

Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

September 13, 2023

6:00 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, Ron Bosley, Diana Worth, Mike Worth, Doug Miller, Mike Gleason

Selectboard:

- Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectboard meeting of August 30, 2023. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
- Roger Arigoni requested a pay increase for his position from \$15.30 to \$17.00. The board discussed Roger’s position, and all agreed he does a great job at the compactor.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion for Roger Arigoni’s hourly rate to increase to \$17.00 per hour. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- The highway department crew attended to discuss hourly pay increases. All have requested to be increased to \$25.00 per hour. The board discussed their positions, and all agreed they do work hard and do a great job. Neil expressed concerns this increase could lead to a special town meeting to allocate more funds as it could add to over an additional \$30,000 between all crew, when potential overtime is calculated in. Others felt it could be absorbed within the highways current budget, especially since they have been down an employee for a month or two. Terry and Mike also expressed concerns regarding losing employees with it being so difficult to find hard working, quality employee’s these days. Some highway members informed the board other towns are hiring at \$25 to start and had searched out a Florida employee to work for them. While they would like to remain working in Florida, with the economy, it is necessary to go where the pay is. The board strongly suggests the next time they are looking for a larger than normal increase they should approach the board and finance committee in January while budget planning is happening.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to increase the highway department employees’ rate of pay to \$25.00 per hour for those holding all required licenses, effective Monday, September 18, 2023. There is also a \$0.25 per hour extra for anyone holding a 4G license as well as an additional \$0.50 per hour for anyone holding a class A license. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
 - Terry I. Green made a motion to increase Jim White’s hourly rate to \$31.75 per hour, which includes an additional \$0.25 per hour extra for holding a 4G license as well as \$0.50 per hour for holding a class A license. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.

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- Terry did not receive any notification of the extra selectboard meeting held on September 12, 2023, for highway department interviews. Joan thought she was not allowed to call or email Terry and thought Terry was checking the public postings. Terry never told Joan not to call her, only not to use her personal email. Terry clarified the other board members cannot call her due to open meeting laws, it is Joan's responsibility to do this. Joan will contact Terry through her cell phone in the future.
- Terry received three emails from state that they were going to forfeit out Better Business Audit because Joan did not respond to their emails. It is Joan's responsibility to respond, not the selectboard members. Joan thought the accountant/treasurer were supposed to respond. Terry stressed the importance of responding to emails.
- Terry would like it on the agenda that if Terry needs to, she can attend the meetings via telephone. She has meetings she needs to be at that often overlap. She cannot attend via zoom due to bad internet service in town. The votes would need to be held by rollcall.
 - Terry I. Green made a motion to allow board members, when more than 50% of them are in house, that if someone must call into a meeting, we allow this and can then do roll call votes. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- Highway department applicants will be discussed at the next meeting.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- Two quotes received on plows for the new truck.
 - RI Baker – Boss plow with sander installed. \$19,896.00.
 - County Wide – Fischer plow with sander installed. \$18,770.00
- Mike feels they are both good plows, strong and heavy duty. Jim would like to purchase locally as it is easier to deal with a local company if there are issues.
- Mike Bedini made a motion to accept RI Baker's quote for \$19,989.00 for a Boss plow and sander. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Jim requested an increase in the cell phone stipend for the guys. He would like it to go from \$35 to \$50 per month. Terry suggested revisiting this during the next budget season. All agreed.
- Blacktopping. Have the roller for two more weeks.
- Jim needs MS Office reinstalled on his computer. Joan will call Mad Mac's to give them Jim's contact information.

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Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Shredder was supposed to come but has not yet.
- Stephanie and Ericka meeting next week about the figures so Lisa and Joan will be able to finish the annual town meeting reports shortly.
- Scanlon is not returning her calls regarding her calls. She has been calling weekly but received no calls back. Spoke with Ericka Oleson regarding Tanya Campbell of Greenfield Marcum LLP. Joan would like to contact her for an audit. The cost is \$30,000 for an FY23 audit. Terry requested Joan send her the contact information for Scanlon’s office and she will try reaching out.
- Scott from Mad Mac’s is working on the laptops.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 6:52 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.



Neil Oleson, Chair



Michael Bedini

Terry I. Green

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