

**Town of Tinmouth  
Select Board  
Thursday, November 9, 2023  
Meeting Minutes (Regular)**

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

Others present:

In-person: Michael Fallar, Rick Fallar, Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner, Stan Martell Jr., Susan Holcomb, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

Via Zoom and phone: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Miles Fallar, Deb and Tom Bromley, David and Nancy Birdsall, and Pat Psholka

Meadow called the meeting to order at 7:00, introductions for in-person and zoom attendees. Members reviewed the **agenda**, no changes.

**Minutes** of 10/25/23 were corrected to include Accounts Payable warrants #16 and 17, and to indicate that salt bids were to be re-issued. Kevin moved, Judy 2nded to approve with corrections. all voted in favor.

**Citizen's Input** ~ None

**Highway** ~ Eric reported summer equipment was put away, getting ready for winter, handrails on the loft at the new town garage are done.

**West Tinmouth Winter Road Maintenance** – Board opened bids from Stan Martell and Nate Marcell. Martell bid \$310 per plow and \$385 per sanding, hourly rate of \$65 for tree work, and offered a yearly contract of \$12,000. Marcell bid \$650 per plow with no bid for sanding, and \$75 per hour for tree work. Board discussed options, variations in the bids, in the end Kevin moved and Judy 2nded to accept Martelle's proposal for winter maintenance in West Tinmouth, rates are per time (not per storm). All voted in favor.

**Truck/Equipment Replacement** ~ Eric reported lead times are quite far out, Viking is the only vendor for equipment as there are now territories, current quote if for just under \$100,000 for the dump body, sander, plow, wing, etc. Custom built trucks are 2 years out, without a set price. Board will review process used last time at its December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. A member of the audience suggested getting a single axel or another 550 instead of a tandem, asked if the town really needed two tandems. Much discussion, SB would like a cost analysis regarding size, cost, etc. SBA will check with Vermont Local Roads to see if another town has done that.

**Financial** ~ Board reviewed FY23 end of year highway report – ended they year in the red due to the reimbursement for Potter's Brook not being received by June 30. Board discussed reimbursement still due from the Capital Building Fund to the highway fund to cover town garage expenses. Judy moved and Kevin 2nded to transfer \$16, 241 from the Capital Fund to cover the FY22 balance due of \$2,594 and \$13,647 for FY23. All voted in favor.

**Bills and Orders** ~ Board reviewed warrants, Judy moved and Kevin 2nded to approve all. All voted in favor. Payroll warrants #17 dated 10/30/2023 for \$1,590.29, and #18 dated 11/06/23 for \$4,054.14; and Accounts Payable warrants #17 dated 10/30/23 for \$143,235.69, and #18 dated 11/06/23 for \$22,079.98.

**Speed Limit Committee** ~ Kevin gave a brief report, members are discussing enforcement concerns – does the town need to appoint a Special Officer? He added that members wanted to

request the Select Board consider adding speed feed-back signs for the school zone to the ARPA list.

**ARPA Funds** ~ Board discussed, at the suggestion of the Speed Limit Study Committee (cost of \$12,684 plus the flashing light on the stop sign at the intersection of Route 140 and Mtn. View Road, added to list for now. Kevin reported the fire departments request was for \$53,250, Old Creamery Committee is still working on its request. No decisions at this time.

**Speed Limit Enforcement** ~ Kevin, as the SB Liaison with the Rutland County Sheriff's Dept. advised that County Sheriff Dave Fox would attend the special SB meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss speed enforcement issues.

**Road Commissioner Job Description** ~ Rick noted the SB had started talking about it a couple of months ago, he sent a Feed back form to encourage more discussion and was discouraged when the SB simply took that under advisement. He thanked the SB for adding to the agenda. Discussion ensued regarding whether the town needed someone to do the admin part of the job, how much time would be involved, what other towns were doing, how to deal with the discussion, what was the problem trying to be solved, should the SB appoint a committee to research and report back to them, impact on community, how to involve more town's people in the discussion – now that town meeting issues are voted on by Australian ballot. SB asked the SBA to check with other towns to see how having a separate highway administrator worked for them.

**Errors & Omission** ~ The Board of Listers requested Select Board permission to correct an omission on the 2023 Grand List. Ashly Pettus, Trustee, was omitted from parcel 00200160.000 and it was simply listed as 160 Merrill Spring Trust. Judy moved and Meadow 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the correction. All voted in favor.

**Feedback Forms** ~ Rick inquired when the gullies on the gravel roads would be repaired. They are caused by water not being able to get into the ditches and just runs down the road, some are 3 inches deep, hard to drive through, and dangerous. Eric advised it was on the list, may not get done before winter sets in. The Board gave the FB Form to Eric to resolve. Eric inquired if it was resolved, Rick said no. SB asked the SBA to email the Gravel Road Manual to Rick for his review.

**Correspondence** – Gail, as a Lister, advised that the Vermont Association of Listers (VALA) had sent an email requesting the Town take action regarding the study being done by the Dept. of Taxes for the Legislature concerning the State conducting town wide reappraisals every six years. Gail will forward the email to the Board for discussion at its meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant