know. It doesn't really matter to me, although I do like working here, I like working with these people.

ROBERT PETERSON: Where does our data go to be backed up?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Right now? It goes nowhere. When it works...

ROBERT PETERSON: With the new system, where does our data go?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: It goes to my data center, and it gets backed up to a data center in, um, on Branch Avenue in Providence. All our data is off site. Then it replicates from there to my other data center. So if that data center blows up, your data's safe at the other base, and if you need to do restore, I push a button and it brings everything back. (unintelligible) We could do it right now, but you don't have enough space. The way, the way back up works, okay, is when it does back up, it's gonna take all these files, it has...it actually looks like a swap very quickly, and it takes a file, moves it, takes a file, moves it, and it has to create enough space. If it doesn't have enough space, which it doesn't, to do that process, no back up in the world is gonna work properly, and that's where we are right now. So everybody in this room, and everybody in this town, right now, if the server fails and the drives don't come up, you will lose your data, everything that you guys have on record in this town, is gone. Toast. Party's over. And I'm not just telling you that because I think it-it's cool to say,

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I'm telling you that because it's the truth, and I've seen it happen, and I've tried to fix it before, sometimes you get lucky, sometimes you don't.

GORDON ROGERS: Kelli.

KELLI RUSS: We did look into it. Steve said what they do is, in order to keep us active, because that's our biggest concern, we can't afford down time for days on end without licenses, without collections, without all that, he generally does this with no work stoppage in Town Hall work, and they do this in the course of a weekend. So we leave on a Thursday night for example and we would come in on a Monday and we would (unintelligible) In my opinion, we're gonna be the next police station, that they came in one day and they lost, and they lost stuff, and that they couldn't operate, and then the other day they couldn't operate their, um, IMC, and that wall of wiring has to be replaced, that why (unintelligible). Our server has to be rebooted, generally speaking, how often? Because it just shuts down. In inclement weather it starts making all kinds of noises. I'm concerned that this is gonna happen as I think since they have serviced the Town Hall longer than I have been here, and that they do know what they're talking about; they come very well recommended, and they've worked with all of our programs for five years. Um,...

J. WESLEY WINGATE: And Gloucester, and Rehoboth, and East Providence, and North Providence.

GORDON ROGERS: Uh..uh, I'm not doubting...

KELLI RUSS: Now before we would go forward, it must be determined whether or not this is something we need to move forward on, it's my understanding, after talking with Steven, that if you feel that this move forward (beeping interferes with recording) putting bad money...

MICHAEL DILLON: Let me get up.

GORDON ROGERS: Cookies.

KELLI RUSS: Then they can put a proposal together and you guys can look it over and if we're all in agreement, then we move forward, and then (unintelligible)

GORDON ROGERS: You understand my concern, right?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Well, just so you have proper context. You know, you're all familiar with the Charter, the council would have to establish a factual basis for emergency, this is what we have to do, we have to do. Although this is down for discussion and action on presentation, I think it would take a next matter, you'd have to schedule it, it would be noticed that you're going to declare, essentially, this Charter provision.

GORDON ROGERS: Right, now.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: And not go to bid, so the next meeting, let's say at the next meeting or if you had a special meeting—it was an emergency and you wanted to declare, you wanted to have a meeting in two days.

GORDON ROGERS: Yup.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: File the notice and say at that meeting, you're going to exclude yourself from the requirement of a bid because it's over five thousand 'cause it's an emergency, you should state on the record the basis of the emergency. Now I do think that you will factually have to establish not only the basis, but the extent.

GORDON ROGERS: Could that possibly be done through the Treasurer.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: At your direction.

GORDON ROGERS: I-I just want to make sure that that will cover us.

KELLI RUSS: What I'm saying, is this your opinion. Is this good—enough factual, is this enough?

GORDON ROGERS: I need something...

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: This is, this isn't enough for them to-to vote on it.

KELLI RUSS: So if we put all this in writing, is this enough?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: It's not about me—

KELLI RUSS: ...specialized service.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: ...deciding if it's enough, it's about the council deciding that it's enough to satisfy that it's an emergency. An emergency nature is, they have to balance not going to bid for what's been described in two-and-a-half months with making a decision in 48 hours or one week or two, whatever they decided, they should—they decide they want to go forward in 48 hours, they should schedule a meeting, put it down for an emergency, notify everybody you're gonna declare an emergency, essentially declare an emergency—there's provisions—and at that meeting, you're gonna say not—you've met with, everybody in the town is aware that you're not going through this bid process.

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GORDON ROGERS: Yeah.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: And you're gonna go directly to a contract.

GORDON ROGERS: Because I rose this, I, this...

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: So it's not a matter of me deciding if he established right it's an emergency, it's the council has to decide if it's an emergency. It specifically says...

GORDON ROGERS: Which can be challenged.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: ...in each instance the town council or the school committee shall cause to be entered in its record a statement of the emergency. You will cause the statement of emergency, and you have to justify it.

GORDON ROGERS: Based on her facts?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Well, her facts, his facts, um, public comment, it, whatever you think is appropriate.

KELLI RUSS: So is this enough, if this is not where you're leaning, then there's no point prolonging this 'cause truly, I do believe this is gonna fail. I believe we're gonna be the next police department.

GORDON ROGERS: I think the chief could probably also state what happened over there in addition with what facts you have.

KELLI RUSS: So if we can document it, move forward, and I would like to schedule, I don't want to wait too long.

(cross-talking)

GORDON ROGERS: Hold on.

PATRICIA MORGAN: I didn't know (unintelligible) doing it. Mine was making noises, mine was shutting down, I had to reboot it.

GORDON ROGERS: Yours has absolutely nothing to do with the council.

PATRICIA MORGAN: The same symptoms, and mine went down.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: He's right, he's right. It could be anything.

GORDON ROGERS: It could be wiring which has nothing to do with server and the issue. Wiring has nothing to do with this.

PATRICIA MORGAN: No this isn't wiring, it's the motherboard, its-its hard drive.

GORDON ROGERS: But again, Pat, that has nothing to do with this computer.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Alright, so, if I may, alright, we had this discussion before, and I was like I said if its emergency, out to bid. So is there a clear cause and effect? Or some type of statement that, okay, this is the problem, this is what needs to be done to be rectified, this is the severity of the issues, and write up a document (unintelligible) that we can look at and say alright, this will (unintelligible) and go forward. It's just a matter of, you know that for us, to declare a, this an emergency so we can vote on it without having to through the bid process, this is procedural, you understand?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: I understand.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: So this is the only issue, so to protract this discussion at length, so my, I think you have to write up a report or you guys can work together write up a report and show us the severity of the emergency and we can move forward on that.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: I'm just-I'm just giving you the facts. I'm telling you what I think will happen.

KELLI RUSS: And like he said, anybody that had...

J. WESLEY WINGATE: What the ramifications are..

LYNNE DESTEFANO: So you can document that?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: No, well, yeah, and I also, (unintelligible) I don't want to call a week from now going, "our server's down, can you get any of it" because the answer's probably gonna be no. So I just want everybody to understand.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: This is procedural.

KELLI RUSS: (mostly unintelligible throughout due to crosstalking) 'cause if we keep going the way we're going it's going to be two more weeks and then say, you guys decide, oh you know what I'm (unintelligible) over this, now we gotta go to bid. Now three months from that, versus if we did this, if we do something, ah, schedule a meeting, and then we can move forward with the meeting.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Can we schedule a meeting tonight?

RONALD CERVASIO: Can the chairman poll the board to see which way they're leaning so we move ahead?

NEAL WHITELAW: I just have one real quick question for ya. Why wasn't it on the agenda tonight as an emergency? If it's an emergency...

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KELLI RUSS: We tried to do that a couple days ago, I know, and we took it off, and in all honesty, how do I know, how do I know what it's posted as.

GORDON ROGERS: We can meet in 48 hours.

KELLI RUSS: This is the year...

NEAL WHITELAW: So why wasn't it, if it's considered an emergency, it's an emergency. Why wouldn't we put it on the agenda as an emergency?

(extreme cross-talking)

GORDON ROGERS: Neal, Neal, Neal is talking.

NEAL WHITELAW: That was just my concern, it's not a concern, I just want to know why, if it's an emergency, it's an emergency.

GORDON ROGERS: One person at a time.

KELLI RUSS: I was answering.

GORDON ROGERS: He wasn't done.

NEAL WHITELAW: I'm just wondering why would it be on the agenda tonight as emergency. If it's truly as you guys have submitted, it's an emergency, then I actually want to act on it, and-and wasting three days or four days doesn't help, but I want to know why it wasn't an emergency tonight.

KELLI RUSS: I wanted them to speak about, I wanted him to come here and speak about our emergency situation. That's just how it got posted. I don't post the agenda.

NEAL WHITELAW: Okay, thank you.

KELLI RUSS: So I felt this way for two weeks, I'm seriously afraid that one day, like they come in the other day and...

NEAL WHITELAW: Okay.

KELLI RUSS: and the IMC Computer is down.

NEAL WHITELAW: I understand. Honest, I understand.

GORDON ROGERS: So, so. What's the pleasure of the council. Do we want to schedule a meeting, give her 48 hours to come up with the concerns of being an emergency, uh, and we can meet and vote on it and move forward with it. Is, is there a motion? 'Cause it's discussion/action, so...I'll entertain a motion.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Um, I make a motion to, uh, do the 48 hours and, uh, ...

GORDON ROGERS: Tina, do you know the regulations for holding an emergency meeting?

TINA W. FREEMAN: Emergency meeting, you can have an emergency meeting the next day.

GORDON ROGERS: Is that what we want to do or do we wanna.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: I-I-I

GORDON ROGERS: Well, she has to write it up. Yeah.

MICHAEL DILLON: She's gonna write it up?

GORDON ROGERS: 48 hours, yeah, the reason why it's an emergency.

MICHAEL DILLON: No-n-n-no.

GORDON ROGERS: We need proof.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Mr. Chairman, I-I, Mr. Chairman, I don't think that you should confuse

GORDON ROGERS: Emergency, with an emergency going out to bid

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: We're talking about establishing under Section 14.02 the basis...

GORDON ROGERS: Yup. I understand.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: ...to avoid the Charter...

GORDON ROGERS: Yup.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: ...requirement of a bid.

GORDON ROGERS: Bid, correct.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Establish a no-bid contract. And you can do that, that's basically you establish.

GORDON ROGERS: Post it 48 hours, have the meeting.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: I'm saying, that's different, then if you're also gonna declare that there's an emergency meeting, then you can have it at any time.

GORDON ROGERS: No.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: That's two different things.

GORDON ROGERS: They gotta write up the, uh, paperwork. Do you know roughly what it's gonna cost us?

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: You could do both. That's not what we were talking about.

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J. WESLEY WINGATE: I don't. I don't. The reason is there's a lot of (unintelligible) software, buy a box, there's too much, I've got to get exactly what you guys need, I've got to get the specs, how much the VMware costs, how much—what, the VMware is very, um, you go from (unintelligible) get the bare minimum, you can get, you know, there's a lot

MICHAEL DILLON: Um, okay, uh, ye, we're not, we're not sure what it's gonna cost, 'cause you're not sure what the town needs.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: I know what you need, I just don't know what it's gonna cost you yet.

KELLI RUSS: Well, the other thing is, too.

MICHAEL DILLON: If you know, if you know what—that's what it confusing. If you know what we need.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: I don't have the prices on me now...

MICHAEL DILLON: N-n-n-no, wait-w-w-wait, back up. I'm not askin' for a number, like stand there and give me a number. This has been going on for two months and we still don't know how much it's gonna cost.

KELLI RUSS: No, we do, 'cause I talked to Steve and he said that our base

MICHAEL DILLON: Okay, well.

KELLI RUSS: The technology has gone down since, we're low end, he can definitely do it for less money...

MICHAEL DILLON: Can we, can we get a uh...

KELLI RUSS: We can't have them give us a price because if you don't do an emergency bid, if don't declare this an emergency, if we have to go out to bid, now they want to give us a price, and it (unintelligible) going out to bid, what does that do. (unintelligible) give us any total pricing.

MICHAEL DILLON: But there's nobody else who does this.

KELLI RUSS: But I need you guys so we can go forward with..

GORDON ROGERS: Is that what I heard.

MICHAEL DILLON: That's what he said. That's what he said.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: I'll give you break one.

MICHAEL DILLON: Ahh, boy.

GORDON ROGERS: They're not helping. So the motion was...

LYNNE DESTEFANO: I make a motion that we hold a meeting where the presentation of the emergency no-bid contract will be voted upon.

GORDON ROGERS: And we will get the information from the Treasurer and

J. WESLEY WINGATE: I'll get some stuff to you.

GORDON ROGERS: That will back up, back up...

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Special meeting, a special meeting under your, under the rules. A special meeting under the town council to consider an emergency, emergency, open contract pursuant to 14.02 of the Charter. And that really has to be that way because the public has to know that that's what you're doing. That's why this provision is here so people are knowing that you're not going out to bid for something over five thousand.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: Right.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: And they come to that meeting, and they'll know what the basis, that you're gonna make, now you don't have to make the decision on that day, but...

GORDON ROGERS: Right.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: that's the day.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: At least, alright, that's the motion.

GORDON ROGERS: We need to see the proof of the emergency.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Well, you need to be satisfied that you, you've got the obligation of establishing by, going under that provision.

LYNNE DESTEFANO: That's my motion, any seconds?

MICHAEL DILLON: Second.

GORDON ROGERS: Any further discussion from the council.

NEAL WHITELAW: Ah, this is an extraordinary step...

GORDON ROGERS: Yes.

NEAL WHITELAW: And this better be very compelling that this is an emergency.

GORDON ROGERS: She know—I've been in there, I've been talking to her about it.

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NEAL WHITELOW: This is an extraordinary step you're asked to take the council to do, to throw away the bid system. I'm really uncomfortable, but I'm open to suggestions and I want to see the, I want to see the proposal.

KELLI RUSS: I went into the office the other day, could I get on my system? No.

MICHAEL DILLON: Don't get her goin'. We'll be here till...talk for three hours.

NEAL WHITELOW: My router doesn't work sometimes, too, so is it an emergency that my router doesn't work is the difference. I'm just saying from my point of view, it's very tenuous that we do an emergency no bid, it's a big thing. It's a big thing in my world.

KELLI RUSS: Okay.

NEAL WHITELOW: So when you give your presentation, give it your best shot.

KELLI RUSS: We're gonna write something up, that's what you want, right?

NEAL WHITELOW: I want something, I want something more than just writing. I need a compelling reason to throw away the bid system is what we're doing. Okay?

GORDON ROGERS: One more, go 'head.

(Unknown Speaker) Do we absolutely have to use the VMware for this small amount of work stations that are involved in Town Hall?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: No, the workstations can stay. That was just my point was as the workstations become obsolete. Now they get old, they you know, they, it sounds like you know a little bit about what you're doing, so it's like if you (Unknown speaker says something unintelligible) were, like, you now it's not even close, it's not even close, because what happens is when a when a PC becomes end of life, okay, you go out and buy a brand new PC for like 4 to 6 hundred dollars, this way you're gonna spend \$200.00 (unintelligible) to build them, all you need to pay for is a \$129, at this point it would be Windows 7 license to run the thing, so you've already saved 4...

What's the price between using the VMware and not?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Well, you would have to add up the cost of how many servers you wanted to get.

(Unknown Speaker) Well as far as I know, it's one server, as far as I can see.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: How are you going to separate the data between the police and the...

(Unknown Speaker) Well, it's...

You're gonna leave that one that is in (unintelligible) in the police station?

I think we looked at that sire, yeah, you can keep that over there is you want.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Can I make a suggestion, Mr. President. I would just suggest in addition to this meeting, that you simultaneously stop whatever process it is that only goes through the bid specs so you don't lose this two or three days in case this, you're not successful...

GORDON ROGERS: We can do that a second bid, I mean a second vote, or do you want to make, should we make an amendment? No, it's

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: I suggest you keep both things going till you know which way you're going.

GORDON ROGERS: Makes a lot of sense.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: So you don't lose any more time. So hearing two months will go by.

GORDON ROGERS: So what we'll, yeah, well, we can always just make another motion, whatever the pleasure of the council. So we'll just vote on a motion here and we'll...alright. Everybody understand the motion, we're gonna meet in 48 hours and discuss the reasons and emergencies of the no bid contract pursuant to the statute.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: 48 hours, that's like, Sunday?

GORDON ROGERS: It's gotta be posted. We can meet Sunday, unless you don't want to.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: N-n-no, I'm just figuring, you know, out the day. Sunday's fine, but Kelli's making a face.

KELLI RUSS: You want to meet on Sunday?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Well, I'm just saying, 48 hours is Sunday.

(Unknown) Not on Sunday.

GORDON ROGERS: I thought it was an emergency. Now it's not an emergency, we don't meet on a Sunday?

KELLI RUSS: It's not an emergency to cost me \$600.00 \$500.00 to have my husband call out for work. No. I can check my schedule and see what I can do with my three children on a Sunday. It's not like I just have nothing going on.

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MARIANNE KNIGHT: I mean, the, the only times I can do it is, I can't, I can do it Monday.

KELLI RUSS: I can probably do Sunday morning.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Wednesday.

GORDON ROGERS: I just kept hearing emergency.

KELLI RUSS: If you really want...

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Well, I'm just saying, I'm in class Monday and Wednesday, so.

GORDON ROGERS: So Monday's out for you, so a Saturday or Sunday.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Or even Tuesday.

KELLI RUSS: Would you have time to prepare this with me, Wes?

J. WESLEY WINGATE: Yes. Absolutely.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Saturday's fine with me.

GORDON ROGERS: Do we have time to schedule it for Saturday? Today's actually Friday now.

It will have to be Tuesday.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: I think Tuesday.

GORDON ROGERS: So Sunday, you're not available Monday...

MICHAEL DILLON: I don't care.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Tuesday at 5?

GORDON ROGERS: Tuesday at 5? Okay, all in favor of that motion, meet Tuesday at 5, all in favor signify by saying aye.

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye. (5-0)

GORDON ROGERS: Opposed? Hearing none, motion passes. Now, the next issue is, ah, moving forward with the bid, in case we don't. I would entertain a motion to start the bid process in case we meet Tuesday and we decide that the emergency that's put in front of us documented is not worthy of violating the bid contract and the Charter. I'll entertain that motion that we start the bid process.

MICHAEL DILLON: Where's this gonna be?

GORDON ROGERS: This is just a motion to start the bid... Is there a second?

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Second.

GORDON ROGERS: All in favor?

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye. (Motion passes 5-0.)

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, Tina, that was a motion to actually start the bidding process in case we meet Tuesday and it doesn't pass muster and we decide no we're not going through with the emergency doesn't warrant it. That way we at least start the bid process so we don't lose any time. Okay. Thank you very much. Sorry to keep you waiting.

J. WESLEY WINGATE: My pleasure.

GORDON ROGERS: I should have moved that up. Alright, Tina. Ben Eddy available Tuesday at five?

TINA W. FREEMAN: Usually five o'clock is a good time.

GORDON ROGERS: Okay.

**RESOLUTION
ELECTIONS**

GORDON ROGERS: Alright Resolution Relating to Elections, discussion/action. I believe that's to go down to one district, so we don't have two voting districts.

MICHAEL DILLON: So you only vote in one spot?

GORDON ROGERS: That's what this resolution's for.

(Crosstalking) We have two right now. So what they're trying to do is get it down to one, you want to read that so everybody's aware of it?

MICHAEL DILLON: This is from the Board of Canvassers:

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
TOWN OF FOSTER
RESOLUTION NO. 11-01

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RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AMENDMENT OF 17-11-1, ENTITLED AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS –VOTING DISTRICTS AND OFFICIALS.

Amendment 17-11-1, entitled “An Act Relating to Elections- Voting Districts and Officials: to repeal the maximum number of voters per precinct to an unlimited number of voters base on the location and accessibility, with the approval of the State Board of Elections:

As the Foster Board of Canvassers I have noted the confusion about where the election will be held this time and I am concerned about the cost of running these elections on our very small budget. For these reasons I would support this legislation.

Patricia A. Morgan
Chair, Foster Board of Canvassers.

GORDON ROGERS: Pat, that letter’s to me, do you want to elaborate a little bit on that?

PATRICIA MORGAN: I guess I still had Moosup Valley in mind, but I also get a lot of phone calls, I stayed at the Town Hall this time, and I get a lot of phone calls, “Where are we voting today?” And well, where did you vote last time, no, you can’t do that because they go into (unintelligible) printing problem any...the thing is, we have people placed. It’s gonna be tough running it, it’s gonna be tough keeping the traffic properly, but I can do it, I’ve got trained people.

GORDON ROGERS: Do we violate any State laws by that, are there any State laws, that say we have to have two districts?

PATRICIA MORGAN: I haven’t seen any at all. In fact, I hate to say this but it’s run by very strange primitive laws I think, Jim Crow laws, and I keep asking questions (unintelligible) wait a minute, that has nothing to do with what we’re talking about, you know, but the things is, no I’d like replace it with solid and steady. We can’t use the cafeteria right now, but this might work until we found someplace.

NEAL WHITELAW: Mr. Chairman?

GORDON ROGERS: She’s talking.

NEAL WHITELAW: I believe this is in regard, this letter is in regard to a Resolution that, it’s to support an amendment entitled and Act Relating to Elections and this is gonna be on the ballot.

GORDON ROGERS: To vote on.

NEAL WHITELAW: Correct it’s an Amendment to 17-11-1. It’s just if we support or not, it doesn’t, it’s not our decision if we have two or one polling places. This is just to approve or send our-our feelings on it to the appropriate authorities so they can probably put it on the ballot.

GORDON ROGERS: So what’s the pleasure of the council.

NEAL WHITELAW: Uh, I guess, Tina also, uh, the Town Clerk also has her name on it.

TINA W. FREEMAN: Yes, I do.

NEAL WHITELAW: And I gather you would support it?

TINA W. FREEMAN: Yes, I do.

NEAL WHITELAW: I guess, hearing that, that I would make a motion to have the clerk and the council president sign this resolution, which is only showing our support for 17-11-1.

GORDON ROGERS: I’ll second that. Any further discussion from the council? Hearing none, all those in favor?

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye.

GORDON ROGERS: Opposed? (no response) Hearing none. Motion passes. (5-0)

**FUTURE
AGENDA
ITEMS**

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, Tina I was writing down a few notes for future agenda items, especially going through the packet, the informational stuff. I-I would like to put on the next agenda the Resolution the Gloucester Council is also calling, the Resolution Regarding the Procedures with Respect to the Foster-Glocester Regional School District which was in the informational packet. Also I’d like to have on there the Fire Safety Code discussion about the fire marshal’s office, and have

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Mike Chippendale I touched base with him the other day, he hasn't got nothing yet, but maybe by then he'll have a little bit of information for us. Uh, so, those are the two things I'd like on.

NEAL WHITELAW: I would also like the Resolution from the Town of Jamestown.

GORDON ROGERS: Yup.

NEAL WHITELAW: Uh, as a discussion/action item. Also the Town of South Kingston has a Resolution. I'd also like as a discussion/action item, and a Resolution from Representative Chippendale, also for a...

GORDON ROGERS: That's that E-verify.

NEAL WHITELAW: Yeah, it's a Resolution for E-verify and this other language. Uh, also as discussion/action item.

TINA W. FREEMAN: Excuse me, Neal? The Resolution for South Kingstown and Mr. Chippendale, is there another one?

NEAL WHITELAW: Ah, Jamestown.

**CONCERNED
CITIZENS**

GORDON ROGERS: Okay, then we move to Concerned Citizens. Arthur Read. I think he left. Pam Fontaine, Concerned Citizens. Pam, you signed Concerned Citizens.

PAMELA FONTAINE: I'm all set.

GORDON ROGERS: All set, thank you. Ginny Colwell, Concerned Citizens, you signed?

VIRGINIA COLWELL: I'm all set. It's clear it would just be a waste of our time.

GORDON ROGERS: Uh, Ed Balfour. Concerned Citizens. Ed Balfour, go once, twice? Ron Cervasio?

RONALD CERVASIO: I just want to say, this is the longest meeting I've ever attended. For twenty-two years. The Chairman does have the right to say, "Does anyone have anything new to say?" Right. This is long, but at some point, you gotta do some business.

GORDON ROGERS: Yup.

RONALD CERVASIO: Thank you.

GORDON ROGERS: Point taken. Uh, Robert Hoh—Bobby Hohler. Where's your boy?

NEAL WHITELAW: I think he's gone. I don't know.

GORDON ROGERS: Lynne Rider.

LYNNE S. RIDER: Just that you are a despicable excuse for a governing body. You three are a despicable farce.

GORDON ROGERS: Mike Carpenter? Linda Walden. Gail Keighley.

MICHAEL DILLON: Hey, the attorney's taking us out for breakfast.

GORDON ROGERS: Alright. What's the pleasure of the council on Executive Session this evening.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: Do you want to add the Executive Session to the special meeting on Tuesday.

MARIANNE KNIGHT: Good idea.

GORDON ROGERS: Yeah.

ATTY. DAVID IGLIOZZI: The motion to, that'll be added to the Special Meeting.

GORDON ROGERS: I'll entertain a motion to have Executive Session portion added to the Special Meeting that we're gonna have Tuesday at five.

NEAL WHITELAW: So moved.

GORDON ROGERS: All in favor?

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye. (Motion passed 5-0.)

GORDON ROGERS: I guess we're in order for a motion to adjourn Mr. Whitelaw. Motion to adjourn.

NEAL WHITELAW: So moved.

GORDON ROGERS: All in favor. All in favor.

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye.

GORDON ROGERS: Adjourned.

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No executive session was held.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 a.m.

Certified as a complete account of the council meeting:

Carol Lyons Sholly

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

Submitted By

Tina W. Freeman, CMC
Town Clerk