

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
January 8, 2015**

Board members present: Gregg Casey, Laurie Phillips, and Matt Patry
Others present: Hollis Squier, Kevin Ruane, Grant Reynolds, Andy Gilmore, Rob Noble, Cathy Reynolds, Cat Yoder, Jo Reynolds, Abby Nolan, Director – Rutland Free Library, with her kids Alex and Rachel, and Gail Fallar- Board Assistant.

Matt called the meeting to order at 7:00. Board reviewed the agenda, no additions. Minutes of December 8, 2014 were approved with a minor correction noting that the state in the past has approved 6 mil plastic as impervious.

Rob provided Board with update from the Ad Hoc committee exploring the possibility of the Town purchasing the Pavilion on Tinmouth Pond. Committee consists of Rob, Grant Reynolds, Doug Fontein, Cathy Reynolds, Shane Yoder, Ramsey Yoder, Wes Usher, and Gail – Harold and Pat Hunter attended the last meeting as well – all are welcome. Rob advised that misinformation has been spread and many Pond owners are upset. He advised that this committee is just exploring the idea, there are many questions to be answered, and it will have to be voted on by the town. There needs to be an appraisal done, town has it assessed just over \$600,000; there needs to be a perc test done to comply with state subdivision regulations to ensure there is a replacement area for the septic system; there needs to be a survey done to determine if there is enough acreage to subdivide – the town requires a one acre minimum for each lot – the consensus of the committee is that the house and pavilion could be sold to help pay for the property and the town would retain the western portion to a town beach – not a public beach – only for use by Tinmouth residents. As the boat launch is between the Pavilion and the house, there would not be any motorized boats allowed – canoes, kayaks, or paddle boats. This gathering of this information will be paid for privately – no expense to the town.

Board reported they had received emails from lake owners expressing concern over loss of taxes, traffic, noise, etc.

Committee asked the Board if they would place an article on the warning for town meeting to see if voters were interested in pursuing the idea. Board declined, advised the committee they would have to gather signatures and submit a petition. Committee wants input from town and lake people. A vote on February 28th would indicate whether to keep gathering more information regarding uses, funding, restrictions, etc. If voters said yes the 28th, there would be special town meeting held at a future to debate and decide whether or not to do it.

Cathy introduced Abby Nolan, new Director of the Rutland Free Library (RFL). Cathy is Tinmouth's representative to the RFL Board of Trustees. Ms. Nolan thanked the Select Board for the town's support and being a member of RFL. She advised there are new services available to members, including a small conference room that is free to the public and e-books are now available online.

Hollis reported the sand and salt piles are taking a beating with this winter's weather. He and Board decided not to file a claim for repair to the mirror and windshield as cost is below the insurance deductible. He noted the Rutland Regional Planning Commission was looking for damage/debris that needed repair/removal from the storm in December, he added that Tinmouth doesn't have enough to bother, FEMA should be used when something major happens.

Board reviewed driveway permit request from Ramsey Yoder for 186 North End Road, no culvert needed, trees will have to be removed, old driveway on north side of barn will disappear, and contractor must contact road commissioner before construction begins. Laurie moved to approve, Gregg 2nded, all voted in favor.

Board opened tree work bids from Trees Inc., Vaillancourt Tree-Landscape Service and McCullough Bros. Tree Service. Hollis and Gregg provided tour of work to be done. Board discussed traffic control, Gregg wanted road crew to provide. Hollis noted whoever is doing the work is responsible. Trees, Inc. was awarded the contract, their bid being \$4,735 including traffic control. Vaillancourt bid \$5,000 plus \$500 per day for traffic control, McCoullough bid \$2,000 per day plus \$800 per day for traffic control. Laurie moved and Gregg 2nded to accept Trees, Inc. bid. All voted in favor.

Board discussed Equipment Fund allocation for the FY16 budget. Gregg wanted to cut the calculated amount by \$6,620 in order to level fund the budget. Gail suggested cutting from the special projects line. After discussion, \$3,310 was cut from both lines. Laurie moved, Gregg 2nded, all in favor.

Cat Yoder, Delinquent Tax Collector, requested approval to proceed to tax sale with seven properties that were behind two or more years, did not have a payment plan, or were not paying according to their agreement. Kevin Eaton, Kevin Brown, Russell Dunham et al, Doug Baker, Alex Gioffi and Tracy Baker-Gioffi, Brett Mullin, and Sandra Cassel. Laurie moved to approve Delinquent Tax Collector proceeding to tax sales with these seven properties. Gregg 2nded, all voted in favor.

Board reviewed, revised and approved draft letter to Michel Guite` - President of Vermont Telephone Company, Charles Volz, PSB and Commissioner Chris Rechiccia, PSD regarding safety concerns that surfaced during the four day power outage as Tinmouth residents were unable to contact 911 due to there being no telephone service due to the new fiber optic project (back-up batteries only last 4-8 hours).

Hollis reported VTel is still trying to figure out how to run fiber optic to Crow Hill – is it better to follow the electric right of way through Burden’s or go up the road which is Class 4. Spring time project.

Grant Reynolds reported what other towns are doing regarding burials in old cemeteries. Wallingford closed all old cemeteries, Middletown Springs doesn’t have any, Clarendon has a policy that says no new burials as there are no maps to show where burials occurred. Board will consider cremation urns and establishing a policy at a future date.

Gail advised that the Common Level of Appraisal for 2015 was determined by the State to be 1.17, meaning the town’s assessment is 17% higher than fair market value.

Board discussed proposal from Joel Davidson, retired Vermont State trooper, regarding training for constables, supporting constables with a cruiser and equipment, hiring a special officer, etc. Board also discussed asking voters - to consider appointment rather than election of constables as that would ensure certified law enforcement; to eliminate the position of 2nd constable; and whether to restrict constable duties to non-law enforcement duties. Board will continue consideration of these at the next Board meeting when finalizing warning for town meeting.

Board reviewed County Sheriff's report, good review of service to date.

Grant asked if the Old Creamery Committee would be required to submit a petition for the warning regarding the proposal for the old creamery building. Board advised no, the Select Board had appointed the committee following last year's town meeting.

Board set special meeting for January 22, 2015 to finalize proposed budgets and the warning for town meeting.

Board signed annual Certificate of Highway Mileage.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar
Board Assistant