Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall 379 Mohawk Trail Drury, MA 01343

July 3, 2024

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

Select Board members present: Neil Oleson, Mike Bedini, Tim Zelazo

Select board members absent: None

Others present: Joan Lewis, James White, Vicki Winchell, Cindy Bosley, Ron Bosley, Diana Worth, Stephanie Pare, Melanie Medon, Stacie Abuisi, Jeremy Dodge, Terry Green, Ralph Dodge, Al Bedini, Doug Miller

Selectboard:

- Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the minutes from the selectboard meeting on June 19, 2024. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
- Stephanie Pare helped Jim with the maps and lots for National Grid. National Grid is requesting a permanent easement for an anchor pole on the corner of lot by the fire station. Stephanie will respond to them with the necessary information regarding a special town meeting.
- Stephanie Pare reported to the board that the playground equipment is in. There was \$60,000 encumbered last year that she has requested be carried into the FY2025. Rick LeClair has been cleaning out all the old playground chips, dirt, etc.
- Stephanie Pare will be out the week of July 17th.
- Melanie Medon clarified how the ARPA grants work regarding the financial team. Once the board has
 approved an expenditure to be paid from the ARPA grant, all appropriate invoices should be submitted for
 payment, signed off on by Joan. Stacie Abuisi gave the board a list of what can be paid out of ARPA and
 reminded them it is not the role of the Treasurer or Accountant to keep balances. They are not at the
 meetings when items are approved and have no way to know.
- The board reviewed the email addresses and paired the list down to 15. They will vote at a future meeting on what account this should be paid out of.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the 15 email addresses for town departments. Tim Zelazo seconded the motion. Unanimous.
- Diana Worth has signed herself and Jeremy Dodge up for the state classes to be held on September 23rd and September 24th. Jeremy will need to take two days off work and would like to be paid for them as these are mandatory ACO classes they must take.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to reimburse Jeremy Dodge, ACO, for taking the class in September.
 Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
- Diana needs a storage area for the animal cages and have a heart traps. Jim will clear out the storage container in the back for the ACO's to use.
- Doug Miller submitted his retirement letter. He will retire effective August 30, 2024. Mike thanked Doug for his years of service to the town.

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Selectboard (continued):

Mike reached the windmill contact and informed them September is not acceptable to complete the Tilda Hill Road
repairs. The town would like it completed in August so there is time for the road to set before winter. He informed
them if they cannot do the project by then the town will hire their own company and the Windmill company will be
responsible for the payment. Jim talked with Warners, and they can complete it with a couple of weeks' notice.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- The Phelps Road retaining wall is in disrepair. Working with Mark from DEP on it. Need an emergency certificate signed to move the project forward, faster. Once signed, Joan will email it to Mark.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion for the board to sign the emergency certificate form. Tim Zelazo seconded the motion. Unanimous.
- Emily Stockman has completed the inspection for the River Road culvert.
- The windows at the senior center are completed.
- Jim Madden of Allstate estimates the Whitcomb Hill Road project to cost \$5.7 million.
- Talked with Becky Slick of Berkshire Planning. Chip sealing for Central Shaft and Stryker Roads are going out to bid July 8th. It was delayed due to the holiday.

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Joan requested permission to put a FAQ section on the town website. The board is in favor of this. Stephanie Pare will also add to that section regarding the Tax Collector FAQ's.
- Joan is working with Conservation Works LLC on the MVP Grant.
- Town Hall will be open on Friday as Mayflower will be here to work on the Assessor's computer.

Public Comment

- Cindy Bosley informed the board that Representative Barrett would like everyone in town to do a speed test to challenge the 28 addresses that is being said are not eligible for fiber because they already get it.
- Terry Green questioned what the Great River Hydro emergency project is. Joan replied Mike, Tim and Joan are going to attend a meeting on it regarding an evacuation plan.
- Terry Green asked about the MVP Grant and if it was turned down. The board responded Berkshire Regional could
 not do it, so Joan is working with another company on it, using funding received a couple of years ago to write a
 grant.
- Terry Green commented there have been a lot of questions regarding who's responsibility is who's, especially when
 it comes to town accountant, treasurer and town administrator positions. Neil clarified it was discussed tonight with
 them.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at	7:14 pm. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
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Michael Bedini	Timothy Zelazo
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