

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
January 9, 2020
Regular Meeting**

Members present: Michael Fallar, Frank Sears, and Cathy Reynolds

Others present: Todd Dennis-Energy Committee, Bob Lloyd – Planning Commission, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh-Planning Commission, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Jo Reynolds, Grant Reynolds-Planning Commission, Suzanne Dafni, Jeff Ams – Conservation Commission, Harold Hunter, Doug Fontein-Conservation Commission, Hollis Squier, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant.

Enhanced Energy Plan Hearing ~ Cathy called the public hearing for the Enhanced Energy Plan to order 6:45 PM. Michael, as Planning Commission Chair, gave a brief overview of the PC's proposal to delete the current Energy section of the Town Plan and insert the new EEP as an amendment. It will hopefully provide the town some say in an energy project that goes before the Public Utilities Commission. Cathy, as a member of the Energy Committee, spoke to the section the EC worked on including encouraging any new town infrastructure to be as energy efficient as possible. Bob explained that once the Select Board approved, it would then be sent to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission for their review and approval. Frank moved to accept and approve the proposed amendment to the Tinmouth Town Plan, Cathy 2nd, all voted in favor. Hearing was closed.

Cathy then called the regular Board meeting to order – 7:00. Cathy asked for everyone to introduce themselves as there was a crowd. Bob departed. Board reviewed agenda, moved Suzanne (dog issue) and Jeff Ams (conservation commission request) to the beginning of the agenda.

Dog Bite ~ Frank, as Health Officer, updated the Board on the East Road dog bite that happened in December. He noted a complaint had been filed and withdrawn as the dog's owner (Suzanne) and the person bitten (Nelson Jaquay) knew each other and were able to find a solution. But he felt the Board needed to know that the dog is no longer in Tinmouth and the new owner is aware of the circumstances. Cathy advised (and Michael agreed) that Frank needs to follow state regulations and file a report with them, Frank advised he was willing to plug it into the system. Suzanne advised that they had not been notified about this evening's meeting – saw the agenda on Front Porch Forum – it has been hard for everyone, wants to move forward.

Conservation Commission ~ Jeff Ams, on behalf of the Conservation Commission requested the Board add two articles to the town meeting warning regrading creation of a special fund for Conservation Commission projects and funding for it. Jeff and Doug explained why the CC was interested in creating a new fund to ensure there would be resources available in the future for trail work, conservation programs for the school, speakers, etc. Request for second article is to authorize \$500 per year. After brief discussion, Frank moved and Michael 2nd to approve both articles to the town meeting warning. They both voted in favor, Cathy recused as Doug is her husband. Motion passed.

Minutes of 12/12/19 were approved with corrections by Cathy and Frank, Michael refrained from voting. Minutes of 12/17/19 were approved, moved by Frank, 2nd by Michael approved by all.

Highway ~

Eric – advised that the new one ton had been picked up, he’s still working on and cleaning the old one to get it ready to sell.

Town Garage ~ Cathy reviewed process of past four years, Board hiring engineers-civil and structural, an architect, larger trucks don’t quite fit in the old building, etc. Current salt shed only holds enough salt for a storm or two, would like to build one to hold a whole winter’s salt as well as sand as the current sand pile has run-off issues traveling onto a neighbor’s property. She presented a spread sheet she prepared with various options for proceeding to a bond vote. An 85’ x 120’ salt shed is estimated to cost \$181,000. 60’ x 85’ is \$118,000. 60’ x 80’ 4 bay town garage is estimated at \$675,000, after speaking with the architect a 3 bay garage would estimate at \$504,000, 2 bay at \$336,000. Site work will add another \$180,000.

Harold inquired what would be stored in the garage – Eric replied two tandem dump trucks, the grader and the loader. Harold wondered if it would be possible to use volunteers similar to how the community center was built. General consensus was some could be volunteer – but not to the scale of the community center – volunteers are getting older. Harold inquired about the time frame – Cathy explained the vote will happen on March 3rd, there is a 30 waiting period in the event voters want to reconsider the results – then design would need to happen, hope is to start this summer.

Cathy explained the spread sheet contained options for 20 or 30 years borrowing time. Board discussed pros and cons of 20 years - less interest than if borrowing was for 30 years. Property tax estimate used 4% interest rate – but that won’t be determined until bond is actually executed.

Bond Documents ~ Board discussed wording for the resolution, declaration of intent (see attached) and the article for the warning for the vote. Cathy moved and Frank 2nded, both voted yes, Michael voted no. Motion passed.

Cathy moved that the Board move forward to a bond vote of \$850,000, for a term of 20 years, subject to resources available to reduce the amount borrowed. Frank 2nded, both voted yes, Michael voted no.

Proposed FY21 Highway Budget ~ Board reviewed draft #4, made minor adjustments, will finalize at special meeting on the 21st.

McCoy Road Grant Wrap-up ~ Michael moved and Frank 2nded to ratify action taken by Frank and Michael signing documents for reimbursement for the McCoy Road grants. All voted in favor. Dead line required Board signatures by 12/31/19.

Communications ~ Board reviewed two letters expressing concern with road conditions during recent storms, one from the post master in Wallingford. Eric advised he was waiting for the snow to stop before starting to plow, doing the best he can. Cathy noted communicating with the public is important, asked Eric the best way to contact him.

Frank asked Hollis how he used to handle it – Hollis replied that he would plow the paved roads and then go help Ronnie on the back roads, Eric does it differently – one truck for paved roads and one for the back roads. He noted it is difficult to determine when to plow, timing of the snow, sometimes a driver’s experience depends on whether the road is just about to be plowed or was just plowed. Former road commissioner Leo Boule` advised him (Hollis) when he first was elected, that it was a thankless job, and if you could keep half the people happy you were doing a good job. He did note that communication is very important.

Eric noted he had asked Board members to attend training regarding winter road maintenance. Board members offered to ride with the road crew to experience conditions first hand.

Request for Removal of School Slide – Cathy read MRUUSD Director of Operations Gary Marcy’s email regarding the slide’s insurance inspection. Board would like the school district to replace the slide if it is removed. Board tabled until their meeting on the 21st. Michael will speak with Amy Martone – Tinmouth representative on the MRUUSD Board.

Solid Waste Ordinance ~ After brief discussion – Gail asked Board to re-adopt as she had not properly notified the public last summer. Cathy moved, Frank 2nded to adopt the Solid Waste Ordinance as amended. All voted in favor.

Old Business –

East Road Right of Way – Cathy advised she recently had to stop as the road was blocked by the Regimbalds working in the road – she took a photo.

New Business –

Redetermination of CLA ~ Gail, as Lister, requested the Board petition the Director of Property Valuation and Review for a redetermination of the 2020 CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) as Tinmouth’s new CLA was 93.5, down over 5% from last year’s 99.15. This means that taxes increase 5% before any increase in the budget. The CLA is a state study of recent sales that compares the town’s assessed value to the sale value. Cathy moved to petition for reconsideration, Frank 2nded, all voted in favor,

Proposed FY21 General Budget ~ Board reviewed draft #4, noted salary increases for both highway and general was 3%. Will finalize at the meeting on the 21st.

Service Organization Requests ~ Gail put on her hat as the Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project President and asked that the Board include an article on the town meeting warning to increase the town’s annual allotment from \$1,850 to \$2,500. State grants are getting smaller, as there is far more need than the state can cover. Board agreed by consensus.
Rutland Regional Marketing Initiative – no letter has been received requesting further funding – Board agreed it will not be on the warning unless there is a request.

Special Meeting on the 21st ~ Board of Abatement will meet at 6:30, just prior to Board meeting.

Personnel Review ~ Board noted last year’s attempt was awkward – required by the Personnel Policy – may try to prep for it at the end of the meeting on the 21st.

Transfer Station Inspection ~ Gail advised the state had inspected the transfer station in early December, needed to write a response.

Members Concerns ~ Frank suggested the Board consider appointing rather than electing the road commissioner – after brief discussion Board added it to the agenda for the 21st – voters would need to vote at town meeting, if approved would not take effect until the end of the current term (2021).

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar

Select Board Assistant