

**Town of Tinmouth  
Select Board  
Regular Meeting  
March 15, 2018**

Members present: Michael Fallar, Frank Sears and Cathy Reynolds

Others present: Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Shelly Farman, Kim Harbaugh, Sherry Johnson, Grant Reynolds, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant

Frank called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

Board re-organized for 2018 – Cathy nominated Frank as Chair, Michael 2nded, no other nominations, Frank was elected Chair.

Set Regular Monthly Meeting Day and Time – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00

Designate Signer for Bills and Orders (Chair) – Cathy moved and Michael 2nded that it be the Chair, all voted in favor

Newspaper of Record – Rutland Herald

Adopt Robert's Rules for Small Boards - Cathy moved and Michael 2nded, all voted in favor

Appoint Overweight Truck Permit Signer - Cathy moved and Michael 2nded that it be the Chair, all voted in favor

Appoint Member to Community Center Board – Frank volunteered, Michael moved and Cathy 2nded to appoint Frank, all voted in favor.

Cathy advised that the new school district was considering big changes and that Tinmouth folks and their use of the community center needed to be kept in mind. She and Frank will attend a special meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> to hear what is being proposed.

Agenda was reviewed, added Vermont Urban & Community Forest Program.

Minutes of February 8, 2018 were approved as corrected to include “at no additional cost” in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph - regarding Delurey’s truck, and make sure attachments are attached. Cathy moved, Michael 2nded, all voted in favor. While Michael was not on the Board at the last meeting, he was present, so he did not recuse himself from the minute approval action.

Board congratulated Eric on his re-election. Eric noted that he has had trouble getting winter salt, has now purchased some from another company. The snow just keeps on coming, and there is another nor’easter on the horizon. He asked the Board to think about a number of items:

- 1) Creating a way to trade workers with another town – they help us for a week or two, and one of our crew would help them – might help cover when someone was on vacation . . .
- 2) Add a part-timer to be able to rotate shifts in the winter, so that one person could catch a bit of sleep when the snow falls day after day . . .
- 3) Purchase a road watch monitor system for the new truck – a temperature gauge of the pavement to help determine how much salt is needed, using less salt would help pay for it
- 4) Salted sand shed, consider a canvas topped hoop building, cost \$70,000 or so approximate size of 85’ x 120’
- 5) Gail suggested a fifth, purchasing back-up cameras for the trucks and equipment – the town’s insurance company has a grant program to help with the cost and is encouraging use of cameras in a variety of ways

Board asked for more details for their April meeting. Board discussed bonding for new structures being proposed, were advised “to do it once and do it right”.

Sherry inquired about a tree on the East Road in the town's right of way, who is responsible if it is leaning dangerously. The town's position has always been that it's the land owner's tree and responsibility. The town is supposed to ask permission before cutting shade trees –Gail advised there is legislation being proposed that will change how this is done. Board asked for more information for their April meeting. Can the town cut it without the landowner or town tree warden's permission?

Board discussed work on the Master Plan, Cathy asked for support from the Board to authorize volunteer Chuck Bronk to develop an RFP for design build in regards to moving the transfer station (and what state permits and amendment to the town's certification are needed, etc.). After brief discussion, Board decided it was okay and that they would like to review the RFP at their next meeting. The Conservation Commission reminded the Select Board they would like to have the Master Plan keep an access to the south end of the town's 11+ acre parcel for possible future recreational uses.

Gail provided information from Casella's Waste Management regarding compactors, renting or purchasing them, still waiting for information from Hubbard's. Pratico's Fencing is working on an estimate for fencing the transfer station area – though there is a question of whether the state requires that or if the compactors can be locked and secured that way.

Board discussed having a separate sand pile for public use – to keep them away from the big pile – where to locate it, keep it from freezing, etc. – hope to have it in place before next winter.

Board discussed the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) Program. It is looking for towns in the Lake Champlain Basin interested in learning more about roadside vegetation management along their rural roads. The Resilient Right-of-Way project is collecting information about roadside vegetation scenarios along Vermont's backroads and the challenges faced by road crews charged with maintaining them.

Participating towns will work with UCF staff to highlight local concerns about roadside trees, shrubs, and plants and discuss town goals regarding road safety, maintenance, and aesthetics. Towns will then receive results of a broad roadside vegetation assessment and recommended strategies to increase the health, safety and longevity of healthy roadside vegetation.

There is no fee for participation in the Resilient Right-of-Way project; however, the UCF team asks for time from a small project advisory committee during project scoping and receipt of the assessment. Board decided to participate, town committee will be Cathy, Eric, Doug Fontein (Conservation Commission) and possibly the tree warden. Cathy moved and Frank 2nded, all voted in favor. Cathy will contact UCF.

Board approved and signed annual highway plan, road standard certification and annual highway mileage certificate (no changes from 2017). Board discussed road and culvert inventories, Eric noted they needed updating, he needs time to do that.

Grant, as Chair of the Old Creamery Committee (OCC), asked for town assistance with the south side foundation work on the building. Would the Board authorize use of the town's excavator and road crew time to help dig it out? He reminded the Board it is a town building. Eric had concerns about the extent of the work. The OCC has contracted with Michael Fallar to do the work, he re-cused himself from the discussion. Board took in under advisement until Eric and Michael have a chance to discuss what is involved and report back at the April meeting.

Gail reported there is a meeting with the FEMA guy on the 28<sup>th</sup>, the review folks are still asking questions about minute details.

Kim reported on VTel's back-up battery demonstration at town meeting. Kim will write something for Tales about the process. Frank thanked Kim for organizing it.

Frank made comment on the Solid Waste Ordinance, seeking clarification regarding the second offense.

Frank volunteered to work on a procurement/bid process/purchasing policy.

Board discussed local constables duties, reviewed email from an attorney at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). After discussion, Cathy moved and Frank 2nded to authorize Gail to have an attorney write a memorandum of understanding regarding constable duties and firearms for the constables. All voted in favor. Does the town's insurance policy bond them? Or does the Select Board have the right to make the constables provide their own bond? Board needs more information for their April meeting.

Board made annual appointments – see attached. Michael, as Planning Commission Chair, asked the PC appointments be delayed until April as the PC had not yet met in March and would like to make recommendations. Board disbanded the Personnel Policy Committee – they having fulfilled their duties.

Laurie Phillips resigned as Health Officer, Frank will serve in the interim until the state Health Department appoints someone.

Alan Held resigned as an auditor, Board appointed Sherry Johnson, who volunteered. Appointment is good through next town meeting, when there will remain another year on the term.

Board reviewed financial reports.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 12th – Board will review grant applications for grants for VLCT-PACIF and Better Roads

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar  
Select Board Assistant