

**Town of Tinmouth  
Select Board  
Thursday, October 13, 2022  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Members present(in-person):** Meadow Squier, Cathy Reynolds, and Kevin Eaton

**Others present:**

**Via Zoom:** Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Rick Fallar, Pat Psholka, Nancy Gucker Birdsall

**In-person:** Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner, Paul Morris-Deputy Animal Control Officer, Hollis Squier, Alice Hoisington, Michael Fallar @6:50, and Gail Fallar-SB Assistant

**Cathy** called the meeting to order at 6:00, welcomed everyone

Board reviewed agenda, Gail asked to have discussion regarding right of way vote, added to correspondence.

Minutes of 9/8/22 and 10/6/2022 were approved with Cathy’s corrections the ARPA paragraph, Kevin moved, Meadow 2nded, all voted in favor. *‘There was discussion regarding how to engage voters including: - a special meeting; - voting at the general election in November or at Town Meeting in March. Alternate ways to consider getting input were also discussed such as a public meeting or survey advertised in Tales and FPF. It was suggested that Tales and the minutes announce that copies of the ARPA report are available at the Town Office and on the Town Website. No decisions were made. Cathy noted that this is one time money and should be spent for one time expenses, not ongoing budget items.’*

**Citizen’s Input** ~ Sherry expressed concern with protecting the town’s investment by appointing someone to be responsible for cleaning the rest room once the new town garage is up and running. Board noted they would address that once it is turned over to the town.

**Public Facilities Update ~**

Eric advised that construction has started, roof will be added next week. Cathy noted that there was a meeting between the Clerks of the Works (her and Eric) and Rick Smyrski and Mitchell White(foreman) from Morton Buildings regarding the construction schedule. A list of plumbing and electrical components was requested. Board discussed the need to eliminate the on-demand hot water heater, agreed by consensus that Cathy and Eric could decide if the change was less than \$500, over that and a SB meeting will be called.

Hollis inquired about the water boiling out of the ground near the walk-in door, suggested it was the old pipe that had been broken. Eric advised that it would be fixed when the septic holding tank gets installed, can’t dig it up, and re-hook it as it runs below the footing.

**Highway ~**

Eric advised road crew is hauling winter sand, Glenn Merrill has been laid off for the winter, trees in Crampton’s Woods have been cut, and Harrington Cross Road is now a “T”, not a “Y”, at its intersection with North End Road. More gravel has been added to cover the new culvert on Potter’s Brook, spot grading has been done, and wood chips were delivered to the school playgrounds. Hollis asked to speak, was told to wait until Eric was done. Eric noted he rebuilt grader steering and is working on crack sealing paved roads ‘in house’ – proposed to rent a machine rather than pay \$4,500 per day – may split the cost with town of Danby - \$4,500 per week, would be more cost effective. By consensus, Board approved as long as sealing project costs less than \$10,000, and if time allows.

Board inquired about storm water reports, Eric advised he can do the work, and input the data, but asked Cathy for help with printing the Excel spreadsheets. She agreed to help.

Hollis was allowed to speak. He noted the new intersection of North End and Harrington Cross Roads was great, much safer. He requested reflectors for the deep ditches at the new culvert on Potter's Brook, and noted the new wood chips at the school are pretty sharp.

**Feedback Form** – Rick Fallar had requested the road commissioner address washboard and loose gravel resulting from recent road work on North End and North East Roads. Eric advised the gravel used needed more 'fines' to bind together, he re-graded and called Rick. He may have to add fines and regrade again. Rick thanked Eric for his quick response.

**Winter Salt Bids** ~ SB opened bids, four were sent out, two companies declined to bid. Apalachee Salt bid \$94.74 per ton for rock salt, and \$109.74 per ton for a deicer product. Cargill Salt bid \$85.50 per ton for deicer. After brief discussion, Eric noted the town only uses the deicer product, Meadow moved and Kevin 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept Cargill's bid of \$85.50 per ton. All voted in favor.

**Matt Patry** requested permission to remove invasive buck thorn from the town's right of way on his property on North East Road. Permission is needed to comply with a grant to do the work. Meadow moved and Kevin 2<sup>nd</sup> to grant Matt permission to remove buck thorn from the town's right of way along North East Road. All voted in favor.

**Town Trail #1** ~ Hollis advised that this trail is a right of way that connects Mountain View Road and Merrill Spring Road. The traveled portion was relocated by a previous land owner to accommodate use of pasture. As this property is again on the market, he suggested the current owner and any prospective buyers should know about the situation. Board discussed the trail currently being used by hikers, snowmobilers, and others who would like to continue to use that access to VAST trails. SBA was asked to contact current owners and realtors.

**RRPC Speed Study** ~ Board discussed summary of the four locations the speed study was done - Route 140 near Jenkins, Route 140 just east of the town center, Route 140 near the Wallingford town line, and on the East Road near Burden. Number of vehicles, % of those traveling over the posted speed limit (East Road had one at 113 mph), enforceable violations, etc. Board decided to ask RRPC to attend a meeting to further explain and clarify the data collected and next steps. Meadow volunteered to write something for *Tales* and FPF asking for volunteers to serve on a committee to help the Select Board determine if speed limits needed to be changed, etc.

**Financial** ~ The Select Board Assistant (Gail) reported that the Town Treasurer (Gail) did not provide data needed for FY23 to-date financial reports. Board reviewed FY22 end of year reports, will decide what to do with fund balance surpluses (whether to carry forward or ask voters to transfer) once the budget process for FY24 begins.

Meadow moved and Kevin 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the following **FY23 payroll and accounts payable warrants**, all voted in favor.

***Payroll***

#10 dated 9/10/22 for \$3,391.94; #11 dated 9/17/22 for \$2,361.22; #12 dated 9/24/22 for \$3,584.98; #13 dated 9/30/22 for \$3,553.31; and #14 dated 10/10/22 for \$4,992.63

***Accounts Payable***

#8 dated 9/08/22 for \$3,144.82; #9 dated 9/15/22 for \$933,762.33; #10 dated 9/26/22 for \$34,744.30; and #11 dated 10/06/22 for \$20,286.55

**Bank Resolutions** ~ After brief discussion, Meadow moved and Kevin 2<sup>nd</sup> to appoint/authorize Gail Fallar, Town Treasurer and Cathy Reynolds, TCF Treasurer, as co-signers on the Community Fund Accounts, and Gail Fallar, Town Treasurer as signer on all other town accounts. Cathy recused, Meadow and Kevin voted in favor.

**Follow-Up To Do List** ~ Some have been completed and were removed, others were added. List is to track the many projects underway.

Discussed site work for town garage – Eric will try to make the west bank mow-able with a brush hog, retention pond may wait until spring.

**Ash tree removal** – need a plan – five weeks a year for the road crew?

Eric suggested that a **wood chipper** would be better than a brush head for the excavator, new cost is over \$50,000, should be able to get a good used one for half that.

**Old Town Garage** ~ Board decided to paint the people doors - not replace them, and to patch the roof before winter as well.

**Town Office Generator** ~ Cathy noted is a grant program, deadline is mid-November. SBA advised she is still waiting for 3<sup>rd</sup> quote from electrician.

**Constable** ~ Meadow noted that there a new state law that allows towns to vote to eliminate constables and proposed letting voters have their say at town meeting in March. If voters decide to continue with the SB appointing a constable, the SB will need to develop a job description. Paul advised he was willing to do the same as he had done before. After discussion, Meadow moved and Kevin 2<sup>nd</sup>ed to warn a vote for town meeting, March 7, 2023, to eliminate constables, and not to appoint a constable until after that vote. All voted in favor. Paul will be given an opportunity to speak about the issue at the informational meeting for town meeting. Michael Fallar commented that the SB was supposed to fill the vacancy, that constables had a long list of duties that did not include law enforcement, and wondered what the Rutland County Sheriff's Department was doing regarding constable duties. SB asked SBA to contact the RCSD in that regard. Paul advised that he had been asked to go to Danby as Deputy Animal Control Officer. It was noted that ACO authority is only within Tinmouth borders, so he went as a private citizen.

**ARPA Funds** ~ Board discussed list, how to proceed, will review again at November meeting.

**Heat Pumps** ~ Cathy noted there will be a grant program after all, details still being worked out, may be able to include upgrade to the electrical amp service as part of the grant.

**Citizen's Concerns** ~ Michael expressed concern about the process that resulted in the recent mailing from the SB regarding the vote warned for November 8<sup>th</sup> seeking approval for purchase of a new right of way to the town garage property. The community needed to have more input; a road could be built through the town garage/transfer station area. Kevin responded that it would be a recreation area at some point and that a road through the town garage/transfer station would be a nightmare. Meadow noted it was an opportunity to gain access for a future use, may not present itself again, and expressed safety concerns if traffic went through the highway department area.

**Mail/Correspondence** ~ SBA advised that there had been several comments and concerns received regarding the proposed right of way vote – cost, location, conflict of interest (none), need, timing, etc. Board noted that there was a quick turn around time due to the purchase and sales agreement timing and having to warn the vote 30 days ahead. The Board wanted to give voters an opportunity to vote, so had to do it quickly.

**Executive Session** ~ None

**Member's Concern** ~ None

**Next Meeting Schedule** ~ Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 start time

**Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant