

**Town of Tinmouth  
Select Board  
Thursday, August 10, 2023  
Meeting Minutes**

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

Others present:

In-person: Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner, Michael Fallar, Phil Hepburn, Hollis Squier, Devon Neary – Executive Director of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC), and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

Via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Pat Psholka, Rick Fallar, David and Nancy Birdsall.

Members reviewed the **agenda**, deciding to move Devon and the draft Traffic Ordinance closer to the top.

**Minutes** of 7/20/23 and 8/2/23 were approved as written. Kevin moved, Judy 2nded to approve both, all voted in favor.

**Devon** presented the SB with information about a new state funded program for small communities – Municipal Technical Assistance – to be provided by RRPC to help them access stimulus (ARPA) dollars. While many of the proposed programs do not apply to Tinmouth – such as municipal water and sewer – he advised the SB to think outside the box to see how funds could be accessed to help in some way – town plan update, community assessment, shared municipal administration, etc. RRPC is developing a website regarding this new program. Devon will return in September to discuss more details. The SB has to agree to participate, will consider at its September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Draft Traffic Ordinance** – Meadow noted that it did not reduce the speed limit and requested it be sent back to the Speed Limit Study Committee (SLSC) for further review. The SBA noted that the SLSC had recommended more enforcement and other steps due to information provided to the Committee by law enforcement and RRPC staff. Devon noted there were other ways to reduce speeders, speed feedback signs, public outreach programs, and that the RRPC would be willing to review the draft ordinance. Board sent it back.

**Citizen's Input** ~ Phil expressed concern with speeders on North End and Harrington Cross Roads, having seen close calls nearby.

Sherry thanked Eric for posting notice about upcoming paving on Front Porch Forum.

**Highway** ~

**Public Works Update** – Board discussed **painting the old town garage**, Kevin is willing to do it, estimated that it would cost \$6,800. Discussion about whether it should be advertised for possible other interested parties. Kevin and the SBA will work on an RFP for a special SB meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> – SB would like the painting to occur this summer or fall.

**TAP Grant Invoice** – Board reviewed quarterly invoice prepared by Steffanie Bourque, MPM, and approved sending it VTRANS for reimbursement.

**Road Commissioner** – Eric reported spot grading was being done, roadside berms were removed from the southern end of the North East Road along with ditching, will add a culvert near the woods. Needs to be seeded and mulched. Paving was done today; shouldering will be done by Fuller Paving next rainy day. Road crew will work on driveways next Monday – they need gravel to match the new level of pavement.

He advised Grant-In-Aide (GIA) work was being done on the North End Road near the “S” turn – culverts will be replaced, ditching is being done and stone will be placed in the ditches. Concerns were raised regarding that work and the condition is has been left in at the end of the day/work week. The ditches are really deep, there are no cones or signs posted to use caution. After much discussion, Judy offered to help Eric put out cones the next morning and take a look at the situation.

Board reviewed and edited the draft **RPF for the Safety Grant tree cutting**, more information is needed, have to wait for contract from VTRANS, place on agenda for September.

Eric requested the Board approve purchase of a **used tractor and boom mower with a saw attachment** from Salem Farm Supply. It is for sale right now, \$64,068, would like to use ARPA money to buy it. This would be used to road side mowing and the attachment would enable the road crew to trim trees along the road side. Much discussion about the urgency, whether the decision could wait for a special meeting (no), review of Eric’s proposal for it paying for itself over ten years with savings from not hiring a contractor to do the roadside mowing. In the end, Kevin moved and Judy 2nded to use ARPA funds to purchase the Case MU120 tractor with boom mower and the saw attachment for \$64,068. All voted in favor.

Board inquired about research for a used grader, Eric advised he had not had any time to do that.

**FY24 GIA Contract** – Meadow moved and Kevin 2nded to ratify Meadow’s action of signing the grant contract as it was time sensitive. All voted in favor.

Hollis expressed concern with brush along Mountain View Road between Gilmore Road and the former Fish farm – without animals in the pasture, the brush will take over, asked the road crew to keep it mowed, as well on the East Road near Dick Blow’s.

#### **New Business ~**

**Appointees:** Board appointed David Levant and Martha Stanley to the new Recreation Committee, all voted in favor. Meadow and Kevin voted to re-appoint Sherry Johnson (she had resigned) to the Equity and Inclusion Committee, Judy abstained.

**VT Department of Taxes Order to Reappraise** – Meadow moved and Judy 2nded to accept the order, response will be a reappraisal is already in progress. All voted in favor.

**Community Center Parking Lot** – Meadow asked Eric to address culvert that has no reflector or sign as someone broke their ankle last night when they fell into it.

**Financial Reports** – End of year reports are still pending.

Judy moved and Meadow 2nded to approve the following FY24 warrants. All voted in favor.

*Payroll* warrants: #2 dated 7/17/23 for \$4232.59; #3 dated 7/24/23 for \$2,375.09; #4 dated 7/31/23 for \$4,331.08; and #5 dated 8/7/23 for \$3,360.23.

*Accounts Payable* warrants: #2 dated 7/20/23 for \$3,374.65; #3 dated 7/24/23 for \$33,658.92; and #4 dated 7/31/23 for \$17,546.53.

**Waiver for Late Filed Homestead Declarations** – Meadow moved and Judy 2nded to waive the penalty for late filed Homestead Declarations, all voted in favor.

**Feedback Forms** ~ Meadow and Kevin provided copies of their written responses to Ed and Shirley Bucceri’s form (from July meeting) regarding removing someone from the Equity and

Inclusion Committee. They were filed in the Feedback Form 3-ring binder. Judy did not respond as she had voted to not remove the individual.

**Special Meeting** – Board decided to have a special meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss ARPA allotments and the To-Do List and a few other items.

**Next Meeting Schedule** ~ Special meeting August 31<sup>st</sup>, next regular meeting will be September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant