

Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

June 21, 2023

6:01 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, Vicki Winchell, Ron Bosley, Cindy Bosley, Roger Randall, Jim White, Diana Worth, Mike Gleason, Mike Tatro, James Martin, Tim Zelazo, Carla Davis

Select board:

- Terry Green made a motion to approve the Select board minutes from the meeting of June 7, 2023. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- Pole Hearing. Mike Tatro, National Grid representative attended to discuss setting 2 poles on Dickenson Road to feed a camp that is already there. This is a private road. Abutters were notified and none attended the meeting. Stakes have been placed there. Jim will go review the placement on Thursday.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the poles for National Grid on Dickenson Road, pending the approval of Jim White after he looks at the placement on Thursday. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Woodland Partnership of North West Massachusetts. Ron Bosley is the town representative. They will be in contact with Ron and Joan. Joan will create files with the signed copies from the Woodland Partnership to keep on file.
- Attorney James Martin attended regarding the lease extension of the land the windmills are on in town. Currently it is a 25-year lease and they would like to extend it for an additional 10 years. Lease started in 2012 and will run out in 2037. Neil will look into if the town needs to have another vote with town counsel. James Martin will also reach out to Tom at KP Law to share information.
- Mike Bedini made a motion to appoint Tim Zelazo and Mae Embry for three-year terms to the Senior Center Council on Aging. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Tim Zelazo shared with the board they are finalizing the issue of the senior center being used as a community center for community events. They will share it with the board once complete.
- IT Project Bids discussion. Mike prefers Mad Macs after meeting with them and reviewing their presentation. Neil agreed with this. They would have liked to talk to Retrofit but were unable to. Terry agrees with Mad Macs or Northeast IT but added if someone other than Northeast IT is chosen, Joan should contact them to obtain a bill for work done earlier this year. Joan believes they already billed but board requested she check with them.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to use Mad Macs for the IT project. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

Select Board Initials _____

MLB

TIG

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Select board (continued):

- Terry I. Green made a motion to sign the Mad Macs contract to move forward with the project. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- The school received a \$50,000 grant for the playground project. The check was received but incorrectly made out to the North Berkshire School Union, therefore it is unable to be cashed. The union office is working on straightening this out. The school requests the \$60,000 remain on the town meeting warrant as a precaution. The board had no issues with this.
- Roger Randall questioned a discussion held during the last meeting regarding overages in line items. He questioned the amount of line items added in over the years. Neil clarified there does not need to be a meeting to add in line items. When the money is approved at town meeting that is ok'ing them. When shuffling from line to line to cover overages the town can legally move the funds two months prior to the end of the fiscal year or by July 15th. There is a positive amount overall. You can move funds interdepartmental anytime but not between departments until the two months at the end of the year, or until July 15th.
- Roger Randall questioned the budget for Veterans Services and wanted to know why the amount increased. Terry explained that is due to the veterans and spouses receiving payments. There is some reimbursement from the state back to the town. He questioned who is receiving this. Neil instructed him to contact the veteran's services agent.
- Cindy Bosley asked if anyone had ever looked into the retiree's health plans. No one has. Neil instructed Joan to contact Berkshire County Retirement to check into the Medicare retirement buy in and have the information for the next select board meeting.
- Mike was wondering when the town started sending notices out to residents if their licenses need to be renewed. It was the first time he received one.
- Terry discussed concerns regarding a lot of unknown vehicles and odd things happening in town lately. Last week someone was recording at someone's house from the side of the road. The homeowner dealt with that. Just passed Terry's home there have been van's sitting there, lights have been flashed at her while driving home from meetings, people have slowed down taking pictures of her house and kids. Sometimes it is the middle of the night and vehicles are sitting there. Some are in state and some out of state. Diana had a vehicle with CT plates sitting near her driveway at 4am. They left as soon as she turned the lights on.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- Cemetery foundation completed for a headstone
- Loader on South County Road filling with millings and stone.
- Tilda Hill prepped 3 times due to rain each time. Finally, able to complete it.
- Mowing cemeteries.
- Property on Peanut Hill Road cleaned up.
- Trimmed trees
- Culvert extended on Central Shaft Road 9 feet due to erosion.
- Cleaned up ledge and downed trees on Stone Bridge from the winter.

Select Board Initials _____

MCB

JW

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Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor (continued):

- Received a complaint regarding culverts on Poirot Road. The guys had to go down and flush it out. Home owner will not clean it out until it becomes a problem. Mike suggested sending a letter to the homeowner.
- Put millings down on some driveways coming to the blacktop to make a smoother transition from driveway to road.
- Received a bill from Kyle from Berkshire Medical Center because Kyle was requested by the town to go for a "fit for duty" twice. Neil confirmed it is the towns bill because the town requested he have this completed. This was not done because of workman's compensation. The bill is \$82.41 and \$36.05 and Jim needed to know which account to pay it out of. The board instructed using the Sick Pay account.
- Windmill company has a track machine they run up and down the road. It can be seen where it gouged the old blacktop. Now that the road was just repaved Jim would like the town to send them a letter to either not run the machine on the road or to lay down a protective barrier first before traveling across the road with the track machine. Terry suggests it go through legal counsel so that it is worded correctly. Neil instructed Joan to contact the lawyer and have it prepared for their review at the next select board meeting. Mike added that Joan should be sure to inform the lawyer the machine has previously caused damage to the town road.
- Trucks 9 and 6 both have bad transmissions. Would like to put these out to bid. One has a wooden body that someone is interested in buying for \$150, which is the cost of material that was used in making it. Truck 5 may also need to be auctioned.
- Two letters need to be signed and sent out to the two individuals for an Executive Session. Executive Session scheduled for Friday, June 30, 2023.
- Jim will be out Thursday and Friday.

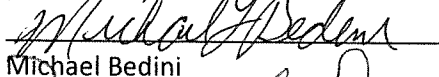
Public Comment:

- Diana Worth discussed a call she received last Thursday from Joan regarding a dog. She left work to get the dog but the foreman had brought the dog home. That same evening she received a call to get the dog. She went to pick it up to bring it to the dog kennel. It destroyed her husband's vehicle. She will call Jim and use a town vehicle next time. The person did get fined.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:14 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.



Neil Oleson, Chair



Michael Bedini



Terry I. Green

Select Board Initials _____

MCB

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