

**Town of Tinmouth  
Select Board  
Thursday, September 28, 2023  
Meeting Minutes**

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

Others present:

In-person: Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Michael Fallar, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

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

Meadow called the meeting to order at 7:03.

Members reviewed the **agenda**, no changes.

**Minutes** of 9/14/23 were approved. Judy moved, Meadow 2nded to approve as written, all voted in favor.

**Citizen's Input** ~ None

**Highway** ~

Eric reported the road crew was working on Harrington Cross Road washouts – ditching, brush cutting, etc.; cutting brush on the East and West Tinmouth Roads; hauling winter sand; and working on the driveway for the new and old town garages. He presented an array of quotes for used graders from CAT Equipment – he noted the salesman from CAT advised that the Town's present grader was on 'borrowed time'. That grader is a 1999 Champion, really hard to get parts for it if something breaks, with about 9700 hours on it. Only one of the graders for consideration was similar in size to current, and very much out of reach budget wise - \$137,500 and the Equipment Fund only budgeted \$79,000. Eric was asked to research leasing or renting a grader. Eric noted that Wallingford had to wait two years after ordering a new one for \$266,500 with a \$20,000 trade-in.

**RFP for Tree Cutting** – Members reviewed, Meadow moved and Judy 2nded to approve, pending state grant paperwork that might require further editing. All voted in favor.

**Winter Salt Bid Update** – SBA advised that bids were sent out by updating last year's RFP, due back on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Board concurred with that action.

**Kevin Brown Driveway Permit** – Board reviewed application, Eric advised what was needed – 15” culvert – 30’ long, ditching to daylight, location to be determined – a bit more north than shown on photo. Board approved, requested number of feet from intersection of Route 140 and Mtn. View Road.

**Equipment Fund Spreadsheet** – Board reviewed data – Eric advised that trucks had a two year wait time, his will need to be replaced in two years, asked to get started. Board asked for info on cost and delivery time for its October meeting.

**Follow-up To-Do List**- Board reviewed highway portion, Eric noted that stormwater road segment work is ahead of schedule. He advised he is tracking the work, shared a work sheet with Meadow. He advised that he spoke with the Guilford road guy about his salt/sand shed – started out bigger - ended up smaller.

**Speed Limit Study Committee**- Kevin reported that members are still working on a list of recommendations for the Board, more enforcement, speed feed back signs, data collection, etc.

**Financial** – Gail, as Treasurer, advised FY23 end of year reports need to be proofed one more time. Kevin moved and Judy 2nded to approve payroll warrants #'d 9, 10, 11 and 12 and accounts payable warrants #'d 7,8,9,10 and 11. All voted in favor.

**More Highway** – Board inquired about the used tractor and mower approved at its August meeting. Eric advised it had not yet arrived, but coming in a day or two. He will try it out on the open fields near the town garage. He noted that Glenn Merrill, road crew part timer, was done for the summer, hopes to have him return in the spring.

**Recreation Committee-** After brief discussion, Board decided by consensus to leave the committee with five members, would like them to start by taking a survey of town people to help determine what kind of rec is wanted/needed.

**ARPA Funds-** Board briefly discussed updated spread sheet – will wait for more information from the fire department and the old creamery committee about their needs before proceeding.

*Air Quality at Town Office* – Sherry inquired whether the air purifiers had been purchased – were authorized for ARPA money last year. SBA noted they had not yet been procured.

**WW2 and Korean War Honor Roll** – Board read letter from The Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society (THGS) which noted that THGS does not have the resources to find all veterans of all wars – hence the marble Honor Roll on the north side of the Town Office which honors all veterans of all wars. THGS will add two names from WW2 and repair and restore the current sign – which was authorized by voters at past town meetings. Board accepted the THGS proposal, did note that if others wanted to work on more recent wars, they would be willing to re-consider.

**Housing Rehab Program-** SBA gave a brief history of the program for low income folks to repair roofs, fix septic systems, drill a well, etc. which began in the early 1990's. Most loans have been paid back, there are two still making payments, two who are not. SBA asked for Executive Session to discuss one of those.

**Feed Back Form** – Meadow read one from Rick Fallar regarding the Select Board's discussion of road commissioner job description options at their August meeting. He encouraged the Board to continue it. Board took under advisement with no discussion.

**Communications** – Heavy patch cut (on forestry property in the Purchase) notice from the State, no action needed. And a notice regarding emergency reimbursement rates – FEMA pays 75%, the state pays 12.5 % and the town is now down to 12.5 % of the cost of repairs of big storm damage.

At 8:05, Meadow moved to enter into **Executive Session** to discuss personnel issues. Board members only entered, then asked Eric to join them at 8:12, he exited at 8:25. SB invited Gail as SBA to join them at that time. Board exited Executive Session at 8:35. Meadow moved and Judy 2nded to forgive the Rehab Mortgage as requested due to extenuating circumstances, all voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant