Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall

379 Mohawk Trail

Drury, MA 01343

July 16, 2025

6:02 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, Jim White, Mike Gleason, Doug Miller, Chris Sahady

Select Board:

* Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 2, 2025. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
* The alarm system installation has been completed.
* Town Policy review tabled until the next meeting.
* Mike Bedini made a motion to grant Blue Vista Motor Lodge LLC their yearly business license. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
* Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the abatements of the following invoices from Quickbooks as they are uncollectable due to changes in the software and unknown payment status. The total of all invoices to be abated equals $2871.76. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.

Diana Wentworth, Dog Officer:

* The dog officers need a place for storage of extra cages and carriers. Jim has a 12x12 storage container he offered to clean out for them to use.
* The roof on the kennel needs an overhang added on to it. It needs to be completed before a state inspection that will take place in August or September.
* Diana would like to paint the inside of the kennel. Jim offered extra paint and supplies for her to use.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

* Mowing roadsides and cemeteries.
* Talked with Stephanie Leclair regarding overgrown trees on the roadsides. Quote submitted to the board from REWC Land Management to remove the overgrowth safely as the highway department does not have these capabilities. Quotes were as follows: Stryker Road $32,250.00; Central Shaft Road $65,500.00. These figures include the use of a bucket truck, chipper, 2 laborers, clearing and removing hazardous trees from the edge of the roads. Jim has reached out to Berkshire Regional Planning to get more quotes. He is waiting to hear back from them.

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Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor (continued):

* Jim would like to purchase a flail mower for the Bobcat tractor. The quote received from Southside Sales is $8,393.24.
  + Mike Bedini made a motion to approve $8,393.24 to purchase flail mower through Southside Sales. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
* An email was received from Mark Devylder, MA DOT Bridge Engineer. There are concerns about the bridge on Savoy Road. Jim and Neil will meet with Mark.
* The proposed costs from West Oil to lock in on fuel prices with them for FY 2026 are currently $3.099 for heating and $3.169 for diesel. The board agreed to table the discussion until their meeting on August 13, 2025. Jim will bring updated costs to that meeting.
* Tony Arigoni has requested an advance to purchase supplies for the fire house repair.
  + Mike Bedini made a motion to pay in advance to Arigoni Contractors the amount of $11,459.00 for materials for the fire station repair project. This is contingent upon the completion of his other town projects. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.
* Blow out patches are still being done on River Road.
* There are 4 highway crew signed up for the MIIA webinar being held on July 27, 2025 about Lock Out and Tag Outs.

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

* Joan questioned the board as to whether they would like a new air conditioner purchased for town hall. The board agreed it was necessary and felt 8,000 btu’s would be a good size. Jim will pick one up.
* Jackie Berry is giving quotes for phone systems and checking with companies.
* Jill and Andy of Conservation Works need a letter of acceptance for the MVP and Hazardous Mitigation Plan. They are waiting for the state to approve.

Public Comment: None

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn from the regular meeting to enter executive session at 6:38pm. Tim Zelazo second. Unanimous.

Neil Oleson made a motion to enter back into regular session at 7:09pm. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 pm. Tim Zelazo seconded. Unanimous.