

Town of Florida Select Board Meeting
Florida Town Hall
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

November 08, 2023

6:01 pm meeting called to order by Neil Oleson.

Select Board member present: Neil Oleson, Michael Bedini, Terry I. Green

Select board members absent: None

Absent member: Joan Lewis, Town Administrator, Vicki Winchell, Selectboard Clerk

Others present: Ron Bosley, Cindy Bosley, James White, Diana Worth, Heidi Dugal

Minutes from last meeting were unable to be approved as not yet received from Vicki Winchell, Selectboard Clerk, wrong minutes sent.

Cindy Bosley spoke regarding the \$40,000.00 in ARPA funds received, stating the funds can be spent on some types of software and on equipment for towns people to access the internet. Heidi Dugal is looking into in Library, the Senior Center staff is looking into senior center, and it is suggested computers in town hall building, for the town residents have computers and internet access available to them. Representative Barrett's office said to hold off any Starlink purchasing as funding for broadband is in the works and the money could only be used to install Starlink. A meeting with Mad Macs will be scheduled to discuss what they will be covering with the \$60,000 grant the town received and what still is needed that the \$40,000 ARPA money would be used for. Part of the \$40,000 will be used for public access computers for the library and the senior center. Terry said she would like to attend this meeting. Scott, from Mad Macs will be contacting the Town Administrator to set the meeting up.

The Florida Fire Department asked about new radios that Terry thought they might need from the \$40,000. Michael Gleason said the state is going to switch the frequency emergency communications to 800mhz. It will be a 5-year implementation program when it happens. The town has seven trucks and each radio would cost \$8000 to \$10000 each. Micheal Gleason thought possibly he might want to start buying one per year. They will work in conjunction with the current radios. It was decided to keep this separate from the ARPA funds, which is good as there is not enough money for them in the grant. There are some grants that will be applied for to help with the costs. Terry Green mentioned shared services with other towns.

Diana Worth, Dog Officer, requested an account for the town at Greylock Animal Hospital to cover expenses when an animal needs to receive emergency care at Veterinarians. This does not happen often, but the veterinarians want to know who to charge for emergency care. The selectboard decided that next year they will put a line item in the animal control budget and set the limit at \$500.00 an incident. Diana Worth also said the dog kennel needs plastic panels on the dog kennel to replace and there must be a section for cats, by law. James White will take care of this.

 *719* Select Board Initials

Tim Zelazo brought in a final draft of Senior Center rules the center by town people for functions. These rules had been voted on and approved by the Council on Aging. He wanted the Selectboard to look over them. Terry felt they were too restrictive and not user friendly. She also felt that non-residents should be able to use the center, for example burials occurring in town for people no longer in town, and also it should be available for any other nonresidents. Michael Bedini said it should be limited to related to residents or prior residents/burials. Ron Bosley agreed. There had recently been a request by the library to hold an event from 5pm to 6:30pm on Thursday. After some back and forth with the community center director and assistant director the library decided it might be easier to use the FVFD building instead. The FVFD approved the request and the library function will be held there next Thursday. There was a more discussion over the council rule that a member of the COA had to be present for the entire event to keep an eye on things. Terry I Green requested the age be changed from 21 to 18 to rent the community center/senior center. It was mentioned that there was no way to prevent people from falling down the stairs or going downstairs or heat might be left on or windows left opened. The rules also say a \$50.00 fee will be charged unless someone has donated 20 hours community service hours to the town. Neil Oleson said that fee is always waived. Other people thought that the whole chaperone person was not needed and suggested the stairs should not be open in any event as it could be dangerous. It was mentioned just having a COA member open and close the center for events and locking up should suffice by one town person. Discussion that people don't think they should be supervised. There was discussion on time overlap with Senior Center events and renting hall out. Neil Oleson said people needed to be watched to make sure the don't go to places they should not be or use equipment they should not. Tim Zelazo told the board to make suggestions of the rules they would like changed. They will try to make the center easier to use.

Terry I Green asked what had become of a stove that was purchase for the senior center 2-3 years ago and found to not be the right size for the senior center. It was never used and could not be returned. It is upstairs in the town garage covered by a tarp. Terry I Green said that the stove should be sold ASAP This will be addressed.

The selectmen's meeting 11/22/23 will be cancel due to Thanksgiving. Michael Bedini made a motion to cancel meeting on 11/22/23. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

The Selectboard voted to offer the DPW job to Joel Paszko. Starting pay at \$23 per hour and .75 cents for licenses he carries. He will be bumped up to \$25.00 after the six months' probation period. Michael Bedini made a motion to approve Joel Paszko to the DPW job with starting at \$23 per hour and .75 cents for licenses he carries. He will be bumped up to \$25.00 after the six months' probation period. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

The DPW would like Monday rather than Friday off for Veterans' Day. Michael Bedini made a motion to take Monday off. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

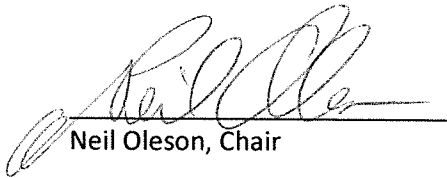
James White found he can purchase a refurbished paper compactor for \$13,500.00. A new one is \$35,000.00. Using a compactor reduces the number of hauls and would save the town about \$3500 a year. Currently the town pays for a haul around once a month and each haul are around \$1000 to \$1200. The selectboard will put in next year's budget to purchase one.

Sand contract bids from BRPC were \$35/ton from Apache and \$29/ton from Cook. Bob Cook awarded bid for FY24. Michael Bedini made a motion to approve the sand bid from Cook. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

— — 218 Select Board Initials

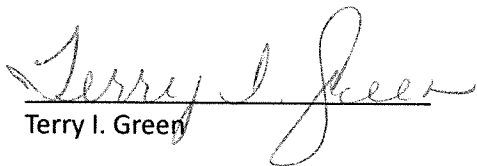
Tim Zelazo brought in various maps of the town and he said he found in research the town has 39.89 miles and the DOT say 39.83 miles of road. Chapter 90 funds are based on this number. Some of these roads are not plowed or maintained. Tim Zelazo concerns are for the roads that are not maintained on maps he found.

Michael Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:45pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.



Neil Oleson, Chair

Michael Bedini



Terry I. Green

7/18 Select Board Initials