

**Town of Tinmouth
Select Board
Thursday, March 12, 2026
Meeting Minutes (Regular)**

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

Others present:

In-person: Eric Buffum–Road Commissioner, Doug Fontein for the Conservation Commission, and Gail Fallar-Select Board Assistant (SBA)

Via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, Kim Harbaugh, John Carrick, Doug Inkley, Benson Inkley, and Rick Fallar

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

Melody nominated Kevin to be Chair, Judy 2nded, all voted in favor. Board postponed the balance of the annual re-organization until later in the meeting in order to address issues of those attending.

Doug advised that the Conservation Commission has been discussing town trails and their uses and would like to request that the Select Board not allow motorized vehicles on the town trail that goes from the end of Merrill Spring Road through to Ricketts Road. There was much discussion about 4-wheelers using the town trail to enter upon lands of others to go up and over the mountain – on private property without permission. The Inkley family owns much of this land, have only given permission for their maple sugar maker and his crew to use it. They proposed posting signs that say no motorized vehicles. Others suggested snow mobiles don't cause trail damage, 4 wheelers (ATV's) sometimes do. Discussion ensued about who is using it, how it could be enforced, whether that particular town trail should be on an Internet trail site, whether 4 wheelers are allowed on town roads/trails (currently they are not), should they not be allowed, past request to allow ATV's on some town roads, etc.

In the end, Kevin advised that the SB needed to do some research regarding rules for trails and SB authority. The Board also asked for more information for them to consider.

Board went back to the agenda – Board continued its 2026 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 – Melody Squier

Adopted Select Board Meeting Rules and Procedures Policy

Members reviewed the **agenda** – added request to apply for a TCF grant

Minutes of February 12, 2026 meeting, Melody moved and Judy 2nded to approve as written, all voted in favor.

Citizen's Input ~ Sherry spoke to concerns with the proposed guidance for committees, commissions and boards. Needs to be clearer, questioned if family members would include folks living together, wanted to know what problem was being solved.

Highway ~

Eric advised that the road crew has been busy with trees falling and mud – they are trying to keep roads as smooth as they can, some places that were never muddy are and vice versa – doing what they can, when they can.

Board signed annual financial plan for VTRANS. Board decided to pursue a state paving grant with road reconstruction up through Crampton Woods on Route 140.

He advised he had called Clear Span regarding a salt/sand shed – they advised the right size is 65' x 80' – would hold 3000 yards of materials. Board discussed storm water run-off – will use those proposed for

the first salt/sand shed design. Eric would like to erect this summer – needs 3 workers, not sure if Glenn Merrill will be working this summer as the part-time regular crew member. Rough estimate is \$188,000 – Board authorized Eric to shop around for estimates. Discussed whether there should be one end wall or two, pro and con of both, no decision.

Financial ~

FY26 Financial Report 2/28/26 was reviewed and approved.

Bills and Orders ~ Board reviewed warrants. Judy moved and Melody 2nded to approve and accept, all voted in favor. Payroll warrants #34, 35, 36, and 37 and Accounts Payable warrants #25, 26, 27, and 28.

Resolution for Special Account ~ Judy moved and Kevin 2nded to authorize the Town Treasurer to move the Re-appraisal Special Fund to a separate account (currently lives in the general fund), all voted in favor.

Old Business ~

605 Mtn. View clean up. SBA advised an attorney was working on the lien for repayment of cost and an agreement to keep it clean.

New Business ~

Cathy Reynolds requested permission to apply for a Tinmouth Community Fund grant to replace the chairs in the old fire house. Board granted request by consensus.

Annual Appointments ~ Board re-appointed Judy Gilmore as Tinmouth's representative to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission and to the Regional Transportation Council. They also appointed Gail Fallar as Tinmouth's representative to SWAC (Solid Waste Alliance Communities) with Chris Martone as the alternate.

SBA was asked to check with other annual appointment folks to see if they wished to continue – will consider in April.

Members Concerns ~ Melody advised that Middletown Springs had revamped their website, it is user friendly and suggested that Tinmouth consider changes to its website. Judy noted it needed to be handicap accessible by 2027. Benson suggested creating a list of what works and what doesn't.

Mail/Correspondence: None

Executive Session - At 8:35. Board entered executive session to discuss personnel issues. Board members and the SBA attended, those on zoom signed off. At 9:19 Board exited executive session, recording was resumed. Kevin moved and Judy 2nded to hold a special meeting on March 26th for the purpose of personnel discussion which would be in executive session, all voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Select Board Assistant