

## Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall  
379 Mohawk Trail  
Drury, MA 01343

December 7, 2022

6:04 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: Joan Lewis, James White, Vicki Winchell, Michael Gleason, Jake White, Kyle Kuczynski, Ronnie Briggs, Lisa Brown, Carl Gehring, Tim Zelazo, Larry Cote, Joyce Van Tillborg, Josephine Poirot, Julie Poirot, Roger Randall, Travis Burdick, Cindy Bosley, Ron Bosley, Karen Brule, Carlo Pellagrino, Hussain Hamden, Tim Bartlett, Derek Rougeau

Selectboard:

- Terry I. Green made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 9, 2022 and November 17, 2022 meeting. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- Neil informed all they looked into the poles installation for Bear Swamp by checking with lawyers and electrician and all agreed there are no issues. Joan will draft a letter to let Bear Swamp know a pole hearing is not needed and they can proceed.
- Neil asked if other members were ready to vote on the cell tower. Terry informed the board she had reached out to Carl Gehring to ask additional questions as she was not aware that she could not speak with him. He did not answer her question which was asking if the cell tower did go through is it just for the route 2 area and what the future plans were. Neil clarified it is to fill in the blank spots in town. Carl then spoke to say that Terry had called and he could not speak about the tower as the public hearing had closed. Carl pointed out the deadlines after the hearing that puts the timeline out into February so there is time if the board want to reach out to legal the vote did not need to be taken tonight. Neil understood and asked if Mike and Terry needed to speak with the attorney. Neither felt the need to talk to the attorneys.
  - Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the cell tower. Neil Oleson seconded. Terry was torn on the decision. Neil offered to move the vote to the next meeting. Terry would like to wait until the next meeting.
  - Mike Bedini made a motion to withdrawn the previous motion to approve the cell tower and move the vote to the next agenda.
- Roger Randall asked if it is possible for residents to sway the boards decision on the vote by discussing and bringing up other points if public comment is closed. Neil responded no one should be discussing it with the public. The board can discuss with their lawyers only.

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Selectboard (continued):

- Joan presented the board paperwork for the MVP Grant. It starts at \$25,000 to go to engineers to work on planning.
  - Terry I. Green made a motion to sign the MVP Planning Grant. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- MA State Police had a rate increase. The rate changed from \$50.00 per hour to \$56.25 for regular rate and overtime rate increased from \$75.00 to \$84.38 per hour.
- Dog complaint on South Street. Jeremy spoke with residents and brought formal letter Joan prepared. The dogs have quieted down.
- Terry informed the board she would be printing the Compact Grant that was approved from the state. They applied for \$60,000 and received all requested funds. Once signed she would like to move forward to get started for the different locations. There is one year to use the funds.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- Blowing leaves
- Cleaning culverts due to heavy rains
- Dealing with the icy roads
- Took batteries out of trucks not being run this winter so they do not go bad.
- Weed wacking around guardrails
- Took truck 6 apart. Found out truck 5 had an antifreeze leak. Truck up and running
- Linda Cernik let Jim know the landfill passed with a good report. There is landfill grant funds available if they want to buy boxes.
- Called person about beavers. Jim was told the state has trapping laws. This time is not a good time of year to trap. March and April are a better time.

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Added the street listing onto the website.
- Joan asked now that there is an IT team can they help set up the .gov emails. Neil requested Joan check into the pricing. Joan will contact the IT group.
- Stephanie requested credit cards for the principal and Heidi at the Library. Joan will check with Stephanie to see what the past limits were and have the new cards set to that.
- Dump permits still being purchased.

Public Comment:

- Julie Poirot addressed the board to discuss a personal phone call made to her by Terry. Julie questioned Terry's ethics and verbal altercation between the two and Julies mother, Josephine Poirot, ensued until Neil was able to interject and move to the next speaker.

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Public Comment (continued):

- Tim Zelazo, Joyce Van Tillborg, Stella Downey, Josephine Poirot, Travis Burdick, and Derek Rougeau all spoke to the board in support of Joan Lewis as she was listed on the agenda for her 90 day review to be held in Executive Session. Several commented on her prompt communication, excellent customer service, quality work, honest, welcoming, hard worker, pleasant personality. Travis also added Joan came into this job with no one to train her, no booklet to learn from. She works extra to learn the job. Derek added it is an atrocity some of the things he has been hearing that have been done to her. He commented Joan, Jim and the officials on the running of the town.
- Hussaine Hamden, Joan’s attorney, requested to speak before going into executive session while the public was still present. He spoke of the learning curve and the effort Joan has made to do the best job she can, when making a mistake she addresses them. He added Joan has been subjected to a series of personal attacks through social media and direct communications, causing Joan great stress. He would like vindication through her performance review.

Mike Bedini made a motion to enter executive session at 6:56 pm. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.

Mike Bedini made a motion dissolving executive session and entering back into regular session at 8:41 p.m. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 pm. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.




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Neil Oleson, Chair




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Michael Bedini

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Terry I. Green

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