

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
Regular Meeting
December 4, 2017**

Members present: Matt Patry, Frank Sears, Cathy Reynolds

Others present: Eric Buffum – road commissioner, Cat Yoder, Alan Held, Barbara Held, Heather McMahon, Wes Usher, Kim Harbaugh, Sherry Johnson, Grant Reynolds, Jo Reynolds, Ramsey Yoder, Nathaniel Hance, Sunshine Hance, and Gail Fallar – select board assistant

Frank called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, thanked everyone for coming and asked that no additions be added to the agenda as it was already full. Gail advised there would be a few announcements. Agenda accepted as drafted, slightly re-arranged to accommodate attendees.

Minutes of November 9, 2017 were approved, Cathy moved, Matt 2nded, all voted in favor.

Eric reported road crew has been catching up on other items waiting for snow. Gravel shouldering is done on new paving and he purchased the sander for the one ton truck. Board discussed the Master Plan – Eric, Cathy and Gail walked the site, and asked Craig at OtterCreek Engineering to meet with Eric (he declined, felt it was not necessary). Cathy raised concerns with screening the transfer station effectively and run-off to neighboring property.

Regarding the Master Plan, Matt advised that he had walked the property on his own and feels very strongly that moving the transfer station closer to the road is too close to neighboring houses and just wrong. He prefers to consider Stan Wilbur’s suggestion to think outside the box and consider moving the transfer station off site. He raised concerns with the future need to accept meat/bones for composting (smell, flies, etc.).

It was asked whether the Town has to operate a transfer station, Gail noted that the Town has a “responsibility” to manage solid waste/recycling. It is unclear what that means exactly.

Frank noted there is a need to build to suit for years down the road, hard to predict state and federal regulations. The Select Board needs to keep moving through the process.

Matt expressed concern with the tenor of the November meeting, noting he felt it was dismissive and not handled well. There was discussion of composting - what was going to be required, (Town will not make compost – will provide containers for a composter to take materials away.) Discussion of whether voters would want to purchase more land for a transfer station and how to keep the whole project affordable.

Alan reported his visit to the Middletown Springs transfer station was impressive, they have compactors and there was no smell, everything was neat and clean.

Gail advised the Board that she had not submitted a grant application for replacing culverts on McCoy Road as the estimates came in WAY to high. Eric noted that there may be other options than building a cement culvert. Gail noted there may be FEMA mitigation grant money available.

Alan raised concerns with the recent construction of an overhead maple sap line on Merrill Spring Road. He walks it every day, loves the road, and feels it is a horrible sight. He presented a 9 minute video to explain his feelings and concern for a leaning tree. He asked that it be removed during most of the year, only be there during sugaring season. Board advised that they had given Shane and Cat Yoder permission to move it from the culvert to overhead at their July meeting, the only condition being the height (20 feet) above the road. Cat advised that it is not feasible to remove it on a yearly basis (also dangerous), and that they are not done working on it. Wes and Ramsey spoke in support of Cat & Shane. Grant noted that maple sugaring is considered agriculture and towns generally can't regulate ag. Frank noted that the Board will revisit the issue at its January meeting to see it finished.

Gail advised that Tad Powers, Esq., has advised that the Select Board really has a limited role in the affordable housing question on Sugar House Lane. The Planning Commission (PC) has to decide whether to terminate the affordable housing condition of the permit or try to modify the permit (would need all parties to agree) to more suitable and enforceable language. Consensus of the Board is that the PC was well intended in 2006, but they are not willing to pursue enforcement at this point and will defer to the PC. The PC will be meeting soon for just this issue.

Board discussed draft highway budget – need to address Personnel Policy Addendum C – decided to hold a special Board meeting on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 6:00 to resolve, and negotiate with employees for FY19 budget.

Board discussed more chloride on gravel roads, Eric noted about \$15,000 of equipment is needed. Matt advised that using more chloride is adverse to amphibians.

Eric inquired about moving to a three person road crew – two flaggers are needed at times, vacation times leave a crew of one, etc. Board asked Eric to present formal request at next meeting, pro and con of full time or part time.

Gail inquired about burying the power line between the dumpster and the recycling shed – Hubbard's truck (picking up the trash dumpster) has taken down the overhead line for a third time. Board approved.

Board, by consensus, approved holiday bonuses of \$65 for all employees. It is treated as income.

Board discussed Highway Equipment Fund – 10 year replacement seems too long, should it be 7 years? Eric will get prices to help Board with calculations for budgeting.

Gail noted that the School is looking at problems with student drop-off and pick-up in the Church parking lot (really part of the town green), can they erect signs? Board decided to ask that education be tried first – ask parents/drivers to go one way – counter clockwise. Eric will work it out with the school principal.

Gail advised that Adam Guettel recently donated \$5,000 for restoration work on the old creamery building. Board expressed its appreciation.

Bob Emerick sends word that he is resigning as first constable as of December 31, 2017 due to health issues. Board extended appreciation for his many years of service.

Board discussed draft general budget – should the Board add more hours for the sheriff's contract, or have voters decide?

Gail advised that the State did not want to permit the SolarBees on Tinmouth for use in control of an aquatic nuisance (Eurasian milfoil) but preferred an application for an encroachment permit, cost of \$300 (no fee to town for the former). She advised the Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project would pay the fee for the town. Town needs to obtain and hold the permit. Board approved.

Board asked for job descriptions for their meeting on the 21st to help with their review. Cathy noted the new Personnel Policy (PP) calls for an annual review of the PP as well as developing job descriptions and an annual review/evaluation of employees.

Gail inquired whether the carpenters working on repairing the old town sheds could be town employees, given that a couple of years ago the painters working on the town office were treated as employees. Board decided by consensus to allow this.

Board added the Solid Waste Ordinance to its January agenda. The Solid Waste and Recycling Committee has proposed a couple of amendments.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar
Select Board Assistant