

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
Thursday, July 10, 2025
Meeting Minutes (Regular)**

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

Others present:

In-person: Matt Patry, Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Michael Fallar, Hollis Squier and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

Via Zoom: Sherry Johnson and Kim Harbaugh

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

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

Minutes of 6/12/25 – regular – corrected to say the Hollis *requested* (not advised) regarding the discussion about the ditch near the pavilion; special meetings on 6/19/25 (Tower), 6/19/25 and 6/26/25 with the Planning Commission; Kevin moved and Melody 2nded, to approve all as written, with the correction to 6/12/25, all voted in favor.

Citizen's Input ~ Sherry requested that speakers identify themselves so that anyone watching the recording can know who is talking.

Highway ~

Eric advised that roadside mowing was being worked on as well as grading, graveling, and cold patching. He reported the new **Peterbilt cab and chassis** is at Lucky's in Royalton for dealer prep - but that the body and equipment will not be added by Viking until next March. He noted the salesman advised that the warranty would not start until it was "built" and ready to use. The SB asked him to get that in writing. Will need insurance coverage to drive it from Lucky's to the town garage.

Concern was raised about mowing the **poison parsnip** so late, letting it go to seed, Eric advised it was not going to seed yet. It is recommended to cut it before June 30th. Matt noted that he was taking care of it on the roadside of his property – down to only 6 plants.

Board discussed size of the **apron** to be paved at the town garage driveway, still looking for information about cost, any base needed, etc. 20 feet was suggested as reasonable.

Culvert near the Community Center – The State sent the hydraulic study report, SB took it under advisement, and asked Eric to get an estimate for replacement. Melody noted that the present culvert seems to be handling the water well.

Equipment Fund – Cathy Reynolds prepared several scenarios regarding how to fund this reserve fund for highway equipment replacement – Board will schedule a special meeting to review before budget time.

Driveway Permit - Kevin Brown finalized plans for the location of a new driveway on Route 140, 1490 feet north of the intersection in center of town. Board reviewed with Eric, 15" x 40' culvert will be needed, the old farm road/driveway will go away. Kevin moved to approve, Judy 2nded, all voted in favor.

Matt requested help with recent flooding in his field, caused by the work done several years to a culvert on the south end of his property. He had asked for a ditch to have the water from the culvert flow along the hedgerow and not across his field – was advised then that it was out of the town's right of way and could not be done. Now the water has washed out a pollinator garden he

was required to install and it has to be re-done – cost was over \$500 the first time. He wants a ditch to divert the water so when the garden is re-done it doesn't wash out again. Much discussion, not a town issue, it's on private property, town equipment can't be used. In the end, Hollis offered to make a swale to divert the water. It was noted that Matt had allowed the town to store equipment and materials when the big culvert project near his house was done last year.

Hollis raised concern with an event last winter where there was a crash on the East Road, near the Carabeau farm, due in part to snow drifting across the road. He offered twice to use the town's loader to create a snow fence – made out of snow to slow the drifting snow. Eric refused and instead hired Dan Allard for \$1,000 to bull doze it. Eric reported he could not get the loader to do it, so he hired it done. Hollis noted that he has been trying to help, at no charge, was trying to save the town money and is frustrated that his offers are always refused.

Financial ~

FY25 End of year reports are still being worked on.

Bills and Orders ~ Board reviewed warrants. Judy moved and Melody 2nded to approve and accept, all voted in favor. Payroll warrants #50, 51, and 52 for FY 25 and #1 for FY26. Brief discussion about Gail's time sheet – gets paid at the end of the year for some of the hourly duties.

2025 School Tax Rates - set by the state, homestead is \$1.1435 for this year (was \$1.2807) and non-homestead is \$1.2331 (was \$1.3652).

2025 Town Tax Rates – Board set a special meeting on July 24th to set the Town's rate. Listers have not yet filed the final grand list – pending grievance hearings next week. Treasurer advised it will be about the same as 2024.

Due Date ~ Kevin moved and Melody 2nd to **change the due date for the first half tax payment** to August 30th to allow for the required 30 day notice of taxes due. All voted in favor.

New Business ~ Board approved a request for a Special Event for a caterer for an event at the Rootin' Tootin' Farm on August 2nd.

Members Concerns ~

Mail/Correspondence:

Next meetings:

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant