

**Town of Tinnmouth  
Select Board  
2015  
Special Meeting**

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

Others present: Eric Buffum, Margaret Morin, Paul Morin, Kevin Ruane, Michael Fallar-briefly, Grant Reynolds (@8:15), and Gail Fallar-Board Assistant.

Matt called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Board reviewed job descriptions from the Town of Pomfret for road commissioner, road foreman and road crew. Wallingford's job description was also briefly looked at.

Gail advised that the Secretary of State's office said a special election could not be held until there was a vacancy – which will be January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Board can appoint someone to fill the position of road commissioner from January until town meeting in March, anyone interested in being elected at town meeting would need to file petition in January to be on the ballot. The term would be for two years to fill remainder of a three year term.

Gregg suggested that there needed to be administrative work done, budgets, grants, state permits, computer spreadsheets on vehicle use, etc. and that perhaps the road commissioner's job should be 10 hours a week, and a road foreman hired to run day to day operations and oversee the road crew.

Maggie inquired why there needed to be a change, the roads are great, and it's been working this way for over 30 years. Board replied that with Hollis retiring, it might be a good time to institute changes – there is more paperwork now, more hoops to jump through, expectations for the position are greater – computer savvy is needed.

Board discussed budget implications and whether the Board has authority to the change road commissioner job description and hire a road foreman or if voters need to authorize it. Discussed possibility of sharing an administrator with another town and having someone from Vermont Local Roads attend a Board meeting to discuss how other towns are dealing with road commissioners.

Board advised that there would be an open process for appointing a replacement – Board will work on application at next meeting – will consider experience, qualifications, salary range, benefits, etc.

Board entered executive session to discuss personnel issues at 8:00, and paused at 8:15 when Grant arrived.

Grant had just come from his first Act 46 Study Committee meeting regarding consolidation of school districts. School choice for grades 7-12, which Tinnmouth has, is a gnarly issue as other schools in the supervisory union do not. He feels the state required consolidation is about governance, not improved student opportunities. Any articles of agreement to consolidate will require a town vote and will include language that the town would have to vote to close Tinnmouth Elementary. There would be one school district, one school board and one tax rate. Preliminary estimates are that Tinnmouth's tax rate would be fairly equal to now. In addition to the ownership of the school building, there is also the matter of the school tax stabilization

fund, currently over \$300,000, which will need to be dealt with. Should school voters transfer it to the town for tax stabilization, create a capital improvement fund, or add some to the Scholarship Fund? These issues could be addressed at the special town/school meeting. He assured the Board that Tinmouth School will continue; there is a good new principal.

Board re-entered executive session at 8:30. Board exited at 9:10, and requested the Board Assistant research several areas of concern.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar  
Board Assistant