

1 MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
2 Wednesday January 8th 2015
3 Meriden Town Hall
4

5 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
6 Judy Belyea
7 Ron Eberhardt
8
9

10 The minutes of December 17th were amended and approved.
11

12 **Clint and Bonnie Swift:** The Swifts met the Selectboard to see if the board had taken a position on the
13 issue of pursuing a claim against the library architect for the egress omission on the basement renovations.
14 The Selectboard noted that a letter is being sent to the trustees authorizing them to use Town Attorney
15 Barry Schuster for this project. Clint and Bonnie thanked the Selectmen.
16

17 **Police Chief:** The Selectboard worked with Chief Roberts on developing a protocol for officer certification.
18 Paul is required to insure that all police officers including him, have been certified with various equipment
19 such as firearms and have passed a physical fitness test. This all must be done and reviewed by the Police
20 Standards and Training facility in Concord.
21

22 Paul noted that the department has been busy with several cases involving mail box thefts and fraud. The
23 mail box thefts occurred during the holiday season and seem to have stopped now.
24

25 **Highway Department:** Halleran reported that the highway department is back to full strength on the
26 equipment front. The backhoe repair is done. Truck #1 is running fine, and truck #3 is back from Reed's
27 with that work having been covered by warranty.
28

29 **Finance Committee:** The Selectboard spent the rest of the night working with Mike O'Leary and the
30 Finance Committee on a strategy for replacing the roof of the highway garage and making sure that the
31 building is structurally sound for many years to come. Mike O'Leary's research for the energy
32 committee's solar panel work has indicated that there was, back in 1983, a lot of discussion/documentation
33 about adding wind bracing to the building's structure. This bracing appears to have never been added. The
34 group settled on a strategy of establishing a reserve fund for the building, funding it initially with money
35 from fund balance, and then moving forward with an annual contribution from current tax money. Once a
36 structural analysis of the building is completed, the Selectboard will move forward with any needed
37 enhancements to the building walls and then move on to the roof replacement.
38
39

40 The Board's next meeting will be January 21st and will feature the first of two budget hearings.
41

42 Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

1 MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
2 Wednesday January 21st 2015
3 Meriden Town Hall
4

5 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
6 Judy Belyea
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8
9 The minutes of January 8th were amended and approved.
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12 The meeting opened at 6:00pm
13

14 **Human Services Director:** Stephanie Schell met with the Selectmen to update them on several ongoing
15 cases and to request permission to do a human services needs assessment survey of the community. The
16 Selectboard approved the survey concept and thanked Stephanie for all her hard work.
17

18 **Road Agent:** Richard Collins met with the Selectboard to discuss the last couple of weeks of work. Ice
19 continues to be the main theme of this winter. Ice events require a lot of sand, a lot of salt and a lot of man
20 time.
21

22 Richard explained to the Selectboard that his main motivation for wanting to replace the town's chipper is
23 that the 1987 unit is obsolete making it hard to find replacement parts. Richard is open to a newer used
24 machine or perhaps one that is PTO driven to be hung off the new road side mower. Richard will take a
25 look at these options and report back to the group at the next meeting.
26

27 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts reviewed the department's log which included the untimely death of a
28 Plainfield resident who appears to have fallen on the stairs at her home, hitting her head.
29

30 Paul noted that two of the three police cruisers are experiencing fuel problems since the last big rain storm.
31 Road Agent Collins is working with Evans fuels to determine the cause. It is possible that the cars filled up
32 just before a delivery and may have resulted in some water at the bottom of the storage tank getting into the
33 vehicles gas tank.
34

35 **Budget Hearing:** The Selectmen held the first of two budget hearings on the 2015 financial plan.
36 Penniman Road resident Richard Atkinson attended the hearing along with Moderator Paul Franklin and
37 the full finance committee. Halleran noted that the town was able to complete the 2014 year without over
38 expending the operating budget. However, to accomplish this it require transferring some additional road
39 expenditures from the operating budget to the highway transportation fund.
40

41 The 2015 budget proposal is showing an increase of about \$75,000 or 3.8%. The budget is built on a base
42 of assumptions that include the operation of a full time town office, twenty four hour a day coverage for the
43 police department and nearly a bare road policy for the highway department's winter maintenance, with
44 each gravel road getting three grading per summer. The new highway budget does include the new
45 Magnesium Chloride program which is intended to reduce winter salt usage and to improve summer gravel
46 road maintenance.
47

48 In follow up to last meeting, Finance Committee member Brad Atwater reported that he met with a
49 structural engineer to take a look at the overall condition of the highway garage building. This work builds
50 on the roof truss evaluation that has been ongoing. Brad felt that the overall evaluation went well and the
51 planned work on the roof should be able to proceed.
52

53 From early revenue projections, if all items are approved at town meeting, the dollars from taxation, net
54 appropriation, will increase by about \$52,000 adding some \$.20 to the current tax rate of \$27.50. The
55 hearing closed at 8:30pm. The final budget hearing will be Wednesday February 4th at the Plainfield
56 Library.

1
2 **Other Business:** The Selectboard reviewed some of the preliminary audit documents and reviewed several
3 of the town's financial policies.
4

5 The Board also reviewed and approved a letter to the NH Department of Transportation concerning the
6 ground water issue on Main Street. Water is seeping out of the road base nearly year round resulting in
7 very icy conditions during cold weather months. The town is asking the state to address this safety concern;
8 Main Street from NH Route 120 to the top of the hill is a state highway.
9

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11 The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.
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14 Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy Belyea

1 MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
2 Wednesday February 4th 2015
3 Plainfield Library

4 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
5 Judy Belyea
6 Ron Eberhardt

7 **Clint and Bonnie Swift:** The couple met with the Selectboard to confirm that a petitioned article to return
8 to two separate library board of trustees has been received by the Selectmen and included in the 2015
9 warrant. The Board confirmed that this was the case. The Swifts again encouraged the Board to support this
10 effort.

11
12 **Mike Jaeger:** Mr. Jaeger who lives at 40 Carvel Lane met the Selectboard to request an article be added to
13 the warrant asking the State of Vermont to address the noise concerns at the Hammond Cove shooting
14 range. The Selectboard approved the request agreeing to include the suggested article on the warrant. The
15 board noted that the person's making the request will have to speak at town meeting to the merits of the
16 article.

17
18 **Budget Hearing #2:** The Selectboard, at 7:00pm, held a second budget hearing noting that there were very
19 few changes since the first one on January 21st. As a result of feedback from the Finance Committee the
20 board has decided to reduce the cost of the chipper project from \$35,000 to \$12,000. The \$12,000 will
21 purchase a new PTO driven chipper to be mounted on the New Holland Tractor. It might also be possible
22 to find a used stand alone chipper for this amount of money. The Selectboard discussed with the Finance
23 Committee the idea of having the Selectboard appointed as agents to expend on the Highway Equipment
24 Fund. This would allow the Selectboard to act on opportunities that might come along to replace the
25 existing town grader and other equipment with used equipment and or federal surplus. The Finance
26 Committee noted that many of the town's other reserve funds have named agents to expend and if this tool
27 allows the town to take advantage of an opportunity that saves money, it should be pursued.

28
29 Margaret Drye attended the hearing to advocate for more regular clearing of the sidewalks in Plainfield
30 Village.

31
32 The budget hearing adjourned at 7:45pm.

33
34 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts updated the Selectboard on police activity. The problem with the
35 gasoline at the town's pump has been identified as water getting into the tank through a faulty fill pipe. The
36 pipe has been repaired, the water removed and the tank is back in service.

37
38 **Highway Department:** The Selectboard signed the finalized letter to the NH DOT asking that the ground
39 water leaking onto Main Street in the area of #27 Main Street be corrected. The water results in icing on the
40 road and is a hazard.

41
42 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed and approved the town report layout. The final document goes to
43 the printer the end of this week.

44
45 John Yacavone was appointed as the town's representative to the local RPC. He will serve with longtime
46 representative Jim Taylor.

47
48 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

49
50 Stephen Halleran

51 Robert Taylor, Chair

52
53 Judy Belyea

54
55 Ron Eberhardt

1 MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
2 Wednesday February 18th 2015
3 Meriden Town Hall
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5 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
6 Judy Belyea
7 Ron Eberhardt
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10 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.
11

12 **Public Comment:** Dennis Girouard attended the start of the meeting to share with the Selectmen his view
13 that the Library Trustees have shown no interest in the air conditioning proposal for the Plainfield building.
14 Despite the efforts of staff to obtain proposals, no request for funding was brought forward this year by the
15 Trustees.
16

17 **Town Office:** The Selectboard signed the official warrant and budget forms for the upcoming Town
18 Meeting. Town Administrator Steve Halleran was instructed to post the documents around town. One at
19 the Plainfield town hall, one at the Meriden town hall and one at the elementary school, the place of voting.
20

21 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts and the Selectboard discussed the monthly submission to Plainfacts of
22 the Police log. The group determined that rather than submitting the actual log on a monthly basis, the
23 Chief would write a short column to be used to provide information to the community about current issues
24 facing the Police Department.
25

26 **Highway Department:** The Selectboard authorized Steve Halleran to move forward with investigating
27 using a state grant program to remove, at no cost to the town, the under ground storage tanks installed in
28 the early 1990's at the highway garage. The State has a one or two year program for tank removal. Our
29 existing tanks still have some useful life left, however, the cost of removal is about \$20,000 and the rules
30 for maintaining underground tanks grow more complex each year. The town's current set up needs several
31 thousand dollars worth of upgrades to stay in compliance with current regulations.
32

33 Selectman Belyea encouraged Steve Halleran and Paul Roberts to test the current market on the town's fuel
34 pricing. She has been able to obtain very favorable pricing at her business by negotiating a new price
35 structure. The town is not locked in to any particular pricing at this time, but has been with Simple Energy
36 and Evans Fuels for a number of years.
37

38 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.
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41 Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday March 4th 2015**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
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5
6 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
7 Judy Belyea
8 Ron Eberhardt
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11 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.
12

13 The Selectboard spent the majority of this meeting preparing for the upcoming town meeting. Individual
14 warrant articles were reviewed.
15

16 Police Chief Roberts and Fire Chief Currier are attending a river rescue planning meeting in Ascutney this
17 evening.
18

19 Road Agent Collins is planning to post town roads beginning Monday March 9th.
20

21 The Board discussed a report of repeated target shooting on private property on Porter Road. The shooting
22 appears to be done in a safe manner, but involves a lot of rounds of ammunition several times each month.
23 Halleran was asked to check with other neighbors and to get any and all documentation that is available.
24 The Selectboard supports an individual's right to shoot safely on their own property. Section 4.8 of the
25 zoning ordinance makes it clear that any activity that rises to the level of a general nuisance is not
26 permitted.
27

28 The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm. The Select board's next meeting will be Wednesday March 25th at 7pm
29 at the Meriden Town Hall.
30

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32 Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday March 25th 2015**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
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6 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
7 Ron Eberhardt
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10 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.
11

12 This being the first meeting since Town Meeting, the Selectboard reviewed the actions on the warrant
13 establishing priorities for getting the necessary projects done this spring/summer. All agreed that significant
14 time must be spent on the highway garage facility. The Selectboard will meet on site at the highway garage
15 next week.
16

17 The Selectboard signed the necessary paperwork for the state certifying the actions taken at town meeting.
18

19 Chief Roberts reported that one of his officers is now out on an extended workers compensation claim that
20 resulted from a training exercise with the Claremont Police Department. The officer twisted his knee and
21 may need corrective surgery. Paul is reconfiguring the department's work schedule.
22

23 Highway Department has been cleaning up and repairing equipment from the long winter. Rich has gravel
24 stockpiled at the highway garage and is trying to be proactive for the upcoming mud season.
25

26 The board reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week.
27

28 The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm
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31 Stephen Halleran
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35 Judy Belyea
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38 Ron Eberhardt

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday April 1st 2015**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
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6 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
7 Ron Eberhardt
8 Robert Taylor
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11 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.
12

13 The Selectboard started the meeting with a site visit to the highway garage facility. The board discussed
14 with Road Agent Collins the layout for the new magnesium chloride tanks, the possibility of converting the
15 old recycling shed bay into a police storage facility, and the concept of removing the underground fuel
16 storage tanks and installing an above ground tank in the old cemetery department bay of the equipment
17 shed. The highway crew has made solid gains on cleaning up scrap metal and debris from around the
18 facility. The Selectboard encouraged Road Agent Collins to continue this work as part of these new
19 improvements.
20

21 The Selectboard approved the crushing of gravel this spring, not to exceed \$12,000. Again this year the
22 town will add some stone to the material that will be crushed.
23

24 The Board moved to the Meriden Town Hall
25

26 Halleran reported that the first of four outreach town office hours over at the Plainfield Library went very
27 well. About half a dozen residents stopped in to see him during the three hours at the library. The next date
28 for this trial program is April 15th.
29

30 The Selectboard reviewed and approved a draft letter for the Hammond Cove Shooting Range issued
31 (Article 12, 2015 town meeting). The letter will be finalized and signed at the next meeting.
32

33 Halleran reported that the work required by Article 11 (big money out of politics) has been completed. The
34 results of the town vote having been distributed as prescribed in the article.
35

36 At the Selectboard's request Myra Ferguson, Chair of the CC and Bill Knight Trail Coordinator met with
37 the Selectboard to discuss the Mascoma Savings Bank acquisition of the former Jennifer Lessor property on
38 Sanborn Road. At issue is whether the town has any interest in acquiring some of the conserved land,
39 attaching it to the Townsend lot so called. The group determined that there was some interest in this if
40 Mascoma was able to make the land available at little cost. All agreed that the complexities of amending
41 the conservation easement were significant and might not allow the project to move forward. Halleran will
42 check with the Steve Walker out of the office of Energy and Planning. Steve's office manages these types
43 of Conservation Easements that were purchased with state money. If acquiring the land is not possible or
44 desirable, obtaining an easement that would allow for the return of the "secret trail" so called would be a
45 very desirable secondary outcome.
46

1 The Board completed its work on reviewing correspondence and signing orders. The meeting adjourned at
2 8:30pm.
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5 Stephen Halleran
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7 Robert Taylor, Chair
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10 Judy Belyea
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13 Ron Eberhardt
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday April 15th 2015**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
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6 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
7 Ron Eberhardt
8 Robert Taylor
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11 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.
12

13 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts refreshed his request to purchase a software package that will enable
14 the Police Department to download vehicle data from the car's "black box" after an accident. The software
15 costs \$3,000 and has an annual maintenance cost of \$800/year. The Chief hopes to recoup the annual
16 maintenance cost by increasing the fees paid by insurance companies for accident reports. The Selectmen
17 requested additional information about the software before making a decision on this request.
18

19 Chief Roberts reported that the Police Department has successfully apprehended two individuals who broke
20 into a home on Willow Brook Road and stole a car from another residence that same evening. The crimes
21 relate back directly to a house in E. Plainfield that is suspected of a significant amount of illegal drug
22 activity. Two arrests have been made in that drug case and two arrests were made in the burglary/car theft
23 case. The entire file is being turned over to State Police and the FBI for prosecution.
24

25 **Highway Garage:** Mike O'Leary continued his discussions with the Selectboard about the highway garage
26 facility. Mike feels that establishing a committee to review the entire highway garage facility and site
27 would be a good idea prior to spending any money on the roof and walls. The Selectmen agreed with this
28 approach noting that some improvements are likely going to need to be made to the fuel storage system that
29 the department uses for diesel and gasoline. New state requirements are going to necessitate either
30 upgrading or removing the existing underground tanks.
31

32 **Hammond Cove Shooting Range:** Mike Jaeger and James Bastiona from Carvel Lane attended the
33 meeting thanking the Selectboard for its support with the noise abatement issues at the shooting range.
34 Vermont Fish and Game continues to investigate noise mitigation efforts. Several upcoming hearings
35 should go along way in determining what action Vermont will be taking next to try and reduce the noise
36 coming from the range.
37

38 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed and approved the 2015/16 full time employee rates that have
39 been recommended by department heads. The Selectboard also established pay rates for the department
40 heads.
41

42 Town appraiser George Hildum will be in town next week to begin the annual work of updating assessing
43 records.
44

45 The Selectmen reviewed and signed a report from the Society of the Protection of NH Forest which
46 monitors a piece of land that the Town owns on Route 12A. The land was found to be in good order.
47

48 Halleran reported that the office hours in Plainfield Village at the library continues to be very well

1 received. Several residents stopped in to discuss town affairs this past afternoon. The next session will be
2 on Wednesday May 6th.
3

4 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm
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6 Stephen Halleran
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8 Robert Taylor, Chair
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11 Judy Belyea
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14 Ron Eberhardt
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Town Office: The Selectmen reviewed two applications for elderly exemptions. Both were approved as the provided documentation showed compliance with the town's requirements for the exemption.

1 Halleran update the Selectmen on the Fire Chief's workers compensation claim. At the request of the
2 Selectboard, Primex has agreed to take second look at the claim which as initially been denied..
3

4 The May 6th meeting adjourned at 10pm.
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7 Stephen Halleran
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Robert Taylor, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Ron Eberhardt

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
3 **Wednesday May 20th 2015**
4 **Plainfield Library**
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7 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
8 Ron Eberhardt
9 Robert Taylor
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12 The meeting opened at 6:15pm.
13

14 The Selectboard arrived at the Plainfield Library after having conducted the annual wreath laying ceremony
15 at the town's National Service Memorial. About twenty residents joined the board for this event. The
16 Selectmen offered their thanks to resident Glen Griffin for his trumpet playing. The spring colors on the
17 surrounding hills, words of gratitude and the trumpet music all combined to provide a nice opportunity for
18 those in attendance to pause and remember all from Plainfield that have served our nation in the cause of
19 Freedom.
20

21 The Selectboard met with residents Bev Widger and Diane Rogers who updated the Selectmen on the
22 Friends of the Plainfield Library's efforts to complete the fund raising for the basement project. The
23 Selectboard acknowledged how much effort it takes for any group in town to raise money, thus saving
24 taxpayers the direct cost of the improvement. Bev and Diane asked the Selectboard to think about any
25 options that might help the group complete its fund raising. The extra cost of the second egress project that
26 resulted from an architect error has set the fund raising project back. Unfortunately, the time for making a
27 claim on the insurance for the project has expired and hurt the efforts to complete the project.
28

29 Bev asked for an update on the status of the Meriden Post Office move to the Meriden Library. Halleran
30 noted that at the moment this is more of a concept that his being discussed with KUA than a project. The
31 post office, at KUA's request, is going to move in the next few years and one option might be to attach it
32 to the Meriden Library making the library building fully ADA compliant and insuring that the post office
33 remains in Meriden Village. Others feel that a larger project is warranted, more of a community center, but
34 that too is just conceptual discussions with the Trustees at this point.
35

36 The Selectmen met with the owner of #761 Route 12A to work out an agreement for the payment of back
37 taxes due on the property. The Selectboard stressed that the owner needs to meet the terms of this
38 agreement, including monthly payments toward the back taxes, to keep the town from tax deeding the
39 property.
40

41 The Selectmen approved the 2015 paving work which will include River Road, Ferry Hill Road and some
42 of Penniman Road. Town Administrator Halleran and Road Agent Collins will work out a few remaining
43 details with Pike. The Selectboard wants the River Road work completed no later than July 4th. The work
44 will be funded from the operating budget, and the highway transportation fund. This should leave a balance
45 of about \$60,000 in the fund at year end.
46

47 The Selectboard unanimously voted to have town attorney Barry Schuster represent the town at the
48 upcoming Labor Department hearing for Fire Chief Frank Currier's denied workers compensation claim.
49 The town's position is that Primex should cover the cost of this claim. Frank was performing the duties that
50 have been customary for a Plainfield Fire Chief for many years when he responded to a call from Hanover
51 Dispatch made by our local Police Department to pick up a deer beside the road that had been put down by

1 the Police Department. The deer was to be used for the annual game dinner. Frank injured his shoulder
2 while loading the deer into the back of his truck, assisted by Police Officer Mat Foss.
3

4 The Selectmen signed orders and reviewed correspondence.
5

6 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.
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8 Stephen Halleran
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10 Robert Taylor, Chair
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13 Judy Belyea
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16 Ron Eberhardt
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1 The board began its review of above ground tank proposals for replacing the underground unit at the
2 highway garage. The town hopes to take advantage of a state program to remove the tanks at no cost, rather
3 than spending the thousands of dollars that would be necessary to bring the twenty year old tanks into
4 compliance with current NHDES requirements.

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6 The meeting adjourned at 9:30

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9 Stephen Halleran

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Judy Belyea, Chair

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Ron Eberhardt

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Robert Taylor

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday June 17th 2015**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
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7 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
8 Ron Eberhardt
9 Robert Taylor
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12 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.
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15 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Collins reported that the repair work on the three small bank slides on
16 Brook Road is nearly complete. The work has taken longer than expected but has gone well.
17

18 Roadside mowing has been started and will continue for several weeks.
19

20 The group discussed the options for above ground fuel storage. The Selectboard is committed to taking
21 advantage of a one time state program that will cover the cost of removing our existing underground fuel
22 storage tanks. The current tanks were buried in 1995. Simple Energy is proposing a reconditioned
23 Convault 1,000 gallon tank for \$14,000 complete. Halleran has confirmed that new from the factory the
24 tank would cost \$27,000. A split 2,000 gallon tank with gas and diesel compartments would cost \$44,000.
25 The board developed a list of questions for Road Agent Collins and Town Administrator Halleran to
26 present to Simple Energy before a final decision is made..
27

28 The Highway Garage Facility Committee has been consulted and they would like to be involved with the
29 sighting of the above ground tank, as it may have some bearing on where the floor drain tank issue they are
30 working on resolving.
31

32 **Police Department:** Eric Brann and Dan Lapan of the Finance Committee met with the Selectboard and
33 the Police Chief to discuss the new crash data software proposal that Paul is asking for approval to
34 purchase. State Police maintains a system that is available for towns for cases involving fatal accidents or
35 accidents where charges are likely to be filed against a driver. The software allows the user to gain access
36 to operational data from the vehicle's black box so called. The software costs \$2,900 to purchase and
37 \$800/year to maintain. Paul feels the annual fees can be recouped from the sale of accident reports to
38 insurance companies. Neither Dan or Eric support the purchase, but both acknowledged it's a Selectboard
39 decision on whether or not to proceed. The Selectboard felt it was reasonable to encumber the money from
40 this year's Police operating budget, but to defer the purchase until a year from now. This will give Paul a
41 chance to really evaluate the proposal and will allow some time to see if the price of the software will come
42 down in price.
43

44 **Town Office:** The delinquent tax payment understanding with the owner of #761 Route 12A was signed.
45 The document does not waive any taxes due or fees owed the town, but does give the owner additional
46 time to pay the late taxes before the town deeds the property. The owner keeping up to date on current
47 taxes, is key to having this agreement remain in place.
48

49 The Selectboard signed the town's financial reports prepared by Plodzick and Sanderson. The signed MS
50 535 will be uploaded to the state of NH new web portal system for fall tax rate setting.
51

52 Selectman Taylor reported on his and Steve Halleran's trip to Concord to support Fire Chief Frank Currier
53 in his claim for Workers Compensation. Frank was injured while working on the annual game dinner fund

1 raiser and his claim for WC was denied. The Selectboard has been unanimous in its support of Frank's
2 claim and had Barry Schuster and former Fire Chief Douglas Plummer attend the hearing as well. The
3 Labor Department hearing officer will make a decision in the next thirty days or so.

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6 Stephen Halleran

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8 Judy Belyea, Chair

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11 Ron Eberhardt

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14 Robert Taylor

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Robert Taylor

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday July 15th 2015**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
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6 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
7 Ron Eberhardt
8 Robert Taylor
9

10
11 The Selectboard conducted a site visit to Penniman Road. Road Agent Collins is rebuilding about 800' of
12 the roadway in the vicinity of #200 Penniman Road.. Local resident and retired NHDOT engineer Jeff
13 Allbright has been assisting the highway crew with the design portion of the project. The old road bed will
14 be excavated out and replaced with gravel and geotextile fabric. Once rebuilt, the repaired section will be
15 repared.
16

17 The group moved to the Meriden Town Hall.
18

19 The meeting opened at 6:15pm.
20

21 **Plainfield Cornish Town Line:** Responding to a request from the Plainfield Selectmen, Cornish
22 Selectman Scott Baker attended the meeting to discuss the request of Cornish resident Samantha Green
23 that she and her three children be considered Plainfield residents. The Green's purchased a home that is
24 located on the townline with Plainfield. The home has been extensively remodeled and added on to,
25 resulting in significant living space now being located in Plainfield. She has met with the Plainfield School
26 Board who felt that first she should address the residency issue with the town. The Plainfield Selectmen
27 forwarded the request to Cornish for comment. Cornish Selectman Baker indicated that given the unique
28 circumstances of the case, the Cornish Selectboard has no objection to the request. The Greene's will give
29 up their 288 Platt Road address and will be issued a Thrasher Road address in Plainfield. Their driveway
30 touches the street in Plainfield, but since the home has historically been considered in Cornish, a Cornish
31 address was issued. Halleran noted that both Plainfield and Cornish uses Avitar Associates for assessing
32 therefore the property has been and will continue to be properly inventoried based on the actual
33 development in each town. The residency issue is separate. The Plainfield Selectboard voted to make this
34 addressing change as requested by the Greene's.
35

36 Selectman Baker noted that the Cornish/Plainfield townline is due for perambulation and that perhaps the
37 two towns could get together on this in early fall.
38

39 **Town Office:** Steve Halleran reported that the town office has compiled records relating to the Philip Read
40 Memorial Library for resident Bonnie Allard. Ms. Allard made a written request for these documents as
41 outline in RSA 91-A the Right To Know. The request centered on the library egress issue and the recent
42 nonpublic session held between the Selectmen and the Library Trustees. The sealed minutes of the
43 nonpublic session were not made available.
44

45 **Police:** Chief Paul Roberts reports reported on some vehicle trouble that he is having with the 2009 cruiser.
46 The car may not be economically viable to the end of the year. Paul is pursuing a car donation from
47 TransCanada.
48

1 Officer Heighes continues to have some problems with his knee that he injured at a training class early in
2 the year. The knee might require surgery resulting and a lengthy recovery period.

3

4 The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

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7 Stephen Halleran

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Judy Belyea, Chair

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Ron Eberhardt

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Robert Taylor

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1 MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
2 Wednesday August 5th 2015
3 Meriden Town Hall
4
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6 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
7 Ron Eberhardt
8 Robert Taylor
9

10 The meeting opened at 6pm
11

12 **Fire Report:** Chief Currier signed the annual application for the Spirit Day fireworks. This year's event is
13 Sunday night August 23rd at the Plainfield Elementary School and will feature a corn roast, grilling, ice
14 cream, and several local bands. Recreation Director Dan Cantlin is in charge of the event.
15

16 The Selectmen, Police Chief Roberts and Fire Chief Currier reviewed the details of Monday night's severe
17 thunderstorms that rolled across town. The event resulted in the fire department, using for the first time, its
18 Emergency Response Room. This room also serves as the back up town emergency operations center.
19 Property damage was minor from the storm, however, many downed trees and power lines made for a very
20 hectic couple of hours and a long night for the fire department. Power was restored to all Plainfield homes
21 by mid morning on Tuesday. The town's emergency response trailer and contents were used all over town
22 to set up detours and to keep motorists away from unsafe power lines.
23

24 This event reinforced the need for an active Emergency Management team for the town.
25

26 **Police:** The Selectboard and the Chief worked through several options for department staffing while one of
27 the three full time officers is away having knee surgery. The officer will likely miss up to six months of
28 time.
29

30 Paul reviewed the activity log with the board pointing out several cases that have consumed a lot of
31 department resources over the course of the last couple of months.
32

33 **Town Office:** Steve Halleran noted that at this time expenses and receipts for town operations are in line
34 with budget projections.
35

36 The town office is in the middle of a planned computer hardware/software upgrade. The upgrade involves
37 replacing all the XP operating system computers and moving to a state required VPN system for motor
38 vehicle registrations.
39

40 The Selectboard will meet next on Wednesday August 19th at the Plainfield Library.
41

42 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm
43
44

45 Stephen Halleran
46

47 Judy Belyea, Chair
48
49

50 Ron Eberhardt
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53 Robert Taylor
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56

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm

The Selectboard met briefly with Consultant Jane Hubbard who is assisting the town with its mandatory update of the emergency management plan. Jane explained the process that she follows. The committee has had one meeting, with two more to follow. The plan will be updated by late fall.

David and Suzanne Madison met with the Selectboard to discuss the target shooting on their Porter Road property. The Madison's were offended by the town's letter to them threatening legal action should the use of exploding targets continue. Zoning Administrator Halleran and the Selectmen explained that use of exploding targets has been found to violate section 3.8 of the town's zoning ordinance. The town has no objection to recreational shooting on private land. However, the noise from these activity is not allowed to be more objectionable than other permitted uses in the zone. The Madison's feel the town cannot regulate the shooting on their property. Halleran noted that the issue is not the shooting, but rather the noise that results from shooting at exploding targets. The Selectmen agreed to spread the word to the entire town that exploding targets are not allowed in Plainfield.

Park Road resident Christie Moore met with the Selectmen concerning the timber harvest that is taking place in Corbin's Game Park. The harvest has resulted in several negative interactions between the Moore's, and the logging company. Steve Halleran and Chief Roberts met with the Superintendent of the Park and the responsible forester. The cutting is now complete and all that remains is to remove the timber from the Park and that work should be done in about three weeks. The forester has agreed to repair some minor damage to the class V section of the road that occurred when a tracked timber harvesting shear was driven down the road in front of the Moore's residence.

At 7:30pm the Selectmen held a hearing on a possible donation of two vehicles to the town from TransCanada. The power company has approved donating a crew cab pick up truck to the highway department and an SUV to the Police Department. Both of these vehicles will be replacement cars. The acceptance of donations was approved at town meeting as ongoing authority in 1995.

Police Chief Paul Roberts updated the board on other cases that are ongoing..

The Selectmen signed orders and reviewed correspondence. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor

1 MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
2 Wednesday September 2nd 2015
3 Meriden Town Hall
4
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6

7 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
8 Robert Taylor
9 Ron Eberhardt
10
11

12 **Penniman Road Site Visit:** The Selectboard started the meeting with a progress check of the Penniman
13 Road project. Road Agent Collins expressed gratitude for all the work that resident and retired NHDOT
14 engineer Jeff Allbright as done in helping to develop the action plan for the road work and the new road
15 profile. The project should be ready for paving in the next couple of weeks. Halleran was asked to
16 investigate the cost of extending the paving through the flat down toward Underhill Road.
17

18 **Meriden Town Hall** The meeting opened at 6:15pm
19

20 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts reviewed the Police log for the last two weeks noting the details of the
21 major cases. School is now open and Paul wants to make sure that the duty officer works traffic at both
22 ends of the school day when children will be on the roads going to or coming from school.
23

24 **Town Office:** Steve Halleran noted that the 2015 tax rate should be set by early October. Steve is working
25 with town assessor George Hildum, the two water districts and the school to finalize the necessary
26 paperwork for this annual event. Tax bills will be mailed out no later than November 1st.
27

28 **Park Road:** The Selectboard discussed the most recent events between the town and the logging company
29 working in Blue Mountain Forest (Corbin's Park). For the second time, the company moved large tracked
30 vehicles down the class V portion of Park Road with no prior approval by the town. In this case, the heavy
31 equipment was then parked on the Moore's land damaging the sod. Charges are possible for the driver for
32 damaging a town road and private property. The Superintendent of the park has been made aware of this
33 latest incident and has assured the town that the park will repair any and all damages done by their
34 contractor. The Selectmen have made it clear to the park, that when working for them their contractors
35 represent them and the recent conduct by the equipment operators/loggers is unacceptable and cannot
36 continue.
37

38 **Meriden Library/Post Office:** The Selectboard discussed an e-mail from Robert Blake CFO of Kimball
39 Union. Upon investigation it appears that KUA cannot transfer the Meriden Post Office lease to the town.
40 The town would need to be the successful bidder. This being the case, the Selectboard will meet with KUA
41 officials in the next month or so to discuss the private school's plans for the post office. The current lease
42 expires in 2020, but can be terminated by either party with six months notice.
43

44 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.
45

46 Stephen Halleran
47

Judy Belyea, Chair
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Ron Eberhardt
51

Robert Taylor
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1 MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
2 Wednesday September 16th 2015
3 Meriden Town Hall
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6

7 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
8 Robert Taylor
9 Ron Eberhardt
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11

12 **Plainfield Highway Garage:** The Selectmen met at the highway garage with members of the Highway
13 Garage Committee to go over the details of the new concrete pad to be poured as part of the Convault tank
14 project. The group discussed a wide variety of issues. Things like, finished grade, drainage, overall size.
15 Brad Atwater and Jeff Allbright stayed behind to work out some of the details with Road Agent Collins.
16

17 **Meriden Town Hall**

18 The Selectmen returned to the Meriden Town Hall for a scheduled appointment with Edward and Elaine
19 Brown supporter Joseph Haas. Mr. Haas, after requesting to be placed on the agenda, did not show up for
20 the meeting. At 7:15pm the board moved on to other agenda items.
21

22 The town is ready to establish the 2015 tax rate. All necessary paperwork has been turned into the state of
23 NH. Statewide the DRA hopes to begin setting tax rates next week.
24

25 The Selectboard discussed the unsold history book volumes being stored at our town libraries. On the
26 recommendation of the Library Trustees and to affirm a previous discussion, the Selectboard agreed to the
27 lowering of the per volume price from \$45 to \$25/book. Two books will be available for \$45. The
28 Selectmen agreed with the trustees that its time to move some of the unsold volumes.
29

30 Chief Roberts shared with the board his proposal to replace one of the town's three police cruisers with an
31 Ford SUV. The Selectmen felt this proposal had merit and should be presented to the finance committee.
32

33 Paul went over the details of a search and rescue case that the police department and fire department was
34 involved with following a thunderstorm last week. Several KUA students hiking on French's ledges
35 scattered from their group. All students were located in about one hour.
36

37 Selectman Eberhardt reported on his recent attendance at the Library Trustee meeting. He felt the meeting
38 was very productive and was pleased to report that the Trustees have voted to move ahead with completing
39 the basement. This action was well received by the Friends of the Plainfield Library. This group has been
40 advocating for moving ahead with the completion of the basement.
41

42 Halleran reported favorably on the office hours at the Plainfield Library. He feels the trial program has
43 worked very well and has been a benefit to all. The Selectmen agreed to continue the program into the
44 future.
45

46 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm
47

48 Stephen Halleran
49

50 Judy Belyea, Chair

51
52 Ron Eberhardt

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54 Robert Taylor
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday October 7th 2015**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
6 Robert Taylor
7 Ron Eberhardt
8

9 The meeting opened at 6pm.
10

11 The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week.
12

13 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Collins discussed the status of various projects with the Selectboard.
14 Simple Energy is in the process of finalizing the NHDES approval process for our tank installation. Road
15 Agent Collins should be able to pour the pad for the project next week.
16

17 The highway garage committee is seeking Selectboard approval for having a closed drain system designed
18 for the highway garage. The Selectboard approved this \$1,250 funding request.
19

20 As part of the highway garage committee's work, Rich will uncover the septic tank cover at the highway
21 garage so the system can be pumped. Rich will also uncover the well tile for the water system and pump
22 that out so the committee can investigate the drilled well that is supposed to be located inside the tile.
23

24 The Selectboard held a capital improvements discussion with Richard. He has revised his assessment of the
25 department's heavy equipment and now favors replacing the town's backhoe before the grader.
26

27 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts reported that he continues to have trouble with one of the town's police
28 cruiser a 2009 crown Victoria with 127,000 miles. The vehicle is leaking carbon monoxide into the cab
29 from a leaking manifold and as a result has been parked. The Town of Hanover has offered one of their
30 cruisers as a partial donation to the town. The Hanover car is being replaced from their fleet. Paul
31 estimates that the car, which is a 2012 model and has been represented to have about 60,000 miles, can be
32 placed into service with us for about \$5,000. The Selectmen were not opposed to this stop gap fix, however
33 they requested more details on the Hanover car before approving the project.
34

35 Paul updated the Selectboard on the department's log for the last three weeks.
36

37 **Town Office:** Halleran reported to the Selectboard that work has begun on setting up the 2016 KUA Study
38 Committee. The group will hold its first meeting in early November.
39

40 The Selectmen's first meeting with the Finance Committee is November 19th this will be the start of the
41 2016 budget process.
42

43 The state is now setting tax rates, Plainfield's rate should be set any time.
44

45 The Selectboard accepted a grant from the NH Division of Historic Resources in the amount of \$7,047 to

1 continue the window restoration work at the Meriden Town Hall. This is the town's second award and is
2 further evidence of the hard work by the town's energy committee. Town Administrator Halleran was
3 appointed the legal signer of the grant agreement.
4

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6 The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm
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9 Submitted,
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11 Stephen Halleran
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13 Judy Belyea, Chair
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15 Ron Eberhardt
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17 Robert Taylor
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday October 21st 2015**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4
5 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
6 Robert Taylor
7 Ron Eberhardt
8

9 The meeting opened at 6pm.
10

11 **Town Office:** Tax Collector Michelle Marsh reported that tax bills will be mailed tomorrow. The
12 Selectboard/State approved rate is \$27.25 down \$.25 from the previous year. In establishing the rate with
13 the State of New Hampshire, the Selectboard raised \$66,000 in overlay of this is \$56,000 targeted for the
14 town's unassigned fund balance. This is the third year in Plainfield without a property tax increase.
15

16 Town Administrator Stephen Halleran, Police Chief Paul Roberts and Town Counsel Barry Schuster will
17 be attending the scheduled auction of the Edward and Elaine Brown property. The auction is in Concord at
18 the Federal Court building. The town is owed, including principal and interest, some \$223,000 in back
19 taxes and fees from the property.
20

21 **Highway Department:** Line striping has been completed for the year. To save money, the project was
22 scaled back this year to include only Methodist Hill, Daniels, Bonner and Brook Roads.
23

24 Pike is scheduled to pave on Ferry Hill and Penniman Road next Wednesday October 28th.
25 \

26 As requested by the Highway Garage Study Committee, the buildings septic tank has been pumped.
27

28 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts has, after inspecting the vehicle, decided not to pursue the retired police
29 cruiser from the Town of Hanover. Paul feels it would require more money than is prudent to return the car
30 to a duty status for the department.
31

32 Paul has been working with other agencies on a case involving possible sexual abuse of a child. The people
33 involved in the case have left Plainfield, but much of the possible abuse occurred while they lived here in
34 our town.
35

36 **Budget Discussion:** The Selectmen held a conceptual budget discussion, deciding that funding a stipend
37 position of facility manager for town owned buildings would be a priority for this year. The new part time
38 position will be modeled after the Plainfield School District and will build on the good work being done by
39 our highway garage facility committee.
40

41 The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.
42

43 Submitted,
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45 Stephen Halleran
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47 Judy Belyea, Chair
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50 Ron Eberhardt
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53 Robert Taylor
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The meeting opened at 6:15pm

The long awaited new above ground fuel tank at the highway garage is likely to be installed the week of November 16th.

Meriden Post Office: The Selectboard met with Head of School Michael Schafer, KUA CFO Robert Blake, KUA COO Hunter Ulf, Library Trustee Emily Sands, Library Trustee Suzanne Spencer, Library Director Mary King to continue discussions about the feasibility of relocating the Meriden Post Office to the Meriden Library as part of a renovation to make the building ADA compliant. KUA is highly motivated to relocate the post office from the center of the campus. Preliminary discussions between Steve Halleran and Hunter Ulf have yielded that the two uses would be compatible and acceptable to the post office and that the library lot could accept the addition without land acquisition. It was noted that this assumption assumes the USPS would not require an unusually large new facility. A lot more information on specification is needed. KUA is willing to donate some of Hunter's time to investigate this project and would be willing to provide the existing building used for the post office for the project if it can reasonably be moved to the site. The USPS uses about half the building now and would have access to the entire structure once renovated. Architect and KUA COO Hunter Ulf noted that his preliminary thinking is that an addition would be added to the back of the library to include ADA bathrooms and a lift to provide access to both floors of the library. The new post office would then be added to the back of this small connector. The following time line was suggested. An article would be placed on the 2016 town warrant to gauge support for this concept. This article will likely include some funds for the hiring of a consultant to lead the project building off Steve Halleran's Hunter Ulf's preliminary work. Then if applicable the town would seek funding for the project at the 2017 town meeting, building the new space that summer. The revenue from the lease would be available to pay for any borrowing that was necessary to complete the project. Once paid, for the lease revenue would then go toward the town's general fund. The next step in the process will be that Hunter and Steve Halleran will try to get more information from the post office on the likely sizing requirements for a new facility and will research existing post office leases so that a financial analysis can be conducted.

1 on project feasibility. Everyone in the room felt the idea had merit and should be further investigated before
2 either renovations to the Meriden Library are made or KUA makes other plans to relocate the post office.
3

4 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.
5

6 Submitted,
7

8 Stephen Halleran
9

10 Judy Belyea, Chair
11

12
13 Ron Eberhardt
14

15
16 Robert Taylor
17
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19

1
2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
3 **Wednesday November 18th 2015**
4 **Meriden Town Hall**
5

6 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
7 Robert Taylor
8 Ron Eberhardt
9

10 Others present: Rangi Keen, Dan Lapn, Eric Brann, Mike Sutherland, Brad Atwater, David Grobe, -The
11 Plainfield Finance Committee
12

13 The meeting opened at 6:00pm
14

15 **Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department:** The Selectboard heard from a group of the Plainfield Volunteer
16 Fire Department members who expressed concern that they might not have insurance coverage while
17 performing some duties of the department. Volunteer Fire Department personnel are covered under workers
18 compensation while training for or responding to EMS calls, but it is not clear where that coverage ends
19 when it comes to things like fund raising activities. The Selectmen pledged to investigate this issue further
20 during the upcoming budget process. Accident coverage for medical expenses is pretty straight forward;
21 obtaining insurance for lost wages might be some what more complex.
22

23 Representative Lee Oxenham attended a portion of the meeting to learn first hand the issues facing our
24 small town. She was sympathetic to the issue raised by the firemen and will look into the matter at the state
25 level.
26

27 **Finance Committee:** This being the first meeting with the Selectmen a discussion followed about the
28 current year and broad plans for 2016. Finance Committee members Brann and Lapan noted that the
29 Highway Department has not yet replaced the wood chipper approved at the 2015 town meeting. The two
30 indicated that they would be very disappointed if a machine other than the three point hitch model that was
31 agreed to last year was purchased. Both Eric and Dan feel that the highway department does not want that
32 type of chipper and this is the reason the purchase has not been made. The two were assured that right now
33 there were no plans to purchase any chipper other than a three point hitch model, if a chipper is to be
34 purchased at all.
35

36 The group discussed the fact that the tax rate did go down a little this year and additional funds were raised
37 and allocated for the town's fund balance. Mike Sutherland noted that he felt this was wise as both the
38 school and the library system seem to be facing increasing operating costs.
39

40 In general the 2015 operating budget has gone pretty much as planned. There has been no major cost over
41 runs in highway or police, our two biggest departments. There are six weeks left in the budget cycle, but it
42 looks as though completing the year on or under budget is very likely. About \$200,000 has been spent on
43 paving projects this year. River Road, Ferry Hill Road and Penniman Road have also received some new
44 pavement.
45

46 Dr. Karl Klinges has decided to expedite his donation of land adjacent to the town's gravel pit to this year.
47 This will save the town \$6,000 in lease payments in 2016. This is Mr. Klinges' second land donation to the
48 town. The project received town meeting approval in 2011.
49

50 Halleran noted that there was not a lot of data yet on the success of the magnesium chloride program.
51 Highway only used about one half of the product that was anticipated. The project will be continued into
52 2016.
53

54 Looking into 2016, the hiring of a facility manager for all town buildings (part-time stipend position) is a
55 prory. This person will build on the work that has been done by the highway garage study committee in

1 2015. Brad Atwater, a member of that group, updated the finance committee on the work of the committee
2 which has included developing a baseline assessment of all major systems at the facility.
3

4 Replacement of the town's backhoe is under consideration for 2016. The road agent feels that this is the
5 highest priority for the department's equipment needs. For the next meeting Halleran will have a written
6 evaluation of the machine for the Finance Committee and Selectboard to review. Replacement verses
7 refurbishment is being considered and the assistance of the Finance Committee with this evaluation would
8 be appreciated.
9

10 Dan Lapan noted that he continues to feel that the Road Agent is spread to thin. Some work should be hired
11 out to outside contractors and the Selectmen should consider returning to the organizational model where
12 the department had a dedicated mechanic.
13

14 Halleran reported that Casella has indicated to the town that the collapse of the recycling markets which
15 corresponds with the expiration of our current contract will likely result in about a \$800/month increase in
16 the cost of our solid waste management plan. The Selectboard will be looking into this further.
17

18 The Finance Committee will meet next with the Selectmen on December 16th to go over the proposed
19 budget.
20

21 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm. The Selectmen's next meeting will be December 2nd at the Plainfield
22 Library.
23

24 Submitted,

25
26 Stephen Halleran
27

Judy Belyea, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor

1 MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
2 Wednesday December 2nd 2015
3 Plainfield Library
4

5 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
6 Robert Taylor
7 Ron Eberhardt
8

9 The meeting opened at 6pm
10

11 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Collins started the session by reviewing the department's
12 accomplished work plan for the past two weeks. The new Convault fuel storage tank has been delivered
13 and is operational. Gravel shoulder works on the stretches of new pavement are now nearly complete.
14 Rich's next project is to do some repair work on the Meriden Covered Bridge. Guardrail and siding repair
15 work is planned.
16

17 Responding to inquiries from the Finance Committee, Richard reviewed with the Board of Selectmen his
18 evaluation of the town's 2002 backhoe. The machine has 9,800 hours on and is facing about \$15,000 in
19 immediate repairs and maintenance work. The estimated value of the machine is about \$20,000. It is his
20 recommendation as Road Agent that the town move the replacement of the machine up to 2016, ahead of
21 the road grader. Rich is open pursuing a used machine with low hours.
22

23 The Selectboard approved on a unanimous vote, returning to a full time benefited position in the highway
24 department that has for several years been filled by a part time employee. The employee works 35 hours a
25 week, but with national health care the position must either become benefited or have hours reduced.
26 Halleran noted that this change will have a budgetary impact of about \$22,000.
27

28 **Police:** Reporting for the Police Department, Halleran noted the department has been very busy over the
29 last twenty four hours with car accidents. Roads iced over in the early hours of a rain event.
30

31 The donated vehicles from TransCanada have been delivered and will soon be put into service for both the
32 Police and Highway Department's. Both vehicles will be replacements, not new additions.
33

34 The town has been awarded a Federal Grant to cover half of the \$5,500 cost of a new portable radio for the
35 town's emergency service work. The replacement radio will be purchased from 2015 funds.
36

37 **Dennis Girouard:** Mr. Girouard met with the Selectboard to express his dissatisfaction with the unification
38 of the two library boards. He contends that the result has been a greater division between the two villages
39 and an alienation of long time employees who should be shown a great deal of respect for their service to
40 the town. In his view, this has not happened and is a real black mark on our community. The Selectboard
41 acknowledged that the transition has not been smooth, but encouraged Dennis to look positively toward the
42 future.
43

44 **2016 Budget:** The Selectmen spent the remainder of the meeting working on the 2016 budget. Employee
45 cost of living raises was set at no more than 2.5%. The board determined that to save money the town's
46 offered health care program will be changed and employees cost of health care will increase. The
47 Selectboard elected to keep in the budget the facility manager stipend (new for 2016) and funding for the
48 Meriden Post Office to the Meriden Library feasibility study. Responding to an increase cost in the town's

1 waste management plan the Selectboard agreed to consider an increase in the town's trash user fee from \$2
2 to \$2.50. The Selectboard will meet next on December 16th with the town's Finance Committee.
3

4 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.
5

6 Submitted,
7

8 Stephen Halleran
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10 Judy Belyea, Chair
11

12
13 Ron Eberhardt
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16 Robert Taylor
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday December 16th 2015**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
5 Ron Eberhardt

6
7 The meeting opened at 6pm

8
9 The Selectmen voted unanimously to accept the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant
10 for \$2,665 awarded to the town for the purchase of a new emergency service radio. The total cost of the
11 project is \$5,330. The grant will cover 50% and the town will provide 50%. The necessary state contracts
12 were signed and notarized at this time.

13
14 **Highway:** Road Agent Collins updated the Selectmen on several minor repair projects the department has
15 been working on. The damaged siding and rails at the Meriden Covered Bridge have been repaired.
16 Several culvert headers on Willow Brook Road have also been repaired. Ditchline work has been done on
17 Gleason Road, Tallow Hill and Willow Brook. The Selectmen had a discussion with Rich about having the
18 town's equipment operators to try and minimize steep slopes on the far side of the road ditch. These cuts
19 often look unsightly and eventually slump into the ditch. Rich is aware of this problem and will talk to the
20 operators.

21
22 **Police:** Chief Roberts made several inquiries about year end purchases. The request to purchase a third
23 AED has been granted. The funding source will be a grant from Mascoma Savings Bank. The portable
24 radio request was granted, the funding source will be a 50% grant from the NH Emergency Management.
25 No action has been taken on the river rescue equipment.

26
27 The Selectboard approved up to \$4,000 for DNA testing on items from the 1982 Silvia Gray murder
28 investigation. The case is unsolved and Chief Roberts feels that current day DNA testing might well help
29 solve the case.

30
31 **Town Office:** The Selectmen signed a two year extension of the existing refuse collection agreement. The
32 extension increases the cost from \$153,000 per year to \$163,000 per year, but holds that cost for the second
33 year. The collapse of the recycling markets worldwide have driven the programs cost up. The Selectmen
34 however wanted stability for a second year.

35
36 **Finance Committee:** Road Agent Collins presented his plan to replace the town's 2001 backhoe with
37 about 10,000 hours. The machine needs about \$15,000 in repairs and has a market value of \$15,000 to
38 \$20,000 dollars. In general, the finance committee supported the replacement of the backhoe with a new
39 unit. Early estimates suggested it will require our trade and about \$90,000 for a new unit after all municipal
40 discounts are taken.

41
42 Police Chief Roberts reviewed his plan to replace two cruisers in 2016 with a municipal lease. The cars
43 will be Ford SUV's, which have become the standard for new cruisers. Retired State Police Officer and
44 Finance Committee member Eric Brann indicated support for this plan, noting that the new Ford SUVs
45 make very functional cruisers particularly with New England weather.

46
47 The rest of the session was spent with the Finance Committee going over the operating budget including a
48 detailed review of employee wages and benefits. Draft 01 of the 2016 budget shows a 4.1% increase.

Other business: Acting on requests from department heads the Selectmen made the following encumbrances from the 2015 operating budget:

Police account	1-4210-191	Lab work Silvia Gray case	\$4,000
Police account	1-4210-201	Radio State Grant	\$2,660
Police account	1-4210-540	Vehicle equipment	\$10,000
Highway account	1-4312-721	Emissions filter Trk #1	\$2,000
Highway account	1-4312-284	Building Improvements	\$5,000
Highway Account	1-4312-284	Snow removal equipment	\$2,200

As long as appropriated funds are available these monies will be reserved to complete 2015 projects in 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor

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