

**Town of Tinmouth  
Select Board  
Tuesday, October 27, 2020  
Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19 Pandemic  
Regular Meeting**

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

**Others present:** Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Stan Wilbur – Public Works Project Manager, Hollis Squier, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, David Birdsall, Nancy Gucker Birdsall, Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker – School Principal, Grant Reynolds, and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA).

**Frank** called the meeting to order at 7:02 and welcomed everyone. Board reviewed agenda, added the school principal's request regarding 'Literature in the Woods'.

**Minutes** of 10/8/20 were approved as written, Michael moved, Cathy 2nded, all voted in favor.

**Highway ~**

**Eric** reported that the Harrington Cross Road project is nearly done, grant work was approved by the regional planning commission. Board discussed whether the lane that swings to the right would be closed, after brief discussion Board decided it needed to be blocked off and notice posted in *Tales* and on Front Porch Forum. Road crew has been busy blowing leaves and getting equipment ready for winter. Board inquired about the other end of Harrington Cross Road, would that intersection also be straightened before winter? Eric advised that he hoped to get it done in November – but it is weather dependent. The culvert replacement on Potter's Brook? Eric advised it will wait until spring, much to do now – spot grading, leaf blowing (getting leaves out of ditches), fixing ruts, etc.

**New Tandem Truck ~** Eric advised that he was waiting for more information from Delurey's regarding the warranty (arrived late afternoon). There is a 5 year and 7 year option, though the coverage for the transmission is only for 3 years – would have to get longer warranty directly from Allison, the manufacturer. Eric confirmed it was an automatic transmission.

**Navistar Voucher –** Gail advised Board to hold off final decision on the new truck until its next meeting – more information should be arriving soon regarding the voucher. Jeff Delurey has advised that some folks have started to receive them. Board deferred truck decision to its next meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Channel Road –** Hollis reported that he has spoken with the sub-contractor – next week they will move the line to the other side of the stone wall to get it out of the ditch and agreed to not bury it on the side of the road again. Hollis reminded him that state law requires Select Board permission to bury anything in the town's right of way. Hollis also reminded the Board to require it be buried deep so ditching could be done if need be. Frank thanked Hollis for his efforts.

**Grant-In-Aide –** After brief discussion, Board approved Letter of Intent for FY21, will stop by the town office to sign. Grant is \$6,000 - \$7,000, depends on how many towns participate.

**Winter Salt –** Board reviewed draft bid specs – Eric noted that he uses the de-icer product rather than straight road/rock salt, works better at lower temperatures. Frank moved, Michael 2nded to approve specs and send out for SB meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>. All voted in favor.

**Public Works Facilities ~**

**Stan** noted that he has been working on excavation/site work estimate. 3200 cubic yards need to be moved – about 200 truckloads. He discussed work with Eric, road crew does not have time this fall, prefers to wait until spring. Town may need to rent a bull dozer and bigger excavator,

will need to decide if the material should be stored on site on the back side of the parcel or removed. He calculated based on a state highway bid that it would cost around \$30,000 – 3200 CY @\$13.

**Site Work** - Board discussed process, it was suggested to just hire Dan Allard and get started. Michael reminded the Board that \$30,000 would require going out to bid. After consulting the Purchase Guidance document, other Board members agreed. Stan advised that Otter Creek Engineering (OCE) would need to be hired to develop/prepare bid specs. Board then discussed how that would work, would like it in sections to be able to determine what road crew could/might do, to get to better cost estimate to help decide how to go forward – garage or salt/sand shed first. Board also wants accountability from OCE. Eric advised the town garage was his #1 priority, and that two workers would need to be hired to cover site work and keep road work going during the process.

**Salt/Sand Shed** – Stan noted that the original design was 85’ x’120’, but didn’t include area outside that for buttresses, etc. If that area had to be cleared, then the state permit would need to be amended. He suggested instead to put the structure on piers; that requires engineering at a cost of \$7,500, and that would allow waste blocks to be used for the interior and for the walls. Greystone proposal was briefly discussed, their proposal is all inclusive, but smaller – need more information to make sure it would serve the purpose efficiently. Cathy noted that Brandon built a ClearSpan fabric structure on waste block, why not Tinmouth? Stan will prepare apple to apple comparison between ClearSpan and Greystone as next step.

**Stumping** – As this would require erosion control (silt fencing) that would need to be maintained all winter – not an easy task according to Eric, it was decided to wait until spring time to have Dan Allard pull the stumps.

#### **Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker –**

**Church Parking Lot** - Board reviewed and discussed her letter to the SB regarding using the Church parking lot as school has re-opened. She advised that students and parents need to be kept safe and allowing some of the school staff to park there would help with the traffic pattern. SB was consulted as the parking lot is part of the town green. Church officials contacted had no problem. Board concurred with requested.

There was a bit of a kerfuffle between Board members that is best left out of the minutes.

**Literature in the Woods** – Maureen explained Sarah Graham’s proposal to add posts with bits of literature along the town’s walking trail that starts near the community center. Board thought it a great idea, but noted it is not in their jurisdiction, perhaps the Conservation Commission who oversees the trail and the land owner would need more appropriate to ask.

#### **Financial ~**

**Warrants Reviewed ~** Payroll Warrants #15 dated 10/12/20 for \$1,409.92; #16 dated 10/19/20 for \$2,647.98; and #17 date 10/26/20 for \$1,409.92; and Accounts Payable Warrant #7 dated 10/13/20 for 41,361.62 were reviewed. Cathy moved, Michael 2<sup>nd</sup>, to approve, all voted in favor.

#### **Old Business ~**

*72 Snow Mountain Lane* – Frank advised that Buffums asked that the Town stand back for a bit, if the Rutland County Sheriff’s Department has not issued a ticket, they will be asked to stop. Vermont Health Department had given confusing advice that Frank needs to investigate.

*Trash and Dogs at 605 Mountain View* – Frank advised some progress had been made cleaning up the trailer that had been partially burned. Board discussed whether it was a Solid

Waste Ordinance issue or a Board of Health issue. Given the presence of rats, Board thought it was a health issue and asked the SBA to obtain legal advice on how to proceed.

### **New Business ~**

**Personnel Policy** - Cathy briefly explained proposed changes to the Personnel Policy – asked members to review for meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>. It was also noted that it needed updating regarding the change to health insurance last December. Changes for Covid-19 need to be discussed.

**Emerald Ash Borer** – David, as Tree Warden, had suggested applying for a grant, but after brief discussion, it was decided to pass this round. He noted that towns were taking different approaches – from doing nothing (clean up the tree when it falls) to cutting down every ash tree in town. What should Tinmouth do? Board will ask the Tree Committee to take a look at the Roadside Resiliency Report done a couple of years ago to see if they can come up with a plan. David noted that between the EAB and Ash Yellows, most of the ash trees in town will not survive.

**National Flood Insurance Program** – Michael moved and Cathy 2nded to adopt Resolution to join the NFIP. All voted in favor. Members will stop by to sign it.

**Town Meeting 2021** – Gail advised that legislation had recently passed that allowed the Select Board to decide to hold the 2021 town meeting using Australian balloting (voters normally have to decide). Board took under advisement, would like input from townspeople. Reason is the pandemic and keeping people safe.

**Tax Sale** – Gail reported one buyer showed up at the tax sale, it was sold for taxes, fees, expenses. Owner (Tracy Baker-Gioffi) has one year to redeem it.

**Election Grant** – Gail advised she had applied for a \$5,000 grant to help with elections supplies- (tables, lap top, PPE, etc.)

**Members Concerns** – Cathy reported she had attended two webinars recently dealing with snow and ice, she learned a lot, was happy to report that everything recommended is practiced by Eric. Gravel roads need a special type of plow blade that is expensive but lasts a long time.

**Equipment Fund** - And she reported the estimated cost of a new loader is \$175,000, so that needs to be added to the Equipment Fund, and discussed at budget time.

**Executive Session** – At 9:04 Frank moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel, Cathy 2nded, all voted in favor. All others left the virtual meeting. Board exited at 9:29. No action taken.

**Next Regular Meeting** ~ November 24<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

**Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar  
Select Board Assistant