Town of Florida Selectmen Meeting

Florida Town Hall

379 Mohawk Trail

Drury, MA 01343

August 27, 2025

6:00 pm meeting called to order by Neil Oleson

Selectmen members present: Neil Oleson, Mike Bedini, Tim Zelazo

Selectmen members absent: None

Others present: Joan Lewis, Vicki Winchell, Jim White, Bobby Quintos, Mike Gleason, Ben Hanson, Accem Scott, Julie Brule, Tom Brule, Diana Worth, Mark Jones, Gordon Beckwith (via telephone)

Selectmen:

* Tim Zelazo made a motion to approve the minutes of July 30, 2025. Mike Bedini seconded the motion. Unanimous.
* Tim Zelazo made a motion to approve the minutes of August 13, 2025. Neil Oleson seconded the motion. Unanimous.
* Review of the town personnel policy is tabled until the next selectmen meeting.
* BRTA presented a program to the selectmen offering rides to anyone over the age of 60. Tim thought this would be a great program to share with the Senior Center. Julie Brule has met with Joyce about it in the past. Seniors need to fill out an application and then they will have an account set up. The cost is $10 to North Adams or $20 to Pittsfield, one way. This is per person however the rider can take one attendant with them at no additional cost. Joan will post the information on the website and forward the senior center contact information to Julie Brule.
* The board recessed from 6:15pm to 6:22pm to go outside and look at the vehicle BRTA brought up to show them.
* Mark Jones of Boston Mutual presented a proposal to the board to review for an employee medical leave benefit. If injured, an employee could be eligible for up to 20 weeks of benefit. If they need to take time off to help an injured/sick family member they could receive up to 12 weeks of benefited leave. The program also includes a $25,000 term life insurance policy while employed. The annual estimated cost is a total of $25,000 for the current 27 eligible employees. This program is state mandated by Massachusetts. An employer can have up to 20% in claims without any cost increases upon renewal. If accepted, the program would start October 1st. They will send people out to enroll all eligible employees. If there are new hires above the 27 count, a bill will be generated for any additional person(s). There is financial requirement for eligibility. To be eligible an employee must have earned $6000 (within Massachusetts) within the past four quarters to be eligible and they must currently work 30 hours or more per week.
  + Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the program for Family Medical Leave program. Tim Zelazo seconded the motion. Unanimous.
* Joan and Tim will be attending an incident command center meeting on September 19, 2025, that is intended for administrators.

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Selectmen (Continued):

* DCR was interested in some town property that is 45 acres, neighboring Clarksburg. The board agreed there is no benefit to the town in selling this to DCR. The town of Clarksburg has also chosen not to sell.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

* Mowing cemeteries and roadsides.
* Blacktopping on River Road and blow out patches on Lower River Road.
* Signposts have been put up for the speed limit signs.
* Plow and strobes lights are on the new ford truck.
* Doug is interested in plowing this winter.
* Jim questioned when they would hire a new person. Discussion tabled until the next meeting.
* A resident has offered to paint the Boy scout sign on Route 2. Joan will talk to Tony about repairing and painting the sign.
* Truck 10 muffler has been fixed.

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

* The building inspector was questioned about doing her job. Mike requested concerns of this type not be brought up at a meeting unless the concern was officially submitted to them in writing.
* Waiting for the state on a hazmat plan
* No quote from McLain yet on additional electrical work at town hall.
* A resident wants to attend any meeting on redoing Tunnel Road bridge. Joan is still waiting for the appointment date for the meeting.
* On vacation for two weeks.

Public Comment:

* Diana Worth reported she received a call from Sherry from MA Animal Fund. They are way behind and will not be able to inspect the town kennel until sometime next year.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:11 pm. Neil Oleson second. Unanimous.