

**Town of Tinmouth  
Select Board  
Thursday, August 13, 2020  
Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Members present:** Michael Fallar, Cathy Reynolds, and Frank Sears(@7:36)

**Others present via teleconference:** Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Hollis Squier, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Heather McMahon, Barbara Noyes-Pulling – Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC), Grant Reynolds, Michael Fannin-Emergency Management Director (@8:00), Doug Fontein (@ 8:45) for the Conservation Commission, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA).

**Michael Fallar** called the meeting to order at 7:00 and welcomed everyone. Board reviewed agenda, moved Barbara to the top.

**Minutes** of 7/28/20 were approved as written, Michael moved Cathy 2nded, both voted in favor.

**RRPC** ~ Barbara updated Board on work done with grants from the Vermont Community foundation to RRPC and the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resource Conservation District, to address environmental issues including flood resilience, in the Flower Brook Watershed (headwaters begin in southwestern Tinmouth). More concern for issues in Danby and Pawlet along Flower Brook. The State wants more attention paid to reducing phosphorus, including in the Tinmouth Pond Lake Shore District. RRPC and PMNRCD are now addressing climate resilience as well. Planning is underway, need to determine the effect on natural resources, find new ideas. Barbara would like to have someone from Tinmouth join the Flower Brook Advisory Group – perhaps someone from the Conservation Commission, Energy Committee, or Planning Commission – will meet in September and/or October. Michael advised he will discuss it with the Tinmouth Planning Commission. Barbara then left the meeting.

**Highway** ~

**Eric Buffum** reported ditching on Wright's Road is nearly done, there was some wind damage in the last storm – nothing serious.

**Highway Time Sheets** ~ Board discussed need to increase detail, SBA advised she is still working on revisions.

**Old One Ton Truck Sale** ~ Cathy advised there was one proposal for \$18,000, who would be willing to go to \$20,000 at the most. Truck needs seat covers, Board authorized Eric to get them to help with the sale. Process is problematic – needs to be re-thought. Board discussed selling at auction or by consignment – Frank arrived at this point and moved to sell it for the \$20,000. No second, motion died for lack thereof. Michael moved and Frank 2nded to authorize Cathy to take it to Riverside Motors (Mark Teetor) in Poultney for an evaluation and possibly sell by consignment (fee of \$750) if he feels it is worth more than \$20,750. All voted in favor.

**Stumps** ~ Differing opinions from the Solid Waste District and Otter Creek Engineer (can't bury them as the seasonal high water table is too high. Eric noted Dan Allard will knock the dirt out and pile them. There more trees to cut so there will be more brush to burn as well so they end up there. Construction will not happen until next year anyways.

**Channel Road** ~ Frank advised he had not had any further contact, Hollis volunteered to deal with it. Board agree.

**Wright's Road Plan** ~ Eric advised he is still waiting for Josh Carvajal's advice, it is better than it was. Still needs a cross culvert south of the current one.

**North End Road Culvert** ~ Michael inquired whether the second culvert near Potter's Brook would be installed this year. Eric advised he hopes too.

**Storm Water Permit Update** ~ SBA advised that the state has issued a 14 day comment period notice, still waiting.

**Municipal Road Aide Grant** ~ Board discussed applying for a grant for a roller compactor, grant is for \$7,500, Eric will research cost of compactor – may be able to build one. Frank moved to authorize letter of intent for the grant for a roller compactor, Cathy 2nded. Cathy and Frank voted in favor, Michael abstained. Motion carried.

**COVID-19 Emergency** ~ Michael Fannin, EMD, advised members are needed for the **LHMP (Local Hazard Mitigation Plan) Committee** – fire department, road crew, EMD/EMD, select board, planning commission, community member? Plan is to hold the meeting in the old fire house – maximum of 8 people. Board discussed who appoints, RRPC wants to hold meeting ASAP. After discussion, Cathy moved and Frank 2nded to authorize the EMD to form the committee and proceed with the planning. All voted in favor.

Michael, EMD, advised the RRPC is working on contacting other EMD's regarding the volunteer waiver.

Sherry inquired about masks being provided by the state for local town's people. SBA advised they had been ordered and were on their way. He then left the meeting.

**Building Committee Report** ~ Cathy reported a proposal from Greystone was \$237,000 soup to nuts, Rutland County's Division of Fire and Safety requires stamped engineering, she will talk with Stan Wilbur about Proctor's construction. BC has decided this year's construction season has passed, will wait until spring. Michael inquired about using both ends of the salt/sand shed for access. Eric had left the meeting by then, so there was not answer. That might require amending the state permit.

**Financial Reports** ~ None were ready. Board discussed then approved the proposal from Sullivan and Powers for the audit – Michael moved, Cathy 2nded, all voted in favor. Cathy moved and Frank 2nded to authorize Michael to sign on behalf of the Board, all vote in favor. Gail reported the audit had started, P&S staff were at the office on the 7<sup>th</sup> gathering information.

**Warrants Reviewed** ~ Michael moved, Frank 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve payroll warrants #5 for \$1,878.51 dated 8/3/20 and #6 for \$2,600.34 dated 8/10/20, all voted in favor.

#### **Old Business ~**

*Trash and Dogs at 605 Mountain View* – Frank reported no more done, SBA advised that rats have been seen on the property – Frank will set a deadline for clean-up, and prepare paperwork for the County Sheriff to deliver.

*12 Ezra Stone Road* – Neighbors have reported that a bear is making a mess of the trash that is still there. Frank advised he will make a visit.

*Bears* ~ Bear reports are growing, need to advise folks to keep garbage secure.

#### **New Business ~**

**2020 Town Tax Rates** ~ After brief discussion, Michael moved and Cathy 2nded to set the town tax rate at \$0.7355 and the local agreement tax rate at \$0.0016. All voted in favor. It is slightly less than 2019. Gail advised that the Grand List is not yet final, Grievance hearings will be on the 27<sup>th</sup>, but does not see any big changes.

**Unlicensed Dog Warrant** ~ Frank presented a kinder, gentler version, Board approved and agreed to sign – will need to stop at the town office.

**Conservation Commission** ~ Cathy moved and Michael 2nded to appoint Ed Hasenohr to the Conservation Commission to fill the vacancy created by Jo Reynolds retiring. All voted in favor. Board wishes to thank Jo for her many years of service on the CC.

**Open Mountain Camp** ~ Board discussed concern of the Conservation Commission about the SB allowing use of the Mountain Cabin. The CC felt there was no way of knowing who was there, cleaning, how many would be using it at once, etc. SB acknowledged concern, but felt there was minimum risk – and added signage for protocols for use. SB and CC need to communicate better in the future. SB asked the CC to post the new signs.

**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. Still only at 39%. Frank advised he is now a census worker, has a 20 mile radius.

**Digitization of Land Records** ~ Gail advised the state is providing grants to help towns move to getting land records digitized so they can be searched remotely. She will research further, deadline is Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. Work has to be done by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Wallingford Town Line** ~ Gail advised, on the advice of Jim Carroll, Esq., that the Tinmouth Listers removed the Taylors house from the Tinmouth Grand List for 2020. Wallingford continues to claim it is located in Wallingford, but uses the current property maps for all the other owners with land in both towns. (Property maps clearly show the house is west of the assumed town line. Research will continue from this end as Wallingford refused to even form a committee to work on a process to determine the location of the line.

**Next Meeting** ~ September 10<sup>th</sup>

**Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar  
Select Board Assistant