

Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

August 30, 2023

6:04 pm meeting called to order by Neil Oleson.

Select Board members present: Neil Oleson, Mike Bedini

Select board members absent: Terry I. Green

Others present: Joan Lewis, James White, Vicki Winchell, Ron Bosley, Cindy Bosley, Diana Worth, Jake White, Joey Therrien, Mike Gleason, Nicole White

Selectboard:

- Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectboard meeting of August 16, 2023. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
- Resumes were reviewed for the highway department position. The board would like to interview Jason Boutwell, Jason Rider, Nick Mroz, Mike Hubby, and Timothy Sampson. Joan will call them to schedule interviews for Tuesday, September 12, 2023, starting at 5pm at Town Hall.
- The representatives from Trinity Solar and T Mobile who were listed on the agenda did not attend the meeting.
- Mike asked Joan if she had gotten the purchase and sale agreement for the approved highway department truck. Joan has it and did not realize it was a bill. During the meeting she gave it to Melanie to work with the Treasurer to get a warrant and check ready immediately. Mike questioned registration fees. Neil informed him there is no charge for municipalities.
- The front door at town hall has been malfunctioning. The door had new hardware with the old door causing it not to work properly.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to hire Arigoni Contractors to install a new front door with panic bar and lock set enclosure for \$4360.50 at Town Hall. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
- Mike brought up for discussion the salary rates of the highway department. Some have been offered higher paying jobs elsewhere because they hold the CDL license. Mike is concerned the town will lose good employees if the salary rates do not get increased to be more competitive with other towns. He would like to see the highway crew get increased to \$25 per hour across the board. Neil did not want to be held hostage by threats of them leaving and added there are a lot of benefits here that cannot be put into dollar figures. If an increase is voted he added that it would be retroactive to July 1. Audience members commented that several other highway departments are paying \$26-\$30 per hour. It was agreed to bring the crew in at the next meeting to discuss rates. Mike added Roger would like to be increased to \$17 per hour. Joan will add the highway crew on the next meeting agenda.

Select Board Initials _____



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Public Comment:

- Nicole White brought up concerns of speeding traffic on South County Road and requested a speed limit sign be put up. The board agreed. Jim will check into the speed limit and post signs.

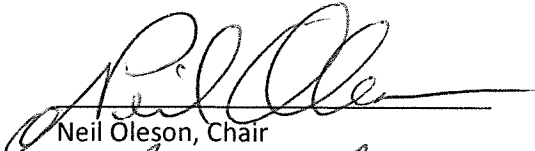
Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- Mowing cemeteries and roadsides.
- Taking care of downed trees
- The new windows are installed at the town hall.
- Installed and repaired swales throughout town as well as the catch basin on Whitcomb Hill Road and Church Road.
- Prepping the plow trucks for winter.
- Truck 4 needs a new auger chain and Doug's truck will need a new manifold.

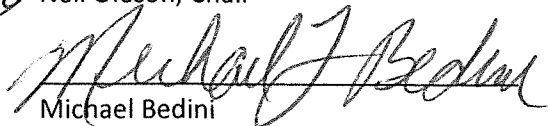
Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- The selectboard has been invited to the Manice Center, along with the FD, Board of Health, and some other town members. Attendees must RSVP.
- Mad Macs is working on ordering the necessary equipment.
- To report wildlife encounters people should contact Massachusetts Western Life District in Dalton, MA during business hours and after hours contact the Environmental Police. The town website has been updated with the information.
- Working on the annual town report. Just waiting for one more report for FY21 and two more reports for FY22.
- Covid tests are being handed out at Town Hall, the compactor, and the senior center.
- Calls have been coming in from residents regarding buildings suddenly showing up on the sides of roads. Most are tiny homes. All homes need a building permit and some people do not obtain one. Several communities are having this issue. The board discussed there is a \$50 per day fine that could be levied on people not getting building permits.
- The building inspector is up to date on her inspections and paperwork.
- Contacted Ronna at the school union office and obtained the information on the shredding company they use, Shred It. Town hall will now be using this company as well.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 6:44 pm. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.



Neil Oleson, Chair



Michael Bedini

Terry I. Green

Select Board Initials _____  _____