

Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

February 28, 2024

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, Cindy Bosley, Ron Bosley, Diana Worth, Mike Gleason, Al Bedini, Tim Zelazo, Carlos Pellagrini, Stacey Abusi, Stephanie Pare

Selectboard:

- Stacey verified with the board the funds from the sale of the trucks and school bus to go the general fund and the proceeds from the stove will go back to the senior center.
- Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2024, select board meeting. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- The signed lease and easement agreement has not been returned to the town from the windmill company yet. James Martin will bring it to the town as soon as he receives it back.
- Neil shared a copy of the personnel policies with the board members to take home to review. There is also a copy of the drug and alcohol policy the town has used. The board discussed the need for a medical review officer. They are going to look into the urgent care office in North Adams to see if they will do the testing as it is closer.
- Bylaws and Zoning Bylaws have been split into two separate sets as recommended by the town attorney, because the zoning handles more business. This will allow for quicker, easier review and changes, when they are needed. This will have to be put on the annual town meeting warrant and go to town meeting for approval. One change is being made to correct bylaw 4.8.1. There was 4.1.8.1 that was omitted in error when it was originally typed up. The definition of a Travel Trailer and RV was also added. Terry questioned adding junk vehicles and messy properties. Discussions held regarding trying to add these issues previously were rejected at town meeting under a nuisance bylaw. The board took copies of both to review. This will be added to the annual town meeting warrant. If passed, it then goes to the attorney general for approval next, which can take up to 90 days.
- A letter was reviewed from Roger Randall requesting to be added to the Board of Health meeting agenda. He would like to discuss the property at 44 Stryker Road.
- Budget requests for Selectboard accounts discussed. Terry suggested raising the selectboard clerk salary and the selectboard supplies and expenses account.

Select Board Initials

Handwritten signatures of Neil Oleson, Mike Bedini, and Terry I. Green, each placed over a horizontal line.

- Terry I. Green made a motion to increase the selectboard supplies and expenses account to \$1000.00, the selectboard clerk salary to \$3200.00 and level fund the remaining selectboard accounts for fiscal year 2025. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.

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Selectboard (continued):

- North Adams Hospital grand opening at the hospital on March 28, 2024. A representative from town has been encouraged to attend. Terry will check her schedule.
- Telephone System Quotes will be submitted in writing after meeting with Joan. Att, Verizon and Mad Macs will meet with Joan. Spectrum said they were not interested as they do not know the time frame they will be operating in this area. Cindy discussed Voice over Internet Calling.
- Mike Bedini made a motion to grant the business license for Christodora doing business as Manice Center for 2024. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- The town flag policy was rewritten on town letterhead.
- Mad Mac is working on email addresses. Terry will reach out to them about the email address.
- Tim Zelazo discussed chapter 82 section 32a that was in 1972 to discontinue maintenance on some town roads. When the county government was abolished, the responsibility fell to the towns. There are about a half dozen roads that should be discontinued so the town does not have a liability issue. Tim recommends letting the appellate court handle it. Discussions continued questioning if the road mileage is changed does that affect the chapter 90 funds to the town.
- McLain Electric submitted a proposal of \$3250.00 to install lighting outside of the library in the school parking lot.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to accept the proposal from McLain Electric to install new lighting outside of the school for the library, to be paid out of the ARPA funds. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- Plowing roads, washing trucks and replacing blades on the Boss plow.
- Repaired the toilet at the senior center that sprung a leak.
- Working on River Road. Cutting on right side then doing the other side.
- NLR picked up all the fluorescent bulbs in garage for recycling.
- Emailing Ted Denal from GSXA regarding the Humvee's. No one can find the title. Ted will check his records to see how it was written up at the time of sale.
- Linda Cernik sent out a flyer for household hazard waste collection happening in Adams at the DPW on April 20, 2204. Jim made copies and posted the flyer. Cindy will post on facebook. Joan will put the flyer on the town website.
- The steps at the bottles/cans container at the compactor need replacing. Jim found a set of metal steps on Uline for \$989 but the shipping cost is \$600. He also checked with Dwayne Mundy who will check around and get back to him. Jim will check with McCann to see how long their waiting list is for projects.
- Joel would like to know how long he will be on probation. New hires have a 6-month probation. Jim is very happy with his performance.

Select Board Initials

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- Mike Bedini made a motion to lift Joel Padzko’s probation based on the highway superintendent’s recommendation. Joel’s rate is to be \$25.25 per hour effective immediately. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

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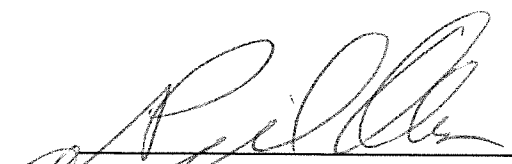
Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Working with Mad Macs setting up some files that were transferred over wrong.
- Calling companies on the phone systems
- Straightened out the registrations that were old and organized old folders.
- Retyped the town personnel policies. Terry requested a copy of the personnel policy in word format emailed to her.
- Cali Puppolo from Representative Barrett’s office explained to Cindy and Joan how to use the ARPA funds.

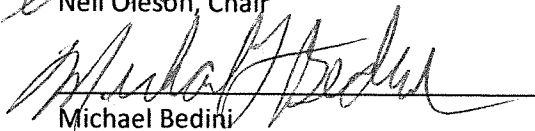
Public Comment:

- Mike Gleason discussed replacing the radio in Engine 2. If going to do it, the entire system should be done at the same time. The radio system is approximately \$12,688.55. Mike has requested to purchase the LUCAS machine as well because the town is so far from immediate ambulance service. The cost is \$25,992.58. The board discussed what is already being allocated out of the ARPA funds. Mike Bedini reminded all that the highway department also needs some things replaced.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to spend \$38,681.13 out of the ARPA funds to purchase a LUCAS machine and the radio system for engine 2. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Stephanie Pare commented there is going to be an extra cost for Vadar to get their data.
- Diana Worth questioned when the Animal Inspector term is up. The term ends at the end of the fiscal year. Diana is interested in taking this position.

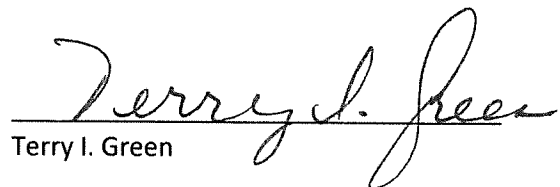
Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.




Neil Oléson, Chair



Michael Bedini



Terry I. Green

Select Board Initials _____  _____