

Town of Florida Select Board & Finance Committee Joint Meeting

Florida Town Hall
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

April 17, 2024

6 pm meeting called to order by Neil Oleson.

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

Finance Committee members present: Lisa Brown, Cindy Bosley, Ron Bosley

Others present: Joan Lewis, James White, Vicki Winchell, Lisa Blackmer, Judy Oleson

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

School budget request down 0.73% from last year. The total request is \$1,440,280.86. The boards discussed the special education related costs and school choice. Staff are receiving a 2% increase plus any step increase. The principal is receiving a \$9,000 salary increase. The school secretary's salary line increased due to hours and number of days per year being increased.

ARPA

ARPA Funding discussed. Approximately \$119,000.00 left to allocate. There was a broadband ARPA awarded for \$40,000.00 with approximately \$23,000.00 remaining to allocate. This is a more restrictive grant and can be used for any type of communication. The boards discussed using this for the Fire Department radios. Mike will talk to Mike Gleason about it. Funds must be committed by December 2024.

Various Account Discussions:

- Fire Department Equipment reduced to \$8650.00 as the other request for purchases will be paid out of ARPA.
- The library has been giving money back each year. Cannot drop budget on Library to be part of CW Mars or a waiver would need to be submitted.
- Legal fees increased due to hourly rate increase for FY 2025.
- McCann – increase of 12%.
- Printing increased 21% due to the increase in postage costs.
- Rental equipment increased 11% due to the plan of renting an excavator. Excavator cost alone is \$12,000.00 a month.
- Reserve account remains at \$20,000.00.
- Road Maintenance increased 10% due to upcoming road projects. The boards discussed using ARPA vs. Chapter 90. Funding for culverts to be discussed at the next selectboard meeting.
- Telephone, Electric, Fuel Oil and Maintenance
- Town Audit has been switched to spring.
- Town insurance increased 7%.
- Sick pay down a small amount.

Select Board Initials

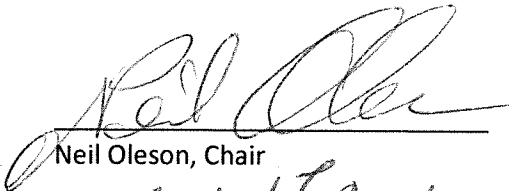




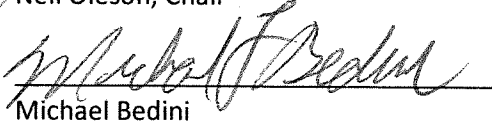
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- State Police Patrol level funded. Going to start patrolling again soon.
- Tractor and Machine increase due to increase in material costs and parts.
- Tree Work – Jim is planning to work with Berkshire Planning Group Purchasing on a tree trimming company. Last year’s price was \$355 per hour. The new bid has not been posted yet. The board agreed to leave this at \$1500.00 for FY25. If Jim needs to hire for this then the board will get pricing and discuss it at that time.
- Veterans Services. The Veterans Agent submits the figure to the town. There is a cushion in the event someone moves into town who is eligible for this.
- Waste Management increased due to hauling costs.
- School Playground – Melanie confirmed the \$60,000 from last year can be encumbered.
- IT Support – Leaving at \$25,000.00 for this year which includes the yearly maintenance cost of \$16,320.00.
- Estimated Receipts are \$343,000.00 to \$450,000.000.
- The board will decide on how much to add to stabilization as the budget gets closer to being finalized.

Terry I. Green made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 pm. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.



Neil Oleson, Chair



Michael Bedini

Terry I. Green

Select Board Initials _____ *MLB* _____