

Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

March 1, 2023

6:01 pm meeting called to order by Neil Oleson.

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

Select board members absent:

Others present: Joan Lewis, James White, Vicki Winchell, Ron Bosley, Cindy Bosley, Jake White, Ron White, Larry Cote, Karen Brule, Derrick Rougeau, Mike Gleason, Lori Tuper, Bryan Foucher, Roger Randall, Tom Brule, Melanie Glyn, Mike Worth, Janet Bartlett, Carl Gehring, Al Bedini

Selectboard:

- Carl Gehring from Verizon updated the board on the progress with the cell tower. The decision has cleared the appeal period and has been recorded at the registry. Geotech did not follow exact path the engineers laid out. They cut south of it. In Carl's opinion this is a minor issue. They will slide the path down to follow the Geotech path and instead of coming into the east they turn the compound to the southeast. This will cut further away and more south from the Hurley's property. Nothing else has changed on the project. Carl is now done with this project and has submitted copies of the updated design for the select board, town clerk and planning board to have. Jim O'Donnell is the construction manager for the project.
- Melanie Glynn, FHMS Committee Representative, presented the board with documents to sign regarding the easement for Borden Mountain. The pole is up on Borden Mountain and the easement has been signed. There is a new indemnification to include the easement that supersedes the previous one Melanie is bringing to each of the four towns for select board signatures. A copy will be returned once all signatures have been obtained from each town. The document was reviewed by the Savoy town attorney. Before signing Neil questioned the insurance mentioned in the document and asked what the cost per town is. Bryan clarified each of the four towns agreed in the intergovernmental agreement they would self-insure the assets that will be turned over to the towns at the completion of the project.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to sign the indemnification agreement between the towns of Florida, Hawley, Monroe, Savoy and Wi-Valley. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Bryan Foucher updated the board regarding Borden Mountain. It is up and running with internet going in and out but not broadcasting to customers yet. It should be in about a month in a half or so. Roger Randall asked Bryan to address the poor service from Otelco. Bryan has also struggled with Otelco. Otelco has a new CEO that wants only communities of 10k or more population. They are in far along with negotiations with another company to buy out Otelco. They'll be providing the services and acquiring WiValley. The plan with the new entity is deploying fiber to the home in the four towns, to cover 100% of the town.
- Mike Bedini made a motion to renew the license for John S. Fields. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

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Selectboard (continued):

- Terry I. Green made a motion to approve the Selectboard minutes from the meeting on February 15, 2023. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- Mike noticed Derek Rougeau was recording the meeting without announcing it. At 6:23 pm Derek Rougeau requested to record the meeting. Neil announced his recording.
- The board discussed a public document request. Cindy Bosley asked for clarification. Neil responded Derek Rougeau has requested via email a public document request. Neil informed Derek the letter requesting the things on the building is being sent out today concerning building permits from the building inspector. Neil asked the board their preference on giving him the other documents requested in person tonight or through mail. Terry felt it would be best sent certified so there is a signature. She added when the email came, as a board, the request should have been presented to them when it was received, or the next business day. She also requested the letter being sent to Derek Rougeau, which lists two Massachusetts general laws regarding the property in question, should be clarified to include only the exact law he would need. Neil did not have access to an Assessor to get the exact law at the time. Ron Bosley asked for clarification on the topic. Neil clarified an email was received by Derek Rougeau who submitted two public record requests, requesting all communications, written, texts, email, phone etc between representatives of Bakke Mountain LLC and/or Tom Brule and the Town of Florida or any representatives of the Town of Florida for the period of January 1, 2021 to present. And all communications, written, email, texts, phone etc between Alfred Bedini and The Town of Florida and Mike Melazzo for the period of January 1, 2020 to present. Terry will update the letter with the correct law and Joan will send everything out via certified mail tomorrow. A female audience member asked why Mike Melazzo's name was mentioned. Terry responded it was in the request but unsure why.
- Terry has requested moving forward any emails that are to be sent to the Selectboard or her are instead printed out and left in her mailbox. She will no longer use her personal email for town business due to the fact it could be subject to confiscation. If there is an urgent matter, contact her via telephone. Joan will print everything for her.
- Terry I. Green made a motion for Neil Oleson to sign the agreement with Sansouce to continue reevaluating the town properties. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- Terry I. Green made a motion for Neil to sign the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs MVP Grant for FY 2023.
- Mike asked if the budget information has been sent to the departments yet. Joan has the information and will send it out to all departments to complete and return.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- Working on Tilda Hill Road, cutting and chipping tree branches up to Blackstone Road. Cutting some into firewood.
- Dealing with freezing rain, snow and plowing.

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Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- All banking information done
- Jim and Joan will be taking some grant writing classes
- Tax bills went out. Some residents are unhappy about the double billing.
- Computer has been down for 3 days.

Public Comment:

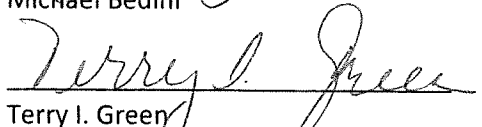
- None

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

Neil Oleson, Chair



Michael Bedini



Terry I. Green

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