

Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

October 26, 2022

6:02 pm meeting called to order by Neil Oleson.

Select Board members present: Neil Oleson, Mike Bedini, Terry I. Green

Select board members absent: none

Others present: Joan Lewis, Vicki Winchell, James White, Roger Randall, Cindy Bosley, Ron Bosley, Jamie Rathbun, Larry Cote, Al Bedini, Heidi Dugal, Michael Gleason, Diana Worth, Tim Zelazo, Tim Barteltt, Dan Dobbert, Jr. Dan Dobbert, Sr. Jean Dionne, Emily Dionne.

Selectboard:

- Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the minutes from September 14, 2022 and October 12, 2022. Terry I. Green seconded October 12, 2022 and tabled September 14, 2022 to the next meeting on November 7, 2022. Unanimous.
- Jean and Emily Dionne appeared at the request of the board regarding a dog complaint filed against them. Emily read from a prepared statement and is very apologetic to the situation. All instances of the dogs getting loose were unforeseen circumstances and they immediately went looking for them trying to bring them home. They feel that the dogs being younger and having two of them has been a learning curve but as the dogs are getting older she feels they are starting to respond better. They also no longer put the dogs out together as individually they behave but together they tend to not obey as well. The board stressed the urgency that this cannot continue and they will need to take further action if it does.
- Dan Dobbert Jr. and Dan Dobbert Sr. attended the meeting at the request of the board to review their business license issues. The gate is up. The only concern left was taking in full cars. Neil added there is no problem with taking in parts and pieces. Mike added the building inspector is the code enforcement officer in town and she accepted the fence that was put up. She did add no junk cars should be brought in and if they are the license will be terminated permanently as it is not a salvage yard.
 - Terry I. Green made a motion to reinstate the license. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- Jamie Rathbun appeared to confirm today was her official last day as the Treasurer/Collector. She had given her two weeks' notice several weeks ago but agreed to work until a replacement could be found. While she appreciated the opportunity, she felt the position was putting her health in jeopardy. She gave the board copies of messages sent to her. Jamie was originally planning on continuing on with the Collector position however she has chosen not too. A Tim Zelazo asked her if she was receiving complaints or harassment to which Jamie responded more harassment. Tim brought up the importance of supporting and developing employees and how the town has lost several employees in recent months. Heidi agreed with Tim and discussions continued on leading the town. Neil and Terry discussed Treasurer/Collector positions from other local towns detailing their salary and benefits.

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Selectboard (continued):

- Board discussed an email Terry shared with permission from John Franzoni, Superintendent of North Berkshire School Union, detailing the benefits of job-sharing positions between towns in relation to the town's issues hiring Accountants, Treasurer and Tax Collectors.
- It was brought to Terry's attention that it is a federal regulation that random drug and alcohol testing is required because of CDL licenses every 3 months. She was not sure if the town actively does this and has a written policy. She submitted a temporary policy for the other board members to review that can be adapted to the town. The policy will allow drug and alcohol testing if there are concerns about people or when someone is involved in an accident and there are suspicions of alcohol. Mike responded the guys go automatically if something happens. Jim added they do the random drug testing. He receives an email with who to be tested randomly. There was discussion that a policy may be in the union contracts. Cindy asked if it needed to go through the union. The response was no because it is federally mandated. The board will review the policy. A vote will be needed to implement it.
- Trick or Treat Hours scheduled for 5:30 pm. to 7:30 pm. on Halloween night.
- Mike confirmed with Tony Arigoni that siding is on order for the firehouse.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- Working on trucks, getting them ready for inspections that will take place on site on November 1st and 2nd, 2022 as well as getting them ready for winter.
- Dealing with the beavers once or twice a week
- Cremation completed
- Blowing leaves
- Switched tires on truck 18 and 4.
- Mowing cemeteries and road sides
- Tree down on Monroe Road that was taken care of
- Cindy questioned a section of guardrail to be done. Jim is working on replacing it.
- Started sealing Tilda Hill Road. Ron questioned the conversation at the last meeting where it was said they would not do the crack sealing until Spring. Jim spoke with the company doing it and they guaranteed the work, offering to come back and fix it for free if there were issues.

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Joan gave each board member a copy of the employee procedure manual taken from the Town of Williamstown for their review, to adapt as our own. Terry added it will be needed to be reviewed by the towns legal counsel as well. Joan also shared copies of job descriptions with the board for their review.
- Northeast IT coming tomorrow at 10 am to work on the assessor's computer.
- Some resumes received for the Treasurer and Accountant position.
- Lisa Brown working with Joan and Verizon on the cell tower abutters list, which includes the towns that border Florida. The board has set the public hearing for November 17, 2022 at 6pm at the Town Hall.

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Joan Lewis, Town Administrator (continued):

- Presented the board with a license to be signed by the board from Charter. Cindy brought to everyone’s attention that it states cable only with is no mention of internet. The board asked Joan to contact Charter for more information.

Mike Gleason, Fire Chief:

- Informed the board Engine 2 is becoming more and more undependable. There was a situation in the summer and during the fire prevention class where it would not pump. The engine is a 1990 Young. Young has been out of business for a long time and parts will be more and more difficult to obtain. There is someone working on it who has ordered parts. One part alone was \$800. The vehicle has almost 200,000 miles on it. Mike wanted to put it on their radar because it will be an issue at some point. He suggests going with a cookie cutter truck next time they purchase a truck due to the expense of the vehicles. The town has owned it about 15 years and It was bought used out of Polaski, NY.

Public Comment:

- Cindy asked for clarification regarding the new rules disposing of mattresses. Neil responded soiled mattresses disposed of in the construction bin in town will cost \$175.00. Otherwise you have to bring them to Dalton to dispose of. It is recommended if you buy a new mattress to have the delivery company take the old one.

Mike Bedini made a motion to suspend the regular meeting to enter executive session at 7:10 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

Neil Oleson reopened the regular meeting at 7:35 pm.

The board discussed the procedure for paying bills without a treasurer appointed. Mike asked who can write checks. Terry said she can help and she can print the checks. Neil suggested reviewing the applications and calling in candidates to interview as soon as possible. Discussion held whether the Treasurer can also be the Accountant. Terry stated the town has not adopted one of the laws but Neil felt they need to be separated for checks and balances. Terry will double check.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

Neil Oleson, Chair

Michael Bedini

Terry I. Green

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