

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
Special Meeting Minutes**

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

Others present:

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

In-person: Michael Fallar, Hollis Squier, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, and Gail Fallar-SB Assistant

Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:07, welcomed everyone.

The first purpose of the special meeting was to review and discuss equipment replacement and how to fund it. The current plan needs updating to deal with more equipment, increase in cost of equipment, schedule of replacements, and funding.

Kevin suggested that the big equipment – loader, excavator, skid steer, tractor/mower – be taken out of the replacement schedule – they should last 30 years.

Replacing the grader was discussed – look for used one, including army surplus equipment, should happen in the next few years – current grader is a Champion – hard to get parts for it when it needs repair.

Discussion about keeping the 2019 black tandem as the spare truck instead of trading it in – only has 43,000 miles – and whether to trade that one in when it's time to replace the 2022 orange truck and make that one the new spare?

Will switching to Peterbilt trucks mean they will last longer and need to be replaced at 10 or 12 years instead of 7?

Keep the 550 one ton undercoated – replace 12-15 years?

Trade-in versus private sale?

What is the maximum the budget can bear?

Replace small stuff with the regular highway budget – chain saws, leaf blower, etc.?

Eric advised that no truck should be kept longer than 10 years, that winter time is stressful enough without wondering if the equipment will work, that the money saved by the road crew now doing the road side mowing and winter maintenance in West Tinmouth should go into the Equipment Fund, that the rate of inflation used in the Capital Reserve Fund needs to be increased to 4 or 5%.

Board decided to ask Cathy Reynolds to run some scenarios with the spreadsheet she created for the equipment replacement and discuss again at its June 12th meeting.

Should the Board consider how other towns plan for equipment replacement?

Board agreed to move the **Proposed Tower meeting** to Thursday, June 19th at 6:00 at the Old Fire House. Some parties were not able to attend on the 10th,

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant