

# TALES OF TINMOUTH

January-February 2026  
Vol. 40 Number 1

Tinmouth  
Vermont

**Editors' Notes:** *This is a combined Jan-Feb issue . . .*

*May the New Year be filled with Health and Happiness.  
Please Pray for Peace . . . Be Kind . . .*

*And for February – Each day is one day closer to  
Spring!!*

The deadline for submissions (news, items of interest, get well wishes, ads, etc.) is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. Please email your information to *Tales of Tinmouth* (tinmouthtales@vermontel.net).

## ~ Town Meeting 2026 ~

The Select Board has set the **Town Meeting Informational Meeting** for **Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 at the Community Center.

**Town Meeting Voting** will be held **Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 8am – 7pm at the Community Center. Early (absentee) balloting is available.

Town Meeting will find voters choosing the following officers:

- Moderator - Town - 1 year term
- Select Board Member - 3 year term
- Community Center Board Member – 2 year term
- Town Clerk – 3 year term
- Treasurer – 3 year term
- Lister - 3 year term
- Auditor - 3 year term
- Tax Collector (Delinquent) - 1 year term

Town and School budgets and public questions will also be voted by Australian ballot.

All incumbents are running for re-election and are unopposed. No one else filed a petition to run, though you are able to write-in someone else if you so choose.

## ~ Early/Absentee Ballots ~

To request an **Early/Absentee Ballot**, you must do so before **5:00 pm on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. **Voted ballots must be returned by 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. You can call the town office to request the ballots, 802-446-2498 or send an email to tinmouthtown@vermontel.net.

You can also vote **early** at the town office, or stop in to pick up the ballots.

## ~ 2025 Town Report ~

The Town Report is at the printers, will be ready to mail mid-month. Please take a look at it, and bring it with you to the Informational Meeting on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.

Many thanks to Jennifer Trepal for doing a great job!

## ~ Mill River Unified Union School District ~

MRUUSD will hold its **Annual Meeting** on **Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** at Mill River High School Library at 7:00.

Voting on the budget will occur on **March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Copies of their Annual Report are available online at [www.millriverschools.org/annual](http://www.millriverschools.org/annual). There will be a few paper copies available at the Town Office.

*From the Equity & Inclusion Committee*

## ~ Save the Date ~

### Heritage Family Potluck and Stories

**March 21<sup>st</sup> 5-7 PM** at the Community Center

Come share food and stories, passed down family recipes, food culture inspired by travel or a regional or national dish.



## ~ Reminder from your local Fire Department (TVFD) ~

Please remember to keep your walkways shoveled and clear – *even to the doors you only use occasionally* – you never know when you might need the Rescue Squad or which door they may need to use. Goes for the inside too, don't block doorways with 'stuff'. You may need to make a hasty exit (in case of fire) or the Fire Department may need to get in.

TVFD also reminds everyone to make sure that **your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working and that you have MORE THAN ONE WAY out of your house!**



~ Town Meeting 2026 Information ~

The Select Board asks for your support for the following:

You will find Articles on the Town Meeting Warning to allocate some of the General Fund Balance that has accumulated over several years, to the Highway Equipment Fund, the Re-appraisal Fund, the Capital Building Fund, and anticipated legal expenses.

The fund balance in the General Fund is just over \$193,000. The Select Board would like voters to transfer some of this to several of the Town's special reserve funds. This would help stabilize these funds and is a way to avoid raising taxes for the projects/equipment these reserve funds cover. The remaining balance will be used for cash flow purposes as state highway aide is paid quarterly and taxes are paid in two installments.

Discussion continues about construction of a salt/sand shed. The Select Board rejected a proposal that would have cost nearly \$1M, but acknowledge something is needed. They are requesting \$40,000 be transferred into this Fund.

Increasing prices and delays are exerting pressures on the Highway Equipment Replacement Fund. A new tandem cab and chassis was purchased in August of 2025, and waits quietly in the new town garage for its body, dump box and plow equipment, which will not be available until spring time or later in 2026 and will deplete the Fund. They are asking for \$40,000 for this Fund as well.

The State is increasing regulations and oversight of the appraisal process of property and a town's grand list. Re-appraisals are now required every six years – our last one was done in 2024, so we will need to start budgeting for that now. Typically, Tinnmouth has gone 8 to 12 years between appraisals – depending on the real estate market, so this will also require additional funding being set aside. It is also unlikely that the Listers will be able to do it themselves (with a consultant) any longer – new State requirements mean only certified appraisers will be allowed to conduct re-appraisals. The Board is asking for \$30,000 for this Fund.

There is also an article to authorize the Select Board to spend up to \$10,000 for legal fees associated with defending the Tinnmouth Town Plan and Zoning Bylaws in regards to the proposed radio tower on Route 140. The process is too complicated for the Town to participate without legal assistance. Anonymous donors have already provided \$10,000. Other donations are welcome as well.

Your approval of these Articles would be appreciated and will help avoid raising taxes for the purposes of these special funds.

**Tinnmouth Select Board**

*Kevin Eaton, Chair Judy Gilmore Melody Squier*



~ Christmas Baskets ~

The **Roy & Anne Wilbur Fund**, under the umbrella of the Tinnmouth Community Church, along with the Tinnmouth Elves, provided food and gift baskets to 17 families this year. There were also 20 fruit baskets delivered to elders and those needing a small boost of holiday spirit. They were very much appreciated. **Thank you to all** who donated food, time, and financially to make this happen. It helps keep Tinnmouth a special place.

Thank you also to the Town for use of the Old Fire House, to the Tinnmouth Volunteer Fire Department for use of its refrigerators, to the Mill River Union High School Honor Society for its wonderful food contributions, to those who brought food to the Food Drive, to the Tinnmouth Community Fund for grants for the Elves work, and to the folks who donated over \$3,500 to the Wilbur Fund to help with this project and its year-long efforts to help those who need a boost..

Appreciation is also given to the many Elves who shopped, wrapped, filled boxes with food and baskets with fruit, and delivered some of them!

Thank you to the Tinnmouth Mountain School for its food drive to help restock the Food Shelf at the Town Office!

~ Homestead Declaration ~

This is a reminder that you need to file an **annual Homestead Declaration** with the Vermont Department of Taxes, form HS-122. You must file this to qualify for the homestead education tax rate and to request a property tax adjustment if you are eligible.

You must also file form HI-144 (household income), **due April 15<sup>th</sup>**. This is required even if you do not have to file or pay state income taxes.

~ Community News ~

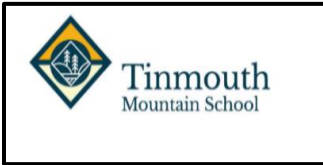
*Get Well Wishes* are sent to **Helen Young, Chuck Bronk, Beth Eaton, Alice Hoisington, Thom & Carolyn Feury, Anita Rogers, and all suffering from the flu.**

*Heartfelt Sympathies* are sent to friends and family of **Janet Fish**; and to **Melody Squier** and family for the loss of her sister **Dawn**.

*Much Appreciation* to **Marshall 'Mo' Squier and Crew** for the *humongous* wreath that adorned the Fire House during the Holiday season. It seems that several other folks were happy recipients of wreaths mysteriously appearing on their door step. *Thank -you Xmas Elf!*

~ Tinnmouth's Website ~

Tinnmouthvt.gov - There is lots of information about the town on its website, take a few minutes and check it out!



## Happy New Year!

The week before we left for holiday break was filled with many meaningful and joyful experiences, including a very successful second year of our student holiday shop, caroling throughout Tinmouth, and spirit week. Thank you to everyone who helped make these events run smoothly. Students and staff worked incredibly hard over the past few months and were very excited for a well-deserved break.

When we return, our winter sports program will begin. Students ages seven and up may choose to participate in skiing or snowboarding lessons at Pico Mountain or skating at Spartan Arena. Kindergarten and six-year-old students will attend skating at Spartan Arena. This program provides a wonderful opportunity for students to try something new, challenge themselves, and build friendships across age groups. Winter sports run for six weeks from January through March, meeting approximately two times per month while working around blackout dates, half-day district professional development days, and holidays.

I would like to take a moment to share a question that was recently asked of me: *"How do you get kids to come to school?"* At first, I was confused by the question. I assumed the answer was fairly simple: parents and buses get students to school. However, the question was deeper than that. I was told that Tinmouth Mountain School has one of the strongest attendance records in both the district and the state. The assumption was that we must be using special incentives, prizes, or attendance challenges.

The truth is, we are not doing any of those things. Instead, I asked our students directly, *"Why do you come to school?"* Their answers ranged from, *"I feel safe,"* to *"I like learning,"* and *"My teacher is really nice."* That was when it became clear that our students come to school because they feel heard, supported, and connected to the adults who care for them. Strong relationships matter. Knowing each of our students has always been incredibly important to me, which is why I make a point to connect with them each day, whether it's in the lunch line, in classrooms, or in the hallways. When students feel known and valued, they want to be here. This sense of belonging is something special at TMS, and it is what keeps our students coming back and our community continuing to support our school.

Tinmouth Mountain School is truly a special place.

**Jenn Galusha-Brothers**  
Principal  
Tinmouth Mountain School

## And for February ~

The month of January has flown by, and we are off to a very successful start to our winter sports season. Our mountain students were complimented on being respectful, responsible, and excellent listeners while working with their instructors. We are very proud of them. Our 5th- and 6th-grade class is well on their way to raising funds for their overnight trip to Boston in May. So far, students have participated in bottle drives, bake sales, a dine-to-donate event at Applebee's, and a pie sale. **Their final fundraising push will be a basket raffle on February 15th from 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. at the Tinmouth Community Center.** Lunch items will be available for purchase while you try your luck on your favorite baskets. Some of our exciting basket themes include: Date Night, Cleaning (includes 4 hours of cleaning services!), Must Love Dogs, Night In, Self-Care (includes a reiki session!), and more. We would love to see our community there supporting our students.

One of my responsibilities as principal is to create a Continuous Improvement Plan each year, focused on academics and maintaining safe and healthy schools. These goals are developed using data, observations, and conversations with our school community.

I have recently begun meeting with students to learn what they love about TMS and where they believe we can continue to grow. My next step will be gathering parent and community input. If you would be interested in having a conversation about this process, please let me know — your voice is valued and appreciated.

This past year's goals included:

- 25% of students meeting the targeted level on the winter STAR Math 360 assessment
- 63% of K–3 students reaching at or above target level on the winter STAR Reading 360 assessment
- Continued work toward aligning Tier 2 and Tier 3 math interventions, addressing student fluency needs, and establishing a clear math intervention protocol

This month, I am excited to introduce our wonderful and creative art teacher, **Miss Maria French**. Miss Maria works in all MRUUSD elementary schools and is well known for her amazing ability to learn every student's name. She is a former MRUUSD board member and a Wallingford resident. You can often find her on the weekends at Sweet Birch, drawing away — if you see her there, be sure to say hello!

**Jenn Galusha-Brothers**  
Principal  
Tinmouth Mountain School

*"If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn."* Ignacio Estrada

**Friends of the Rutland Free Library  
December Book Sale**

10 Court St., Rutland, VT 802-773-1860

**Friday, Feb. 13 (10 - 4) and  
Saturday, Feb. 14 (10-2)**

Public Always Welcome

Thousands of organized, gently used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for all ages.

Always a broad selection of rare and antique books. All purchases by donation only. Limit of two grocery bags per family. No book dealers.

Proceeds to support library programs and collections and designated library projects. [www.rutlandfree.org](http://www.rutlandfree.org)



**All Tinmouth residents can get a FREE Library card at the Rutland Free Library!**

*Please Recycle or Pass Along Tales!!*

~ Legislative Contact Info ~

The Vermont General Assembly is back in session, meeting in person but also sometimes virtually. If you wish to contact your State Senators or Representatives, here is the info:

You can call the Sergeant-at-Arms at 1-800-322-5616 and leave a message, or use email addresses below.

*Rutland-Bennington District –*

Rep. Chris Pritchard: [cpritchard@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:cpritchard@leg.state.vt.us)

*Rutland County Senators-*

Sen. Brian Collamore: [bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:bcollamore@leg.state.vt.us)

Sen. David Weeks: [dweeks@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:dweeks@leg.state.vt.us)

Sen. Terry Williams: [tkwilliams@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:tkwilliams@leg.state.vt.us)

You can also access the Legislature’s website at [www.leg.state.vt.us](http://www.leg.state.vt.us). There you can find who is on which committee, what bills have been introduced, track each bill’s progress, review committee agendas, etc. There is a wealth of information available. You may also be able to watch debate live via video links.

Your input can be important in their decision-making. Let them know your concerns!

~ Tinmouth Historical & Genealogical Society ~

THGS will meet on **Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** (*January’s meeting was postponed due to the cold weather*) at 1:30 at the Town Office, to discuss possible programs for 2026 – an archeological dig at one of the old iron works sites, 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration, interview of a Tinmouth ‘elder’?

All are welcome, refreshments will be provided.


**Town Garage Phone Number**

If you need to alert the road crew about a tree across the road, or have concerns with road conditions, please be advised the Town Garage has a telephone and answering machine.

Please leave a message, as the road crew most likely will be out working on the roads.

**802-446-9163**

~ Dog Licenses Due April 1<sup>st</sup> ~

 Vermont law requires all dogs, aged 6 months and older, to be registered by April 1<sup>st</sup> each year. A current rabies certificate is required. You can call the Town Office if you don’t know if your dog needs a shot or not. Fees increased \$2 this year due to a new state fee to help create a new division in the Department of Public Safety for Animal Welfare. Fees are \$11 for neutered/spayed dogs and \$15 for those that are not.

You can also license them by mail if you wish.

## Stories Told in Tinmouth: Tinmouth Old Firehouse



Please join us for an ongoing series of storytelling evenings at the Tinmouth Old Firehouse in beautiful downtown  
Tinmouth  
Weather permitting - the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month – 7:00 PM.

*(Future prompts will be chosen at each event)*

**January 9**

**February 13**

**March 13**

**April 10**

Come share your true **5-minute story** with a live audience of kind and supportive listeners, or come to listen and enjoy!

Use the prompt to inspire you, or share a story based on your own inspiration. Stories about Tinmouth are always welcome.

~ Please join us for the fun and refreshments ~

This event is based on our desire to share experiences in stories.

It is based on the STORY SLAM model. **Audience members put their name in a basket and storytellers are chosen randomly to tell their true story.**

**This is a free event sponsored by the Tinmouth Community Fund.  
All are welcome!**

*Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/TinmouthOldFirehouseConcerts](https://facebook.com/TinmouthOldFirehouseConcerts)*

**Tinmouth Old Firehouse Concerts & Town Events  
Questions: 802-881-6775 (call or text)**

### **Introduction to Pickleball**

**When: Tuesday February 24, 2026 4:00 to 6:00**

**Where: Tinmouth Community Center**

**What:** Family friendly opportunity to learn the basics of Pickleball  
Super fun social game (all ages and athletic abilities welcome)

**Other Info:** Equipment will be provided

Come with your athletic shoes that are friendly to the newly refinished gym floor.

**This event is sponsored by The Tinmouth Recreation Committee**

~ Meeting Highlights ~

Complete minutes are available at the town office.

All highlights are edited by Ye Olde Editor.

**December Highlights will be followed by  
the January Highlights**

**Select Board (SB) ~ 12/11/2025 (Regular)**

Members present were Kevin Eaton, Judy Gilmore, and Melody Squier

Others present: In-person: Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Ann Lundquist, Michael Fallar, and Gail Fallar, and Via Zoom: Sherry Johnson and Rick Fallar

**Highway ~**

Eric advised that the road crew was busy plowing, sanding and salting. The black tandem blew a major hydraulic hose, road crew repaired.

**West Tinnmouth winter road maintenance** – Eric advised that Glenn is not available this year, road crew has been trying to do it, as time allows, depending on the storm. He would like to find someone to plow and sand over there. He has spoken with Martelle Property Services, they are willing to do it for \$7,500 – bill up to that amount, won't go over. No money in the budget for that this year. After more discussion, Kevin offered to try it for a month – using the Town's 550 dump truck – Eric noted it would depend on the timing of the storm. He would like to install a camera on the new Aines' barn to keep an eye on the snow – it sometimes does not snow there when it is here, and vice versa.

Eric reported the sander for the one ton (550) is nearly ready for use.

**Draft Highway Budget for FY27** – Board reviewed, made suggestions – more chloride for summer grading – would like repair list from FY25 to help with setting amount for next year.

**Generator at the Town Garage** – waiting for electrician.

**Salt/Sand Shed** – Need to check Stormwater Permit time frame, Board gave Eric permission to remove stumps and a big tree in location.

**Financial ~**

**End of year FY 25 reports** were reviewed and approved.

**Bills and Orders** ~ Board reviewed warrants. Board voted to approve and accept. Payroll warrants #20, 21, 22, & 23 and accounts payable warrants #14, 15, 16, 17, & 18.

**FY27 Draft General Budget** – briefly reviewed.

**Highway Safety Grant** – Removing ledge and trees in Crampton's Woods, and replacing guard rails on Mtn. View Road. Eric will get estimates for January meeting.

**Old Business ~**

Kevin provided update, occupants at 605 Mountain View Road are willing to work with the town. He will get quotes for next meeting.

**Pavilion Use Guidelines** – Still a work in progress, refer alcohol use to Community Center Guidelines, added to January agenda.

**Radio Tower Update** ~ Still waiting for the PUC (Public Utility Commission) to decide how to proceed.

**Town Plan Re-Adoption** ~ After brief discussion, Board voted to adopt the new proposed 2025 Tinnmouth Town Plan as proposed by the Tinnmouth Planning Commission. Kevin thanked the Planning Commission for its work. Michael, PC Chair, expressed appreciation for all the time and efforts PC members put into it.

Gail noted the Rutland Regional Planning Commission was planning on its review for its January meeting.

**Re-Imagine Conference** – Judy, Melody and Michael attended, gave brief reports – all noted the best part was being able to talk to other towns about similar problems - grant frustrations and lack of information, and that rural development is different in Tinnmouth than even neighboring towns. Size of the town didn't matter much.

**Holiday Bonus** ~ Board agreed by consensus to provide a \$150 holiday bonus to the road crew, transfer station crew and town office crew.

**Members Concerns** ~ Open Meeting Webinar – agendas have to be posted 48 hours prior to the meeting.

**Planning Commission ~ 12/18/25**

Members present in-person: Michael Fallar, Ann Lundquist, Vito Macaluso, Judy Gilmore, Andy Gilmore, and Larry Carabeau, and members present via Zoom: Kim Harbaugh and Pat Psholka

Others: present in-person: Gail Fallar Secretary  
And via Zoom: Sherry Johnson(?)

Update of the proposed ITW tower – Gail advised that all parties are waiting for the Public Utility Commission to clarify the process as there are different interpretations of their order regarding the Hearing Officer's draft decision of denial.

Michael reported the Select Board approved the new Town Plan at its regular December meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>. He thanked PC members for their energy and diligence working on the update and their dedication to working for the good of the Town. Members were given copies of the minutes of the Select Board hearing on the Plan. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission is planning its review at their January meeting – members were encouraged to attend if possible.

It is anticipated the Sean Beatty, RRPC Planner, will attend the PC's January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to begin work on the amendments needed to complete the update of the Plan – starting with the EEP, scenic resource protection, and telecommunications. Aging in Place options were discussed – welfare checks for seniors, possible Senior Center, and possible walking path around the Town Green.

Members discussed holding a community meeting to allow everyone to share scenic places that needed to be protected. Vito noted that he and the late Grant Reynolds photographed many view-scapes with cultural heritage value – a list of these places is needed, to be clearly defined, and mapped. He added that “why” the Town likes a particular place is important – and suggested that people be encouraged to take pictures of their special places and pass them along to the Planning Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM, members shared Christmas cookies of many varieties.

### **Conservation Commission ~ 12/15/25**

*With thanks to Robbie Leeds, Sec.*

Members present: Ed Hasenohr and Robbie Leeds with Doug Inkley and Colleen Balch via zoom  
Community member: Gail Fallar, Benson Inkley, Vicki Willits (Poultney Mettowee Natural Resource Conservation District)

Vicki introduced herself, she is a member of the Poultney Mettowee NR Conservation District and wanted to join our meeting to see what kind of collaboration efforts could be made between PMNRCD and the Tinnmouth C.C.

Discussion started on the first agenda item about adding new trails. Robbie shared some of the work that has been done. Robbie, Marshall Squier and Doug Fontein hiked some of the existing trails in town. Robbie was using GPS to track the trails in order to more easily share information about the trails with the community. Robbie also said he planned to make a “Town Green trail” for Spring/Summer of ‘26. Distribution of information about the trails would be through All Trails (only when permitted by property owners), the town website, and the town office.

The next item on the agenda was continuing the discussion about the invasive plant Phragmites. During our last meeting, Colleen sent around a draft post for FPF about Phragmites. Some email suggestions were made, and discussion was had about the suggestions. There were some disagreements about how to inform the community about the invasive. Specifically with asking the community to identify the invasive on their property and share this information with the Commission.

Vicki was asked to weigh in, having had experience with the invasive as a part of PMNRCD. She was very aware of the invasive and knew how challenging it is to eradicate it. Doug I. asked about working with private property. Vicki mentioned taking a more educational approach. Giving information on the invasive and how to deal with it. She also mentioned the lake wise program which is a voluntary program through the Vermont DEC, “offering homeowners and businesses technical help to manage shorelines, reduce runoff, and create lake-friendly properties, earning awards for healthy shorelands that protect water quality and wildlife.”

Colleen thought Community work days to help eradicate the invasive was a good idea and something that Tinnmouth has done in the past.

The Commission discussed more on this topic until it was decided to postpone deciding on a public statement until the next meeting. Members were assigned to reread Colleen’s original draft post as well as the suggestions made by Doug I. and either agree with the existing posts or write a final draft recommendation for a post and next steps for Phragmites in our Community.

Discussion was moved to signage - Doug I. was going to write up for the Merrill Spring/Ricketts Rd. Connector Trail. The sign would then be recommended to the Select Board to be posted. “Town Trail Authorized Vehicles only” was Doug I.’s draft signage. Discussion was had about the trail itself, what defines authorized vehicles and what can be legally posted.

Benson Inkley shared his concern with motorized vehicles on the trail. And that he had previous interactions with motorized vehicles on their property. Robbie also shared a conversation through email with John Carrick, the property owner at the end of Merrill Spring Rd. He did not want any trails on/or adjacent to his property on the All Trails app. The app which the Commission is using to post trails digitally. Robbie, speaking for the Commission and Recreation Committee agreed not to post trails on the All Trails app. Other trails in town like the Ridge Trail was already posted on All Trails but was not associated with John Carrick’s property.

A decision was not made on signage and was postponed to the next meeting.

### **~ January Meeting Highlights ~**

#### **Select Board (SB) ~ 1/8/2026 (Regular)**

Members present (in-person): Kevin Eaton and Judy Gilmore, and Melody Squier via Zoom.

Others present: Eric Buffum–Road Commissioner, Michael Fallar, and Gail Fallar-(SBA) and via Zoom: Ann Lundquist, Sherry Johnson and Rick Fallar

Members reviewed the **agenda** – added a request from the Rutland County Humane Society for funding.

#### **Highway ~**

**Eric** advised that the road crew was busy plowing, sanding and salting – lots of ice and snow. He advised that there may be difficulty getting winter salt – some has been diverted to other places due to large snow storms there. Big ice storm is forecast. Will be sending out the excavator bucket for repair and the tractor as well. The roller for the grader is being worked on in the town garage (project from years ago).

**Highway Safety Grant** – No quotes were yet obtained, it was noted that with it being a state grant, cutting trees will have to occur in the winter, due to the possibility of bats living in them in the summer.

**Draft Highway Budget for FY27** – Board reviewed, set Equipment Fund budget request at \$85,000.

**Special Meeting** - Melody agreed to move the E & I Committee meeting to the 29<sup>th</sup>, so that the SB could hold a special meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 to finalize the budgets and town meeting warning.

#### **Financial ~**

No FY26 **Financial Reports** yet.

**Bills and Orders** ~ Board reviewed warrants. Board voted to approve and accept. Payroll warrants #24, 24A, 25,26, 27 and 28 and accounts payable warrants #18, 19, and 20.

**FY27 Draft General Budget** – briefly reviewed. Gail advised that the state is requiring more training for the Listers, so that line item increased. SB increased legal a bit and discussed the need to do fund raising for the legal regarding the proposed tower, will finalize at special meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

SBA advised that the Recreation Committee had received a donation of \$1,000, would be discussing at their meeting next week, and asking the SB for an article on the town meeting warning to create a special fund for the Recreation Committee to oversee. It was noted that the Conservation Commission also received a \$1,000 donation, but that they already have a reserve fund.

SB still looking for before photos of the work done on the community center last fall.

#### **Old Business ~**

**Purchase Guidelines** – SB increased the minimum needed to go to bid to \$15,000 (up from \$10K), and authorized language to allow electronic bidding. Board voted to approve as written in favor.

**Pavilion Use Guidelines** – Board voted to to approve as written and signed the document.

**Kevin, as Health Officer**, reported he is continuing work on getting 605 Mtn. View cleaned up. It was noted that there needed to be a draft agreement with the occupants to keep it clean once it was cleaned up and that a lien would be placed to recover the cost at some point in the future.

**Radio Tower Update** ~ SBA advised she would be speaking with the attorney on Friday.

**Town Meeting** – Board tentatively set the informational meeting for town meeting on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> (*later it was discovered that the community center had already been rented by a private individual that date, so it was moved to the 28<sup>th</sup>*). Melody noted it was time to think about town meeting, how it works, and how to educate voters about it.

**General Fund Balance** – SBA advised the Auditors needed to confirm the number, just over \$193,000, and that the SB should think about having voters transfer some of that to special reserve funds.

**Select Board Report for the Town Report** - Members reviewed draft, Voted to approve with change of ‘mid-summer’ to ‘early August’.

**Rutland County Humane Society Request** - SBA advised that they had sent an email, the process was explained for first time requests and that someone needed to attend this meeting. As no one was present, it was tabled, they can try again next year.

**Equalization Study** – This is a sales study of real estate properties transferred in the last 3 years in the town, done by the Vermont Department of Taxes. The SBA reported the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for this year is 96.30 and the Co-efficient of Dispersion (COD) is 13.7. Last year the CLA was just over 99, meaning the 2024 re-appraisal numbers are still close to fair market value. If a town has a COD of over 20, that triggers a re-appraisal.

#### **Select Board (SB) ~ 1/22/2026 (Special)**

Members present Kevin Eaton, Judy Gilmore, and Melody Squier

Others present: Ann Lundquist, Robbie, Ryker and Felix Leeds, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

And via Zoom: Sherry Johnson and Kim Harbaugh

Members moved the Recreation Committee’s request for a special article for Town Meeting to the top to allow Robbie to go first.

Robbie explained that the Recreation Committee had received a donation of \$1,000 and would like to have that available on an on-going basis, so asked that the Select Board add an article to the warning for voters to create a special fund for the Recreation Committee – to be overseen by the Rec. Committee, with approval of the SB. Board voted to add an article to the town meeting warning as requested. Robbie and his boys then left the meeting.

After brief review, Board voted to approve the draft FY27 highway budget for the warning of \$717,600. And then voted to approve the draft FY27 general budget of \$288,605.

Members noted the need to explain to voters the articles that are asking voters to transfer some of the General Fund, fund balance to special reserve funds – that the fund balance was created over a number of years and that this is a way to add extra money to these projects without having to raise taxes. These include \$30K for the Re-appraisal Fund (now required to be done every 6 years), \$40K for the Equipment Fund (prices are increasing dramatically), and \$40K for the Capital Building Fund (a sand/salt shed is still needed).

After a brief discussion, Board voted to add another article to the warning, to transfer up to \$10,000 for legal fees for the tower proposal.

Board then voted to approve the special articles and approve the Warning as written for the March 3, 2026 Town Meeting, with the informational meeting being held on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Board discussed applying for a State Small Safety Grant – to replace guardrails on Mountain View Road and to remove trees and ledge in Crampton’s Woods – maximum of \$50,000. Board voted to approve.

Board signed the annual Milage Certificate required by VTRANS. No changes in mileage in the last year.

### **Planning Commission ~ 1/15/2026**

Members present in-person: Michael Fallar, Ann Lundquist, Vito Macaluso, Larry Carabeau, Judy Gilmore, Andy Gilmore, and members present via Zoom: Kim Harbaugh and Pat Psholka

Others: present in-person: Gail Fallar Secretary  
And via Zoom: Sherry Johnson(?)

Members reviewed the agenda – added discussion about recording meetings with audio only

Update of the proposed ITW tower – Motions have been filed by both sides, no forward progress.

Michael reported the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) is planning its review of the new Town Plan at their February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting – members were encouraged to attend if possible.

It was noted that RRPC is experiencing a change in staff, but is committed to helping Tinmouth with its remaining planning needs. The EEP grant work has to be completed by the end of 2026, that is first on the list.

Members discussed holding an Open House – Pot Luck in May to encourage community members to gather to discuss scenic places that needed to be protected. These need to be specific view-scapes – details needed for each site. Now is a good time of year to take photos – (no leaves), suggested that people be encouraged to take pictures of their special places and bring them or email them along to the Planning Commission. There may be a photo display to start the discussion. It was suggested that the PC send out a survey in the *Tales of Tinmouth* seeking input as well. It was noted that former mountain side fields are quickly becoming overgrown – no cows or youngstock to keep them chewed down.

Members voiced concerns with AI and the video recordings of meetings – many felt members’ identity would be more secure if only video recording was done – state statute allows audio or video. Will discuss further.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM, members devoured cookies provided by Cris Carabeau.

### **Tinmouth Recreation Committee ~ 1/12/26**

*With thanks to Martha Stanley, Sec.*

Present were members Robbie Leeds, Doug Fontein, Martha Stanley, Chris Martone, Colleen Balch via zoom.

Also present: Gail Fallar and Rose Gilman

Rose expressed interest and proposed reviving *contra dances* in Tinmouth and seeks partnership with the Tinmouth Recreation Committee.

Family friendly contra dance opportunities 3 times to start in the spring. The first Fridays: March 6, May 1 and June 2nd. 7:00 - to 10:00 P.M.

Dates have been cleared and the Community Center is available. Discussed booking bands and callers.

Seeking grants to pay the bands, Doug and Cathy will host band and callers if they didn’t want to travel at the end of the evening.

Doug also volunteered to help set up the dance and clean up. Other Committee members said they would help too. Marketing strategies discussed; Rose noted that co-workers at Smokey House will promote as well.

Members voted that the Tinmouth Recreation Committee co-sponsor the Contra Dance on the first Friday of the month with Rose Gilman.

Robbie re-capped his town report article of the TRC for 2025: helped with Tinmouth fun day, pavilion work, winter gym activities, hike at the Tinmouth Channel, kayak trip, life vest grant, established a website page and trail mapping, and trail maintenance work. Basketball hoop added.

**Anonymous Donation** discussed. The Recreation Committee has received a generous donation (\$1,000). A special fund needs to be established but first approved by the Tinmouth voters.

**Reviewed Draft Article - Shall the voters authorize the establishment of a Special Fund for the Recreation Committee, to be overseen by the Recreation Committee with the approval of the Select Board, for the purpose of enhancing recreational opportunities for the citizens of Tinmouth?**

*Members voted approve and submit the Article as proposed to the Select Board to add to the town meeting warning. Robbie will present to the Select Board.*

*Community Center Floor* - has been refinished and looks great.

*Trail work updates:* Doug and Robbie have walked and mapped the Purchase Loop and the Tinmouth Mountain Ridge Trail Robbie has proposed descriptions for All Trails and the Tinmouth website, members voted to approve.

*Old Business:*

*The bridge to the playground* has been built with thanks to Doug Fontein and David Levant. LaValley Building Supply donated the materials.

*Guided Hike Planning:* Suggestions made by Doug, will invite Marshall Squier to next meeting, table for now.

*Sponsoring Events updates:*

Paperwork completed for insurance coverage for pickleball, a Recreation Committee sponsored event.

*Introduction to Pickleball:* Perhaps during February School vacation for Tinmouth Community Members.

Also under consideration: a board game night – chess, checkers, monopoly, backgammon, candy land ???

## Equity and Inclusion Committee ~ 01/29/2026

*With thanks to Alyssa Adler, Sec.*

Members present Melody Squier and via Zoom: Kim Harbaugh, Sherry Johnson, Rainbow Squier, Cynthia Pollock, Ellie Ewing, Alyssa Adler; public present: Gail Fallar

*Family Heritage Potluck* - Melody reminded members what the heritage potluck event was, and that it was last March. Members unanimously agreed to host the event again. Cynthia noted it would be nice to have more attendees. Melody said folks from neighboring towns wanted to attend, and that we could advertise the event as being open to our neighboring towns as well. Sherry suggested we post our event on the Tinmouth Community Facebook page. Rainbow suggested emailing the Tinmouth Story Telling email list to promote the potluck. Heritage potluck tentatively scheduled for March 21st.

*Tinmouth Fun Day* - Tentatively July 11<sup>th</sup>. Rainbow reports Theater in the Woods will be there again, and with new puppets this year. Sherry suggested utilizing the pavilion for ice cream to keep out of the sun. Members wanted to focus events around the Community Center to keep it all in one place. Members will invite other town groups to participate, including the Rec. Committee.

Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) has resource links for Equity & Inclusivity Committees - Melody sent a link to committee members prior to this evenings meeting showcasing many resources for E&I committees including a free online Prosocial Behavior Education Training. Melody further discussed the existence of and supportive resources from the VLCT Equity Committee. All members to look through VLCT's resources and report back.

*Welcome Signs* - Rainbow is drafting a sign proposal for Awesome Graphics and another sign maker in Manchester. Rainbow and Melody discussed needing to meet with the artists recruited at last year's town meeting, wanting to meet with them before this town meeting. Alyssa stated she would be happy to support these efforts.

*Tinmouth Operators Manual* - Melody will ask VLCT if they have any resources to help with our manual.

*Other business* - Sherry recommended more outreach to encourage townfolk to participate in and attend town committees. Sherry and Melody discussed posting to Front Porch Forum and to the Tinmouth Community Facebook page a list of dates and information for town meetings, committee meetings, and open committee positions.

Rainbow recommended utilizing the Tinmouth Community Facebook page for sharing Front Porch Forum-like updates. Sherry stated she will happily cross-share updates between the two platforms when the committee has information to share.

The next E&I committee meeting is scheduled for March 5th at 6pm due to needing to finalize details for the Heritage Potluck.



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~Nature Notes~

Brrrrr, it's certainly been cold – nearly 20 below zero some mornings!!

Daylight hours are getting longer every day, yeah!!

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, there was a blue moon in the sky at 7 in the morning, well the sky was blue all around the moon, it wasn't blue!!



- New Construction
- Additions
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**January 2026 Calendar of Events ~**

<b>Town Office ~ Closed</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>		<b>New Year's Day</b>
<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Fire House</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office &amp; Virtual</b>
<b>Story Telling</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30</b>	<b>Old Fire House</b>
<b>Recreation Committee</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office/Virtual</b>
<b>Planning Commission</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office &amp; Virtual</b>
<b>Select Board - Special</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office &amp; Virtual</b>
<b>E &amp; I Committee</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office &amp; Virtual</b>

**~ February 26 Calendar of Events ~**



<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>
<b>Story Telling</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>
<b>Conservation Commission</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>
<b>Planning Commission</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>
<b>Tales of Tinmouth Deadline</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>THGS Meeting</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>1:30</b>
<b>Town Mtg Info Meeting</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1:00</b>



<b>Fire House</b>
<b>Town Office</b>
<b>Old Fire House</b>
<b>Town Office/Virtual</b>
<b>Town Office/Virtual</b>
<b>Don't Miss It!</b>
<b>Town Office</b>
<b>Community Center</b>

**~ March 26 Calendar of Events ~**

<b>Town Meeting Voting</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>8:00 AM – 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Community Center</b>
<b>E &amp; I Committee</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>Town Office</b>
<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Fire House</b>
<b>Select Board</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office/Virtual</b>
<b>Story Telling</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Old Fire House</b>
<b>Recreation Committee</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office/Virtual</b>
<b>Planning Commission</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Town Office/Virtual</b>
<b>Tales of Tinmouth Deadline</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Don't Miss It!</b>
<b>Heritage Family Dinner</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>5:00-7:00</b>	<b>Community Center</b>

*Transfer Station hours are Wednesday 4:00 – 7:00 pm & Saturday 8:00 am – noon.*

**~ Sunday Church Service ~ 9:00 AM All are welcome! ~**

*~ The Library is open Thursdays 2:30-4:30 PM ~ And the first Saturday of the month, 10 - noon.*

**Knit/Craft Club ~ Mondays at the Old Fire House ~ 1:00-3:00 All Welcome!**

**~ Service To Others ~**

There may not be many folks left in Tinmouth who remember **George Davis**, but he worked very quietly and generously to help many Tinmouth families at the time – 1960's and '70's.

Ye Olde Editor recently came across this prayer written by George in 1970, in the biography (*Service To Others*) written by his son Steven that was recently donated to the Historical Society.

**My Lord's Prayer**

*Our Heavenly Father,*

*We thank thee, O Lord, for the privilege of life on this earth – may we make the most of it.*

*Help us to remember that we came here with nothing and will leave with only our record of behavior.*

*Love for people is the cornerstone of the Christian way of life and the simplest definition of love is concern for others.*

*Some of us can exercise concern for many, and others for but a few.*

*Help us to realize that we will be judged by the way we take advantage of our opportunities rather than by comparison with others.*

*In the days ahead may each of us try harder to think of what we can do for someone else, subordinating our own needs which, more often than not, are unimportant.*

~ G.I.D. 1906 – 1996



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Town Meeting  
Informational Meeting  
Saturday, Feb. 28th 1:00  
Voting  
Tuesday, March 3rd  
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