

**Town of Tinmouth  
Select Board  
Thursday, December 14, 2023  
Meeting Minutes (Regular)**

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

Others present:

In-person: Rutland County Sheriff David Fox, Michael Fallar, Rick Fallar, Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner, Hollis Squier, Alice Hoisington, David Levant, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

Via Zoom and phone: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Miles Fallar, Ali Jenkins, David Birdsall, Nancy Gucker Birdsall, and Pat Psholka

Meadow called the meeting to order at 7:00, welcomed everyone.

Members reviewed the **agenda**, added TAP grant reimbursement request and ice rink on the town green.

**Minutes** of 11/9/23 were approved as written. Judy moved, Kevin 2nded. All voted in favor.

**Citizen's Input** ~ Michael requested that the town meeting ballots include the annual allotments listed individually so that voters could have a say on each one. Members discussed, added to the agenda for January's meeting.

**Speed Limit Enforcement** ~ Board and Sheriff Fox discussed current practices – David advised that staffing issues have kept weekly enforcement hours below the budgeted 10 per week. Board asked to have at least some of the hours worked varied so that there is someone running radar during 7-9 am and 5-7 pm – as those seem to be the hours when the most speeding happens. Board inquired about changing the speed limits – Sheriff Fox that advised 85% will drive safely, obey the speed limit, the speeders won't change, lowering the limit will not affect them. The RCSD's speed cart is off-line for the winter, will not be available until spring time. The Sheriff noted the proposed contract increase of 7% was due mainly to insurance and training, as well as competition for a limited number of law enforcement officers. SB thanked the Sheriff and his staff for their work.

**Traffic Ordinance** ~ The Speed Limit Study Committee sent the draft revised Traffic Ordinance back to the SB, unchanged, and asked the SB to proceed to review so that enforcement would have a better outcome in court - the Sheriff advised that judges often seem to throw out a town's ordinance if it isn't just so. After brief discussion, Judy moved and Kevin 2<sup>nd</sup> to send the draft Traffic Ordinance to VLCT and the Rutland County Sheriff's Office for review. All voted in favor.

**Highway** ~

Eric reported the Town's insurance company recently did a safety/risk assessment inspection of the new town garage. Report should be available for the next meeting. The road crew has started some maintenance on the old town garage, but they will wait for Kevin to complete painting before doing the door work.

**Winter Salt** ~ Eric advised he had signed a contract with Cargill Salt - the Town needed salt for the paved roads and they were the cheapest. Board discussed the bid process – that Cargill did not follow it – they only emailed a proposal – Board decided to review process before next year's bidding takes place – should electronic bidding be allowed? Members were uncomfortable with this year's process – but in the end, Kevin moved and Judy 2nded to accept Cargill's proposal and ratify Eric's decision. All voted in favor.

**Valentine Farm LLC Driveway Permit Application** ~ 671 Route 140 – This was the existing farm/shooting range assess, whose use will now also be residential. It will serve two lots. Board approved with condition that culvert be made 20' longer. Kevin moved, Judy 2nded, all voted in favor. SBA advised that **Kevin Brown** has finally settled on the location for his driveway on the southern end of the VFLLC property – 1445 feet from the intersection with Mountain View Road. Board accepted the change.

**TAP Grant Reimbursement Request** ~ Board reviewed invoice prepared by Project Manager Steffanie Bourque – RRPC, for reimbursement for the salt/sand shed grant work done to date. Kevin moved and Judy 2nded to approve sending the reimbursement request to the State. All voted in favor.

**Financial** ~

No FY24 reports to review. Board reviewed proposed FY25 general budget (will ponder), highway budget discussion was moved to January.

**Bills and Orders** ~ Board reviewed warrants/orders, Judy moved and Kevin 2nded to approve all. All voted in favor. **Payroll** warrants #21 dated 11/27/2023 for \$2,146.21, #22 dated 11/30/23 for \$4,371.30 and #23 dated

12/11/23 for \$2,120.01; and **Accounts Payable** warrants #20 dated 11/30/23 for \$5,070.25, #21 dated 11/30/23 for \$2,620.48, #22 dated 12/07/23 for \$7,434.6, #23 dated 12/07/23 for \$508,738.09, and #24 dated 12/14/23 for \$103,188.86.

**Authority to Sign Warrants Between Meetings** ~ Meadow advised that she wished to relinquish this authority. Judy moved and Meadow 2nded to appoint Kevin with the authority to sign the orders. All voted in favor.

**Holiday Bonuses** ~ After brief discussion, Kevin moved and Meadow 2nded to give \$100 each to the road crew, transfer station crew and town office staff. All voted in favor.

**ARPA Funds** ~ Still waiting for new estimate from the Old Creamery Committee, no decisions at this time. There is about \$85,000 to allocate and spend. Added to January agenda.

**Cameras at the Transfer Station** ~ Board discussed after hours traffic in and out of the facility, whether a gate might be needed, whether to install cameras or signs. Board decided a sign was needed stating no after hour use was allowed, Tinnmouth residents/taxpayers only, no trespassing. Also noted a reminder in *Tales of Tinnmouth* and on Front Porch Forum would be advisable.

**Community Needs Assessment** ~ RRPC advised staff will be available after January to begin the process. Meadow inquired whether a systems assessment would also be worthwhile.

**Winter Use of the Old Fire House** ~ This has been used mainly only during the spring, summer and fall. There are now folks wanting to use it in the winter as well. The Tinnmouth Volunteer Fire Department recently decided that it will provide the propane for the heater, the Road Commissioner advised he will change the way the snow is plowed (will use loader to remove if need be), and the Select Board decided that the users will be responsible for shoveling snow for the path and walkways. All agreed to try it for this winter and revisit if need be next year.

**Special Informational Meeting in January** ~ The Select Board decided to hold a special meeting in January to allow voters a way to provide input on the proposed budgets and other town meeting issues, as town meeting voting is all done by Australian balloting – and by statute the SB is required to hold an informational meeting within 10 days of town meeting (March 5<sup>th</sup> this year). Attendance at that meeting has been sparse and some folks have already voted absentee by then. The SB chose Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 at the Old Fire House, to hold this meeting.

**REMC Appointments** ~ Judy moved and Kevin 2nded to ratify Meadow’s action of appointing Ray Pratt (EMD) and Matthew Patry (EMC) as Tinnmouth’s representatives to the Rutland Emergency Management Committee. All voted in favor.

**Vermont Farmers Food Center Request for Town Meeting Funding** ~ Meadow stepped down from the Chair and sat on the other side of the table to explain this group’s request. She is on the VFFC Board and a farmer who participates in their programs. The request is for \$500 to support their endeavors, all towns in the county are being asked for funding. VFFC supports local farms/food, and helped provide food during the Covid pandemic. Kevin moved and Judy 2nded to add to the warning for town meeting. Both voted yes, Meadow abstained. Meadow resumed the Chair.

**Request to Build an Ice Rink on the Town Green** ~ The school requested permission to build an ice rink on the Town Green – if they can find a flat spot and if it gets cold enough. After brief discussion, Board agreed by consensus to give permission.

**Feedback Forms** ~ None

**Members Concerns** ~ None

**Correspondence** ~ Ali wrote in the Zoom Chat that she appreciated the work on traffic/speeding issues and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Next meetings are January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at the Town Office and January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at the Old Fire House

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant