

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Meeting Minutes (Regular)**

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

Others present:

In-person:Eric Buffum – Road Commissioner, Ann Lundquist, Michael Fallar, Marshall Squier, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

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

Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:04 and welcomed everyone.

Members reviewed the **agenda** –added a request from the Listers to correct the description of acres on a subdivided lot.

Minutes of September 2, 2025 and September 29, 2025 – Special Mtgs. with Community Center Board; September 11, 2025 – Regular Meeting; September 23, 2025 – Equipment Fund – Special Mtg.; October 9, 2025 – Regular Meeting and October 28, 2025-Special Meeting– Judy moved and Kevin 2nded to approve all as written. All voted in favor.

Citizen's Input ~None

Highway ~

Eric noted the road crew was ready for the snow; had undercoated the trucks with Fluid Film; and was busy with regular duties – removing fallen trees, filling pot holes, etc.

He advised that the **tractor** needs to go to Salem Farm Supply for leaks and service; the excavator's bucket has wear bars – he's trying to decide whether to add or change.

Board asked him to document all oil changes in **Equipment logs**.

Eric noted that the **brush burn pile** was really getting scattered, was a concern, he pushed some of it back into place.

Salt Shed location – Eric advised he was able to move the 3 biggest rocks and would be able to flatten the area in a day (if the ground doesn't freeze), to give everyone a better idea of where a salt shed might fit. Board okayed that activity.

FY27 Draft Highway Budget – After brief discussion, advised SBA to use a 3% salary increase for now (same as last year).

Salt Shed – Added to agenda for the December meeting.

Financial ~

Treasurer advised that the **end of year reports** were still being worked on and reviewed.

Gail advised that **Kate Start** had been hired as a part time bookkeeper/office assistant.

Bills and Orders ~ Board reviewed warrants. Judy moved and Melody 2nded to approve and accept, all voted in favor. Payroll warrants #15,16,17,18, and 19 and accounts payable warrants #9, 10,11,12, and 13.

FY27 Draft General Budget – Need to remember to add money for planning, composting, a future re-appraisal, and the child care payroll tax.

Old Business ~

Members discussed complaints regarding out-of-control garbage at 605 Mountain View Road (once again). Many scenarios were discussed, from the road crew cleaning it up with the excavator to hiring a company to do it and then bill the owners and attach a lien if it is not paid; to having the County Sheriff issue tickets for violating the Town's Solid Waste Ordinance. Various Select Boards and Health Officers have attempted to resolve the issue – only to have the garbage accumulate again. All agreed that it is a serious public health issue that needs to be addressed – the SB has several questions for the Vermont

Department of Health and an attorney. The Select Board and the Health Officer constitute the local Board of Health, which can issue clean-ups orders. Will discuss further in December.

Since Jeff Warfle stepped down as **Health Officer** in April due to his becoming the Ludlow Police Chief, the office has been vacant. State law stipulates that the **Select Board Chair becomes the Health Officer** if the SB does not recommend someone for the Vermont Health Department to appoint. As no one has stepped forward, despite numerous attempts at recruiting, Kevin reluctantly agreed to assume the duties – only until someone else is willing to serve.

Repairs to Community Center/School ~ Board discussed sending a note of appreciation for work done to start needed repairs – it was noted the Doug Fontein had re-built the bridge to the play ground (MRUUSD provided the materials and Doug donated his time – thank you); the handicap ramp into the Community Center was re-built with a rail added, and the wall above the kitchen window was repaired – need to look at the list to see what remains and communicate with MRUUSD regarding a time table – and have a meeting in the spring to review. The Community Center floor will be re-coated during the school's winter break(Dec. 22-Jan 2).

The Board looks forward to completion of repair work and better communications with the MR Facilities Coordinator.

Pavilion Use Guidelines – Still a work in progress, added to December agenda.

Radio Tower Update ~ The SBA advised the tower company objected to the proposed denial of the permit and everyone is waiting for the PUC (Public Utility Commission) to decide how to proceed.

REMC Appointments ~ The Board re-appointed Ray Pratt (EMD) and Matt Patry (EMC) to the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Council. Melody moved and Judy 2nded, all voted in favor.

Minute Taker ~ The Select Board Assistant requested that Board minutes be taken by another – Board agreed by consensus, pay will be at the office assistant's rate, SBA needs to advertise.

250th Celebration ~ Michael, as Vice Chair of the Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society, advised that THGS (which volunteered to head up the 250th celebration for the Town), would like to erect a flag pole on the Town Green with 4 marble plaques with dates of importance (July 4th, etc.). Location is to be determined, would like it to be placed where the school kids will be able to recite the pledge of allegiance, be lighted, and proper flag protocols followed.

Error and Omission ~ Gail, as Chair of the Listers, requested SB permission to correct the Grand List description on the Alma Somers Trust from 240.84 acres to 125.18 due to a subdivision of the property. Calculations were based on the new acreage, but the general description was overlooked. There is no change in value. All agreed by consensus.

Michael invited the SB and others to the December 18th Planning Commission meeting – PC members will be bringing Xmas cookies in honor of the season.

Members Concerns ~ None

Mail/Correspondence: None

Next meetings:

December 1, 2025 5:00 - Hearing for Town Plan December 11, 2025 7:00 – Regular

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant