

Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

December 21, 2022

6:03 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, Carl Gehring, Brad Furlon, Tim Zelazo, Mike Gleason, Joe Therrien, Cindy Bosley, Ron Bosley, Roger Randall, Larry Cote, Tom Brule, Jake White, Steve Brown

Selectboard:

- Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 30, 2022 meeting. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Discussion held regarding the approval of the minutes from September 14, 2022 meeting. Terry made hand written corrections at a previous meeting and will get them to Vicki to type.
- Terry not ready to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2022 meeting. Mike Bedini made a motion to postpone the December 7, 2022 minutes approval to the January 4, 2023 meeting. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Mike Bedini made a motion to sign the letter to Bear Swamp informing them a Pole Hearing is not needed and the board has approved permitting the town the installation of the poles along River Road. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Terry I. Green made a motion to approve the Verizon cell tower application. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
 - Carl Gehring informed the board he would write a draft of their decision that can be edited to their need and has to be filed with the town clerk in 14 days. Once that is filed a 20-day appeal clock starts. A notice will need to be sent to all the same abutters notifying them they have 20 days to appeal. If there are no appeals or lawsuits after 20 days then Carl will contact the Town Clerk to certify 20 days have passed with no appeals or lawsuits. Carl will then file that with the Registry of Deeds.
- Neil Oleson made a motion to appoint Stephanie Pare as the Tax Collector, Stacy Abuisi as the Treasurer and Melanie Medon as the Accounting Officer. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Terry I. Green made a motion that the chair signs the Community Compact Grant for \$60,000.00. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
 - The grant must now be notarized and sent in before the 30th of December 2022.

Select Board Initials _____ *MLB* _____

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Selectboard (continued):

- Tim Zelazo presented a list of members to be appointed to the Council on Aging by the board as there was a backlog due to the pandemic.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to appoint to the Council on Aging Timothy Zelazo, 1yr; Mae Embry, 1 yr; Ruth Boyce, 3 yrs; Priscilla Brayman, 3 yrs; Sarah J. MacLennan, 2 yrs; Patricia Tovani, 2 yrs and Ronald Bosley, 2 yrs. Terry. I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
 - The next meeting, they will be reviewing the use of the Senior Center policy. The center is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am to 3pm.

Mike Gleason, Fire Chief:

- Discussion held regarding Engine 2, a 1990 vehicle. It was sent out to have the transfer case rebuilt. Electrical problems were found, front end needs a lot of work and the generator died. Mike presented a few options of a new truck for the board to discuss. It would take anywhere from 1-3 years from order to receipt of a new truck. Terry asked if there is an age out process. Mike was not sure about Florida but reviewed the process in Clarksburg. Discussions continued on the ISO rating for the town being a 9. It is not a good rating but because we have no hydrants it is thought the town could never get a better rating. Mike added it is becoming a safety issue as it failed during a structure fire and at a school event. A price of \$600,000 was presented for a base model but it may increase \$100,000 after January 1st. Mike Bedini asked if there was an estimate on repairs so far. Mike responded as of today, about \$8,000, so far. A basic model truck could possibly be ready within a year from order. Cindy Bosley asked about financing rates. Neil responded 4.89, 4.79 and 4.69 based on repayment plan chosen. This company works with state contracts and would therefore not need to go out to bid. Mike and Terry discussed the pros and cons of going out to bid anyways. The board suggested the Fire Department revisit the figures after the first of the year for updated quotes and bring back to the board for discussion. Ron Bosley questioned the availability of parts for the current truck. Mike did not feel they would be able to continue finding parts much longer as they are having a difficult time now. Ron also asked if at town meeting it was discussed to start putting \$50,000 a year away for these needs. Neil responded it was talked about but was never on a warrant.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- Mike and Mike worked on the grater. Replaced part by John Deere.
- Tree down by Ron Bosley's that was cleaned up.
- Cleaned up branches on multiple roads.
- Dealing with ice, plowing and putting product down.
- Mike and Doug worked on plow #18
- People have approached Jim about putting up a community box to exchange books.
- No breakdowns during last storm.
- Had to use a loader on Moores Road because the drifts were very high.

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Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Credit cards are all set for the Principal and the Library.
- Working with Northeast IT setting up emails and website. They will give quotes based on who would need emails.
- Joan has been certified as a Notary. If any residents need anything notarized they can see Joan, free of charge.
- Joan will be taking the Procurement Class in February. It will be 3 days that she will need to close the office to take the class.

Public Comment:

- Cindy Bosley asked about the school van that is supposed to be put out to bid for sale. Mike is working on it. They need to obtain a duplicate title before putting it out to bid. Several vehicles are missing titles. Neil will bring vehicle registrations to registry to obtain titles for vehicles missing their titles.
- Terry submitted a written request for a copy of the recording of the minutes from the December 7, 2022 meeting. She will supply a recorder.
- Roger Randall brought up an issue of a dog running loose at 44 Stryker Road. The animal has bothered people walking and driving by. It could present an issue for child safety. Neil instructed Joan to contact the dog officer.
- Tom Brule notified the Bakkes family that the town may be interested in talking about their property at the end of Bliss Road. Neil suggested they attend a meeting to present a proposal. Tom will email them and copy Joan on the email.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:03 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.



 Neil Oleson, Chair



 Michael Bedini

 Terry I. Green

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