

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
September 24, 2015
Special Meeting**

Board members present: Matt Patry, Laurie Phillips, and Gregg Casey

Others present: Hollis Squier, Eric Buffum, Ronnie Crossman, Harold Hunter, Frank Sears, Jo Reynolds, Bart Eaton, and Gail Fallar- Board Assistant.

Matt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Members reviewed agenda, Gail asked to add: Board Certification of the VT Local Hazard Mitigation Plan; resignation of auditor Iris Klinger; letter from Green Mountain Power. Being non-controversial the Board added them.

Matt began the discussion explaining the Board was interested in revising the job description of road commissioner to being administrative and hiring a road foreman to do road work.

Gail reported that the Secretary of State's Office and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns had both advised that the Select Board needed voters' approval to change from an elected road commissioner (which is a 3 year term) to authorizing the Select Board to appoint the road commissioner; that it had to be voted at an annual town meeting; and would take effect at the end of the term (2018 in this case). And that a vacant position needed to be filled forthwith. Road Commissioner position will be officially vacant on January 1, 2016.

Board expressed concern with voters electing an unqualified person; the road commissioner not having to worry about re-election if appointed; more protection for the town and employee if appointed; and suggested that with Hollis' retirement it was a good time to look at the structure to see if one person could really handle all the responsibilities which now include more paperwork. Board reviewed the Town of Pomfret's job descriptions for road commissioner and road foreman. Hollis suggested it might be an incentive to do a better job if they wanted to get re-elected.

Board asked Ronnie if he was interested in the position – he replied he is content as the road crew and respectfully passed on the opportunity.

Board reviewed proposed Purchase and Sales Agreement for the Parker property on Tinmouth Pond, it is contingent upon voter approval. Gail advised that the vote would be by Australian ballot, with an informational meeting in the 10 days before the vote. Much discussion on how voters would be informed about the vote and relevant issues, and whether or not to sign it. Board was reminded that voters at town meeting had instructed them to explore the idea and were waiting for something they could vote on and was urged to let voters decide. In the end, Matt moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the P&S, 2nded by Gregg with the amendment 'with a full direct mailing to every voter household with all available information'. All voted in favor.

Board set a tentative date of Saturday, December 5th for the informational meeting, with voting to take place on Tuesday, December 8th. The School Board also needs to hold a special school meeting – Gail will check to see if the 5th works for them.

Board accepted Iris Klinger's resignation from the auditor position, and thanked her for her service to the Town.

Matt read the resolution regarding adoption of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Laurie moved and Gregg 2nded to approve. All signed it.

Gail advised Board of the letter sent by Green Mountain Power advising landowners about construction work to be done in the next year or so in the high voltage transmission line right of way corridor that runs from Proctor to Danby. They are replacing poles and anchor guys. It crosses the Town's Sawyer Cemetery on Bliss Road.

Board returned to process of filling the road commissioner's position– decided to use Pomfret's road foreman job description along with their job application form (adapted for Tinmouth). It will be a temporary job for four months, November 1, 2015 through March 1, 2016 (town meeting election); will include benefits of health insurance and three paid holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas and January 1st); with an hourly wage based on experience.

Applications are due at the town office by 5:00 pm Monday, October 5th; Board will interview candidates at their regular October meeting on the 8th. Gail will post to Front Porch Forum and send applications and job descriptions to Kevin Ruane and Eric Buffum who have both expressed an interest in the position. Job title is road foreman.

Board postponed discussion of the Personnel Policy until next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar
Board Assistant