

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
Wednesday, December 14, 2022
Special Meeting Minutes**

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

Others present:

Via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, and Rick Fallar

In-person: Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner and Gail Fallar-SB Assistant

Cathy called the meeting to order at 6:00, welcomed everyone. Added mailing ballots to all voters to the agenda.

Board reviewed draft #3 of the proposed FY24 budget, starting with the **Highway** portion. Board reviewed line by line – discussed:

*Need for third road crew member – how many weeks? Needed to cover vacations, tree work (dead trees and ash tree removal), crack sealing paved roads, and storm water projects.

*Roadside mowing estimate is over \$10,000 – may need to go out to bid – discussed options, will wait for more information. Does the town purchase more equipment or hire it done?

*Tree work is a big job, how does a town the size of Tinmouth manage it?

***Chipper** - use ARPA funds or Equipment Fund? Meadow moved and Kevin 2nded to purchase a used chipper with \$25,000 from the Equipment Fund. All voted in favor.

*Crack sealing paved roads – prolongs pavement – Eric advised it can be done in-house much cheaper than hiring a company at \$4500 per day.

*Equipment Fund – Cathy reviewed latest spreadsheet, had to increase inflation factor.

*Wage increase – after discussion, Board decided to give a 5% raise to all employees – will look at budget numbers at next meeting.

*Budget carryover (highway) and FY22 general fund balance, what to do with them?

*Reimbursement for FY23 town garage expenses from the Capital Building Fund – no decision.

*Highway Paving Project Reserve Fund – what should it be used for? Current balance is \$35,000, was created 7 years ago to help with cost of a major road reconstruction project, is funded yearly, Board decided not to fund for FY24.

*Salt/Sand Shed funding needed

General Budget discussion:

*Increase in office assistant time

*Reduced proposed increase for old cemetery repairs

Board gave tentative approval for budgets, will do final review in January.

Warning for January 17, 2023 Special Vote – Board reviewed draft, Meadow moved and Kevin 2nded to approve as written, all voted in favor, Board signed.

Town Clerk reported that the Secretary of State’s Office advised that ballots needed to be sent to all voters, as that was what happened for the initial vote on November 8th. It was noted that the article asks if the first vote should be rescinded, so a yes vote means to rescind, and a no vote means to leave the approval in place.

TAP Grant – regarding salt/sand shed grant – Cathy reported on meeting with Project Manager from RRPC and VTRANS staff. VTRANS will review engineering already done to see if it meets federal procurement requirements – may half to start over . . . also need point at which the town can decline the grant if it seems too much. Prices have increased dramatically since the project was first proposed.

Procurement for Used Equipment – have guidance for new equipment, need to review for used purchases – chipper, grader, etc. On agenda for January 3rd meeting.

Celebrate New Town Garage – Cathy asked members to think about it, in January or February?

Next Meeting Schedule ~ Tuesday, January 3rd – 6:00 start time

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant

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