

**Town of Tinnmouth
Select Board
March 8, 2016
Minutes**

Board members present: Laurie Phillips, Frank Sears, and Matt Patry
Others present: Grant Reynolds, Jo Reynolds, Kim Harbaugh, Eric Buffum, Cathy Reynolds, Tyler Dana, Doug Fontein, Hollis Squier(for 5 minutes), Rob Noble at 8:30 (for 10 minutes), and Gail Fallar- Board Assistant

Matt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Hollis advised that he was willing to mentor the new road commissioner, how to use the road grader, discuss basic ins and outs of taking care of the roads, etc. Board expressed an interest in him being compensated.

Board re-organized for the year as follows:

Chair – Matt Patry; Regular Monthly Meeting – 2nd Thursday at 7:00; Newspaper of Record – Rutland Daily Herald; Adopted Robert’s Rules for Small Boards; Designated the Chair (Matt) to sign Bills and Orders; Authorized Matt to sign overweight truck permits; Appointed Frank to the Community Center Board; Laurie moved to approve, 2nded by Frank, all voted in favor.

Reviewed agenda; approved minutes of 2/11/16 as written, moved by Laurie, 2nded by Frank all in favor.

Eric advised he was taking a flagging class on Monday next and would start work that Wednesday.

Gail updated Board on status of progress complying with concerns raised in the Safety Report – Matt noted that it has been neglected for some time and needed catching up.

Board approved applying for a state paving grant for Route 140 north of the center (past Valentines).

Cat Yoder provided the Board with a list of delinquent properties and requested permission to proceed to tax sale – Doug Baker, Russell Dunham et al, Anita Rogers, Maurice and Adelia Healy, F. W. Whitcomb, and Fairfield Whiting.

Laurie moved and Frank 2nded to approve Cat’s request, all voted in favor.

Cathy provided information regarding the town’s website; webmaster Walter Deinzer (who has done a great job) has retired to Arizona and wishes that someone local take over. It needs upgrading so that local folks can upload and update data without have to run most everything past the webmaster. The website committee, Cathy, Nancy Birdsall and Gail Fallar, wrote an RFP for the upgrade – two bids were received (one was late). They would like the Board’s approval to interview and hire someone to work on it, two phases, one for this fiscal year and phase two after July 1st. They anticipate a new format – will post a survey on Front Porch Forum to ask for input – that will allow for local editing and management. Minutes and agendas are supposed to be posted to the website. After discussion, Frank moved and Laurie 2nded to authorize the Website Committee to interview/hire a new webmaster. All voted in favor.

Tyler, who elected by write-in votes as 2nd Constable, advised that ran for the post (without telling family) as he wanted to become more involved with the community and was willing to handle dog issues. Board thanked him. Board authorized Tyler to kennel strays at his house.

Grant, Chair of the Old Creamery Committee, asked the Board to forgive the loan repayment from the Town's Capitol Building and Repair Fund, as voters at town meeting in non-binding action decided that the Select Board should authorize the expenditure from the Fund and not require the OCC to repay it.

Matt noted that caution was needed – two years ago voters decided not to spend money on the building. Grant replied that was a request for \$25,000 to match grants and voters at that meeting wanted a plan. The OCC has done much to stabilize the building with volunteer help and donations, and the porch was the next step. Frank raised concerns with lack of power, water and septic, and a plan for use.

Grant advised that the building is an important part of Tinmouth's Historic District – that the plan was to stabilize (done), build the porch (which will be available for use immediately) to help fund raise for more work on the exterior (south wall foundation and siding-replacing the roof-etc.); interior work is a much bigger project – still a ways away.

Cathy reminded everyone that the Old Fire House was re-stored bit by bit and now is frequently used. The Town budgets money each year for the Capital Fund -\$5,000 each from the highway and general budget and one of the intents of the fund is to maintain town buildings (the other is to build a salted sand shed one day).

After much discussion, the Board decided to warn it as a separate article for an upcoming special town meeting needed to dissolve the Inter-local Contract between the Town and School District.

Gail explained the Inter-local Contract issue – voters had approved it following the construction of the Community Center in 2000 to allow for both town and school use, it created a Community Center Board to oversee it. With the vote to merge the Tinmouth School District (TSD) with Clarendon, Shrewsbury and Wallingford into a new union district, the TSD disappears. The contract contains language that voters have to approve major changes and dissolution is one of them.

Grant noted that if nothing was done, the new union district would take over from TSD, but then their voters would get to decide on Tinmouth issues, better to do it now, so that the Town and TSD could create a new agreement for oversight, maintenance, use, etc.

There was general discussion about whether the new district would maintain the buildings as well as the town and school have done. Cathy expressed concerns with keeping the Community Center accessible for town uses.

Gail advised that the Select Board, School Board and Community Center Board needed to meet to discuss options and plan for a special town meeting.

Board re-appointed Glenn W. Merrill as Fire Warden – he has served 55 years in that position. Board thanked him for his service. Laurie moved and Frank 2nded, all voted in favor.

Gail advised that the notice regarding the Town's transfer of conservation rights on 19 acres on the former Inkley property to Tinmouth Properties had produced no comments. Laurie moved and Frank 2nded to authorize Matt to sign any necessary paperwork regarding the transfer. All voted in favor.

Rob advised the Tinmouth Community Church had purchased a sign to let folks know about special events – like Easter breakfast – which can also be used for community events – like the game supper – is movable (not permanent) and he would like to place it on the town green. Grant objected that it would on the school's playground. After brief discussion, Laurie moved

and Frank 2nded to allow the sign to be placed on the town green or on the road side of the fence (Rob to consult and work with the school principal and road commissioner). All voted in favor.

Laurie moved and Frank 2nded to renew FAS's contract for lawn care for the town, school and playground. All voted in favor. Their proposal was to keep the rates the same as last year.

Matt reported that six people had volunteered to serve on a Personnel Policy Committee. He had asked for volunteers at town meeting. One task he has for them is to research what other towns are providing for benefits for employees, who is eligible, whether retirees are covered, etc. Laurie noted that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns has a model Personnel Policy that would a good place to start. Frank moved and Laurie 2nded to create a Personnel Policy Committee and to appoint Stan Wilbur, Judi Fox, Amy Martone, Michael Fannin, Cathy Reynolds, and Pat Psholka. All voted in favor. The Board would like a recommendation from the Committee by June for adoption for the new fiscal year which stars on July first. Laurie volunteered to be a non-voting ex-officio member to represent the Select Board. Matt volunteered to contact them all and set up a joint meeting with the Select Board.

Board made annual appointments (see attached), Laurie moved, Frank 2nded, all in favor. Board will ask Gregg Casey if he is interested in continuing to serve in various capacities. Board needs to check to see if Bob Lloyd can continue to serve on the Board of Adjustment – he can serve on the Planning Commission even though he moved out of town.

Gail explained the \$500 increase in the budget for the Select Board Assistant for next fiscal year. She had added it as that line was overspent in FY15 and well on its way for the current year. She did not point it out directly to the Select Board at budget time and a question arose about it. She noted that the pay is hourly not salary, and that in the past she had stayed within the budgeted amount by not charging for her time once that had been reached. That is no longer the practice, time worked should be time paid. No comment from the Board.

Gail explained how the Town's Personnel Practice regarding health insurance coverage had changed over time – first only covering employees, then allowing them to pay for spouse or partner, switching to HSAs, covering employees and spouses only.

Doug congratulated Frank, Eric, and Tyler, thanked the Select Board for the \$100 for the outhouse at the town's camp in the Purchase and thanked Frank for the lumber for it.

Matt again requested the Board move its regular meeting for April, from the 14th to the 7th. All agreed.

Laurie moved and Frank 2nded to reimburse Gail for the Gift Certificate and golf balls presented to Hollis at Town Meeting. All voted in favor.

Kim inquired about the gate at the town garage/transfer station, had it been moved? Gail noted that it is locked most of the time – exception being when the road crew is in and out during a storm. The Solid Waste and Recycling Committee is trying to find a solution.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar Board Assistant