

Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

November 6, 2024

6:00 pm meeting called to order by Neil Oleson.

Select Board members present: Neil Oleson, Tim Zelazo

Select board members absent: Mike Bedini

Others present: Joan Lewis, James White, Vicki Winchell, Diana Worth, Krista Bishop, Larry Cote, Rick Williams, Brett Roberts

Selectboard:

- Krista Bishop and Larry Cote, Florida assessors, along with Rick Williams of the town of Rowe, presented information to the board for a PILOT Agreement between Great River Hydro and the towns of Florida, Rowe and Monroe. The members discussed the background history of the power companies appeals that took place from FY2019 through FY2024. Bear Swamp was settled last year, and they have been negotiating to settle with Great River Hydro. The agreement offered by Great River Hydro proposed values at a significant reduction however no abatement would be needed, and all appeals would be withdrawn. This agreement is a 3-year agreement through FY2027.
 - Krista Bishop made a motion to accept the PILOT Agreement with Great River Hydro. Larry Cote seconded. Unanimous.
 - Tim Zelazo made a motion to accept the PILOT Agreement with Great River Hydro. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
 - PILOT Agreement signed by all members.
- Krista updated the board on the taxes. The assessors are ready to submit their information. They are just waiting for the financial information, which should be ready within a couple of weeks.
- Brett Roberts of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) attended to discuss housing rehabilitation grants. The town, in partnership with the town of Hinsdale, would apply for the grant. BRPC handles the grant writing process and will also manage the money and disburse funding upon approval. Income eligible homeowners who cannot afford to cover the costs of necessary home repairs can apply for the grant for home repairs that are needed to bring their homes up to code. If approved, once the repairs are completed, this would leave the owner with a 15-year lien on their home for the amount funded. Each year the amount of the lien depreciates. If the house is sold before the 15 years are over, any lien paid back through the home sale is refunded to the town. If the property transfers to family through an estate the lien does not need to be paid in full at that time and would continue until the remainder of the 15-year time frame has ended. There is no cost to the town and all fees are covered by the grant to BRPC. Next step would be a Memo of Understanding to be signed by the board members stating they are willing to work with the program. This will be needed by the end of the month. The board will take this information into consideration.
- Selectboard members and Jim discussed the highway department candidates that were interviewed.
 - Tim Zelazo made a motion to offer the highway position to Eric Poirot. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
- The hourly rate for Eric Poirot was discussed. The board agreed to start Eric at \$24 per hour with a six-month probationary period. Eric will receive an hourly increase once all hydraulic licenses have been obtained. Joan will contact Eric to offer him the position.

Select Board Initials

The image shows three handwritten signatures or initials on a line. From left to right: a cursive signature, the initials 'MB', and the initials 'TZ'.

Select Board Meeting
November 6, 2024

Jim White, Highway Department:

- Fixed the stop sign on North County Road.
- Posts and guardrails are back up on Whitcomb Hill Road Extension.
- Cold patch completed on River Road and other small potholes.
- Cleaned up downed trees.
- A new light installed at the kennel.
- Truck inspections were completed and all passed, however there were some issues to be handled on some of the trucks. All repairs have been addressed.
- Blowing leaves
- Cremation done.
- The breaker has been tripping in town hall by the bathrooms due to the all the new computer equipment. New wiring is needed. Waiting for a quote from McLain Electric.
- Robin Hart can fill in for plowing this winter should Jim need an extra person. Robin has the proper license.

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Closed for Veteran's Day.

Public Comment

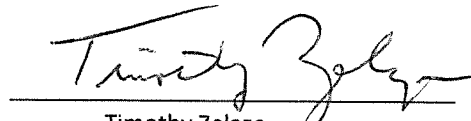
- Diana Worth, the Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector was asked to fill in as the ACO for the town of Clarksburg. Clarksburg does not have their own shelter, and she would need to use Florida's. The Clarksburg residents would pay any necessary fees (for shelter use) to the town of Florida. The board had no issues with this.

Tim Zelazo made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 pm. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.



Neil Oleson, Chair

Michael Bedini



Timothy Zelazo

Select Board Initials

_____ MB TZ