

Select Board Meeting
June 22, 2022

6:05 pm meeting called to order by Neil Oleson.

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

Select board members absent: None

Others present: Vicki Winchell, Joan Lewis, Mike Gleason, Roger Randall, Jim White, Ron Bosley, Al Bedini, Stella Downie, Brad Furlon, Jamie Rathbun (partial meeting)

Selectboard:

- Mike Bedini made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 18, 2022, May 25, 2022 and June 1, 2022 Selectboard meetings. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- The letter to Dobberts Recycling was returned, as the mail is not deliverable at the Town of Florida business address. It will be resent and discussion with them tabled until the next Selectboard meeting.
- Neil asked Ron if Cindy was ok being on the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority still to which he replied yes and she returned the paperwork to the town already.
- Neil talked to Arigoni Construction regarding doing the work on the Fire Department. He can do it and will get to it next.
- Terry discussed an incident that happened on Central Shaft Road earlier in the week. She had left her house and saw a well company truck parked on the side of the road, either dumping water into the river or pulling water out of it. She contacted the DEP and they were going to look into it. The truck was also parked dangerously in the road and did not display any road cones. Stella Downie happened to be in the audience and spoke up to let the board know it was the well company she had hired. She stated they were not fracking and thought the DEP had reached out. She believed the DEP had spoken to the well company and it was all set but she will check into it further to be sure and send the board a copy of any correspondence received. Al let her know the well company is supposed to contact the Board of Health when doing any work and report in when done. She will contact the company about that.
- Terry gave John Franzoni all of the Selectboard’s email addresses and telephone numbers to keep the board in the loop for the building project.
- Terry received copies of the WRAP Grant documents to sign and approve to move forward. It is for \$132,808.00. This is to be used on winter recovery projects. The funds must be used by June 30, 2023. Ron asked what the grant is used for. Jim and Terry responded it is used for blacktop and culverts. Terry added the DOT suggested they get going by Fall to solicit bids for the project so it will be ready to start after winter.
- Terry updated the board on the STRAP grant Jim had mentioned previously. There is a lot of money available but it is a process to get it moving. She has reached out to contacts who have given her a contact of someone who writes these grants. There is a fee but the grant is very hard to get and if you do not write them exact, they are denied. If the board is ok with it, she will reach out to her contact to see how much the cost is.

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Selectboard (continued):

- Neil discussed signing the grant contracts. Terry said the board needs to sign them until Joan gets her procurement certification, which she discussed previously with her.
- Terry I. Green made a motion to accept the WRAP Grant standard contact. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- Terry updated the board on funding for a multipurpose building. She has remained in contact with Rebecca from Recap Solutions. On July 1st at 4:30 pm Rebecca would like to meet to discuss the project, remotely or in person. She would like to have a representative from each department available, ideally. Having someone from the fire department would help her get an idea of everything that is happening with the fire department (undrinkable water, septic issues). They think since it is the emergency evacuation for the school there is a good chance of getting the grant to build a suitable space. The grant would be 75%. They think there may be another to cover the engineering, etc that would cover the other 25%. Terry will take minutes from the meeting for any who cannot attend.
- Jamie updated the board on her progress taking over the Treasurer/Collector position. She has been learning on her own and working with Stephanie. She has requested to purchase a laptop as the computer being used at town hall is shared with the Accounting Officer. This will enable her to work without interruption as well as work from home by remoting into the server. She thought Josh (IT Director at the school) may be able to help her get set up. Joan and Terry both stated Josh works for the school and would need to be subcontracted for his services however he is too busy. Terry suggested our systems needs to be updated. There are grants and services out there that could help. Roger asked if there is a backup system in place if the computer dies. Terry said she has also been asking what the backup system is.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to purchase a computer for the Treasurer/Collector. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Jamie also discussed there is a lock box at the fire department. She asked if a wall mount one could be installed at town hall for checks and money. The board agreed it is a good idea. Jim will install it.
- Terry let Jamie know her legal name should be listed on the town website. Joan will update it.

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Contacted the public book store in Boston regarding the law books. She was told they are republished and updated every one to two years. The contact suggested keeping 1-2 years back and recycling the rest of them. The board was fine with this option.
- Mass Highway Department called regarding the website. As they had requested, Joan updated all the new officers. In addition, because we have three postal zip codes (Florida, Drury and Rowe) all need to be listed on the website for 9-1-1 and other emergency purposes. This update is also all set.

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Joan Lewis, Town Administrator (continued):

- Spoke with the uniform/rug company. The town is currently paying an extra \$21.30 per month for a minimum fee charge for the Senior Center. The company suggested paying \$1.90 more and the town could get three extra rugs. Joan talked to Sue and Joyce and they are ok with the currently order they have of one rug. The rug company said the extras would not need to be placed there, only billed through the Senior Center. She suggested they use them at Town Hall. The board approved of this.
- People have been calling about the noise from the Hoosac Tunnel. People are reporting it is running 24/7 and even scaring their animals. Mike mentioned they have tried in the past to have someone from the railroad come to a meeting and they refused. Neil sympathizes with them but the only thing that can be done is to reach out to our state representatives. He asked Joan to contact the state representative. Mike suggested having our lawyer send a letter to request the railroad come to a selectboard meeting. Neil agreed it could be tried but it was made clear last time there were issues the railroad falls under federal, not state. Joan will reach out to the state representative and lawyer. Brad mentioned a town resident is a federal track inspector. He will contact him to see if it is ok to pass his number along in hopes he can provide some insight on what could be done.

Jim White, Highway Dept. Supervisor:

- Worked with Terry to be certified with the Map It Program.
- Breaking up millings, putting them out on S. County Road East.
- Redid Peanut Road with new stone.
- Working in the cemetery putting foundations in.
- Rented roller for one month to blacktop.
- Took care of tree down on South County Road
- Will be patching Whitcomb Hill Road once the weather breaks
- Discussed blacktop purchasing in Deerfield. They always give good service there and same travel distance as Pittsfield, if not slightly shorter.
- Mike let Jim know that they're out doing inspections so be sure the trucks are up to par. Jim said they are.

Public Comment:

- Stella Downie, new owner of Whitcomb Summit Motel appeared to discuss new signage for her property. She is rebranding the property, working with the building inspector on a permit, and appeared for approval on updating her signage. She would like to reface two existing signs, take down the driveway sign, and replace it. She will be keeping the Whitcomb Summit name but rebranding to Blue Vista. She showed the board examples of the anticipated new signs.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to accept the three new signs for the Blue Vista Motor lodge. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

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Mike Bedini made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:10 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

Mike Bedini made a motion to enter back into regular session at 7:51pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

Selectmen:

Mike reported Ally Perkins has requested a "Children Go Slow" sign be installed on her road, South County East. Neil will talk to Jim about it.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

Neil Oleson, Chair

Michael Bedini

Terry I. Green

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