Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall

379 Mohawk Trail

Drury, MA 01343

November 20, 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, Diana Worth, Mike Gleason, Stephanie Pare, Joanne Semanie

Selectboard:

* Tim Zelazo made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on November 6, 2024. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
* Tim Zelazo made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on November 13, 2024. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
* Joanne Semanie, Selectboard Member from the Town of Rowe discussed the bridge in the tunnel area of town that boarders both Rowe and Florida. The state is responsible for the bridge and will be replacing it. The Town of Rowe needs to own both sides of the bridge. Joanne is asking the selectboard to turn over the property to Rowe. She has been advised by KP Law, attorney for Rowe and Florida, it would be treated as a tax taking. Rowe will then resume all responsibilities and upkeep, including winter plowing, of the bridge once it is completed. The board will check with the town attorney and discuss it at a future meeting.
* The candidate who was voted to be hired for the highway department, Cody Sumner, did not respond to Jim’s calls. Joan will send him a letter revoking the offer of employment. Zachary Levesque is the board’s next choice.
	+ Tim Zelazo made a motion to hire Zachary Levesque for the labor position with the highway department. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
* Joan will contact Zachary to inform him of the offer of employment, and a pay rate of $23 per hour until he obtains his licenses.
* Stephanie Pare requested the town hall be closed the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. Joan will work during the day instead. The board had no issues with this.
* Mike discussed the need for an assistant town clerk to start so Lisa can have as much time as needed to train someone in the event she decides to retire. The board agreed to start advertising the position after the first of the year.

Jim White, Highway Department:

* Blow out patches on roads
* Changing tires
* Olsen Road culvert cleaned
* Webinar taken on Slips, Trips & Falls through MIIA.
* Filled the fluids for trucks 5 and 6.
* Eric is doing a good job so far.

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Jim White, Highway Department (continued):

* Jim has planned out plowing routes for the crew for the winter.
* The turbo on truck 4 has been repaired.
* Jim received an invoice for the Tilda Hill Road repairs the windmill company was responsible for paying for. He was unsure if the windmill company had paid it. Joan will send a copy to them, certified mail and check the invoice. If not paid, they will need to attend a selectboard meeting to respond to the board’s questions.
* Truck 2 – air tank saddles rotted, and the ABS light is on. Jim is concerned about it smoking a lot. He would like to make a heated body in it since it is used for blacktop and the blacktop often cools by the time it gets from the plant to the project. Jim will get a price on welding.

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

* Joan is looking into remaining ARPA funding. The board discussed the international truck being paid out of ARPA but never voted on it. They had voted on the white truck, bobcat, tractor with brush hog and the financial software for the financial team.
* The board asked Joan to contact Crocker to get the cost of broadband hookup for town hall and have the information for the next meeting on December 4, 2024.

Public Comment

* Diana Worth, the Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector interviewed with the town of Clarksburg to discuss her holding the ACO position there as well. They are without a kennel and would need to share use of Florida’s kennel. The board discussed the options of this.
* Diana Worth would like to create adoption papers for pets she would need to adopt out. There is a charge allowed for an adoption fee that would go to the town. She is thinking of a small nominal fee. She currently has a pet to have adopted that was rehomed from an original owner in Lowell. The original owner will not give her the information of who adopted the animal and has been difficult to work with.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 pm. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.

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Neil Oleson, Chair

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Michael Bedini Timothy Zelazo