Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall

379 Mohawk Trail

Drury, MA 01343

June 18, 2025

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, Vicki Winchell, Josh Malloy, Diana Wentworth, Roger Arigoni

Dangerous Dog Hearing

Neil summarized the complaint against the dog owner, Josh Malloy. Josh did not realize the female was in heat and feels this played a large part in the male dogs’ reactions. He normally brings the dogs in and out but left them out when leaving for work as it was nice out at that time. He had no intention of leaving them out in the rain. When he arrived home, he was giving the dog a treat and accidentally fell down. One dog was attacking his foot while the other was on top of him. His neighbor, Roger Arigoni, heard screaming and went to help Josh by grabbing a stick and started hitting the dog on Josh’s feet. Josh feels this angered the other dog and made him attack more. Diana Wentworth mentioned the nurse said both dogs were on the owner. Josh disputes that and feels he did tell the nurse he had fallen first.

Mike explained to Josh the boards fear the dogs present should anyone else be injured. The dog officers informed Josh he would need to do the following:

* When walking the dogs – use a guide line, not a retractable leash.
* When taking them off the property they must be muzzled
* Eventually he must have a platform for their kennels so the dogs cannot dig out of where they are kept.

Diana confirmed so far Josh has been doing what was asked of him. He has moved the kennels apart and the way they are now is acceptable until he can put a platform down for the kennels. He is aware there will be periodic inspections for which he will receive advanced notice.

The vet is putting red flags on both of the animals (Brock and Lonestar) files.

Josh requested a probation period before considering them dangerous dogs. The board did not agree since the vet has already flagged the animals.

Neil Oleson made a motion to considering them dangerous dogs. As long as the owner abides by the rules of the board and the state there will be no further issues. Tim Zelazo seconded the motion. Unanimous.

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Select board:

* Tim Zelazo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 28, 2025. Neile Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
* Tim Zelazo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 4, 2025. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
* Tim Zelazo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the joint selectboard/finance committee meeting on June 10, 2025. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
* Mike Bedini made a motion to appoint Lisa H. Brown and Stephanie Pare to the finance committee. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
* Richard Longland sent an email regarding permit letters received. Neil has spoken with Richard and has made him aware of the permitting process.
* The board started to review the personnel policy manual that was returned from the lawyer. Review of the manual will be completed at the next selectboard meeting.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

* The new truck is in. Looking for plows now. A quote was received from Bakers but still looking for other quotes as well. Mike recommended Jim check with Fischer Plow. A quote was also received for a 4-yard sander. Jim looking for more quotes. Mike recommended checking into a Boss Sander.
* Mowing cemetery and roads
* Milling South County East Road.
* Cleaned the expansion joints on the Florida/Charlemont bridge.
* Going out to see what catch basins needed cleaning. Checked with Berkshire Purchasing for pricing on which company to use.
* There are 2 catch basins collapsing on Whitcomb Hill Road. They will need to be rebuilt when the weather is dryer.

Public Comment:

* Diana Wentworth – Clarksburg now has an Animal Control vehicle. They have offered Diana use of it for Florida animal concerns in exchanging for Florida housing the occasional animal in the Florida kennel. The board has no issues with this as long as the kennel is not already full.
  + Mike Bedini made a motion to allow the Animal Control Officer use of the Florida kennel in exchange for use of the Clarksburg Animal Control vehicle. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.

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