

**Town of Tinnmouth
Select Board
January 12, 2017
Minutes**

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

Others present: Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Stu Johnson – Vermont Local Roads/Agency of Transportation, Kim Harbaugh, Sherry Johnson, Michael Fannin, Gail Fallar-Board Assistant, and Scott Lepley at 7:40 via telephone.

Matt called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Agenda was reviewed, Gail added personnel issue.

Board approved minutes of 12/08/16 as written, moved by Laurie, 2nded by Frank, all voted in favor.

Eric asked that Stu be allowed to go first. Stu provided Select Board with a handout regarding using chloride on gravel roads to help stabilize the road and maintain dust control. The chloride creates a crust that sheds water and helps keep the road from eroding in a rain storm. He recommended using a liquid form (flakes work but are highly corrosive and harder to get the right application), following spring grading. Much discussion, Matt inquired about environment impact – given there are several areas in town that have a large salamander/newt population. Stu advised it is not hazardous material and that the road commissioner would have to be aware of the salamander's road crossing in relation to grading and treating. If used appropriately, there should be no problem. Calcium or magnesium chloride could be used. The liquid could also be used in the winter to help winter salt work better.

Stu recommended attaching a roller on the back of the grader – several towns in Addison County have made their own. It also helps with gravel road maintenance.

He also noted that the new municipal road program is stressing keeping roads intact and not allowing run-off to make its way to Lake Champlain.

Board inquired about gravel size, Stu advised this could be a separate discussion that might take an entire evening, but briefly discussed gradation of stone/gravel noting that better quality stone helps keep the road more intact.

Michael advised that there had been extreme dust on Gulf Road and raised concerns with health issues as well as having to close all windows and close up the house when this occurs. There is also an economic impact as his wife is raising flowers for retail sale and no one wants them covered with dust. He urged the Board to so do something.

Board will continue to research the issue.

Scott Lepley was then contacted via telephone to discuss replacing or adding an addition to the town garage. He, Eric, Frank and Gail had toured the building recently and discussed options. One is to add to the existing (Eric has checked posts – they appear solid), but adding on could be more expensive than building new. Two is to build a new town garage with bathroom facilities, work shop for working on equipment, space for the tandem trucks and plows (currently the plows are outside and must be attached prior to plowing), etc. Three would be to do nothing. Board acknowledged that something had to be done. There needs to be water and septic on site, engineering will need to be done for that. Scott felt per square foot cost would be around \$45-\$50, including concrete floor and frost wall, with the road crew doing some of the work (construction of the septic system for example). Eric noted that Mt Holly and Rutland Town had recently constructed town garages that ran \$100 per square foot. After much discussion, Scott offered to develop a simple plan (needs interior wants/needs) that can be used to help determine costs. Gail reminded the Board that the State may still require the town to

cover its salted sand pile. Board felt the town garage would be top priority in order to comply with VOSHA regulations and provide the road crew with adequate space and work areas.

Board decided they should consult with voters at town meeting. They also decided that voters should determine the allocation of the \$225,000 received from the school's tax stabilization fund – all to highway or split with other town buildings? Board thanked Scott for his assistance.

Eric reported the sand pile is disappearing fast given winter weather to date. He discovered and repaired broken U-bolts in the 2013 tandem truck.

Board and he discussed the proposed FY18 highway budget – deciding that there should be an “Open House” at the town garage prior to town meeting to inform voters of the condition of the current building and the need to address issues there.

Board signed annual highway mileage – no changes from 2016.

Board appointed Nelson Jaquay to the Conservation Commission to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Jeff Alexander – they thanked Jeff for his service. They also decided to appoint Chunk Bronk to a vacancy that will occur in March as a current member does not wish to be re-appointed. Laurie moved and Frank 2nded, all approved.

Board reviewed proposed FY18 General Budget, deciding to increase the Sheriff Department's budget to 6 hours per week (more in spring summer and fall and less in winter).

Board decided to hold a special meeting on Thursday, January 26th to finalize budget and sign warning for town meeting.

Matt moved to enter Executive Session at 9:00 for the purpose of a personnel issue, Laurie 2nded. All voted in favor. Present in the Executive Session were the Board and Gail. Board exited at 9:07, no action taken.

Matt signed the application for a 2017 Milfoil grant for Tinmouth Pond, prepared by Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project Board members.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar Board Assistant