

Town Council Meeting  
February 24, 2011

The February 24, 2011, Town Council Meeting was called to order by President Gordon Rogers at 7 p.m. in the Foster Town House, 180 Howard Hill Road, Foster, RI 02825.

The following members were present:

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

Also present were David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor,  
And Kelli Russ, Treasurer

**PUBLIC COMMENT** Patricia Morgan stated that she liked the seating arrangement. Gordon Rogers, President, informed her that she was only allowed to comment on things that are on the agenda. Mrs. Morgan stated that she wanted to comment on appointments. It was her understanding that a gentleman was up for appointment who does not live in Foster but in fact lives in Connecticut. Mr. Rogers said they would address that when they got to the appointment.

Patricia Fontaine stated that she wanted to speak under Concerned Citizens.

Lynne S. Rider addressed the impending appointment of Ron Cervasio to the Planning Board. She handed out testimony regarding his previous dismissal for unprofessional behavior, creating a hostile work environment, and failure to reform his behavior after two previous warnings from the town council. She read complaint letters from a planning clerk reporting intimidation; from a board member stating that he was disrespectful and disruptive, refusing to yield the floor to other members; from the town planner who reported that his behavior was demeaning, and from another clerk who stated that he refused to sign a recusal form, went into a rage and shouted at her. Planner Ann Grenier wrote of his obstructionist behavior, slander and harassment. Mrs. Rider stated that she did not feel that Mr. Cervasio would be a good candidate for the Planning Board. His appointment would stop any work of the board going forward. Mrs. Rider also spoke on the Housing Board appointment. She said that Ed McClelland does not live in Foster; she has a copy of his tax bill, and he only pays \$31.64 per year in taxes because he does not live in Rhode Island, his house is in Connecticut.

Ron Cervasio stated that Mr. McClelland is a voter by the voting records. He votes in the community and pays taxes in the community and by state law where he votes makes him eligible to be on a board.

Patricia Morgan of Danielson Pike, Chair of the Board of Canvassers, stated that he did register to vote, but his domicile is not in the state. He has two addresses, one on Cucumber Hill Road, RI and one on Cucumber Hill Road in Danielson, CT.

**MINUTES**

Neal Whitelaw motioned to approve the minutes of January 13, 2011. Marianne Knight seconded.

Lynne DeStefano stated in discussion that they just received the minutes. Gordon Rogers stated they should vote on the first motion.

Gordon Rogers, no; Lynne DeStefano, no; Michael Dillon, no; Neal Whitelaw, no; and Marianne Knight, no. Motion failed.

Lynne S. DeStefano moved to continue the minutes to the next meeting. Michael Dillon seconded.

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

**SAND BID AWARD**

Michael Dillon moved to approve the bid award to LaFramboise as recommended by Robert Clarkin, DPW Director. Lynne DeStefano seconded. Gordon E. Rogers recused himself.

Michael Dillon, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Neal Whitelaw, no; and Marianne Knight, no. The motion failed to pass.

Lynne S. Rider stated that this was the third time Mr. Rogers refused to disclose who he is hauling for, and asked if there was going to be any resolution or was he going to prevent the town from accepting the sand bid forever? Ms. DeStefano replied that she did not know.

**APPOINTMENTS:  
AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING**

Lynne DeStefano moved, Michael Dillon seconded, to appoint Edward McClelland to the Affordable Housing Board.

Gordon Rogers, President, called for discussion and addressed the issue of Mr. McClelland not being a Foster resident. He noted upon researching the issue, that Mr. McClelland could actually run for Town Council. To run for office, you have to be an elector of the Town of Foster. Mr. McClelland is a registered voter. It is also his understanding that if Mr. McClelland calls 911, the Foster Police, Fire and Ambulance would respond. He also registered his dogs in Foster, his vehicles are registered in the town of Foster, and he is a registered notary in the state of Rhode Island, and he has been on the RI Dept. of Housing and Development. He can't find anything in the Charter that would dictate that he's not eligible for the position.

Lynne DeStefano offers his voter registration number and states he's been a registered voter since 10/24/03 in district 1201.

Patricia Morgan asks how much is he costing Foster residents for \$31 per year?

Gordon Rogers notes that Mr. McClelland is the only person applying for a board that it is hard to get people to volunteer for.

Ruth Rogers responds that she doesn't pay any taxes in the town of Foster, but that she is a voter.

Lynne Rider notes that state law supersedes the Town Charter, and that a lot of times, it is the intent of the law. She suggests they ask the solicitor if it is the intent of the Charter that the people who on boards, commissions, and run for town councils actually live in the town. Two, three, four wrongs don't make a right. He does not live in Rhode Island by any definition.

Ron Cervasio says the school lost a case of domicile because of where the mailbox was.

Ms. Rider requested that they ask the solicitor.

Neal Whitelaw asked if there were three or five members. Deputy Town Clerk, Carol Lyons Sholly, explained that there were three members plus two liaisons, and they are missing a member and a liaison. We were down to 2 members and not reaching a quorum. Some meetings were cancelled.

Gordon Rogers, President, asked Edward McClelland to give some of his background. Mr. McClelland said he has worked with the Housing Authority and knows how HUD and Section 8 housing works.

Gordon Rogers called for a vote on the motion to appoint Edward McClelland to the Housing Board.

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, no; and Marianne Knight, no. Motion passed 3 to 2.

**ANIMAL CONTROL  
OFFICER**

Neal Whitelaw moved, Marianne Knight seconded, to appoint Michael Caprarelli as Animal Control Officer. There was no discussion.

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

**APPRAISER OF DOG  
DAMAGE**

Gordon Rogers, President, noted that there was no applicant for Appraiser of Dog Damage, unless someone from the audience would like to apply. Neal Whitelaw noted that it's usually done by the Animal Control Officer and moved to appoint Michael Caprarelli. Marianne Knight seconded. Deputy Town Clerk Carol Lyons Sholly noted that Mr. Caprarelli didn't apply for it and that she didn't think he wanted it. Michael Dillon asked if he had done it in the past. Mrs. Sholly stated that he did. Mr. Whitelaw said he assumed it was part of the job. Mrs. Sholly said it is listed as a separate position. Mr. Whitelaw said that if he doesn't want it, he can always refuse it. Mr. Rogers called for a vote.

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

**CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION**

Neal Whitelaw moved, Marianne Knight seconded to appoint Chris Iozzi for a three-year-term to the Conservation Commission. There was no discussion.

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

**CORDER OF WOOD** Lynne DeStefano moved, Michael seconded, to appoint Robert Thurber to the position of Corder of Wood. Mr. Rogers explained that Mr. Thurber did not apply, but that he had spoken with him in the past and that Mr. Thurber expressed that he was interested in reappointment. Neal Whitelaw asked that if they did nothing, would he not just continue to serve as Corder of Wood? Gordon Rogers felt it would make it official and called for a vote.

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

**ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR** Neal Whitelaw moved, Marianne Knight seconded, to appoint Norman DesPlaines to the position of Electrical Inspector. During discussion, Gordon Rogers, President, explained that Mr. DesPlaines was appointed about a month ago when the former inspector resigned. Lynne DeStefano asked if he was a resident of Foster. Mr. Rogers stated that he was a resident of Scituate. Ms. DeStefano stated that she thought we had applicants from Foster. Mr. Rogers called for a vote.

Gordon Rogers, no; Lynne DeStefano, no; Michael Dillon, no; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye. Motion failed.

Lynne DeStefano moved to appoint Michael Paolucci to the position of Electrical Inspector. Michael Dillon seconded. Mr. Whitelaw said he was supporting the building inspector's recommendation. Gordon Rogers speaks in favor of appointing Mr. Paolucci. He noted that Mr. Paolucci has served as Electrical Inspector from 2000 to 2006, and that he gave up the position when he was elected to the School Committee.

Lynne S. Rider of Burgess Road pointed out that since no one on the council is an electrician or has dealt with the accreditation it might be a good idea to check with the Building Inspector first.

Lynne DeStefano points out the Mr. Paolucci is a Master Electrician.

Lynne S. Rider says the requirements and qualifications are not the same. Gordon Rogers says that Mr. Paolucci has been an Electrical Inspector in the past, and called for a vote.

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, no; and Marianne Knight, no. Motion passes 3 to 2.

**EMERGENCY MGT.  
DIRECTOR**

Neal Whitelaw moved, Lynne DeStefano seconded, to appoint Robert J. Carnevale to the position of Emergency Management Director. Lynne S. Rider asked if Thomas Walden had reapplied. Mr. Rogers stated that there was only one applicant and that Mr. Walden had not applied. Mr. Rogers called for a vote.

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

**FENCE VIEWER**

Lynne DeStefano moved, Michael Dillon seconded, to appoint Richard Grant as Fence Viewer. There was no discussion.

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, no; and Marianne Knight, no. Motion passed 3 to 2.

**KEEPER OF KEYS**

Neal Whitelaw moved, Lynne DeStefano seconded, to appoint Harold "Bart" Hey as Keeper of Keys. There was no discussion.

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

**PLANNING BOARD**

Neal Whitelaw moved, Marianne Knight seconded, to appoint Michael Carpenter to the Planning Board for a five year term. Neal Whitelaw spoke in favor of Michael Carpenter who has been a member.

Ronald Cervasio of Old Plainfield Pike said he was once again maligned and had never defended himself against the charges. He stated that the Planning Board has constantly followed the Comprehensive Plan with the intention of keeping Foster rural. They get along wonderfully. He stated they just approved plans which he had developed when he was on the Planning Board. They took retail spaces and built nodes of retail spaces. This person who is presently on the Planning Board that Mr. Whitelaw said was doing a good job, has built a retail node. He stated that retail for the last seven years has been losing market share. There was a prediction that in 1979 that there would be big box stores and specialty stores. You would buy your underwear at Wal-Mart, but then you'd go to Fredericks and buy your specialty. Even retail specialty stores are closing. Retail spaces are going to continue to get hit and will not produce any taxes. He suggested there was one marketing tool, which is warehousing and industrial parks, for tax relief. You will continue to have taxes go up, and the state not support schools, and the state will continue to cut costs. To have him on board with six people who don't agree with

him...they can just tell him to shut up. It would be very interesting to have him on the board with knowledge of what's going on in the market place of the United States and China. His wife works for a worldwide company. You should have someone on the board who know more than just that they live in the town of Foster.

Gordon Rogers asks if Mr. Carpenter is in the audience. Michael Carpenter is present and Mr. Rogers asks how long he has been on the Planning Board. Mr. Carpenter replies that the board serves at the pleasure of the council, the fact that they get along is a good thing, they get a lot of work done and that he would like to continue.

John Neale of East Killingly Road, Chairman of the Planning Board, states that the board has lost two members in the past year, one from moving, another from taking a job with the town. He would like to see continuity. He would like to bring more businesses in.

Lynne DeStefano asks how it was moving along with Route 6. John Neale says one plan has come forward, and he thinks it will go through to completion.

Gordon Rogers says he has concerns about the Planning Board because he said he knew of businesses that have gone elsewhere because of the environment created in the town because of the planning board. He sees three ways to balance the budget: 1) is revenue through business moving into town, 2) is to reduce spending, 3) is to raise taxes. That's all you have to work with. He doesn't feel the Planning Board have been receptive. If you have the same people, you get the same result.

Another resident reminds the board of businesses that used to be in town and states that the town needs more business.

Ron Cervasio again stated that the way to go was in warehousing. Warehousing is a big box that pays you money, it also pays you money in inventory. Retail businesses can not support the revenue needed. If you knew what was happening in China, we're falling so far behind because of people who continue to talk about keeping Foster rural. You need to move forward and protect your children.

Gordon Rogers, president, says he respects the Planning Board but says it is an opportunity to move in a beneficial direction.

Lynne S. Rider said last December that the Planning Board has won an award for the Rezoning project. She spoke in favor of Mike Carpenter.

Patti Moreau, Tax Assessor, informed the council that the town of Foster does not tax inventory so no additional income would come from warehousing. Gordon Rogers said he was aware of that and pointed out that they can tax the building.

Jane Sroka of Foster Center Road says that Mr. Cervasio was on the Planning Board with her father, Fred Huse. Mrs. Sroka said she and Mr. Cervasio had this conversation. The problem she had was character. Mr. Rogers asked if she was speaking of Mr. Carpenter. Mrs. Sroka said no, you keep letting Ron speak. Mr. Rogers says the motion is about Mr. Carpenter. Mrs. Sroka asks, then why does Ron Cervasio keep on talking about having himself on it? My father was blind and he thought that is he was blind he didn't know anything. Mr. Rogers didn't remember him saying anything about her father. Mrs. Sroka said he did. Mr. Rogers says they're going to end it right now and called for a vote.

Gordon Rogers, no; Michael Dillon, no; Neal Whitelaw, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye. Motion passed 3 to 2.

Neal Whitelaw moved to appoint Bob Moreau to the Planning Board for a five-year term. Lynne DeStefano asked if there was one opening. Gordon Rogers stated that there was only one opening. Mr. Whitelaw said they just voted down Mr. Carpenter. Gordon Rogers says, no, we approved Mr. Carpenter. Mr. Whitelaw says he stands corrected, he did not hear the vote.

Ronald Cervasio states that he has never defended himself so he started talking about Fred Huse. Gordon Rogers ends the conversation.

**PLUMBING  
INSPECTOR**

Lynne DeStefano moved, Michael Dillon seconded, to appoint Jeff Lowe to the position of Plumbing Inspector. There was no discussion.

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

**PROBATE JUDGE**

Neal Whitelaw moved, Michael Dillon seconded, to appoint William P. Bernstein to the position of Probate Judge. There was no discussion.

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

**RECREATION  
COMMITTEE**

Lynne DeStefano moved, Michael Dillon seconded, to appoint Erin Moyer to the Recreation Committee for a five-year term. There was no discussion.

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

**RECREATION  
DIRECTOR**

Lynne DeStefano moved, Marianne Knight seconded, to reappoint Michael Polouski to the position of Recreation Director. There was no discussion.

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

**SEALER OF  
WEIGHTS &  
MEASURES**

Neal Whitelaw moved, Lynne DeStefano seconded, to appoint Kenneth Knight as Sealer of Weights & Measures. There was no discussion.

Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight recused herself. Motion passed by 4 votes.

**TOWN HISTORIAN**

Lynne DeStefano moved, Marianne Knight seconded, to appoint Viola Ulm to the position of Town Historian. Gordon Rogers spoke highly of Ms. Ulm. There was no other discussion.

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

**ZONING BOARD**

Neal Whitelaw moved, Marianne Knight seconded to appoint William Gibb to the Zoning Board for a five-year term. There was no discussion.

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

Neal Whitelaw moved, Marianne Knight seconded to appoint John Esposito to the Zoning Board for a one-year term as alternate. There was no discussion.

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

Neal Whitelaw moved, Marianne Knight seconded to appoint Maureen McEntee to the Zoning Board for a one-year term as alternate. There was no discussion.

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

**CONSTABLES**

Neal Whitelaw moved, Marianne Knight seconded, to appoint the following constables: Paul Cuniff, Michael Dexter, Robert Larrivee, Sharon Cotter, Heidi Rogers, Virginia Colwell, Gordon Brayton, Roy Shippee, John Kent, Gordon Rogers, Neal Whitelaw, Lynne DeStefano, Marianne Knight, Michael Dillon, JoAnn Law, Linda Niles, Daniel Hernandez, and Pamela Watson Kenneth Knight, the Sealer of Weights and Measures, was added to the list. There was no discussion.

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

**WARRANTS**

Lynne DeStefano moved, Neal Whitelaw seconded, to approve Payroll Warrant #32 for \$32,462.87, Payroll Warrant #33 for \$28,616.36, and General Warrant #19 for \$178,009.02.

Neal Whitelaw questioned the expenditure of \$20,000.00. Kelli Russ, Treasurer, stated that this represented 75 percent of the payment which would not be completely paid unless completed.

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

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

Lynne DeStefano moved, Marianne Knight seconded, to approve the monthly report for the Department of Public Works.

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

**QUARTERLY  
REPORTS**

Neal Whitelaw moved, Marianna Knight seconded, to approve the Quarterly reports from the Foster School Committee.

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

**LETTER RE:  
COUNCIL NEWS**

Lynne DeStefano read a letter regarding the “Town Council News” as reported in the *Foster Home Journal* proposing an email approval system on anything submitted.

Michael Dillon moved, Lynne DeStefano seconded, to have all news submitted in that format. Neal Whitelaw noted that the FHJ didn’t want any political news. Gordon Rogers said they were not political things, such as a reappointment. Neal Whitelaw says he did not agree with how things were being portrayed; he didn’t want his name on it. Gordon Rogers says if he didn’t like it, to tell Lynne DeStefano about it. Neal Whitelaw gave the example of the Ambulance Corps budget reduction. He voted against it, but that was not in the article. Michael Dillon stated that the *Foster Home Journal* did not have a lot of space to put how everyone voted. They could add a footnote to see the minutes. Lynne DeStefano said she could write up the article and let him see it first. Gordon Rogers explained the format again where each member would sign off by emailing the publisher before she printing.

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

**ADDITIONS &  
ABATEMENTS**

Lynne DeStefano moved, Marianne Knight seconded, to approve the Additions and Abatements as submitted by the Tax Assessor, Patricia Moreau.

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

Neal Whitelaw moved, Marianne Knight seconded, to pass Resolution 2011-05 to bring the America’s Cup yacht races back to Newport.

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

Neal Whitelaw moved, Lynne DeStefano seconded, to pass

Resolution 2011-06 to reinstate the E-verify and other verification laws as passed by Governor Carcieri and then rescinded by the new governor.

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

Neal Whitelaw moved, Marianne Knight seconded, to continue the review of Resolution 2011-07, Extended Producer Responsibility to be sure of its content.

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

**ADDITION OF  
SCITUATE HEALTH  
ALLIANCE TO  
AGENDA**

Gordon Rogers moved, Lynne DeStefano seconded, to add to the agenda a presentation by Karen Dalton in support of the Scituate Health Alliance.

Karen Dalton explained that the Scituate Health Alliance needed to apply for CDBG funds in order to extend the model to Foster. She requested a letter of support which would allow them to provide assistance to residents of Foster who do not have health care. Gordon Rogers asked that if it was awarded would the town have to come up with any money. He questioned the solicitor if they needed a note or if they could just go ahead. Atty. David Iglizzi stated they can add because it was a situation that required immediate action.

Marianne Knight moved to sign a letter of support, Lynne DeStefano seconded.

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

**CONCERNED  
CITIZENS**

Robert Peterson of Foster Center Road asked the council what their position was with regard the 5 percent reduction at the Region which was allowed for fiscal year 2010-2011. Gordon Rogers said he wasn't sure but he had asked the treasurer and he thought that window of opportunity was for the last two years. When they made the law, it was after the first and then the second one was applied last year.

Kelli Russ understood him to say, what is our position for the current, 2011? Mr. Peterson said, when the state terminated the auto tax, they also said that for one year, that fiscal year, from

what he understood, the towns could reduce the appropriation to education by not more than 5 percent for that one year only. Kelli Russ replied that the law passed in May or June of 2010. You could reduce for the current year, 2010, and you could reduce for the year going forward, and then next year the law basically reverts back which is that you have to appropriate one hundred percent of your previous year. Example, Paine reduced by 5 percent; next year would be 100 percent of this year's allocation. Mr. Peterson said he asked about the region. Mrs. Russ said the Region was the same thing. They did reduce it, the budget has a reduction of 5 percent for the regional school, but it is the litigation. Mr. Peterson asked if that litigation was before the state education or superior court.

Gordon Rogers said it has gone to RIDE, not gone to Superior Court. Mr. Peterson wanted to know what the council's position was. Mr. Rogers replied that they had not gotten any information back from that hearing. Mr. Peterson then said that the council's position was to ask then for five percent reduction. Mr. Rogers stated no. This council did not ask for that five percent.

Kelli Russ said the current budget is operating with the five percent reduction.

Mr. Peterson said his second question was had they talked to the Gloucester Town Council regarding the school budget? Gordon Rogers, President, replied no. Mr. Peterson suggested they talk to the solicitor and figure out what the lowest amount that can be funded for the region so they know what the law says. He further suggested that the council go to the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting where the new budget will be presented. Then he suggests the town set a recommendation to the town. And most importantly, he suggests they mail a flyer to every resident of the town detailing the March 15 meeting, the least amount of money that can be funded, and the amount the region is proposing, and the proposal from this council as a recommendation. It is an important issue. Gordon Rogers says it is very imperative the everyone tell friends and neighbors.

Lynne S. Rider asked if they had their budget workshop dates? Gordon Rogers, president, said he thought it was public knowledge, and it should be posted in 48 hours. She further asked that the 5 percent would be \$188,000.00. If they did not decide to pursue that money, they must pay it back, plus the maintenance of effort going forward. When will they decide? Gordon Rogers said they would not decide until they get and answer back from RIDE.

Town Council Meeting  
February 24, 2011

Ronald Cervasio wanted to warn everyone that the region is not in compliance with the law and suggested that be a future agenda item.

Lynne DeStefano wanted to address Mr. Peterson regarding the Middle School meeting on March 1, March 15, and the Financial Town meeting on May 3.

Michael Dillon said that speaking as a citizen regarding the last meeting, the audience was impolite during Dr. Waxman's presentation.

Patricia Morgan asked where the town meeting was going to be. Gordon Rogers said he was working on it.

Cynthia Bernard stated that she was not clear on the *Foster Home Journal* news. She questioned whether the emailing procedure was in violation of the Open Meetings Law. She was assured it was not.

**FUTURE AGENDA  
ITEMS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Lynne DeStefano moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to General Laws 42-46-5a(2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation/Contract Negotiations and 42-46-5a(1) Personnel. The council was polled. Gordon Rogers, aye; Lynne DeStefano, aye; Michael Dillon, aye; Neal Whitelaw, aye; and Marianne Knight, aye. The council entered into Executive Session at 9:15 pm.

The council returned to Open Session. No votes were taken. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

A digital sound file is made part of the record for a complete account of the council meeting.

Submitted by

Carol Lyons Sholly  
Deputy Town Clerk