

Select Board Meeting
May 4, 2022

6:02 pm meeting called to order by Mike Bedini.

Select Board members present: Mike Bedini, Terry I. Green,

Select board members absent: Neil Oleson

Others present: Vicki Winchell, Tim Bartlett, Jim White, Jamie Rathbun, Janet Bartlett, Ron Bosley, Mike Gleason.
The following present for partial meeting: Davie Fierro Jr., Pam White, Cindy Bosley, Jon Oleson, Ryan Perkins, Ericka Oleson, Lisa Brown

Selectboard:

- Mike Bedini made a motion to accept the minutes from April 27, 2022. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Selectboard signed the MSBA funding agreement for the school building project to take place this summer.
- Dave Fierro Jr, Hill-Town Municipal Accounting Services, LLC, attended to discuss the towns need for an Accounting Officer as no applications had been received for the vacant position. Ericka was in attendance for the discussion to explain the process to Dave that is currently in use. Dave has several municipal accounts, his business is well staffed and he feels he can hit the ground running with no issues, keeping the bills and employees paid. Mike asked Ericka if she would be able to help Dave with the transition to which she replied absolutely. The board also discussed the possibility of Dave coming on as the Treasurer/Collector temporarily. Discussion continued regarding the Collector portion of the position. Ron asked what the qualifications are for the Collector position. Ericka said anyone out of high school can do it as long as they're good with math. Jamie asked how many hours to which Ericka replied they were suggesting 2 days per week for the combined Treasurer/Collector position at \$20, 000 per year but was not really sure how many hours would be dedicated Collector time because it is not currently broken out. Dave is willing to help with the Treasurer position temporarily but due to segregation of duties he would prefer the accounting position only. He will attend next week's meeting to discuss the Treasurer position in more detail. Ericka suggested to the board that if no other qualified candidates apply they could consider combining the Treasurer/Collector position with some other positions. This would increase the pay, hours, and the job would then come with benefits which may be more desirable to draw in potential applicants. When the board asked Dave what his rate would be he replied \$1650 per month for the Accounting Officer position. Tim suggested that with Dave's expertise in municipal accounts and software this could be a good time for him to merge the accounts and bring the town up to date with their processes. Dave agreed the end of a fiscal year is a good time to do this. Because Terry suggested Dave attend the meeting to discuss this position she did inquire with the town counsel at KP Law and they stated she could participate in the discussion of hiring Dave as well as any vote involving him.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to hire Dave Fierro, Jr. of Hill-Town Municipal Accounting Services, LLC as the Interim Accounting Officer for the cost of \$1650.00 per month. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

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Selectboard (continued):

- Mike Bedini made a motion Mike Gleason will be serving as the sole Emergency Management Director for the Town of Florida. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Lisa Brown discussed the Annual Town Meeting.
 - Meeting date should be June 10, 2022.
 - Seven days before the meeting date it needs to be posted and received in the mail by residents. The reason it is mailed is because it is less expensive to mail than it is to post it in the paper.
 - Lisa will send the legal notice in to be posted seven days before the meeting date.
 - Lisa and Pam offered to help Vicki mail the warrant to residents when she has it ready.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to set the Annual Town Meeting for June 10, 2022 at 7pm, to be held at the Florida Senior Center. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Discussion regarding the response to the Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by Christine Dobbert. Copies of the response were handed out to those in attendance who wanted to read it. Mike announced the lawyer drafted response states they are not in violation. This discussion was tabled at 7:44 pm so that the board could make an appointment before Lisa left for the evening. The discussion was reopened at 7:46pm. Terry said the lawyer instructed her they would need to vote on accepting the drafted response.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to accept KP Laws response to the complaint by Christine Dobbert. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

Terry will inform the attorney they have taken a vote to accept their response to the complaint.
- Ron Bosley was nominated by the Council on Aging to become a member and was told the Selectboard would have to appoint him.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to appoint Ron Bosley to the Council on Aging. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Town Administrator Applicants: Discussion as to who would contact potential candidates. Vicki volunteered to call and schedule the interviews. Interviews to be scheduled for: Angela Brothers, Carla Davis, Joan Lewis, Rose Jamie Rathbun, and Matthew M. Reed, Sr. Interviews to start at 3pm before the regular meeting on May 11, 2022
- Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the business license for Donald Saunders for Saunders Electrician. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Mike Bedini made a motion to give Selectboard Chairman Neil Oleson the authority to sign the project funding agreement. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

Finance Committee:

- Treasurer/Collector, Assistant Treasurer/Collector Position: Pam asked if the Treasurer/Tax Collector and Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector position were being combined into one position for \$20,000 per year as discussed at last weeks meeting. They were unsure if it should be approved for the budget as one position or the two that it is currently. Terry replied if it does turn into one position it would be need to be voted on by the town.

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Finance Committee (continued):

- Town Audit: Finance Committee asked if the \$20,000 appropriated in FY20 that had remained unused was encumbered or taken out and the funds need to be added back in again. Also will \$20,000 be enough for the next audit. Ericka answered that it is normally encumbered. Terry spoke with Tom Scanlon and he has suggested the town do an audit in July for FY22 and a partial audit for FY21. He did not provide costs but Terry felt \$20,000 should be enough. Pam questioned that since it was encumbered we do not need anything listed on that line for the upcoming budget to which Terry and Mike responded correct.
- Town Administrator Salary: Pam asked if it would remain at the requested \$62,000 or was the board thinking of lowering the salary for someone new coming in. The requested salary by Christine for FY23 reflected a 10.5% increase from FY22. Mike responded that was a tough question as there is nothing in writing regarding the position of the Town Administrator qualifications. He asked what the Finance Committee was suggesting. Pam responded they were planning to meet with Christine before she had resigned. They weren't sure now what the board was thinking for a starting salary for a new person since Christine was there for 16 years making \$56,100 so unsure if board was thinking of starting someone at \$50-\$55, 000. Public commenters felt it should remain at \$62,000, pending interviews. Terry and Mike agreed on leaving the number as it is for now and base it on experience for whomever is offered the position.
- Transfer to Stabilization from Free Cash \$350,000.00: At a previous meeting it was discussed about the possibility of setting up separate stabilization accounts for Fire Department and DPW. All agreed it would be a good idea to create separate accounts to designate for vehicles with the possibility of rotating deposits each year (1 yr Fire Department, 1 yr DPW). Mike responded that would have to be put on hold until a regular meeting for further discussion. Terry added it would also have to be voted on at Town Meeting for approval.
- Veterans Services: Increased to \$42,000 as a new veteran has moved into town.
- Vicki questioned which items should be included under "recommended" vs "requested" for preparing the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The spreadsheet was clarified.
- Terry and Mike both thanked the Finance Committee for their volunteer time involved.

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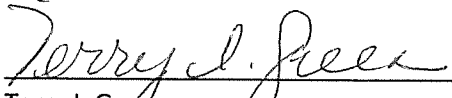
Public Comment:

- Pam questioned when the meeting agendas are posted as someone had asked her. Mike replied they need to be posted 48 hours before the meeting however Vicki mentioned she had submitted them to be posted on Friday morning. Pam then mentioned there is a place on the town website to post agendas. It would be nice to use that area as well as many do not get over to the Town Hall to see what is posted.

8:26 pm. Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

Neil Oleson, Chair


Michael Bedini


Terry I. Green

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