

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
Thursday, March 14, 2024
Meeting Minutes (Regular)**

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

Others present:

In-person: Eric Buffum-Road Commissioner, Stan Martelle, Susan Holcomb, Greg Poelker-McKee (RRPC), Caleb Scott, Marshall Squier, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

Via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, and Rick Fallar

Gail as Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:00, so the Board could re-organize, and asked for nominations for Chair. Melody nominated Kevin, Judy 2nded, all voted in favor.

Kevin assumed the role and the Board further **re-organized** as follows:

Set Regular Monthly Meeting - 2nd Thursday @ 7:00

Designated Signer for Bills and Orders – Chair (Kevin)

Newspaper of Record – Rutland Herald

Adopted Robert's Rules for Small Boards

Appointed Overweight Truck Permit Signer - Kevin

Appointed Member to Community Center Board - Judy

Appointed Member to Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project Board – Melody

Appointed Liaison to Rutland County Sheriff's Department - Kevin

Appointed Member to the Website Committee - Judy

Melody moved to approve the above re-organization actions, Judy 2nded, all voted in favor.

Kevin asked that the Select Board Meeting Rules and Procedures Policy be postponed until the next Board meeting so it could be reviewed.

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

Minutes of 2/9/24 were approved as corrected - removing the "?????" in the To-Do paragraph. Kevin moved, Judy 2nded. Both voted in favor.

Citizen's Input ~ Stan Martelle, who was hired by the Town to take care of winter road maintenance in West Tinmouth, inquired about comments he'd heard about the Select Board not being happy with his work. The Board advised they were not questioning his work, but were experiencing sticker shock at the increase in cost. The budgeted amount of \$6,800 had not been spent in any of the prior 10 years, but his first two months' invoices were over that amount and the weather had been rather mild. It was noted that the Town no longer provided sand or salt. Stan advised he only plowed and sanded when necessary, and that the Town had been under paying for years. Kevin thanked him for coming, and doing a great job, but advised that the Board will be re-visiting the situation for next winter due to the increase in cost, and that this year's contract would be honored.

Sherry Johnson advised that the Town Report contained an error. She had asked to not be re-appointed to the Equity and Inclusion Committee; she did not resign as stated in the report. She later asked to be re-appointed.

Highway ~

Eric reported the road crew has been plowing snow, dealing with mud-season #10, and repairing grader cylinder. He noted that Earle's Trucking had damaged some of the last year's paving while pulling out an Amazon tractor trailer truck that was stuck. He is evaluating the damage.

He asked the Board to authorize ordering the equipment (dump body, plow, wing, etc.) from Viking for the tandem due to be replaced in a year or two. Waiting time is about 18 months. Kevin moved, Judy 2nded to approve Viking quote for \$99,700. All voted in favor.

Eric reviewed the Highway To-Do List ~ He is working on many of the items listed, will present at the April meeting.

He also advised the safety list work was nearly done, he is waiting for another fire alarm system quote.

Needs Assessment ~ Greg reviewed draft survey, noting that the Recreation Committee had revised its questions and he would be attending the Planning Commission's meeting on the 21st. Board discussed various topics, supporting agriculture, housing issues, transfer station/salt/sand shed, town plan update, etc. Also discussed were opportunities that the grants presented – most were not applicable to a small town – June 30 deadline for projects.

Financial ~

Board reviewed FY24 reports and Bills and Orders. Judy moved and Kevin 2nded to approve the reports and the following Warrants. All voted in favor.

Bills and Orders ~ Payroll warrants #32 dated 2/12/24 for \$2,895.14, #33 dated 12/19/24 for \$1,929.73, #34 dated 12/26/24 for \$2,975.57, #35 dated 2/29/24 for \$2,649.45, and #36 dated 3/11/24 for \$3,158.97; and **Accounts Payable** warrants #31 dated 1/31/24 for \$14,736.29, #32 dated 2/08/24 for \$7,350.46, #33 dated 2/15/24 for \$64,115.66, #34 date 2/22/24 for \$7,401.22, #35 dated 2/29/24 for \$9,140.07, #36 date 3/4/24 for \$15,347.56, and #37 dated 3/11/24 for \$10,707.78.

ARPA \$'s ~ After brief discussion, Judy moved and Kevin 2nded to transfer \$20,163 of ARPA funds to the Town's Equipment Reserve Fund for the buzz blade for the road side mower. All voted in favor.

Old FEMA \$'s ~ The SBA reported the State had discovered that the Town was due \$4,708 from the July 2017 storm disaster – the state match to the FEMA dollars awarded.

CLA Redetermination Request ~ Gail, with her Lister hat on, reported after meeting with PVR staff to discuss the process, and noting that the Listers were on track to complete the re-appraisal on time, it would be prudent to ask that the Request for Redetermination be withdrawn (it might result in the CLA being lowered). After brief discussion Melody moved and Judy 2nded to approve a request withdrawal of the redetermination of the Tax Dept.'s CLA/COD, and authorized Kevin to sign. All voted in favor.

Planning Commission's Request to Apply for a MERP grant (\$4,000) for RRPC help with the energy section of the town plan. After brief discussion, Kevin moved and Melody 2nded, to approve, all voted in favor.

Speed/Traffic Ordinance Review ~ The SBA explained that VLCT required Select Board approval prior to reviewing any proposed ordinances, estimate of cost was \$300. Kevin moved and Melody 2nded to approve request for VLCT to review the draft revised Traffic Ordinance. All voted in favor.

Clarendon Select Board Request Update ~ SBA reported that it was the intent of the Clarendon Board to form a committee with members from all four towns to regarding possible school consolidation in the Mill River Unified Union School District. The survey originally proposed for town meeting voters was postponed pending forming a committee.

Annual Appointments ~ Melody moved and Judy 2nded to table annual appointments until April. SBA was asked to prepare a list of openings/vacancies and who was willing to serve.

Judy moved and Melody 2nded to reduce the size of the Equity and Inclusion Committee from 10 to 7 members. All voted in favor.

Sherry advised that while she was willing to continue as the Town's representative to the Rutland Regional Transportation Council, she felt the town would be better served if a member of the Select Board or the road commissioner attended. Many towns have their manager or road commissioner as their representatives.

Eclipse ~ SBA advised that Theresa Dana was working on an event for viewing the near total eclipse on April 8th.

Town Meeting Voting Results ~ Board reviewed voting data. There was a wide variety of votes for the service agencies – all passed, one by only by 13 votes. It was noted that a number of voters appreciated being able to voice an opinion on the various requests. Discussed having agency reports in the town report for next year.

Feedback Forms ~ None

Members Concerns ~

Correspondence ~ None not already discussed.

Next meeting is April 11, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant