

## Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall  
379 Mohawk Trail  
Drury, MA 01343

January 31, 2024

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

Select Board members present: Neil Oleson, Mike Bedini, Terry I. Green



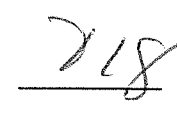
Select board members absent: None

Others present: Joan Lewis, James White, Vicki Winchell, Cindy Bosley, Ron Bosley, Diana Worth, James Martin, Roger Randall, Mike Gleason, Jamie Richardson, Dave Fierro, Melanie Medon, Stacie Abusi, Stephanie Pare

### Selectboard:

- Mike Bedini motion to approve the minutes from the Selectboard meeting of January 17, 2024. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
- James Martin, the attorney who has requested an amendment for the two documents in place for the town of Florida for the Hoosac Wind Project has been in contact with the town's legal counsel. In her opinion it is not required to go to a town meeting.
  - Mike Bedini made a motion to propose the second amendment for the wind farm lease agreement. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
  - Mike Bedini made a motion for the first amendment to the easement agreement to the Hoosac Windmill Farm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Paperwork for the two amendments was signed by the board after the votes. James will give Joan a copy of the fully executed documents. The easement and amendment is now extended to 2052. The town will receive \$20,000.00 for this.
- The stove, trucks and bus have been advertised for bids. The bids are due back by February 7, 2024, to be opened at the meeting February 14, 2024. Mike discussed the Ford loader the highway no longer uses. Mike has received some interest in it. It has not been used in a few years. Jim will start it up when the weather gets warmer to see if it still runs. The stove was purchased by the senior center therefore any funds it brings in should go back to the senior center.
- Terry has a drug testing policy given to her by the attorney that she feels should be added to the employee manual. She will email it to Joan. Neil and Terry will have the forms ready for discussion at the next meeting.
- Joan has some budget information from departments. Neil requested she make a list of those who have not submitted it yet for the next meeting.

Select Board Initials

## Select Board Meeting

January 31, 2024

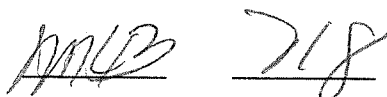
## Selectboard (continued):

- The finance team presented financial software options to the board. They received two bids, Vadar and MIP. Vadar fits their needs best. A 3 yr contract for MIP is \$64,515.50. Vadar offers two plan options. The first option is paying for the initial software setup in first year plus \$11,116.00 each year for three years for a total of \$73058.60 or option two is a six-year plan but can be cancelled after year three that is spread out evenly for a total of \$53,204.79. No payment is needed until July 1<sup>st</sup>. They will start building the software before payment has been received. This is a cloud-based system and will therefore qualify for payment under the ARPA Funds. The financial team would prefer to use Vadar. Neil questioned if it needs to be approved through a town meeting. Discussion resulted that it would need town meeting if being paid through appropriations however If it can be paid through the ARPA grant it does not need to go to the town meeting.
  - Mike Bedini made a motion to accept Vadar Systems' proposal of option one to be paid out of the ARPA Funds. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Medical insurance is increasing 7.95% for FY 2025. Dental will have no increase. Terry reminded Joan Cindy Bosley will need a copy of the information for budget planning.
- Lisa Brown received a request from a pro life group to put up a prolife flag. A flag policy needs to be created for the town. Neil shared a copy of the policy the town of Hawley has and asked Joan to draw up a policy for Florida and to have it ready for the next meeting.
- Terry asked Joan for the procurement class dates. The classes are as follows: Design and Construction I-Part I (self-paced) May 13, 2024-June 23, 2024. Part II is a one-day webinar on June 25, 2024. Supplies and Services Contracting – (self-paced) May 20, 2024- June 24, 2024. Joan was reminded no one should be in the building when taking her class. Neil advised her to lock the door and put a sign up.
- Due to a recent question Diana Worth had received she updated the board as to the policy that if a dog were to attack another person's dog it cannot be shot by anyone. A dog can only be shot if it is coming at you or attacking livestock.
- Terry discussed the need for BJ to attend a meeting. Neil has reached out to her but has not made contact yet. They will try to get her to attend the next meeting.

## Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- The International truck is in.
- To chip seal on Central Shaft and Stryker Roads, forms needed to be signed for the board and accountant to proceed. This will allow the work to be paid out of Chapter 90.
  - Mike Bedini made a motion to chip seal Central Shaft Road and Stryker Road with the 10% chip seal. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Jim has a contract example for putting a project out to bid with the specs. He is unfamiliar with this process and will check with David Stokes to see if there is something available to use as a guideline.
- Truck 1 is down with major problems. The driver feels it is unsafe to drive. He is currently using Truck 4 until the other is fixed.
- A resident complained to Jim about how plowing is happening on part of Central Shaft Road. He instructed them to bring their concerns to the selectboard.

Select Board Initials \_\_\_\_\_



Select Board Meeting  
January 31, 2024

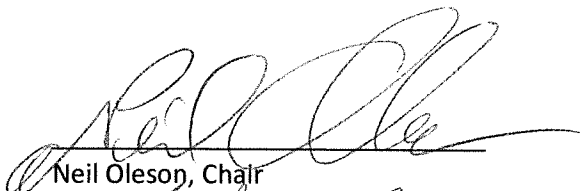
Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Mad Macs has been working on getting the computers set up.
- Terry questioned what company the phones systems are through for the town and what is the cost per month. She has requested Joan to have this information for the next meeting as well as when the contract is over. She was told Spectrum would be available on Central Shaft Road in March.
- Census has been mailed out.
- Taxes are being paid.
- The paper folder has been repaired.

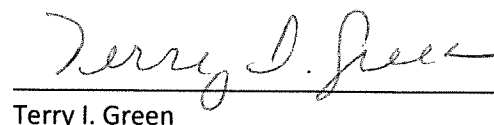
Public Comment:

- Diana Worth has continuing education to take for the dog officer position that she should be reimbursed for.
  - Terry I. Green made a motion to pay for Diana Worth's continuing education. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- Roger Randall asked how to have a culvert replaced in his driveway. Jim instructed Roger to buy the culvert and they would replace it.
- Roger Randall questioned the possibility of getting a town report before the annual town meeting. Joan has them on the website through Fiscal Year 2022. Hard copies were at the town hall and handed out to those in attendance that wanted one.
- Roger Randall questioned the Town Charter and asked if Florida has one as well as the possibility of getting 5 selectboard members.
- Diana Worth requested the Animal Inspector information be added to the Florida website.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

  
Neil Oleson, Chair

  
Michael Bedini

  
Terry I. Green

Select Board Initials