

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
Thursday, March 13, 2025
Meeting Minutes (Regular)**

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

Others present:

In-person: Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Blake McKee-Allegiance Trucks, George Herrick, Doug Fontein, Ann Lundquist, Larry Carabeau, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

Via Zoom and phone: David Birdsall, Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, Kevin Dimmick – Peterbilt Trucks, Nelson and Betti Jaquay, Annette Smith – Vermonters for a Clean Environment, Rick Fallar, Vito Macaluso, and a couple of folks who were just listening.

Gail, as Town Clerk, called the meeting to order at 7:00, for annual re-organization, and asked for nominations for Chair. Judy nominated Kevin, Melody 2nded, no other nominations – Kevin was re-elected Chair.

Kevin welcomed everyone. All introduced themselves, rules for speaking via Zoom and in person were reviewed.

Members reviewed the **agenda** – moved further annual re-organizing to the end to allow truck and tower business to be completed in a timely manner.

Minutes of 2/25/25 Judy moved, Melody 2nded, to approve, all voted in favor.

Citizen's Input ~ None

Highway ~

Eric reported the Class 4 section of Gulf Road was closed for the spring; lots of pothole problems; and he is working on getting the crack sealer here in May – to work on the paved roads.

Truck Bids – Board opened bids – received from Allegiance Trucks – International; Dimmick Trucks – Peterbilt; and AEW – Western Star. Bids were for cab and chassis for a tandem truck. Allegiance bid on two sizes. Trade-in value for the 2019 varied from \$30,000 (Allegiance) to \$63,000 (Western Star). There were lots of variables, warranty choices, availability, size, etc. So after discussion that included concern for tariffs, value for trade-in, the Clean Air Act, distance to dealership – for service & repair (basically the same for all), Board decided to review the proposals and have a special meeting on March 24th to make a decision.

Highway Annual Budget Plan & Certification of Road and Bridge Standards ~ Judy moved and Kevin 2nded to approve and certify both. They are an annual VTRANS requirement. All voted in favor.

VTRANS Grant ~ Board gave preliminary approval to apply for a paving and a culvert grant – further details at the April Board meeting.

Proposed Radio Tower on Route 140 ~ Annette Smith-VCE, provided a video presentation regarding the process that the Town (Select Board and Planning Commission) need to follow to respond to the 60 day notice received from Industrial Wireless Technologies, Inc. (IWT) for a proposed tower in/near the old gravel pit. She explained how to navigate the Public Utilities Commission's website; that this was a 248A case with very a prescriptive state statute to be

followed, and reviewed those requirements. The Town has to review its town plan and zoning to determine whether the proposal complies with those and advise the company of that.

Nelson and Betti expressed health concerns with the radiation, being less than 500 feet from it and the recommendation from a NH study is at least 1500 feet is needed; concerns for keeping Tinmouth's rural character, and for property values.

George advised that he had contacted the Jaquays at the very beginning and that they were okay with it then. He would not have proceeded with anything if they had objected. (The original proposal was for a cell tower, this is a radio tower – there is a difference with the microwaves, etc.)

Annette advised that the Town needs to get involved, hoped that the community would not become divided about it – some would like to have better cell service, but this proposal currently does not include cell providers.

After much discussion, **Board** decided to post a notice on Front Porch Forum and in *Tales of Tinmouth* (via the SBA) advising everyone about the process – an upcoming red balloon float and subsequent public meeting to allow the company to present its plan and answer questions; and to gather public input regarding pros and cons.

Board thanked Annette and George for their information and input.

Financial ~

Bills and Orders ~ Board reviewed financial reports and warrants, discussed remaining hours for the extra hired road crew member and highway expenditures. Melody moved and Judy 2nded to approve all. All voted in favor. Payroll warrants #33, 34, 34, and 36; and Accounts Payable warrants #23, 24, and 25.

Pavilion Next Steps ~ Board was presented with information from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns regarding volunteers and insurance requirements. Board took under advisement. Will have an in-depth discussion about the pavilion group at the special meeting on the 24th.

State Ethics Commission - Melody is working on what training is required.

Meeting Video Retention – SBA advised that the Legislature is working on changes to make it clearer, not action at this time.

Town Meeting 2025 – Gail reported the vote was 85 against and 69 for, the article about purchasing a speed cart. Brief discussion, the Board will speak with the County Sheriff about more speed enforcement.

Grant Policy Waiver ~ Gail advised that Tinmouth Community Fund is requesting a waiver from the Town's Grant Policy (requires Select Board pre-approval) for TCF grants applied for by Town Committees – maximum is \$1,200 and there is no match required. Melody moved and Kevin 2nded to grant waiver for this year, all voted in favor. Board will consider amending the policy at a future meeting, waiver is needed as the TCF deadline is April 1st.

Kevin moved and Melody 2nded to re-appoint: **RRPC** representatives – Judy Gilmore and Michael Fallar (alternate); **RTPC** representatives Judy Gilmore and Michael Fannin(alternate) and **SWAC** representatives Chris Martone and Gail Fallar (alternate). Board will consider other annual appointments at its April meeting, and authorized the SBA to seek input from current appointees regarding whether they wish to continue and encourage others to volunteer.

The Board continued its 2025 reorganization: Agreed to by consensus.

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

Designated Signer for Bills and Orders – Chair – Kevin Eaton

Newspaper of Record – The Rutland Herald

Adopted Robert's Rules for Small Boards

Appointed Overweight Truck Permit Signer – Chair – Kevin Eaton

Appointed Member to Community Center Board – Judy Gilmore

Appointed Member to Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project Board – Melody Squier

Appointed Liaison to Rutland County Sheriff's Department – Kevin Eaton

Appointed Member to the Website Committee – Judy Gilmore

Adopted Select Board Meeting Rules and Procedures Policy

Public Input: Tree Warden David Birdsall reported that the Emerald Ash Borer was recently discovered on Channel Road – need to think about a plan of action for road side ash trees.

Mail/Correspondence: None

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant