

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
Thursday, January 9, 2025
Meeting Minutes (Regular)**

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

Others present:

In-person: Michael Fallar, Marshall Squier, Caleb Scott, David Birdsall, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

Via Zoom and phone: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Ali Jenkins, Nancy Gucker Birdsall, and Rick Fallar

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

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

Minutes of 12/18/24 Judy moved, Kevin 2nded to approve as written, all voted in favor. Minutes of 12/12/24 - were discussed, Kim was asked to clarify his comments regarding the tandem truck's deferential, Melody had proposed changes, in the end SBA will review and present another draft at the February SB meeting.

Citizen's Input ~ Sherry expressed concern with snow blowing across the East Road near the Carabeau farm, inquired about a snow fence. (The usual procedure is to make a fence of the snow that has fallen – as not much has, the road commissioner has not yet been able to make a row of snow in the field, which acts as a snow fence.)

Highway ~

Eric was unable to attend.

David, as Tree Warden, reported the tree work on Route 140 was completed from the Wallingford town line to the intersection with the North East Road. Landowners have indicated that they want the wood. He commended the flaggers (Ron and Glenn) for working some really cold days. The Town had volunteered to flag for the Tree Company to increase the amount of work they could do.

Transfer Station Retaining Wall Rebuild – Eric had provided an estimate for replacing the retaining wall and roof over the roll-off container - \$7,800 for materials and 2 weeks for 3 men. Board discussed, have questions for Eric at next meeting.

PACIF Safety Grant – Melody moved, Kevin 2nded to re-submit grant application for a security system for the new town garage, all voted in favor.

Draft FY26 Highway Budget – Discussed proposed increases – paving by \$25,000 – has been \$100,000K for many years, cost of paving increased so distance covered each year is shrinking; repairs increased drastically – lots of tires were purchased in FY24; storm water projects are costing more; tree work needs to continue – rent a lift and have the road crew cut trees; questions for Eric for the next meeting.

Annual Highway Mileage Certification – Board signed, no changes to be reported.

Tree Safety Grant – Melody moved and Judy 2nded to authorize Kevin to sign the request for payment. All voted in favor.

North East Road Culvert Project – Board approved and signed request for final payment for the grant.

Financial ~

Reviewed Draft FY26 General Budget – Discussed service agencies and whether to vote them individually – most have responded with explanation of services with their request. After brief discussion, Board decided to include most in the budget, as all were approved by voters last year, and only have those that didn't respond listed separately on the town meeting warning. Board will consider how Middletown Springs does it for next year.

Bills and Orders ~ Board reviewed warrants, Kevin moved and Melody 2nded to approve all. All voted in favor. Payroll warrants #24, 25, 26, and 27; and Accounts Payable warrant #20.

Board Report for the 2024 Town Report – Board edited draft and approved by consensus.

Special Meeting – Board set special meeting to approve warning for town meeting – Thursday, January 23rd.

Ali inquired about the **Speed Ordinance** on the agenda – Gail advised she still needs to proof one last time.

Respectfully submitted,

Board decided to hold the **Informational Meeting** for Town Meeting on Saturday, March 1st at 1:00.

Website Committee – Judy reported that the Website Committee (WC) had met to discuss Nancy Birdsall's offer to volunteer with the website. The Committee recommended that the SB increase the WC to 6 members and appoint Nancy as the 6th member. After brief discussion, Kevin moved and Melody 2nded to increase the Website Committee to 6 members, all voted in favor. Melody moved and Kevin 2nded to appoint Nancy to the Website Committee, all voted in favor.

Meeting Video Retention – Much discussion again, Secretary of States recommends deleting from the website 30 days after written minutes are approved. Concerns were raised regarding keeping the information for historical purposes and public access, and concerns for security (YouTube can be edited). It was suggested keeping them on the website for a year, and then moving them to a private place that would need a link from the town office to access, keeping them on the computer at the town office for access, etc. No decision was reached, will continue discussion at February meeting.

Rehab Program - After brief discussion, Board approved and signed a letter to allow transfer of a property (adding a son's name) that has a mortgage to the Town from a housing rehab program that was done in the early 1990's.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant