

**Town of Tinmouth  
Select Board  
December 12, 2019  
Regular Meeting**

**Members present:** Michael Fallar, Frank Sears – via telephone (not feeling well), and Cathy Reynolds – via telephone as well until 8:15 (she was on her way back from the Boston airport)

**Others present:** Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Jo Reynolds, Grant Reynolds, Sarah Aines and Brian Phillioe and Wes Usher (Rutland County Restorative Justice Center), Doug Fontien via telephone until he dropped Cathy off, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant.

Michael called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Board added Sarah to the agenda (she had requested last month and Gail forgot to add) and allowed her to go first.

**Rutland County Restorative Justice Center** – Sarah requested funding from the town to support the non-profit that hosts several programs designed to prevent individuals' future adverse involvement in the legal system, for young folks and adults. RCRJC receives some funding from the United Way and this year decided to ask towns to help as well. She suggested \$1 per person - \$600. Cathy asked her to return in January with more details and explained that if an article is added to the town meeting warning, she would need to be at town meeting to explain the request and purpose of the organization. Sarah agreed.

**Highway ~**

**Eric** – He advised a culvert was patched on Merrill Spring Road, and hopes it will last until spring when it will be replaced. Frank questioned the repair bill for the orange truck(2013), Eric advised it had a lot of needs, he didn't ask for an estimate – just had it all fixed. (nearly \$6,000).

**VAST** – Eric requested on behalf of the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), permission from the town to allow the VAST trail to cross town land – town garage parcel – snowmobilers have used it for many years. Cathy moved approve and authorize Michael to sign the form, Frank 2nded, all voted in favor.

**Old One Ton** - Eric presented ad for old one ton, Michael read it to other members - Board added right to reject any or all bids, contact Eric Buffum, sealed bids required.

**December 6<sup>th</sup> Snow Storm** – Frank advised several residents expressed concern with timeliness of snow removal – Eric advised once it started it came down hard, back roads weren't plowed until there was enough snow to plow, he pre-treated the paved roads with salt – didn't work too well – the paved roads take 3 to 3 1/2 hours from to do. Cathy noted that a post to Front Porch Forum and *Tales of Tinmouth* explaining how the crew manages a storm, resources, the time it takes, and asking folks to stay home if they can, might help. The town adopted a snow and plow policy last year, needs to be posted to the town's website.

Sherry advised that she had trouble getting up the hill near the Young farm on Route 140 that day – as well as a truck in front of her that fish tailed all the way up too. 2:30 in the afternoon. Wallingford's roads were fine. She has snow tires, but she was absolutely terrified by the condition of the road.

Frank questioned road crew hours for that day, Eric had 10 and Ronnie had 5. Eric advised that his truck is set up for the paved roads (and salt) and Ronnie's is set up for the back roads (and sand). Frank inquired about how the new 550 truck would be used, Eric advised for clearing intersections and smaller stuff.

**Lease (Glebe) Land** ~ Grant presented a report on lease land – the Vermont legislature passed a law two years ago giving towns until January 1, 2020 to retain the lease – if they take no action, the leases go away. Lease lands have a 999 year lease. Based on Grant’s report, Michael moved that the Town of Tinmouth will not hold any perpetual leases and will permit them to expire on January 1, 2020. Cathy 2nded, all voted in favor. Board thanked Grant for his efforts and research.

**Special Meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup>** ~ Gail advised that attorney Jim Carroll would be coming to meet with the Board in regards to the Wallingford town line dispute. It will be an executive session. Grant inquired whether he would be able to attend, Board (Cathy abstained) agreed pending Mr. Carroll’s approval. Board decided Gail will be included due to knowledge as town clerk and lister.

**Old Business –**

- \*Trash on Mountain View Road – Frank noted he is still working on this.
- \* East Road Right of Way – no action

**New Business –**

**Rutland Regional Transportation Council** – Grant advised he is willing to serve, Frank moved and Michael 2nded to appoint Grant Reynolds as Tinmouth’s Representative. Frank and Michael voted in favor, Cathy abstained as Grant is her father.

**Request for Removal of School Slide** – Gail advised that the school had requested permission to remove the slide on the south side of the school – apparently as the insurance company advised it. After brief discussion – Board wanted a copy of the report, and asked if another would replace it as the kids use it a lot, so it was added to the January agenda. Cathy noted it came from another place and had huge concert anchors so it might be a pretty big job to remove.

**Enhanced Energy Plan** ~ Michael, as Planning Commission Chair, advised that the PC has worked on the EEP for over a year, voted to approve and ask the Select Board to hold a hearing and adopt as an amendment to the Town Plan. Board set hearing date of January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm.

**Transfer Station Fee** ~ The Solid Waste and Recycling Committee reviewed what other towns are charging for trash disposal and have advised the Select Board to raise the fee from \$2 per bag to \$2.50 – tickets will go from \$20 to \$25. This is still under what other towns are charging, and will help cover the increase in the processing cost of recycling. Frank moved and Cathy 2nded to raise the cost of trash disposal to \$2.50 per 30 gallon bag. They voted in favor, Michael voted no. Motion passed.

**Holiday Bonus** ~ After brief discussion, Frank moved and Cathy 2nded to keep it the same as last year, \$100. They voted in favor, Michael voted no. Motion passed.

**Board of Abatement** ~ Gail advised the Board of Abatement needs to meet regarding three properties. Board decided to add it to their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in January.

**Wage and Salary Schedule** ~ Cathy moved and Frank 2nded to approve the wage and salary schedules for FY19 and FY20. Cathy and Frank voted in favor, Michael abstained (Gail is his mother). FY21 needs further review – should there be a range of pay and for which positions?

**Draft FY21 Budgets** ~ Will work on at the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> if time allows.

**Health Insurance** ~ Board discussed current plan's 14% increase, what steps to take. Deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup> to switch. Frank suggested asking a financial advisor to take a look. Ask road crew to pay part of the increase? Added to agenda for the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Members Concerns ~ Public Works Facilities Proposal** ~ Cathy advised that there needs to be a conversation for the Board to become unified to support the whole concept. She noted she had asked Michael at the last meeting what it would take for him to get on board and that he had not responded. Michael advised that he had again voiced his objections to the wall height, size, and total cost and had been out voted each time. No resolution was reached.

**Minutes** – Cathy expressed concern with 11/14/19 minutes, wanted more detail regarding the conversation about the town garage and that the Board was not unified. Board tabled until meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar  
Select Board Assistant