

Town of Florida Select Board Meeting

Florida Town Hall
379 Mohawk Trail
Drury, MA 01343

March 13, 2024

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, Tim Zelazo, Scott Kirchner, Daryl Corbett

Selectboard:

- Mike Bedini made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2024, select board meeting. Neil Oleson seconded. Unanimous.
- Scott Kirchner, Mad Macs gave an update on their progress working with the town. He will send a written update shortly to Joan.
 - The project is 85-90% complete in town hall. They will meet with the fire department next.
 - A town resident expressed a concern to them regarding the server in town hall and if it could overheat. It is a well vented rack with fans in it and has an alarm if it gets to a certain point. They will be notified if it reaches a certain temperature.
 - The cyber liability needs to be renewed for the town with MIIA. It requires on-going maintenance which has not been signed between Mad Macs and the town to be in compliance. Scott will need a maintenance agreement before completing this form. Terry questioned based on calls received for help, how much the maintenance agreement would cost. A rough estimate is \$15,000 per year. However, if they receive an exorbitant number of phone calls that require education vs actual maintenance issues, they will need to address that. They can provide a quarterly report of what calls were received. Scott will submit a quote for a maintenance agreement.
 - Terry questioned what are some things that have been done that are not covered under the grant. General maintenance is not necessary at this point since the system is so new. There has been work done for Joan that is outside the purview of the grant that would normally fall under general maintenance. He will provide a log of items that have been done that were not covered under the grant. Terry would like the proper contact to be used when issues arise to avoid unnecessary expenses.
 - Email system is in progress. Once they are up and running Joan will post them to the website.
 - Terry asked them to think of any other needs the town may need to move us forward, progress wise, as they can apply for another community compact grant this year.

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Selectboard (continued):

- A telephone system quote provided by Mad Mac’s using a company called Sangoma is estimated at \$272 to install, \$261 monthly cost, \$150 cost for a device to use for the fax. The fax is then charged by use, ranging from \$20-\$40 per month. This is based on eleven lines which include town hall, senior center, and fire department. He can get a less expensive system than what is currently used, however having the same internet service will yield the same issues. Discussion held regarding Starlink.
- Project is on track and should wrap up by end of March or early April.
- James Martin received the signed copies of the agreements. He still needs to record it.
- Engine 2 will need the radio installed and then a new system installed when the new systems are in effect.
- A complaint was received from Providencia Medina who was upset the road was not cleaned up. Jim did get sand on top of it and had to work at the bus route before doing secondary roads. Difficult to plow when the road is soft. Joan will send her a response via email.
- A letter of resignation was received from Ally Perkins, effective at the end of April 2024.
 - Mike Bedini made a motion to appoint Diana Worth as the animal inspector effective May 1, 2024. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.
- The employee manual and bylaws are still being reviewed.
- Joan will reach out to Mayflower for the budget figures.
- Joan was working on obtaining quotes for telephone systems. ATT recommends using cell phones; however, they do not work well at town hall. She was asked to tell them they are only interested in landlines. Verizon refused to give a quote. Cindy recommended checking with Starlink. Neil suggested calling Wi Valley to see if they could do better. Terry recommended checking into HughesNet.
- Tim Zelazo presented an amicus brief, requested by North Andover, for the board to sign to show their support. Tim briefed the board on the pros and cons of signing onto this. If it were to go through, the state could put gates on roads that have been discontinued, blocking access to all. Audience members recommended the town have their lawyers review it first. The board chose not to support the amicus brief with North Andover.
- A discharge of lien for Lanesborough Regional Housing Rehabilitation was presented for signature for Chris Gaffey’s HUD loan, which was paid off.
 - Terry I. Green made a motion to sign the discharge of lien. Mike Bedini seconded. Unanimous.

Jim White, Highway Department Supervisor:

- Working on River Road
- Called Ted Bunnell, GSA, waiting on email back regarding Humvee’s.
- Spoke with Justin Kratz, principal of McCann regarding having the students build stairs for the recyclable bin. Waiting to hear back. Reached out to Dwayne Mundy as well. Also waiting to hear back.
- Cleaning roads from both storms.
- Truck 1 – frame rotted under the fuel tank; back springs broken. Jim submitted an estimate for a CV515 International truck. Cindy Bosley informed the board that ARPA funds could be used towards a vehicle. Estimate is \$176,000 for the vehicle plus \$12000 for the wing setup.

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Joan Lewis, Town Administrator:

- Joan posted information from Linda Cernak on the website regarding recycling information.
- Looked into drug screening and physical for the highway at Urgent Care. They do not do the drug screen and physicals need to be paid out of pocket.
- Discussion held regarding which department should be responsible for doing the release of liens.
- Budget is almost complete, waiting on information from Patriot.
- Health insurance increased 7.8% but offering more healthy programs.

Mike Bedini made a motion to adjourn at 7:59 pm. Terry I. Green seconded. Unanimous.



Neil Oleson, Chair



Michael Bedini

Terry I. Green

Select Board Initials _____ *WMD* _____