

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
Thursday, April 13, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Members present (in-person): Kevin Eaton, Meadow Squier, and Judy Gilmore

Others present:

In-person: Kyle Medash – Vermont Rivers Program/Flood Plain Manager, Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner, Melody Squier, Marshall Squier, David Birdsall, Todd Dennis, Michael Fallar, and Gail Fallar-SBA

Via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Rick Fallar, and Nancy Gucker Birdsall

Meadow called the meeting to order at 6:35, welcomed everyone.

Mr. Medash was present to provide information about the NFIP – National Flood Insurance Program. He briefly described the program, noted that anyone in town could buy flood insurance, not just those in the Flood Plain. He noted that if a disaster strikes – such as Tropical Storm Irene, having the flood plain regulations provides for more reimbursement from the state. Another way to increase the state’s payment is to also adopt River Corridor regulations. He will send an information packet for the Planning Commission to review. One of his jobs is to provide guidance to the zoning administrator if someone wants a permit to build something in the Flood Hazard Zone. Those present recalled the events of Irene, how the Channel area became a huge sponge that absorbed water from the storm until it looked like a lake, how it slowly released the water over a couple of weeks, how volunteers worked to keep culverts free from clogging, and to keep people safe.

Members reviewed the **agenda**, added Lance Somers’s driveway permit, RFP for paving bids, and clarification of ARPA funds for the right of way legal costs.

Minutes of 3/9/23 and 4/3/23 were approved as written. Judy moved, Kevin 2nded all voted in favor.

Citizen’s Input – Sherry expressed support for posting meeting recordings on the town’s website (on the agenda).

David spoke to Emerald Ash Borer (not on the agenda). He spoke with Eric about flagging trees on Route 140 to get started and asked the SB about notifying landowners – create a pamphlet, notify on Front Porch Forum, etc, SB agreed, but no decision was made on who was to do it.

Marshall raised concerns with Ron Hill and his son RJ, burning trash and brush on a Red Flag Day – a very dangerous endeavor. The fire warden and the fire department were called. It was also noted that RJ continues to drive, but has no driver’s license. The SB was asked to address the problem immediately. They added it to the May SB agenda.

Public Works Update – Request for Proposals for Design Engineering have been publicly posted and emailed to engineering firms.

Highway – Eric reported the road crew has been busy grading, fighting beavers, and building stairs in the new town garage. Snow plows have been painted and put away, and the wing is off the grader. The grader had another broken rim, welding is not holding. There are 6 tires on the grader, he asked to order more rims – have to wait for them to be built – there are no used or new ones

available. Board approved. Eric noted the gravel budget is over spent, but winter salt is under, asked to move that amount to the gravel line, Board approved.

Lance and Jenny Somers Driveway Permit - 375 Mountain View Road, Eric advised it did not need a culvert, no tree trimming, good to go. Kevin moved and Judy 2nded to approve, all voted in favor.

Chloride Contract – Board reviewed briefly, Judy moved, Kevin 2nded, to approve and authorize Meadow to sign, all voted in favor.

McCoy Road – Board discussed concerns raised about snow plowing, sanding, and deep mud. Kevin will speak to all involved.

Paving RFP – Board reviewed draft for paving on Route 140 starting at the Wallingford town line and going .8 miles east. If the town gets a state paving grant, will be able to pave nearly to the Tinmouth Cemetery. Approved with minor edits, will be due for May 11th meeting. Kevin moved and Judy 2nded to send out. All voted in favor.

Guidelines for Purchasing Used Equipment – Meadow had tweaked a bit, Judy moved and Meadow 2nded to approve, all voted in favor.

VTRANS Grant Applications – Board reviewed both; one for paving as well as one for a structure - to replace the culvert near the Patrys on North East Road – added length 50’ to culvert, all approved submitting.

Grant In Aide – Judy moved and Kevin 2nded to send Letter of Intent to participate the GIA program in FY24, and authorize Meadow to sign. All voted in favor.

RRPC Mutual Aide Agreement – Judy moved and Kevin 2nded to approve Agreement and authorize Meadow to sign. All voted in favor. Mutual Aide is for highway equipment and/or assistance with other towns in Rutland County.

Financial Reports – Board reviewed reports and warrants.

Payroll warrants # 36, dated 3/13/23 for \$3,225.52; #37 dated 3/20/23 for \$2,321.66; #38 dated 3/27/23 for \$2,929.18; #39 dated 3/31/23 for \$2,924.74; and #40 dated 4/10/23 for \$4,563.30. *Accounts Payable* warrants #33 dated 3/13/23 for \$13,155.87; #34 dated 3/23/23 for \$14,513.28; #35 dated 3/30/23 for \$2,397.45; #36 dated 3/31/23 for 15,828.20; and #37 dated 4/10/23 for \$11,222.04.

Meadow moved and Kevin 2nded to approve the financial reports and the above warrants. All voted in favor.

ARPA Expenditure – Board agreed by consensus to allocate the legal fees paid for the attempt to obtain a right of way from Mountain View Road from the ARPA funds. Total is \$1,650.

Debit Card Guidelines – Board reviewed, made suggestions, will review again at their May meeting.

Health Officer – Meadow submitted her resignation as Health Officer. Board accepted with thanks for her service. Meadow moved and Kevin 2nded to submit/recommend Jeffrey Warfle to the Vermont Department of Health to become Tinmouth’s new Health Officer. All voted in favor.

Annual Appointments – Meadow moved to appoint all annual appointees with the exception of Michael Fallar to the Equity and Inclusion Committee. There was no second. The SBA suggested an executive session was needed to discuss personnel. Meadow asked Michael if he wanted to do that, Michael replied no, he preferred the discussion to be in open meeting. There was much discussion, Meadow read a statement regarding breaking the tradition of appointing those willing to serve, that also spoke to Michael’s creation of a hostile environment for the E & I Committee. She is also the Chair of that Committee. There was much back and forth between Meadow and Michael. Melody also read a statement of support to not re-appoint Michael, noting his negativity.

Judy and Kevin wanted more information, and decided to attend the next E & I Committee meeting – May 16th. Judy moved and Kevin 2nded to appoint and re-appoint everyone except the E & I Committee. All voted in favor. Please see separate page for the appointments that were made.

As no one volunteered to be on the Recreation Committee, the SB decided one was not needed at the moment and dissolved it. There are also now **vacancies** on the Safety and Wellness Committee and the Energy Committee as Ray Pratt stepped down from those and to serve as the new Emergency Management Director. Matt Patry was appointed by Ray to be the new Emergency Management Coordinator.

Website Policy - Board reviewed the updated policy submitted by the Website Committee, Meadow moved and Judy 2nded to approve as presented. All voted in favor.

.GOV domain – Todd explained moving the town website to a more secure domain, and that it is now free. SB had approved in 2021, but had not completed the procedure. He provided the letter needed, and the steps to be taken, once approved, website will be at .gov instead of .org. Kevin moved and Judy 2nded to approve and authorize Meadow to sign. All voted in favor.

Todd also spoke about a proposal to provide **email addresses for town officers** – so they don't have to use their own personal email addresses, which can be subject to Public Record requests. He will send a summary for the SB to consider.

CLA Redetermination Agreement – Judy moved and Kevin 2nded to ratify Meadow's action of signing the Agreement (due to deadline), all voted in favor. The Redetermination request resulted in the CLA changing from 77% to 79%.

Re-appraisal Proposal – Gail, as Chair of the Board of Listers, requested permission to negotiate with Douglas MacArthur for reappraisal consultation. Mr. MacArthur has done Tinmouth's reappraisals for the last three times it was done. By consensus Board approved.

LEMP/NIMS – After brief discussion, Kevin moved and Judy 2nded to approve the annual Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) and NIMS, all voted in favor.

Opioid Settlement – After brief discussion, Meadow moved and Judy 2nded to authorize Gail to respond on behalf of the Town to the proposed settlement. All voted in favor.

Meeting Recordings on Website – Nancy spoke in support of uploading all meetings' recordings to the town's website – which is really a link to YouTube. Kevin moved and Judy 2nded, all voted in favor.

Members Concerns – None

Correspondence – Gail reported the Stan and Rene Wilbur recently donated artwork by Annemie Curlin, which was commissioned for the new courthouse in Rutland in 2005. It depicts the center of town as perceived by the artist. It will hang in the Old Fire House.

Next Meeting Schedule ~ Thursday, May 11 – 7:00 and a 2nd meeting on May 23rd – 7:00

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

DRAFT