

Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

March 29, 2023

6:08 pm meeting called to order by Mike Bedini.

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

Select board members absent: Neil Oleson

Others present: Joan Lewis, James White, Vicki Winchell, Ron Bosley, Cindy Bosley, Jake White, Mike Worth, Diana Worth, Roger Randall, Mike Gleason, Heidi Dugal, Al Bedini, Mike Nugai, Karen Brule, Stephanie Pare

Selectboard:

- Terry I. Green made a motion to approve the Selectboard minutes from the meeting of March 1, 2023. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- Terry I. Green made a motion to approve the contract for the Greenwood Emergency vehicle for the price amount of \$650,000.00 for the E1 FC94BM8 Tanker Pump, Quantity one. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
 - Purchase contract signed by Mike Bedini and Terry I. Green
- Terry I. Green made a motion to put down half for the deposit on the purchase of the fire truck. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
 - Mike Nugai will send the town an invoice with the deposit amount. It will be sent to the town with copies of the contract.
- Discussion held regarding possible purchase of the Bakke property. Neither Mike nor Terry are interested. Joan will send the owners a letter notifying them of the decision.
 - Terry I. Green made a motion that the town is not going to purchase the Bakke property for the price of \$4 million dollars. Mike Bedini second.
- Discussions held regarding the town's IT options. Joan is obtaining 2 additional estimates for yearly IT maintenance plans. Northeast IT had submitted a quote. Mad Macs will be submitting an estimate and Jon from the City of North Adams (no last name given) submitted a letter of interest. He will give a price at the end of the week. Cindy Bosley questioned the topic and confirmed this discussion was regarding the maintenance portion of the IT needs only. Ron Bosley questioned the price from Northeast IT. Their estimate is \$1600.00-\$1800.00 per month. To maintain services, backup and unlimited service. Stephanie Pare asked for clarification to which Terry replied for the grant purposes because they were going to use them (Northeast IT) to fix Joan's computer. There were supposed to be two proposals from them, one with a maintenance contract and one for just the grant purposes.
 - Terry I. Green made a motion to sign the Northeast IT proposal that does not include the monthly maintenance fees. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.

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Selectboard (continued):

- Joan should contact Joel at Northeast IT tomorrow (March 30, 2023) to get the contract without the maintenance agreement to be signed. The board gave Joan the authority to sign it online. The grant is for \$60,000.00, with the estimates being \$45,000.00 to \$60,000.00 therefore the board will be able to decide on additional needs. Discussions will continue at the next meeting to decide on the maintenance portion. Mike requested Joan have all 3 quotes available for that meeting.
- Heidi Dugal, Board of Health brought up a concern regarding the town bylaws. Concerns regarding a situation of a trailer parked at 10 Central Shaft Road dumping their waste. The owner insists his waste is dumped in North Adams but cannot provide receipts. Owner wanted permission to park trailer there and Board of Health said they could not do that. Town council was consulted and bylaws state you cannot live in a travel trailer, section 4.1. This is not a board of health issue, it is for the building inspector who is the code enforcement. She can give them a cease and desist order resulting in them needing to leave the property. They can then appeal to the board of appeals. Lawyer advised that bylaws should be separated. There should be zoning bylaws and general bylaws. The lawyer separated them out. He also advised in the section regarding "travel trailer" there should be a definition that the planning board should come up with as there are a number of different trailers now (RV's, Tiny Houses, etc). The definition should be brought to town meeting for approval. It was left that the owners need to take this issue up with the Building Inspector. The board of health is setting up a joint meeting with the planning board to review bylaws. Roger Randall informed the board there is an error on the website regarding the 2005 bylaws as one did not get carried over from paper to the website.
- Discussions moved into the availability of the building inspector. Heidi suggested the board draft a letter to set up hours to touch base as some are not getting their permits. Ron Bosley added there has been accessibility problems with the building inspector for two years. Mike suggests calling her or sending a letter to have her attend a selectboard meeting. Terry has also had issues connecting with her. Mike directed Joan to send a letter to the building inspector saying the Selectboard and the Board of Health want to have a meeting because of concerns regarding inspections happening and not happening in town, regarding accessibility and communication. Joan will email and text her in addition to sending a letter. Mike also asked Joan to add building inspector results to the agenda next month under continuing business. Cindy mentioned they are on the Mass.gov website as well and there is one that the town has that the Attorney General says no to.
- Terry discussed a conversation with Al Bedini regarding FRCOG (Franklin Regional Council of Government) that offer Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program. Council of Governments). They offer shared services for their members. Joan will call Berkshire Regional Planning to see if they offer any type of shared services and code enforcement.
- Diana Worth was present to discuss a dog complaint that has been ongoing since October 2022 at 16 Mohawk Trail. The dog is barking all night and unattended. Because the animal has shelter, food and water the state says there is nothing they can do about that however a noise complaint can be acted upon. The dog officer has been in contact with the owner with no results. The owner currently does not live there and has moved to North Adams. Owners claim the dog has a medical condition. Joan has a letter drafted. Heidi will send the letter as the constable. Joan will mail it out certified.

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Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- Plowing, dealing with 4' snow storm, got the roads open then worked on pushing back the snow banks.
- Repairing mailboxes
- No vehicle breakdowns
- FEMA denied the state of emergency from the last storm because it wasn't big enough.

Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Worked with the dog officer
- Grant work
- Sent the budget forms out to all departments. Cindy requested Joan scan and send them to her as they come back in
- Worked with the attorney on bylaws

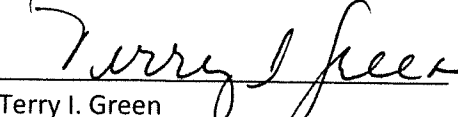
Public Comment:

- Heidi Dugal discussed a presentation being sponsored by the Library. Eric the Plantman teaches people how to grow cannabis. Due to great turnouts Heidi is concerned there will not be enough room in the Library. The school does not want to condone it so she is unable to use the gym. Heidi would like to use the Fire Station or Senior Center if there will be a good turnout. She will have people preregister so there is an idea of how many will attend. The board has no issues with this. Heidi will contact the Senior Center regarding use of the building. If it is not available she will contact the Fire Department. The event is May 13, 2023.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.

Neil Oleson, Chair


Michael Bedini


Terry I. Green

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