

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
Tuesday, June 22, 2021
Combination In-person and Virtual Meeting due to
COVID-19 Pandemic measures being relaxed and folks still wanting to have a choice.
Minutes**

Members present: Frank Sears and Cathy Reynolds-(in person), and Meadow Squier(on-line)

Others present: Doug Fontein, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Lothar Schmelzenbach and Gail Fallar – Select Board Assistant (SBA) - in-person. And Amy and Chris Martone, Stan Wilbur, Todd Dennis, Michael Fallar, David Birdsall, Nancy Gucker Birdsall, Logan Birdsall, Ronnie Crossman, Margaret Morin, Paul Morin, and Rainbow Squier were all online, via Zoom.

Frank called the meeting to order at 7:05, welcomed everyone. There was a bit of technical difficulty connecting the Zoom participants with those present – telephone on speaker phone ended up being the best solution for the time being.

Board reviewed agenda – moved the Statement of Values item to the top.

Minutes: Minutes of 6/10/21 were not available, will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

Frank read the proposed **Tinmouth Statement of Values:**

"The Town of Tinmouth upholds a culture of inclusion, civility, and respect, and welcomes all persons; regardless of but not limited to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, income, wealth, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status, disability, gender identity, and gender expression.

As a town we commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community and formally condemn discrimination in all of its forms.

The Town of Tinmouth has been and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions."

Todd Dennis and Nancy Gucker Birdsall advised how they had worked with numerous other Tinmouth folks to compose this – noting that there is a statewide effort to address these issues, and to date 13 other towns have passed something similar. They included Governor Scott's *Proclamation of Inclusion*.

Many folks spoke in favor and thanked the Board for considering it. Michael Fallar suggested the Select Board defer to voters at town meeting. After more discussion, Meadow moved and Cathy 2nded to approve the proposal. All voted in favor. Frank thanked everyone who participated. Nancy thanked the Select Board and everyone in the community who helped compose and support it.

Public Works Facilities Update ~

Stan reported he has not heard from the soils engineer – no hurry now that construction has been pushed back, but he will follow up; has taken no action on the well or the berm and has not been able to take a look at the proposal from Otter Creek Engineering regarding engineering work still needed. Cathy noted the OCE proposal could wait, and expressed concern that the proposed building had been located by them where it may not work – and that would require amending the state stormwater permit. Board discussed the process for quotes or bids for the well – noting that the town has a procurement policy that needs to be followed. Stan advised that he will talk with the well drillers and if the cost meets the minimum requirement, he will prepare documents for the Board to consider.

Highway ~

Ronnie reported there was a good rain storm, no major damage-will need to take a day or two away from ditching to repair some spots, but work on the ditching on North East Road is going well. Frank thanked Ron and Glenn for road work while Eric is on vacation.

Navistar Voucher regarding the 2013 Class Action – SBA advised the request was granted for a \$10,000 voucher, but that the voucher was not yet in hand. This will be applied to the new truck that is still waiting for its dump body.

Cathy advised that Hollis Squier will not be **mowing the roadsides** next year and noted that the Board will need his help developing bid docs for whoever does it next. Board expressed its appreciation for the many years he has done it.

Emerald Ash Borer – David advised not much was happening with EAB, but there is now a Gypsy Moth infestation defoliating maple and other trees. He will be attending workshops and webinars regarding recent changes in the tree warden laws. Board asked for updates for the public to be posted in Tales – for both EAB and Gypsy Moths – what steps that can be taken. He is still working on a public forum to discuss these. Frank thanked him for his continued work.

Website Committee – Todd reviewed the hand out provided to the Board regarding using a .gov domain name. Board needs to approve ‘tinmouthvt.gov’ and write a letter to CISA requesting that. It is free for a year, and folks are working to make it free going forward. The town recently renewed its webhosting with godaddy and domain name for several years. After discussion – including that .gov may be more secure, less susceptible to cyber attack, that there is no downside to it, it is a good idea, Cathy moved and Meadow 2nd to authorize the Website Committee to proceed with securing tinmouthvt.gov and authorized Frank to sign necessary documents. All voted in favor.

Email addresses for elected and volunteer officials – VTel can provide 20 at no charge as the town has two Internet accounts (one at the town office and one at the town garage). This has been suggested because when individuals use their personal email accounts to discuss public business, it makes those email addresses subject to public records laws. Both Cathy and Meadow refused to use VTel email addresses due to past difficulties.

Cathy thanked the Website Committee for all their work and the comprehensive information presented.

Financial ~

Warrants Reviewed ~ Payroll Warrants #49 dated 6/14/21 for \$2,201.58; and #50 dated 6/21/21 for \$7,164.87; and **Accounts Payable Warrant** #26 dated 6/16/21 for \$13,165.79 were reviewed. Meadow moved, Cathy 2nd, to approve, all voted in favor.

Audit ~

Budget Surplus – Board will review draft final reports on the 8th to determine if there are surpluses – highway can roll into the next highway years, if there is a general surplus it needs to either be applied to reduce taxes for the coming year or voted on at town meeting to use it for something else. Past practice has been to leave it in the general checking account for cash flow purposes.

Old Business ~

Personnel Policy and Salary Schedule for FY22 - Meadow moved and Cathy 2nd to approve the changes to the Personnel Policy, which included 3% raises for town employees in the Salary Schedule. All voted in favor.

Select Board Work Delegation – Board continued discussion – should it be formalized (for instance) so that when someone does not get a response from the road commissioner one member of the Select Board tries to resolve the issue – or should that go before the entire Board – does one member have that authority – or should the road commissioner be held responsible? Discussion, no resolution.

Animal Control Officer Job Description - Cathy moved to approve latest version as written, Meadow 2nded, all voted in favor.

New Business ~

Rutland County Sheriff's Department FY22 Contract – After brief discussion, 1.5% increase in hourly rate, Cathy moved and Meadow 2nded to approve. All voted in favor.

Kim inquired about the **WiFi antennae** – Cathy noted the town missed the first round of installation, but was back on track for the next round.

Members Concerns – Cathy noted that the tech for tonight's meeting was 'weenie' – would like to be able to provide for virtual attendance at meetings with a better system than a lap top and cell phone. Sherry volunteered to watch the proceeding on the computer on Zoom to advise if someone wanted to participate. More research needs to be done.

Cathy advised she will be away for the SB meeting on July 27th.

Mail/Correspondence – Gail advised that Bob Lloyd presented the Town with a copy of his memoir.

Executive Session – None

Next Meetings Schedule ~ Select Board July 8th and 27th (4th Tuesday)

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar
Select Board Assistant