

TALES OF TINMOUTH

July 2020

Vol. 34 Number 7

Tinmouth

Vermont

Editors' Notes:

A sincere thank you to Tales readers who have made donations to cover expenses for paper, printing and postage. It is that time of the year when our account is low and needs a boost!

Please consider a contribution to keep Tales going. Thanks!

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the preceding month. Please email your information to *Tales of Tinmouth* (tinmouthtales@vermontel.net) or drop it off at the Town Office.

Pat Psholka, Helen Mango & Gail Fallar, Editors

~ Transfer Station Open on Saturday, July 4th ~

The attendants have decided the Transfer Station should remain open for the holiday. Normal hours 8:00 AM until 12 Noon. *Thank you, Gunner and Charlie.*

~ Town Office will be Closed on July 4th ~

Ye olde town clerk is taking the day off. Please stay safe with your celebrations!

~ Homestead Declaration ~

This is the **last reminder** that you need to file an **annual** Homestead Declaration with the Vermont Department of Taxes, form HS-122. You must file this to qualify for the homestead education tax rate and to request a property tax adjustment if you are eligible. You must also file form HI-144 (household income), **due July 15th**. This is required even if you do not have to file or pay state income taxes.

~ United States Census 2020 ~

The report from the local census manager shows that **only 39 %** of Tinmouth residents have responded!! We need to do better.

How many Tinmouthonians/Tinmouthites are we? Anyone want to take a guess?

Forms need to be completed and returned as soon as possible. We need to be counted!! If you do not report online or return the paper form, the Census Bureau will have to send someone to knock on your door.

Please attend to this as soon as possible. Thank-you for your cooperation!!

Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!

~ August Primary Election Changes ~

August 11th is the statewide Primary – and due to the corona virus pandemic, it will be a bit different this year. The Board of Civil Authority has moved the polling place to the Old Fire House. You can enter the front door, and exit on the side – one-way traffic. You will have to wear a mask and social distancing will be required, if you choose to vote in person.

You are **encouraged** to vote early (absentee) if you can. The Vermont Secretary of State's Office is sending out post cards soon to all registered voters with directions on how to request an early ballot. These should be arriving in the mail any day now. Once you have requested an early ballot, you will receive it in the mail, along with a pre-paid return envelope to send it back to the town office.

Please remember that a Primary is held so political parties can choose their candidates for the November election. You will be given ballots for the state's three major parties, but may only vote for one.

The General Election in November will find all active voters automatically receiving a ballot – more on that in September.

~ Town Office Semi-Closed to the Public ~

The door will continue to be locked, but appointments can/will be made to insure everyone has a mask, gloves and that social distancing is maintained. Anyone having symptoms of COVID-19 (i.e. fever, cough, difficulty breathing) or has been exposed to someone exhibiting symptoms, please stay home.

If your business (dump ticket, building permit, copy of tax bill, etc.) can be done over the phone, through email or via regular mail, please continue with that for the time being. Your cooperation is appreciated.

This helps keep you safe and helps keep me and my family safe.

Please continue to do your part to stay safe and keep others safe too. *One piece of good advice given at the very beginning of all of this, was to think of yourself as having the virus and trying to not spread it to anyone else.*

Please continue to follow the guidelines from the CDC and the Vermont Department of Health. Wear a mask, stay 6 feet away from folks, wash your hands often, and stay home if you are sick.

Don't be afraid to contact your medical provider if you are ill, there was a recent death in the area due to someone with a stomach ache (burst appendix) not wanting to go to the hospital as they thought they would catch the virus and die. Medical facilities are prepared to keep you safe.

~ July 2020 Calendar of Events ~

All non-essential meetings have been postponed until further notice.



Fire Dept.	Thursday	2 nd	6:30	Fire House - Outside
Transfer Station	Saturday	4 th	8-noon	OPEN
Town Office	Saturday	4 th		CLOSED
Building Committee	Monday	6 th	7:00	Teleconference
Select Board	Thursday	9 th	7:00	Town Office/Teleconference
Town Office Special Hours	Monday	20 th	9-Noon	Closed for the Afternoon
Building Committee	Monday	20 th	7:00	Teleconference
Conservation Commission	Monday	20 th	7:00	Teleconference
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Monday	20 th		Don't Miss It!
Select Board	Tuesday	28 th	7:00	Town Office/Teleconference
Planning Commission	No meeting in June			

~ August 2020 Calendar of Events ~

Fire Dept.	Thursday	6 th	6:30	Fire House -Outside
Primary Election	Tuesday	11 th	8:00- 7:00 PM	Old Fire House
Select Board	Thursday	13 th	7:00	Teleconference
<i>Tales of Tinmouth</i> Deadline	Thursday	20 th		Don't Miss It!
Select Board	Tuesday	25 th	7:00	Teleconference

Transfer Station hours are Wednesday 4:00 - 7:00 pm & Saturday 8:00 am - noon.

~ Sunday Church Service ~ Library Hours ~ Volleyball ~ Pickleball ~ Knit, Craft or Chat ~ Bone Builders ~
Are All Suspended Until Further Notice Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The **Tinmouth Community Church** is now online at TinmouthChurch.org. Services can be found there. Click on "This Week's Service" in the gray box at the upper right corner.

There will be **no in-person services** at the church until further notice. Pastor John remains available at (802)282-7532 and email at hzfam@hotmail.com.

~ Front Porch Forum ~

Connect with your Tinmouth Neighbors

Have you checked out Front Porch Forum yet? To sign up, go to <http://FrontPorchForum.com>.

200+ households have signed to date! Good way to keep track of events dealing with the coronavirus, discuss community issues, sell a canoe, give away a kitten, etc..

If you are a second home owner you can use your 911 address.

~ Town Office Hours Change ~

Hours have been changed to 9 - 12 and 1-4 on Mondays and Thursdays. Most Saturday mornings 9-12.

~ No Town Wide Tag Sales This Year ~

We hope next year will bring an end to COVID19 concerns and we'll hopefully have an successful event!

Tracy Byford and Sherry Johnson

~ Wood For Sale by Sealed Bid ~

Green hardwood logs harvested from the site of the new Salt and Sand Shed in Tinmouth

There are four separate piles, each 5-7 cords of small diameter wood. Piles are numbered 1-4. Sealed bids will be accepted by the Select Board in writing for a public bid opening on July 9 at 7 p.m. at the Select Board Meeting, which will be virtual.

The highest bidder will be required to remove wood from the transfer station lot by August 2. Bidders may bid for one or more piles with individual bids for each pile. Mark sealed envelope with "Firewood Bid for Pile #1" (or appropriate number) on the outside of the envelope. Include name, phone number and bid amount inside the envelope for the preferred pile. Bid opportunity limited to Tinmouth taxpayers and residents.

Piles can be viewed at the Transfer Station during dump hours Wednesday and Saturday.

Questions: call the Town Garage at 446-9163.

Please see photo on next page.

~ Coronavirus Pandemic Update ~

I hate being right about the bad stuff. It's a curse. Reading back over my last posting in the *Tales* I see that my predictions about the course of the Corona virus were correct. The disease is growing nationally and locally. We are heading back to where we started from while the rest of the world is making progress. In the US we represent four percent of the world's population but suffer over twenty five percent of the world's fatalities. That fact says it all. Common to the countries that are winning the fight are these criteria i.e., strong central leadership, mask wearing, testing and contact tracing.

Locally we have made good progress by following this formula but we are still surrounded by the threat and cases are ticking up even close to Tinnmouth. The one way we can help the situation as individuals is to wear the mask in social situations. Some of us have been persuaded that this is a threat to their constitutional rights. They are missing the point. Just like the right to free speech does not include yelling FIRE in a crowded theater, their rights do not include jeopardizing the health of the people who surround them.

Not wearing a mask telegraphs the message that they care more about themselves than others. Worse yet, the failure to mask can lead to their infection and thus infect their own families as well as the health professionals who are the real heroes in this tragedy. Perhaps those who do not wear masks will be willing to sign a waiver that voids their opportunity for health care since they are creating the situation.

Looking at the national trend I fear that we have been led down a hole that has left the rest of the world scratching their heads wondering what has happened to sanity in the good old USA.

Michael Fannin
Tinnmouth Emergency Management Director



Wood for Sale – see article on page 2

~ Tinnmouth Continuing Education Scholarships Awarded ~

By Cathy Reynolds, Tinnmouth Community Fund

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2020 Tinnmouth Continuing Education Scholarships. Awards were presented at a virtual awards ceremony on Sunday, June 21, via Zoom. **Tinnmouth's 2020 Scholars are Annie Hasenohr, Hannah Lamarche, Sadira Majorell, Seamus Nauton, Allison Nemeth, Noah Patry and Jaron Rochon.** \$9,500 was awarded.

Jaron Rochon was awarded the *Pam Garceau Memorial Scholarship* by Dan Garceau. This \$2,000 Scholarship is awarded annually to a student who has demonstrated tenacity and compassion and has inspired others to graciously persevere.

Sadira Majorell received the *Bob and Cynthia Johnson Scholarship* awarded by Roxane Johnson. This \$2,000 scholarship is awarded to a student with clear future goals tied to social justice in education, health, or other areas of social services, a history of meaningful community service, and high financial need.

Jaron Rochon and Seamus Nauton were the recipients of the *Susan McIntosh Lloyd Scholarship* presented by Bob Lloyd. This \$1,200 award was split between the two recipients who both share Sue's values and love music.

Congratulations to all of Tinnmouth's graduates and to this year's Tinnmouth Scholarship recipients.

The census counts from coast to coast.

Respond to the 2020 Census to help inform the distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds to communities each year for things like health care, emergency services, infrastructure, education, and food assistance.

For more information, visit:
2020CENSUS.GOV

Shape your future
START HERE >

United States
Census 2020



TINMOUTH CHURCH

~ Tinmouth Community Church ~

“Black Lives Matter” – amazing society needs the reminder. Far more than a reminder, it is a declaration, an assertion of dignity and worth, and a demand for justice and change. Not only for justice in individual cases of discrimination, brutality or murder, but also for the broader and all-encompassing justice that pertains to the very structures and systems of our society that allow, sustain and reinforce racism and the advantages White people have over People of Color, and the rich and powerful have over the poor and seemingly powerless.

The Spirit is on the move. Our country, indeed, our world, is waking up to an interracial, multicultural, intergenerational, interfaith movement to make this world what God has always intended it to be – a global community where oppression is ended and everyone’s basic needs are met, a world in which justice reigns rather than greed, need and mutual fear. That cannot happen without systemic change, without the recognition that discrimination is built into the very structures of society, and must be rooted out. “No Justice, No Peace.” It cannot be otherwise, because inequity creates tensions and divisions, and turmoil when people become desperate. Such an imbalance of good in society, is good for no one.

What is underway, what God is up to, is nothing less than the conversion of our societies. That change must go forward whether there is the corresponding change of hearts or not. But conversion of heart is also the goal, such that we, especially those in positions of authority and power, never lose sight of the humanity of one another and our mutual responsibility to properly care, respect and provide for one another.

Seeing George Floyd die has converted a multitude of hearts. And now there can be no return to “normal.” It never was.

In faith, hope and love,

Pastor John

Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman
(802) 282-7532 (cell, preferred)
(802) 884-8249 (parsonage)
hzfam@hotmail.com

~ Tinmouth Community Church Website ~

By Pastor John

At this month's meeting, the Administrative Board of the Tinmouth Community Church again considered returning to worship services in our church building. Given the priority of caring for one another's well-being, the limitations of safely having services and the present increase in Coronavirus cases, we will continue to meet virtually online at www.TinmouthChurch.org. At that site you can access our Worship Services and Tuesday and Thursday Evening Prayer.

There will be **no in-person services** at the church until further notice. Pastor John remains available at (802)282-7532 and email at hzfam@hotmail.com.

Ramsey Yoder sends this:

The below was written by my grandson, Brett Yoder, who has spent 17 of his 21 summers with us in Tinmouth and is currently entering his senior year in environmental engineering at The Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO. I'd like to share it with our citizens of Tinmouth.
Thank you.

Subject: “He who cannot draw on 3,000 years is living from hand to mouth.” - Goethe

It might be a pleasant surprise to see my name in your feed, but I am here tonight to discuss anything but pleasantries. I am here today to take a stance on the state of our nation, the US of A. Summer classes had been a distraction masking the goings on of the world until recently and it disheartens me to awaken to such horror.

My eyes cloud with tears, my stomach and throat clench with fear, and I am shocked speechless. I am here today to tug on people's heartstrings and to foster awareness. Mostly I wish to sound an alarm hopefully ringing in all our ears by now - BE HEARD!

There are protesters out in force to bring attention to recent atrocities and injustices. Some of us may not have the ability or security to aid in these efforts, and I am here to say that we don't have to. Most of us need not to put our bodies on the line or to risk the spread of COVID to resolve this issue, but we all need to BE HEARD.

~ Community News ~

Get Well Wishes are sent to **Ari Fallar, Jo Reynolds,** and **Paul Morris.**

Heartfelt Sympathies are sent to family and friends of **Effie Brooks**, former longtime West Tinmouth resident, 98 years young.

June 2020 Legislative Update

Rep. Dave Potter

It is an understatement to say the coronavirus epidemic has drastically changed the lifestyle of Vermonters since the emergency declaration by the Governor in March. The Vermont Legislature, like so many other organizations, is now meeting from home on Zoom. The Legislature expects to work thru the end of June to complete this fiscal year (FY) 2020 budget and put in place a budget for the first three months of FY 2021. The Legislature will reconvene in August to complete the last nine months of the FY 2021 budget when federal funding and VT needs are better understood. The Legislature is trying its best to meet all the unmet needs of Vermonters with regard to healthcare, education, broadband, unemployment, food security, homelessness, small business, agriculture, finances and much more. Funds to support all these critical needs (nearly \$900 million) have been appropriated thru the June timeframe, with more coming in the August session and beyond, to meet the unprecedented pandemic caused needs of Vermonters.

Since March, over 126,000 Unemployment Insurance and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Claims have been submitted the VT Dept. of Labor (DOL). Over 83,000 recipients were deemed eligible and have been paid over \$287 million in benefits. This was not easy. The DOL was overwhelmed by the sudden sheer volume of requests, an antiquated computer system, and inadequate staffing. Most folks are today being served, but there were many frustrations from VT citizens getting to this point.

Schools were closed in March, but education continued online. Graduations suffered. Plans for the fall now include schools being reopened with new health precautions in place. The VT State College System and UVM are under unprecedented stress from the pandemic and declining enrollment. The Legislature intends to help get them thru this difficult time with financial support. School finance statewide has been thrown out of whack, and the legislature plans to intervene once all the dust settles.

The polls will be open this summer and fall as usual with extra health precautions put in place by our experienced town clerks. The primary election is Tuesday August 11th. Voters will receive, on about June 22, a pre-stamped absentee ballot request postcard from the VT Secretary of State's Office to be mailed back to your town clerk should you choose to vote absentee.

The General Election will take place Tuesday November 3rd. For this election, all voters will be mailed an absentee ballot and encouraged to return it to their town clerk before election day. This is intended to reduce traffic and health risk at the polls. But, remember the

polls are open as usual, so anyone may vote in the customary way, should they choose or need to do so.

The very most important thing is for all our families is to get thru this pandemic. Follow safety guidelines. Take the threat seriously. A vaccine and end to the crisis is on the horizon.

As usual, I may be contacted by email at dpotter@leg.state.vt.us, or home phone 438-5385, with any input or concerns during this difficult time.

Paid Political Advertising

Event Announcement

“Open-air Meet and Greet” for Sally Achey

Saturday, July 18

10 am - Noon

580 Route 140, Tinmouth, VT

(The Tinmouth Snack Bar)

Everyone is Welcome

If we want to change what comes out of Montpelier, we must change WHO goes to Montpelier. It just makes sense.

On Saturday, come to Tinmouth for an “Open-Air Meet and Greet” with Sally Achey. Go to www.Sally4vtrep.com and click on the “Events” tab to find directions.

Sally has made the commitment to run for the Vermont House of Representatives for the Rutland-Bennington district, and she is committed to meet and listen to her neighbors and community members.

Sally supports:

- Lower taxes
- Smaller government
- Fewer regulations
- Free market enterprise
- Individual freedom
- More local control

The term “essential” has taken on new importance in the middle of the Covid-19 crisis. The exchange of ideas and information is “essential” to our political process. Abraham Lincoln articulated this concept most succinctly when he said, "Let the people know the facts, and the country will be safe."

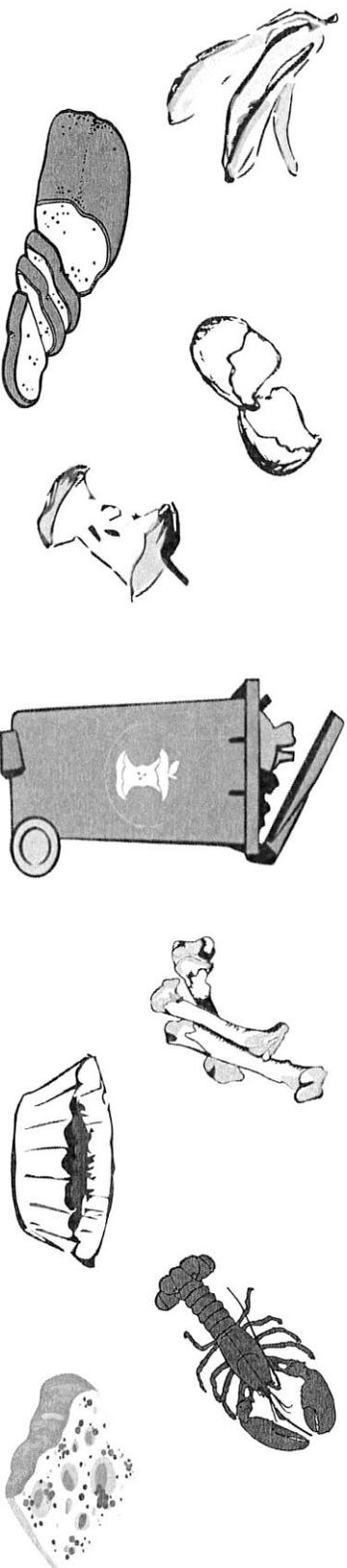
The “Rally for Sally” team plans to hold “Open-Air Meet and Greets” in all the towns that comprise her district: Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rupert, Tinmouth and Wells.

Come to meet Sally and share your concerns and hopes for Vermont. Learn more at Sally4VTRep on Facebook and www.sally4vtrep.com.



Food scraps cannot go in the trash starting July 1, 2020.*

As part of Vermont's Universal Recycling Law, this applies to everyone, including businesses and residents.



This transfer station collects food scraps for composting.

Ask an attendant for details.

Learn more at Virecycles.com.

*People who compost in their backyards may put meat and bones in the trash.



~ Meeting Highlights~

(Complete minutes are available at the town office.)

All meetings are virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Select Board ~ 6/11/20

Present were members Michael Fallar, Frank Sears, and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Doug Inkley, Michael Fannin-Emergency Management Director, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Ronnie Crossman, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Grant Reynolds, Hollis Squier and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant.

Warrants Reviewed ~ Frank S. had signed payroll warrants #46 for \$3,047.80 - dated 5/18/20, #47 for \$1,943.40 – dated 5/26/20, #48 for \$3,160.70 - dated 5/31/20, and #49 for \$1,943.40 dated 6/8/20; and accounts payable # 29 for \$3,371.82 – dated 5/28/20. With no questions or comments, Board approved.

Audit Bid ~ Board reviewed bid from Sullivan and Powers, only bidder, for \$29,000. Cathy noted the bond budget had included \$15,000 for an audit. Board voted to amend the procurement policy to temporarily allow electronic bids (until December 31, 2020) due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Board then tabled the audit bid pending research regarding banks requiring three years of audit before they will loan the town money in anticipation of receiving bond financing. TD Bank, the town's current bank, requires 3 years, the bond bank only requires one, which is why the bid specs were for one year.

~ COVID-19 Emergency ~ Michael Fannin, EMD, advised that he is less hopeful about being out of the woods, given a recent outbreak in Williston. Board and EMD again discussed volunteer waiver form, town's insurance provides insurance for volunteers. Board voted to table the volunteer waiver indefinitely.

Pay for EMD and EMC ~ Board voted to pay the Emergency Management Director and Emergency Management Coordinator each a \$100 per year stipend, pro-rated for FY20, in full for FY21. This allows them to be covered for workers compensation.

Opening Town Buildings ~ There has been a request to use the community center for pickle ball and volley ball. Board discussed the need for guidelines, disinfecting going in and going out, etc. Cathy reported that School Superintendent Dave Younce advised MRUUSD is closing school buildings for July, and there will be no cleaning of the community center. Board voted that the Select Board recommend to the Community Center Board to allow residents/citizens to use the facility per state guidelines. Cathy is the SB representative to the TCC. Use of old fire house, town office, old creamery was moved to the end of the meeting.

Use of School Shed ~ Gail explained request from Lisa Edge, Pre-K educator, regrading use of the shed at the school, and noted that they hoped to move it to the back of the community center to be better able to use it for the

outdoor classrooms and gardens. After discussion that noted the school determines what the shed is used for, but the town has a say in where it is located, Board voted to give the school district permission to move the shed to the back of the community center and store whatever they wish. Board needs designation of where it will be located.

LEMP ~ Local Emergency Management Plan – Michael Fannin, EMD, quickly reviewed the 2020 update. Board voted to approve the LEMP as presented.

~ Highway ~

Michael Fannin expressed a big thank you for the chloride spread near his house, it is a huge improvement in dust control.

Eric Buffum advised the site for the salt/sand shed was cleared and the brush burned. He inquired whether the town was required to have a brush pile as once the structure is built, it may have a canvas roof and the burning of brush near that would not be a good idea. After brief discussion, Board advised Eric to post a sign – no brush accepted until September 1st, which will give the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee time to review the question. Fire Department does use it for a drill. There was also discussion of what to do with all the stumps, Eric will research.

Site Clearing – Board discussed how much clearing was needed for the salt/sand shed, Eric noted that there were trees that could fall on the new structure, should they be removed? Board agreed by consensus the tree cutting crew could continue after consultation with neighbors.

Eric also reported that **Dan Allard** offered to trade use of his wood chipper for equal time use of the town's leaf blower. Board approved.

Eric advised that Rutland Regional Planning Commission was busy inventorying town roads and culverts.

Eric noted that the road crew has been grading and applying chloride, also ditching with extra help – awesome to have three pair of hands.

Michael Fallar inquired about the status of the **old one ton truck**. Eric noted it is still being used. Board agreed to get the for-sale advertising done ASAP. Bids will be due July 9th.

Eric noted that ledge had been run into on Wright's Road as they are ditching there; still waiting for Josh Carvajal's recommendations for work near the stream that flows from the Big Spring.

Doug Inkley expressed appreciation for moving forward addressing their concerns on Wright's Road regarding the Big Spring stream.

Eric explained proposed change turning the "Y" intersection of **Harrington Cross Road and Route 140** into a "T". VTrans staff have visited the site and laid out the new plan. Eric advised the road crew can handle the change, the Board asked Eric for a cost estimate for the 23rd Board meeting.

Paving Bids ~ Paving bids were opened:

Fuller Sand and Gravel bid \$59.50 per ton plus \$1 for shouldering;

Wilk Paving bid \$62.50 per ton plus \$4,550 per day for shouldering;

Pike Industries bid \$66.00 per ton and \$2,000 per day for shouldering.

Board voted to award contract to Fuller Sand and Gravel. Board asked Eric to ensure paving was not done late in the fall. Bids were in two parts as the town applied for a state paving grant, not sure when determination of grant awards will happen, so East Road may be paved (\$100,000 budgeted) and then Mountain View Road, if the grant is received.

Fuel Bids ~ Eight vendors were sent requests for bids, only two were returned. Champlain Valley Fuels bid 15 cents over the Valero Rutland rack price for both diesel fuel and #2 heating oil, Johnson Energy bid on #2 heating fuel only at 40 cents above rack price. Board voted to accept Champlain Valley Fuels bid for FY21.

Highway Business ~ Cathy asked that highway business be moved to the top of the agenda, as done in the past. After brief discussion, Board agreed to call Michael Fannin, EMD for Covid discussion, after highway agenda items are completed.

Jan and Ken Krantz ~ Jan, speaking for the Library Trustees requested permission to place a small structure – a little free library – near the town office. This will be used by the public for put and take books, puzzles, etc. It will be movable as well, sand bags will hold it down, it's about 3' x 3' x 3'. There are many around the country. After discussion, Board agreed to a spot on the north side of the town office, between the Veteran's monument and the vault.

Building Committee Report ~ Theresa Butts, co-chair, emailed a written report, next meeting is on the 22nd.

~ Old Business ~

East Road Right of Way – No progress – Board agreed to put on the agenda on quarterly basis – a problem without a clear resolution.

Trash and Dogs at 605 Mountain View – Frank reported some clean-up has happened.

12 Ezra Stone Road – Frank advised he is waiting for the 30 day eviction period to end, will report on the situation at the Board meeting on the 23rd. Further action by the Board of Health may be necessary, and will incur cost to the town.

~ New Business ~

RFP for Town Office Roof Over Library ~ Postponed

Tax Due Date ~ Gail, as treasurer, requested change to due date for the first tax payment, due to the state changing the due date to file homestead declarations and property tax adjustment to July 15th. After brief discussion, Board voted to set September 17th as the due date of the first half tax payment.

Resolution Regarding Local Government ~ Board voted to pass the resolution and authorize the town clerk to certify Board's action.

Food Truck Request ~ Board discussed request from Brent Black to occasionally park his food truck in town. After discussion, Board approved, suggested that the old creamery parking lot, the church parking lot or the community center parking lot may be suitable places for the endeavor.

LHMP ~ Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update, only one bid was received, five requests were sent. Board voted to approve proposal from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

Census ~ Board reviewed data from Vermont census staff indicating that Tinmouth folks are not filling out the census forms, Board needs to encourage everyone to participate in the census.

Use of Old Fire House/ Town Office Upstairs ~ Board discussed inquiry about using the old fire house and the conference room at the town office. There is a need for guidelines, who will monitor that requirements are met, etc. Tabled until SB meeting on the 23rd.

Executive Session ~ At 9:28, the Board, based on advice of counsel, voted to enter executive session as premature disclosure regarding possible civil litigation with the Town of Wallingford would be detrimental to the interests of the town.

At 9:29 Board voted to enter executive session to discuss a potential resolution of the town line dispute with Wallingford, to include Gail Fallar. Everyone else signed off the virtual meeting.

Board exited executive session at 9:47. Board voted to instruct the Select Board Assistant to advise town counsel to proceed with draft MOU with Wallingford.

Select Board ~ 6/23/20

Present were members: Michael Fallar, Frank Sears, and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Heather McMahan, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Hollis Squier, Ken Krantz (7:30-7:45) and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant.

Highway ~

Eric B. reported there were no major issues, ditching continues on Wright's Road, have run into some ledge there. Eric asked for approval to purchase culverts to stock them, after brief discussion and noting that \$0 dollars had been spent this fiscal year on culverts with \$5,000 budgeted, Board approved. **Stump dump research** – no place found yet, illegal to bury them, may rent a stump grinder, still investigating options. **Harrington Cross Road project** – estimate not yet ready.

Wood from trees cut during site work for new salt/sand shed – there are four large piles, all hardwood – Board discussed what to do with the wood – decided to number the piles 1, 2, 3, 4 (there will be another two in the future) and accept sealed bids at their next Board meeting (July 9th). Wood will have to be moved by the successful bidder(s) by August 2nd. Restricted to Tinnmouth residents and/taxpayers. Board worked on wording of proposal; will post on FPF and in *Tales*, when they can be viewed (when the transfer station is open), call town garage with questions.

Old One Ton Truck Ad ~ Cathy will post ad to FPF and Craigslist, Gail will place ad in Herald, News Guide and *Tales*. Sealed bids due by July 9th.

VTel work on Channel Road ~ Hollis reported that as he was mowing the road side on Channel Road, he noticed that VTEL has recently buried a phone line in the road near Fred Aines, he asked if they had permission. No was the answer. Hollis advised that the town has always refused allowing anyone to bury lines in the road, they have to be in the ditch once it's been cleaned – 3' down. Frank will contact Mr. Aines and VTEL.

Building Committee Report ~ Cathy reported the BC continues to investigate salt/sand sheds, what size is needed, estimates from a number of vendors, etc.

Storm Water Permit ~ Gail reported the storm water permit is still being reviewed by the state, they are unable to give a time frame for it being issued as the engineer is still providing answers to their questions. Board had lively discussion about how to light a fire under Otter Creek Engineering, how to determine where the permit is in the overall process, how to move it along, the need to have OCE attend a Board meeting to answer questions. SBA was instructed to provide SB with emails from Craig Jewett, engineer at OCE, regarding permit application, and try get more answers from OCE and the state.

Ken Krantz ~ Ken requested permission to change location of the proposed **Little Library** from the north side of the town office to the front porch, next to one of the benches. Board agreed. **Bake Oven** – Ken inquired whether the SB would allow folks to use it again for a pizza night. Board discussed need to follow guidelines – social distancing, number of attendees, masks when not eating, posting of signs, log of everyone attending, sanitizing of the bathroom, etc. Ken agreed to be point person to ensure that guidelines and rules are met/followed. Board agreed.

Bear at the Transfer Station ~ Michael advised that a bear has been visiting the transfer station, pulling trash out and making a huge mess. Electric fence needs to be put back in place. Attendants will take care of that.

Financial ~

Warrants Reviewed ~ Board approved payroll warrant #50 for \$2,481.49 dated 6/15/20; and accounts payable # 30 for \$10,214.79 – dated 6/15/20.

Audit Research ~ Gail reported that The Bank of Orwell was willing to loan the town money in anticipation of the bond with a one-year professional audit. So there is no need to re-bid the audit for three years (TD Bank-current town bank, requires 3 years of professional audit – most banks do not require that).

Audit Bid ~ Cathy moved to approve/accept Sullivan and Powers audit bid, Michael 2nded. Frank expressed concerns regarding cost, sections regarding remote transference of data (will it be secure), lack of choice of vendors, time frame, and possibility of cost overruns. After discussion, Cathy called the question, Cathy voted yes, Frank and Michael voted no. Motion was defeated. Frank added the issue to the agenda for July 9th.

HRA Transfer ~ Gail advised the balance in the highway budget for health insurance, \$15,087.40, should be transferred to the HRA account to cover potential out of pocket expenses due to the switch in health insurance plans. Board voted to make the transfer.

~ **Old Business** ~

Trash and Dogs at 605 Mountain View – Frank reported no one was home on a recent stop.

12 Ezra Stone Road – Frank advised that the tenants did not move out by the 30 day deadline, there is an emergency court hearing on the 24th, he will keep the Board updated.

~ **New Business** ~

Open Town Buildings ~ Cathy advised that the Community Center Board would be meeting on 6/29 to consider opening the community center and would more than likely follow Amy Martone's lead regarding guidelines and safety precautions. Board discussed opening the old fire house (OFH), old creamery, 2nd floor of the town office, bake oven, (and the library and town office when they are ready); will have to be in compliance with ACCD's requirements-signs, social distancing, etc. as well as requiring masks for in-door use and a log for attendance in case there is a need to track exposure. Gail advised that the Board of Civil Authority had voted to use the OFH for the primary and general elections. Frank moved and Cathy 2nded to open town buildings in compliance of the above. Frank and Cathy voted in favor, Michael voted no, motion passed.

Transfer Station ~ Geoff Dixon requested relief from a recent invoice sent regarding a past due amount for use of the transfer station. Invoice was calculated at the current rate of \$2.50 per bag, his punches due were from a couple of years ago (before he moved to Florida) when it was \$2 per bag. Board discussed briefly, Michael moved and Frank 2nded to accept the offer, Michael and Frank voted yes, Cathy voted no, motion carried. Board discussed need to set limits on the amount of punches that can accrue before use of the transfer station is stopped.

Public Concerns ~ Kim expressed concern with the cost of the audit, the extensive list of deliverables, and

electronic transmission of data. Cathy noted that as Tinmouth's representative to the Rutland Library, and the Library having to go through audits, it was a typical proposal.

Gail will check with NEMRC (accounting software company) about security of sending the files and with the town's auditors to see if the reconciliation can be done by July 31st.

Executive Session ~ At 8:34, Frank, based on advice of counsel, moved that the Select Board enter executive session as premature disclosure regarding possible civil litigation with the Town of Wallingford would be detrimental to the interests of the town. Cathy 2nded, all voted in favor.

At 8:39 Frank moved to enter executive session to discuss a potential resolution of the town line dispute with Wallingford, to include Gail Fallar. Cathy 2nded, all voted in favor. Everyone else signed off the virtual meeting.

Board exited executive session at 8:39. No action taken.

Members concerns ~ Cathy expressed concern with the technology, difficulty hearing everyone, etc. Needs to be addressed as meetings may be virtual for quite some time. Some folks have requested the virtual presence continue after in person meetings resume.

Building Committee ~ 6/9/20

G. Fallar, Temporary Scribe

Present were members Theresa Butts, David Birdsall, Eric Buffum, Bart Eaton, Ronnie Crossman, Michael Fallar, Harold Hunter, Lothar Schmelzenbach, Hollis Squier, and Cathy Reynolds @ (7:20), as well as Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, and Gail Fallar

Gail reported the storm water permit application is still being reviewed by the state.

Eric reported the site for the sand/salt shed has been cleared of trees, by the road crew and David Birdsall.

Hollis advised he has not yet been able to visit any town garages, will try before next meeting.

Lothar reported contact with Morton Buildings – needs talk to someone who deals with municipalities, was advised they can be framed for insulation (in his experience this is not the best idea).

Harold reported on his visit to Guilford, spoke with the road foreman there-very happy with their project, heated floors, suggested making doors wider and having them on the gable end. Their sand shed is on blocks (no footers), has compacted gravel, drains on the side and a canvas roof. Salt shed is a separate building.

Bart noted he drove by Mendon and Rupert facilities – but no one was around to talk to.

Bart reported he had identified five manufacturers of Quonset style salt/sand sheds. He hasn't asked for prices, will request for preliminary prices for metal and fabric, 85' x 125', along with time frame for delivery, estimated

construction time, etc. He noted with the pandemic, some of these facilities may have been closed, contractors backed up, and it may be difficult to get this built this year.

Michael inquired about making sure the size is correct for the amount used on a yearly basis.

Cathy noted Eric had already calculated that and she felt it could be built this year.

Theresa reported that in regards to the Clear-span building; half would cost \$85,000, building it all would cost \$122,000, may be better to build it all at once.

Bart observed that in speaking with Eric, he felt savings would be created by getting the site work done and paving the floor this year.

Gail briefly explained the state's Open Meeting Law – the need for public notice if members are going to discuss committee business. Email discussions are only for setting a meeting and its agenda. Members can send information to Gail (who is not a committee member) and she will disseminate to all members prior to a meeting.

Bart inquired about expectations and authority – BC is supposed to recommend to the Select Board – what can the BC really do?

Members noted that the Committee Guidelines note the BC makes recommendations to the Select Board. The BC can't take action, that's for the SB – going out to bid for instance. BC can do research, site visits, review options, provide guidance to the SB.

Members discussed whether current site work done by the road crew is being paid by the highway budget or the bond project. Gail advised she is tracking with an excel spread sheet, SB will determine whether it comes out of regular budget.

Members discussed process for getting estimates, for the SB to go to bid, options for 2 bays, 3 bays, or 4 bays, writing bid specs, etc.

Members discussed someone going to the SB, to report BC's activities.

Members also discussed next meeting – decided to meet every other Monday, starting June 22nd, will re-evaluate at the end of July.

Members were assigned research and fact finding duties prior to the next meeting.

- continue research on structures
- verify size needed for salt/sand shed
- determine if salt will affect metal
- look for savings
- compose site visit findings
- update storm water permit status
- contact architect
- complete site visits

Members discussed whether the town garage should have radiant heat in the floor, many pros and cons, more research is needed.

(Meeting highlights continued on next page.)

Building Committee ~ 6/22/20

With thanks to Andy McCullough, Sec.

Present were members Theresa Butts, David Birdsall, Eric Buffum, Bart Eaton, Ronnie Crossman, Michael Fallar, Harold Hunter, Andy McCullough, Cathy Reynolds Lothar Schmelzenbach, and Hollis Squier, as well Heather McMahon, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, and Gail Fallar.

Gail advised the state is still reviewing the storm water permit application, no time line available.

Eric reported the Select Board had authorized cutting of more trees on the site, neighbors are fine with that.

Lothar advised he is still waiting to hear from Morton Buildings.

Hollis reported on site visits to West Rutland and Rutland Town.

Bart reviewed information from Steelmaster USA, Greystone, and Clearspan

GreyStone

- Includes everything except ground prep, including cement and fabrication.
- Fabric is guaranteed for 17 years. And 18-22 years is typical.
- Fabric replacement fees, as a rule of thumb, \$3 / (L 88' X W 72'), based on the footprint, or \$20k
- Clients in similar climates
- 105 mile per hour winds
- What snow load was calculated?
- 6-9 weeks contract til completion

Steelmaster USA

- Impressive client list
- 190 MPH Winds
- 30 Year warranty
- Proposal should be given before next meeting
- Question: is corrosion by salt covered under warranty, any guarantee on the metal?
- What snow load was calculated?
- Contract until completion?

Clearspan

- Bart will ask for quote on amount of recommended salt and sand storage not by area.
- Wind Speeds?
- What snow load was calculated?

Harold reported on a site visit to Wallingford. All equipment is in the building during the winter, gable end doors, shop is not cluttered, equipment smaller than we have, and works for them.

David reported he had contacted Stu Johnson, of VT Local Roads, who offered to help setup a webinar of a

bunch of towns looking for advice regarding salt and sand sheds and town garages.

Members discussed heated floor pros/cons and reviewed data from several sources.

- that radiant heat causes moisture to accumulate, and will cause significant environmental issues.
- To do: Rupert has radiant heat without floor drains, might be an interesting conversation to have with road commissioner there.

Salt/Sand Usage – was estimated at 600 tons of salt 1500 CY of sand. 3 year average is 469 tons of salt year and 1300 cubic yards of sand, BC requested 5 year average.

Material longevity -

- Fabric is guaranteed for 17 years. And 18-22 years is typical.
- Fabric replacement fees, as a rule of thumb, \$3 / (L 88' X W 72'), based on the footprint, or \$20k

Planning Commission ~ No meeting in June

Community Center Board ~ 6/30/20

Present were members Amy Martone, Ann Czar and Cathy Reynolds, as well as Rainbow Squier – building manager, Hollis Squier and Gail Fallar.

Board discussed request to use the community center for pickle ball. Hollis advised that the volley ball group was not interested in resuming again at this time.

Concern was raised with the recent uptick in virus cases in Rutland County, close contact, ventilation system, and disinfection needs. Members discussed guidelines regarding social distancing, masks, number of people allowed, and other ACCD requirements.

After discussion, the Board voted to continue to keep the facility closed and re-evaluate in mid-August. Concern regarding school beginning again, was also discussed.

Gail advised that the elections have been moved to the Old Fire House for August and November.

Cathy volunteered to work on protocols/guidelines for when the Board meets again.



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