

**FEBRUARY 27, 2014**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

The February 27, 2014, Town Council Meeting was called to order by John L. Lewis, Jr., President of the Foster Town Council, at the Benjamin Eddy Building, Foster, Rhode Island, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: <b>John L. Lewis, Jr., President</b> <b>Pamela Fontaine, Vice President,</b> <b>Neal C. Whitelaw,</b> <b>Denise DiFranco, and</b> <b>Roger L. Hawes.</b>	Also present were: Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner Peter Scorpio, Bldg. & Zoning Inspector Acting DPW Director, Harold Shippee, Jr. Kelli Russ, Town Treasurer Patti Moreau, Tax Assessor Renee M. Bevilacqua, Town Solicitor William Ziehl, Police Chief
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| <b>I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b> | The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.  |
| <b>II. ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>       | <p>John L. Lewis, Jr. stated that the notice of the meeting was properly posted on the Secretary of State’s web site.</p> <p>Pamela Fontaine read the notice from the top of the agenda: <i>The Foster Town Council does not sanction any electronic audio/video recordings of Town Council Meetings made by the public. Any audio/video recordings made by the public are not public records under Title 38 Public Records.</i></p> <p><b>Agenda Change</b> John L. Lewis, Jr. announced that Joe Cardillo would not be present due to a death in the family so would not be sworn in as posted on the agenda.</p>  |
| <b>III. MINUTES</b>            | <p>Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve the minutes of <b>January 23, 2014</b>. Denise DiFranco and Pamela Fontaine requested corrections. Roger Hawes withdrew his second, Denise DiFranco withdrew her motion. Item was tabled.</p> <p>Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve the minutes of <b>January 30, 2014</b>.</p> <p>John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Amendment carried 5-0.</p> <p>Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve the minutes of <b>February 10, 2014</b>.</p> <p>John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 5-0.</p> <p>Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve the minutes of <b>February 20, 2014</b>. Pamela Fontaine requested the addition of a comment. Roger Hawes withdrew his second, Neal Whitelaw withdrew his motion. Item was tabled.</p> |
| <b>IV. WARRANTS</b>            | <p>Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve <b>Payroll Warrant #32</b> for \$30,482.98</p> <p>John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Pamela Fontaine, no; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 4-1.</p> <p>Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve <b>Payroll Warrant #33</b> for \$34,733.14.</p> <p>John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Pamela Fontaine, no; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 4-1.</p> <p>Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve <b>General Warrant #14</b> for \$20,238.06. Discussion: Pamela Fontaine asked about the location of a drop-down stair as listed on page 2 of 4. Kelli Russ, Town Treasurer, explained that it was in the ceiling for access to the fire alarm.</p> <p>John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 5-0.</p>   |

V. MONTHLY  
REPORTS

Denise DiFranco moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to approve the Monthly Reports for **Building & Zoning, DPW, Finance, Human Services, Planning, Police, RIRRC, School Committee and Tax Assessor.**

Discussion: Pamela Fontaine suggested that the warrant information be omitted from the Finance Report as the information is already on the warrants which are already approved. She also questioned why the Deputy Town Clerk did not take comp time to attend a meeting. Kelli Russ, Town Treasurer, stated that it was because the Deputy left early the day before to compensate.

Neal Whitelaw noted that the School Committee report indicated a motion by Ms. Pezza, seconded by Mr. Cervasio, to send a letter to the Town Council that only Quarterly Reports are required by the Town Charter. Neal Whitelaw explained that it does not say that. Mr. Cervasio stated that it has been corrected. John L. Lewis, Jr. noted that he did not receive any letter to that effect.

Roger Hawes questioned the fact that the roof had been shoveled off by DPW again. Mr. Cervasio explained that, no, the roof had been cleared by the people who put the roof up so as not to break the warranty; however, they left piles of snow in front of the entrances which was cleared away by DPW. Mr. Cervasio further stated that he was trying to get a new contract with the roofers.

Pamela Fontaine asked the Planner when the Comp Plan would be done. Town Planner Ann-Marie Ignasher said July 1.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

VI. QUARTERLY  
REPORTS

Neal Whitelaw moved, Pamela Fontaine seconded, to approve the Quarterly Reports from the **Ambulance Corps, Conservation Commission, Engineering Board, Foster Home Repair, Moosup Valley Fire Department, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Review.**

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Town House  
Painting

John L. Lewis, Jr. reviewed photographs of the Town House showing that paint was peeling and cracking. He also included a printout of the amount still remaining in the Town House repair account of \$23,578.00 which could be used for repainting. Mr. Lewis stated that he would like it to go out for bid.

Roger Hawes moved, Pamela Fontaine seconded, to go out for bid on painting the Town House. Discussion: Neal Whitelaw stated that he wanted to have someone who could do the bid correctly and that he would like to review it before it went out. Ron Cervasio stated what he felt needed to be done, including using the rough side of the clapboards which should be oiled and have 2 coats of latex, and his concern about the windows that needed caulking. John L. Lewis, Jr. asked Mr. Cervasio if he would like to help put together the RFP. Mr. Cervasio agreed. Denise DiFranco asked how long it had been since the Town House had been painted. John L. Lewis, Jr. replied that it had been seven years.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Bldg.  
Inspector's  
request for  
contingency  
funds for  
professional  
services

Peter Scorpio, Building Inspector, explained that according to the Soil & Erosion ordinance, a registered engineer must give approval to any plan. Because Mr. Scorpio does not have that qualification, he had to get an outside person, Tom D'Angelo, to review plans drawn up by the federal government through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Mr. D'Angelo stated that the plans were insufficient and were suggestions only. He charged \$400 for his services. Mr. Scorpio did not have that amount in his budget and thus requested that the bill be paid from the contingency fund. Neal Whitelaw suggested that the amount be taken from the Professional Services fund. John L. Lewis, Jr. asked if the Planner had an issue with that. Town Planner Ann-Marie Ignasher stated that she did not.

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Neal Whitelaw moved, Denise DiFranco seconded, to withdraw \$400 from the Professional Services line item to cover the invoice from Tom D’Angelo dated February 26, 2014, to review plans for Jeff Cook of 77 Central Pike. Mr. Whitelaw stated that similar situations need to be handled differently in the future.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- c. F-1 Liquor License Request** Thornton Beagle Club requested a F-1 Liquor License be granted for March 16, 2014. Denise DiFranco moved, Pamela Fontaine seconded, to permit the license for March 16, 2014 and noted that there was no “rain date”.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- d. 3C Race Request** Mark DiFranco explained the request to use the Foster Fairgrounds on May 11, 2014, for a Half-Marathon / 5K race. He noted that for every dollar made, 20 cents is donated to charity, 10 cents to RI Road Runners and then 10 cents to a local charity that provides volunteers for the race. He said that police details will be paid and a porta-potty service retained.

Neal Whitelaw moved, Pamela Fontaine seconded, to approve the request to use the Foster Fairgrounds from 3C Race Productions for May 11, 2014.

Denise DiFranco recused herself due to her membership in the RI Road Runners. John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Update on progress of Mill Road Bridge** Acting DPW Director Harold Shippee, Jr. reported that the bridge work is basically completed. There is still some cleaning up to do and that the town can have the remaining unused sand, stone and maybe some leftover pipes as well.
- b. Plainwoods Road Bridge Update** Acting DPW Director Harold Shippee, Jr. reported that the paperwork has been given to FEMA for RIEMA and that there shouldn’t be any problems, just going through the channels. It’s still too cold for paving, but other than that everything is done.

**VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**                      • Minutes from 1/23 and 2/20, 2014

- VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to a work session regarding RIGL 42-46-5 for the discussion of A(2) Collective Bargaining / Negotiations or Litigation and to reconvene into open session and to further keep the minutes of said meeting closed and the minutes of all executive sessions held previous to this meeting be closed and remain closed in accordance with provisions in RIGL 42-46-4 and 5.

John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

**RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION** The Town Council reconvened into open session. John L. Lewis, Jr. announced that the only vote taken was to close the minutes in accordance with RIGL 42-46-4 and to keep these minutes and the minutes of all previous minutes sealed.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT** Neal Whitelaw moved, Roger Hawes seconded, to adjourn the meeting. John L. Lewis, Jr., aye; Pamela Fontaine, aye; Roger Hawes, aye; Denise DiFranco, aye; and Neal Whitelaw, aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

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

Carol Lyons Sholly, CMC  
Town Clerk