

## Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall  
379 Mohawk Trail  
Drury, MA 01343

September 25, 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, Ron Bosley, Diana Worth, Stephanie Pare, Representative John Barrett, Callie Puppolo

### Selectboard:

- Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the selectboard meeting minutes from the selectboard meeting on August 27, 2024. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
- Stephanie Pare discussed resident payments of tax bills once their bills have gone past a demand. The town is already paying Kelly and Ryan for this service therefore she would like to require residents to make their past due payments to Kelly and Ryan vs coming into town hall to pay. This will cause less confusion to be certain the payments are property recorded.
- Stephane Pare discussed the Soldier and Sailor Act that she recently learned about. Approval of this will allow a soldier who is on active duty to be exempt from taxes for the year they are in active duty. To utilize this act, it must be approved at the Town Meeting.
- Stephanie Pare requested information to get the crosswalk painted back on the road at the intersection near the Fire Dept.
- Representative John Barrett attended at the request of the board to discuss the possibility of adding the cost of a complete repave to Whitcomb Hill Road to the state budget. Current cost estimates are \$5.7 million but expected to increase as time goes on. The board stressed the importance of this road as it is heavily traveled and serves as an evacuation route as well due to Yankee Atomic. Tim discussed the concerns if there were a natural disaster with the dam. Rep. Barrett discussed some options for the town to investigate which included MassWorks Grant; a grant program for culverts which can be applied for once per year; Chapter 90; FEMA; MEMA as well as the DOT website which lists several programs/grants available. Rep. Barrett will discuss with the District 1 Highway Director and have them look into the project. He added that an engineering study would need to be the first step. He will try to get funding added to the budget for engineering.
- Highway position applications reviewed. A second position has opened as Joel resigned effective September 20, 2024. Five applications were received. Mike abstained from discussing the application of Matthew Vachereau. The board agreed to interview Jason Rider, Zack Lyons and Joshua Morris. They will interview Matthew Vachereau once he is back in the area in October. Joan will contact the candidates to interview. Interviews are scheduled to start on October 9, 2024, at 5pm. Starting rates of other towns were also discussed.

Select Board Initials





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Selectboard (Continued):

- Mike Bedini made a motion to appoint Wanda McNary to the Council on Aging. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous. Tim Zelazo abstained.

Jim White, Highway Department:

- Two quotes received for the oil furnace repair. O'Connell quoted \$10,600 and West Oil was \$11,500. Although O'Connell was less expensive the board expressed concerns of switching companies as West Oil has always done outstanding work and is more local. Tim reminded Jim and Joan to retain their documentation of the quotes.
  - Mike Bedini made a motion to purchase the oil burner through West Oil and have them install it. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
- Ed McNeil from OSHA brought to Jim's attention an issue with the backroom loft in the garage. S&K Design can certify the loft and the weight limit for it.
  - Mike Bedini made a motion to hire S&K Design Group Inc. to certify the loft. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
- Central Shaft and Stryker Roads completed. Cleaned up loose stones on Route 2.
- Mowing cemeteries and the sides of the roads
- Pile of loose stones left from chip sealing. Would like to use it on Bliss Road, mixed with dense grade to add to the road as a filler because the sides of the road are over a foot higher. The estimate for the dense grade is \$14,000. The board agreed to hold off on the project for now due to costs.
- Fixing the senior center sign and taking the air conditioners out soon. Senior Center Director was concerned about a sulfur smell with the water.
- Finishing up blacktopping in the next two weeks.

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- National Grid petition by June Speeds house for solar panels signed by the board.
  - Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the pole for Church Road at June Speeds house. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
- National Grid sending notices out the poles are being upgraded.
- McCann bus refund received \$5452.39.
- New laptops were given to the accounting team. Working with Mad Macs on issues with the computers regarding logistics and security on them.
- Mad Macs expressed concerns to Joan about being brought up at a meeting regarding emails not working. The issues were operator issues.
- Working with Pete Westover on MVP Grant.
- Working with BJ on the application process for building permits.
- Telephone lines have been down due to a Gonetspeed issue. They are coming out Friday to fix the telephone.
- Molly is no longer cleaning the town hall/senior center. Joan received board permission to post the position on Berkshire Jobs.

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Public Comment


- Diana Worth discussed an issue with dogs at White’s property on Central Shaft Road. The dogs are going onto other people’s property and growling at those owners. Neil recommended calling the state police. Diana questioned if the owner can be fined, since it is in the bylaws dogs need to be contained to their own property or it could be a \$50 fine for each occurrence. Diana will send the information to Joan to send a letter to the owner informing them of the bylaw and potential fine if they continue to allow their dogs loose on other properties.
- Diana and Jeremy attended a training event where they learned when dogs are being held at the town kennel the owner needs to be charged per day, as well as show proof of license and rabies vaccine. The fee to charge is up to the town. They were also told the ACO’s are responsible for enforcing licensure of the animals.
- Diana would like to offer a rabies clinic in town. Joan and Neil informed her you must pay a vet to come up to do it.
- Diana is working with MSPCA in Boston because a resident has been calling to complain regarding a resident on Central Shaft Road and her animals. Diana is trying to work with the animal owner. It is an ongoing issue.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:56 pm. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.




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Neil Oleson, Chair

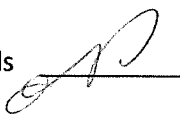
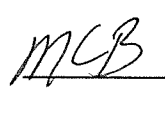



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Michael Bedini

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Timothy Zelazo

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