Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall

379 Mohawk Trail

Drury, MA 01343

December 4, 2024

5:02 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, Chris Sahady

Selectboard:

* Mike Bedini made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on November 20, 2024. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
* Highway Department Interview took place with Chris Sahady. Chris worked at A1 Septic for 12 years, has the CDL and Class B license. The board discussed plowing and the other job duties were described. Chris feels his biggest asset is he is an honest, reliable hard worker. He works well with others if they are good, but he does not usually have any problems with others. Neil explained the hoisting license, the need for it and the process to get it. Employee benefits were explained.
* Sheila Kelliher contacted the board to volunteer for the Deerfield Wild & Scenic River Study. The board would like to see if anyone else is interested before appointing her. They would like to meet her and find out how this was discovered. Joan has been instructed to invite Shiela to a January meeting. The topic is tabled until then.
* Diana Worth attended to discuss topics related to the ACO position.
  + The possibility of finding funding through the state for a bigger kennel was discussed. Jim does not have enough room now, but he will investigate ideas. Diana will work on funding then bring this topic back to the board if she is able to obtain some.
  + Several people have been asking her about a rat problem in town. Residents are finding them in their homes on Tilda Hill Road and Stryker Road.
  + Diana needs to have a cap on the highway dept truck she can use to pick up animals in. With a cap on the back, she would be able to put them in the back for transport. Jim will research buying one.
* ARPA fund balances were reviewed with the financial team. Melanie has given reports to Joan to match purchases with what was voted to be paid out of it. The remaining amount to spend is $12,683.90 as well as $25,421.56 left in the broadband account to spend. Anything else being paid out of these accounts needs to be either ordered or under contract by December 31, 2024. The board agreed to purchase more radios for FD out of the broadband funding. Joan will need to meet with Mike Gleason to get a bill for the radios.
* The board has cancelled the December 18, 2024, and January 1, 2025, meetings unless a need arises. The next scheduled meeting will be January 15, 2025.
* The board agreed there is no need to sign the minutes. Vicki will take the signature lines off the minutes for all future reports.

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Jim White, Highway Department:

* The crew spent most of the time plowing and maintaining roads due to the storms.
* Jim and the board discussed the interview candidate from earlier in the meeting. All agreed he would be good for the position.
  + Tim Zelazo made a motion to hire Chris Sahady as laborer for the highway department at $24.00 per hour to start. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

* The offer of employment for Zachary Levesque will be rescinded as he never responded.
* Tilda Hill repairs will be paid for by the windmill company contractor.
* The town attorney advised to hold off on moving forward with the Rowe Bridge for the town of Rowe.
* By laws have been updated per state.
* BJ is caught up on her paperwork. She only needed to hand in her payments as she had been ill. She requested when anyone sees anything being built in town, they notify her. She does not live here so she would not randomly see any construction happening in her travels through town.
* Taking a workers compensation webinar with Jim on December 12th.
* McLain Electric will be available in a few weeks.
* Taking vacation days December 26 and 27th.

Public Comment

* None

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 pm. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.