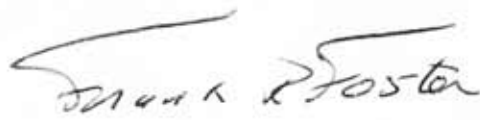


To Read at the Meeting (could be tweaked for an editorial in the paper)

My name is Frank "Bud" Foster and I am sorry I cannot be here tonight. I have been a resident of Bernardston my entire life. I am the founder and former owner of Fosters Supermarket. This success has allowed me to support the town and that has been my mission in life. I recently donated land, including the small area known as the "wet lands", to the Bernardston Fire Department for the expansion of the Fire Department should it be necessary. I also contributed land when the current station was constructed in the early 1970s. It was disappointing I did not receive any acknowledgment from the Fire department for my recent land donation.

Regardless, I am now offering the town the rest my property at 12 Church Street for free. It should be noted his land would cost the town over \$400,000 in principle and interest at current rates if not donated. I understand the Fire department is looking at spending over 1 million dollars for a 20 year loan on the property on the hill by the I 91 interchange. The result of this unnecessary land purchase will be thousands of dollars in new taxes over the term for each and every home owner in Bernardston which is unacceptable to me. This will have a huge negative financial impact on my friends, my family, and the community and will also negativity affect property values. Some tax increases we can't control, this one we can.

It is the Fire Departments job to serve the community and they do a great job. An unnecessary expense of over 1 million dollars for land is not serving the community in any capacity. The fire department needs to work with what they have and find a way to use 12 Church Street should it be absolutely necessary. It may not be perfect or even the most convenient solution but it is the only solution that makes financial sense and in no way negatively affects the level of service the Fire Department provides. At the end of the day that is really what matters. I urge you to vote no on any land purchase and no regarding the purchase of a building without all the actual cost and tax implications clearly laid out. Thank you for your time and attention.

  
9/29/17