

Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

December 6, 2023

6:00 pm meeting called to order by Neil Oleson.

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

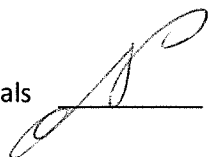
Select board members absent: None

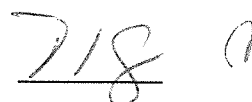
Others present: Joan Lewis, James White, Vicki Winchell, Cindy Bosley, Ron Bosley, Diana Worth, Melanie Medon, Stephanie Pare, Dave Fierro, Brian Foucher, John Maher, Kevin Poirot, Mike Gleason

Selectboard:

- Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectboard meeting of October 25, 2023. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- Terry I. Green made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectboard meeting of November 3, 2023. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.
- Melanie Medon and Stephanie Pare reviewed the need for financial software for the town. They are interested in purchasing a cloud-based system. This would allow the school union office to sign into it as well and input their information, eliminating the need for double data entry. The upfront cost will be larger, then there will be an estimated \$7000 yearly cost to maintain the system. Costs were more than anticipated therefore they are requesting permission from the board to do RFP.
 - Terry I. Green made a motion to allow Stephanie, Stacie, and Melanie to put out an RFP for software, pending funding, for the fiscal year 2025.
- Terry asked Joan if she had completed her other two procurement classes, as part of the previous stipulation. Joan has not yet but will start to schedule them in.
- Brian Foucher, of Wi-Valley, appeared to discuss the future of Otelco/Wi-Valley. They are being acquired by Access Plus. They have a letter of intent and should finalize the acquisition in January. Borden Mountain was connected in June and is up and running. Current pricing tiers are \$49 12/2, \$59 25/3, \$79 50/(not mentioned). Moving forward, they are applying to the MBI as part of the GAPS program to build out fiber to the homes in the four towns. The plan is to leave in the wireless infrastructure as a fail of redundancy in the event of a major outage. Brian is looking for a "resolution of support" from the Selectboard. One has been received from Hawley, Monroe, and Savoy. Several audience members expressed great displeasure with the Wi-Valley services. The majority voiced the opinion for the board to not support this.

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Selectboard (continued):

- John Maher, of Charter Spectrum, appeared to discuss the plan Charter has and request a letter of support from the selectboard. John gave a brief overview of Spectrum. Poles have been going up around town already. Charter has been awarded a billion dollars in funding. They are currently starting to build the 253 Ardoff customers in town and seeking funding to buildout to the rest of the town through the GAP program. The expected buildout time frame is approximately a year, but they are at the mercy of the pole owners (National Grid). John has letters of support from Hawley, Monroe, and Savoy as well.
 - The board discussed the two options for support. Kevin Poirot clarified it will work on a point system that MBI will use to choose a company. If giving a letter to Wi-Valley, it will then give them more points. Cindy Bosley spoke on behalf of the broadband committee giving support to Charter and does not recommend supporting Wi-Valley due to past practices. Neil was in favor of giving support to both to drive competition. Terry did not agree with giving extra points to Wi-Valley, although competition is good, the town needs reliability. Brian recommended checking with other local government agencies for reference of Access Plus as that is the company it would be, not Wi-Valley.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to write a letter of support to recommend Spectrum. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
 - The board chose not to support Access Plus's request for support.
- The December 20, 2023, Selectboard meeting has been cancelled unless an emergency arises.
- Terry reviewed the November 8, 2023 minutes and requested Joan add the motions and what time the meeting closed. Joan had typed up the minutes because Vicki was absent that week. Joan will make the corrections.
- Thomas Godfrey and Hwasoo Kim were listed on the agenda but requested to be removed from this week's meeting.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- Received information from Linda Cernik regarding the RDP Grant. Jim completed the paperwork and requested the board review it. Jim turning information into Melanie Medon for accounting information.
- There are 40 tires left that are being sent to Family Tire. There are funds left in a grant to cover the costs.
- The new highway employee requested an employee handbook. Jim does not have one to give him as there is not one completed. Mike suggested scheduling a meeting separate from the regular business meeting to work on creating one. Terry has a draft started and requested Joan prepare a list of holidays, sick time, bereavement, and vacation time for Terry to add to the draft. The discussion has been tabled to the first meeting in January 2024.
- Truck 1 is at Delurey's and has a worn-out 5th gear. The spring and pin wore out. Labor and parts are estimated at \$1500.00. They are waiting on one part.
- The International truck is still being built and should be done this week or next week. They are waiting on the hydraulic system from Canada.

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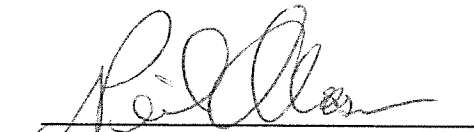
Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Town reports are almost complete.

Public Comment:

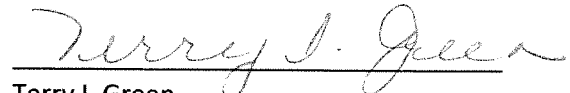
- Cindy Bosley presented a bid on behalf of the Library for two laptops, pc support for two years and two wired mice. The bid is for \$2920 from Josh Arico and would be paid out of the ARPA Grant. Terry questioned if Mad Mac's work was to be done for the Library and Cindy let her know Mad Mac said they could not include it.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to accept the proposal for \$2920.00 for the Library's public access computers. No second was made.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:18 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.



Neil Oleson, Chair

Michael Bedini



Terry I. Green

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