

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
April 9, 2020
Regular Monthly Meeting
Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

Member present at town office: Michael Fallar

Members present via teleconference: Cathy Reynolds and Frank Sears

Others present at town office: Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant

Others present via teleconference (video or telephone): Michael Fannin-Emergency Management Director (EMD), Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Heather McMahon, David Birdsall, Grant Reynolds, Shelly Sears, Sherry Johnson & Kim Harbaugh @8:00, and Rick Fallar

Frank called the meeting to order at 7:02.

Agenda ~ Board reviewed agenda, there were no additions.

COVID-19 Pandemic ~

MRUUSD - Letter from David Younce, Superintendent of Mill River Unified Union School District, requesting permission to close the play grounds at the Tinmouth School. Cathy Reynolds moved to support the MRUUSD with the following statement, Frank Sears 2nded. “The Tinmouth Select Board expresses its support for the MRUUSD’s necessary action to close recreational spaces on the school property in the interest of public safety and community health as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board understands that this closure will be lifted as soon as is safely possible, in accordance with directives from the Governor’s office or recommendations from the MRUUSD’s insurance provider.” Brief discussion followed, Michael Fallar wanted families stuck at home to be able to run around on the playground, Cathy noted the virus can live on metal for several days, Frank noted liability for the town, MRUUSD will post signs. Cathy R. and Frank S. voted in favor, Michael F. voted no. Cathy volunteered to contact Mr. Younce and Amy Martone, Tinmouth’s School Board Member, with results of the Board’s action.

Michael Fannin, EMD, updated Board noting 3 folks had contacted him, but didn’t need help right now, and 2 folks volunteered to help. Everyone seems to be covered by neighbors for now. Liability of the town was discussed regarding volunteers, after discussion, Michael Fannin will research waivers and Gail Fallar will research a volunteer policy with the town’s insurance company (who suggested it). Michael Fannin also expressed a need for a larger space for a food shelf if the need arises – he has spoken with someone from the Church about using the basement, some folks have offered money donations, need to plan for the future. Board inquired about the need, none right now, asked the EMD to work on a plan and present at the meeting on the 28th. Board thanked the EMD for his diligence concerning this matter.

Virtual Meetings: Cathy R. moved to have all town committee meetings meet virtually, as allowed by law. Michael 2nded, all voted in favor.

Minutes of 3/19/20 were approved as written, Michael moved Cathy 2nded, all voted in favor.

Financial Reports ~ After brief discussion and a correction to the amount of taxes collected (a typo), Cathy R. moved and Michael F. 2nded to accept, all voted in favor. Frank advised he had signed the Orders.

Highway ~

Eric Buffum (E.B.) – Eric B. reported the road crew was grading and graveling back roads. Grader is repaired. He asked the Board to approve hiring Glenn D. Merrill as a part-time road crew member. Board questioned the need right now, Eric B. responded help with trucking and for work on the salt/sand shed – it was proposed that the town hire a couple of temporary people – one to help Eric with the site work and one to help Ronnie maintain the roads. Cathy noted there was money budgeted for that. Cathy moved to hire Glenn as a part-time worker as funds and projects allow at \$17.50 per hour. Michael 2nded, all voted in favor. Hourly rate is current FY20 schedule, will change after July 1st and the start of the new fiscal year.

Potter’s Brook Structures Grant Application – After brief discussion - grant requires 20% match (in-kind and special projects budget line will cover); 10% contingency has been built in; Cathy R. moved and Michael F. 2nded to approve and authorized Eric B. and Gail Fallar to finalize and submit an application for around \$43,000. All voted in favor.

Paving on Class 2 Roads Grant Application – After brief discussion, Cathy R. moved and Michael F. 2nded to apply for a \$175,000 paving grant. All voted in favor. Intent is to pave southern end of the East Road and then continue on the southern end of Mountain View Road until money runs out.

Thank you – Gail F. noted that Hollis Squier could not be present at the meeting, but wished to express his appreciation to Eric B. for the gravel and grading done on North End Road.

Building Committee ~ Board briefly reviewed draft guidelines prepared by Frank S. regarding the duties of a committee to be appointed to work on final plans for the town garage and salt/sand shed. Both Cathy R. and Michael F. had comments – Cathy R. volunteered to combine them and send a new version for review for the next meeting (April 28th). Committee size was discussed, there are quite a few folks in town willing to serve on the committee. They will be contacted regarding the talent and knowledge they would bring to the committee. It was suggested that the potential committee members also review the duties/guidelines.

Loss Control Report – Board discussed, Eric B. advised he can take care of most of the items by the Board’s meeting in May. Need to check with the insurance company about whether the bollards can wait until the new building is built. Frank S. volunteered to help with the MSDS sheets.

Bond Audit RFP – Gail F. advised it still needs work, will provide to Board April 28th.

Tax Sale – Board discussed whether to proceed to a tax sale in the current economic environment< it was noted that this action would be harsh, but the bill will only get bigger the longer the lack of payment continues. The Board will add this topic to the May agenda for further action.

Old Business ~

East Road Right of Way – no progress.

Trash and Dogs on Mountain View Road– Frank advised as Health Officer, he is still trying to contact the Rutland County Sheriff’s Department for enforcement, noting this has been an ongoing problem. David B., as animal control officer, advised he had received complaints about the Hills’ dogs bothering neighbors> He will try to resolve, but wanted the Select Board to have a head’s up as they may need to have a nuisance dog hearing in the near future. This isn’t the first offense. Board asked him to document everything in case there is a hearing.

FY21 Wage and Salary Schedule – Board briefly discussed, asked for more detail, postponed further action until 4/28/20 meeting.

New Business ~

RFP for Hazard Mitigation Grant – Cathy R. moved, Michael F. 2nded, to approve as presented. All voted in favor.

RFP for Town Office Roof Over Library ~ Postponed until 4/28/20 meeting

2nd Constable Vacancy - After brief discussion, Board decided to leave vacant.

Members Concerns ~

Fence on the town green needs repair – town or school responsibility? Frank S. offered donation from Phil's Mill – was advised that the rails were split, locust or cedar. **Update on school slide** requested for the meeting on the 28th.

Michael F. inquired whether the **old firehouse** could be used for an hour a week, by folks in crisis who would be less than 10 in number, wearing masks and gloves and keeping 6' social distancing. Frank and Cathy decided no, town buildings are closed.

Correspondence – Cathy R. volunteered to respond to the Rutland County Humane Society's letter requesting town funds informing them about the process for town meeting requests. Board took Vermont Land Trust letter under advisement.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Next Meeting ~ April 28th

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar Select Board Assistant