

Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

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Florida Town Hall
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

December 18, 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, Vicki Winchell, Diana Worth, Krista Bishop, Ron Bosley, Larry Cote, Sue Bedini, Sheila Kelliher-Comstock

Selectboard:

- Mike Bedini made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on December 4, 2024. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
- Assessors presented the shift options to the board to review to set the tax rate. There is a \$4 million increase in residential values of properties. Because of this the assessments went up 4% this year while the hydro valuations are down \$3 million. More money will need to be raised through taxation than last year. The board discussed options and settling somewhere in the middle for the tax rate to shift the rates minimally for residential and CIP.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to accept the CIP shift at 1.3600. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
- Sheila Kellier-Comstock attended to discuss the Deerfield River Watershed Association initiative of the Deerfield Wild and Scenic Committee. Florida signed on to this association months ago which allows a representative to join from town. Sheila has volunteered to join this committee. Neil gave her the names of two others also interested, Tom Brule and Nate O'Hearn. This is a one-time committee to help put together a report to obtain federal funding. Once the river is designated Wild and Scenic there will be a committee that moves forward into the future.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to appoint Sheila Kelliher-Comstock, Nathan O'Hearn and Tom Brule to the Deerfield Wild and Scenic River study committee. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
- Town employee contract form has been updated.
- Revisited a prior discussion of Tony Arigoni building a gate at the senior center for the stairs that go to the basement. Neil will check with Tony to see if he is still able to do this or if they should find another contractor.
- Mike reported Jim is having a difficult time finding a used truck cap because of the truck bed size. They will keep looking for one.
- Dump hours have changed for the holidays.

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Working on ARPA funds.
- Jim is looking for plow blades and truck bed sander.
- Mike Gleason gave Joan the paperwork for the Fire Department radios.

Public Comment

- None

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 6:34 pm. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.

Select Board Initials _____