

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
Thursday, January 8, 2026
Meeting Minutes (Regular)**

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

Others present:

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

Via Zoom: Ann Lundquist, Sherry Johnson and Rick Fallar

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

Members reviewed the **agenda** – added a request from the Rutland County Humane Society for funding.

Minutes of December 11, 2025, Judy moved and Melody 2nded to approve as written, all voted in favor.

Citizen's Input ~ None

Highway ~

Eric advised that the road crew was busy plowing, sanding and salting – lots of ice and snow. He advised that there may be difficulty getting winter salt – some has been diverted to other places due to large snow storms there. Big ice storm is forecast. Will be sending out the excavator bucket for repair and the tractor as well. The roller for the grader is being worked on in the town garage (project from years ago).

Highway Safety Grant – No quotes were yet obtained, it was noted that with it being a state grant, cutting trees will have to occur in the winter, due to the possibility of bats living in them in the summer.

Draft Highway Budget for FY27 – Board reviewed, set Equipment Fund budget request at \$85,000.

Special Meeting - Melody agreed to move the E & I Committee meeting to the 29th, so that the SB could hold a special meeting on the 22nd at 5:00 to finalize the budgets and town meeting warning.

Financial ~

No FY26 **Financial Reports** yet.

Bills and Orders ~ Board reviewed warrants. Judy moved and Melody 2nded to approve and accept, all voted in favor. Payroll warrants #24, 24A, 25,26, 27 and 28 and accounts payable warrants #18, 19, and 20.

FY27 Draft General Budget – briefly reviewed. Gail advised that the state is requiring more training for the Listers, so that line item increased. SB increased legal a bit and discussed the need to do fund raising for the legal regarding the proposed tower, will finalize at special meeting on the 22nd.

SBA advised that the Recreation Committee had received a donation of \$1,000, would be discussing at their meeting next week, and asking the SB for an article on the town meeting warning to create a special fund for the Recreation Committee to oversee. It was noted that the Conservation Commission also received a \$1,000 donation, but that they already have a reserve fund.

SB still looking for before photos of the work done on the community center last fall.

Old Business ~

Purchase Guidelines – SB increased the minimum needed to go to bid to \$15,000 (up from \$10K), and authorized language to allow electronic bidding. Melody moved, Judy 2nde to approve as written, all voted in favor.

Pavilion Use Guidelines – Judy moved and Melody 2nded to approve as written, all voted in favor and signed the document.

Kevin, as Health Officer, reported he is continuing work on getting 605 Mtn. View cleaned up. It was noted that there needed to be a draft agreement with the occupants to keep it clean once it was cleaned up and that a lien would be placed to recover the cost at some point in the future.

Radio Tower Update ~ SBA advised she would be speaking with the attorney on Friday.

Town Meeting – Board tentatively set the informational meeting for town meeting on Saturday, February 21st (later it was discovered that the community center had already been rented by a private individual that date, so it was moved to the 28th). Melody noted it was time to think about town meeting, how it works, and how to educate voters about it.

General Fund Balance – SBA advised the Auditors needed to confirm the number, just over \$193,000, and that the SB should think about having voters transfer some of that to special reserve funds.

Select Board Report for the Town Report - Members reviewed draft, Judy moved and Kevin 2nd to approve with change of ‘mid-summer’ to ‘early August’, all voted in favor.

Rutland County Humane Society Request - SBA advised that they had sent an email, the process was explained for first time requests and that someone needed to attend this meeting, either in person or via zoom. As no one was present, it was tabled, they can try again next year.

Equalization Study – This is a sales study of real estate properties transferred in the last 3 years in the town, done by the Vermont Department of Taxes. The SBA reported the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for this year is 96.30 and the Co-efficient of Dispersion (COD) is 13.7. Last year the CLA was just over 99, meaning the 2024 re-appraisal numbers are still close to fair market value. If a town has a COD of over 20, that triggers a re-appraisal.

Members Concerns ~ None

Mail/Correspondence: None

Next meeting: January 22nd – to finalize warning for town meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant