

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
December 8, 2016
Minutes**

Members present: Matt Patry, Laurie Phillips, and Frank Sears

Others present: Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Grant Reynolds, Doug Fontein-Conservation Commission Chair, and Gail Fallar- Board Assistant

Matt called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Agenda was reviewed – Doug requested permission to go first, Grant requested town meeting time for the school and Gail requested adding discussion of Rte 140 speed limit east of the center. Board granted all three requests being added to the agenda.

Board approved minutes of 11/10/16 as written, moved by Frank, 2nded by Laurie, all voted in favor.

Doug presented the Conservation Commission’s Policy for Use of the Cabin in the Purchase, and asked the Board to approve. Board inquired about use - Doug noted the visitor’s log book for the last six months showed 61 visitors (some were duplicates have visited more than once), Board suggested laminating copies for the kiosks and having copies available at the town office. Laurie moved and Frank 2nded to approve the policy as written, all voted in favor.

Doug also inquired about money for repairs to the cabin, outhouse still needs to be built. Board decided it will include a line item in the budget, not create a separate fund.

Eric reported it snowed; beaver dams are under control, brush was removed on North End Road. He presented sketch for additions to the town garage, to be done in stages # 1 lean to on the west wall for cold storage, #2 addition to the north side to add space to allow truck and plow to be under cover, #3 add office space, rest room (and water and septic). He presented preliminary estimates from Wright Construction for use as a tool to help with budgeting for construction. Board discussed the order of proposals. Frank supported water and septic first and the lean-to to protect the investment in equipment. Discussion included a salted sand shed, need room to store more salt. Room to repair and maintain equipment, etc. Gail advised that Scott Lepley (architect and property owner in Tinmouth) had offered to help. Board decided to head in that direction, noting that the town garage needs to be efficient, but the Board must be cost conscious as well.

Eric presented information regarding calcium chloride for dust control and maintenance of gravel roads. Vermont Local Roads is encouraging towns to apply chloride immediately after grading to pack the surface and keep it in place. It also helps keep the road in place and reduces run-off. The fines in the gravel disappear as dust if this is not done. Matt expressed concern with the environmental impact and requested further information in that regard.

Board reviewed draft FY18 highway budget – included was \$15,000 for calcium chloride and Eric noted in addition the town would need to spend around \$10,000 for the equipment to apply the chloride. Board took this under advisement for the time being.

Grant reported that the draft budget for the new school district is slightly less than last year’s combined budgets, though bargaining continues with staff unions. He advised that Superintendent David Younce would like about half an hour at town meeting to explain the budget and discuss school issues. As Tinmouth joined the new unified district, there will no

longer be a separate town school district meeting. Voting on the new budget will be by Australian ballot. As Grant was elected last year to a three year term, there will be no board member to elect. Board granted his request.

Gail advised that the town did not receive a planning grant from the state. It turns out that towns/cities with designated downtowns or village centers automatically get more points in the process used to determine where the funds go and as the amount of funds for grants has been cut in half from former years, there is much less to go around.

Gail asked the Board to consider the speed limit set for Route 140 east of the center. A recent hit and run that barely missed a person, but killed her dog, where the driver was driving with excess speed given the curves in the road, brings this question to bear. While the speed limit was always 50 mph, it was only posted in the last couple of years (due to the state's safety project on Route 140). And so a number of drivers have been taking that literally, although state officials note that the 50 mph is only if conditions permit. Someone could be given a speeding ticket driving less than that if there are other considerations like curves, bends in the road, etc. Board asked for clarification of the process. Matt added that someone had requested the Board lower gravel road speed limits be lowered to 25 mph – Board felt that better enforcement of the current 35 mph would be sufficient.

Eric reported that VLCT PACIF is investigating a claim regarding a stone hitting someone's windshield.

After brief discussion, Laurie moved and Frank 2nded to give town employees a \$65 holiday bonus. All voted in favor.

Gail requested on behalf of the Board of Listers to correct an error on the 2016 Grand List. A parcel owned by Lloyd, McIntosh and Spoon Mountain Holdings, was incorrectly listed as 404 acres and should be 407. Value increased slightly as well. Laurie moved and Frank 2nded, all voted in favor.

After brief discussion, Laurie moved and Frank 2nded to authorize Gail to sign a mortgage subordination agreement for one of the Rehab loans. All voted in favor.

After brief discussion, Frank volunteered to welcome folks to the annual community Thanksgiving Service on behalf of the Select Board.

Board discussed weekly hours for the road crew, approving continuing the four 10 hour days (weather permitting) and allowing 8 hour days in weeks where there are holidays.

Personnel Policy needs to be reviewed by VLCT, Gail will schedule.

Grant requested back burner issues be deleted from the Board's agenda as they were no longer relevant or had been taken care of. Board made it so.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar Board Assistant