

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **January 6th 2010**
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

4 Selectmen present:

5 Judy Belyea, Chair
6 Thomas Williams Jr.
7 Robert Taylor
8

9 The meeting opened at 6pm.
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11 **Highway Department:** The Selectboard and Road Agent Ken Stocker continued to review
12 quotes for the replacement dump truck. To date, the town has three quotes on the truck and
13 two quotes on the body and plow equipment. A third quote on the body is expected very
14 soon. Ken feels that the Beau Roc dump body is a very high quality product that more than
15 pays for its additional cost in longevity. Likewise, he prefers to have the trucks set up with a
16 low front post configuration for the plow wing and prefers the Larochelle plows. The truck
17 replacement is expected to cost between \$125,000 and \$135,000.
18

19 **Police Department:** The board spent time with Chief Gillens fine-tuning the process that is
20 planned for appointing a new Police Chief. Chief Gillens feels that the Selectboard and or the
21 search committee should first look at internal candidates before opening the search to others.
22 The Selectboard has committed to using a search committee to help with the selection but as
23 not decided on a final process yet and may well that decision up to the committee.
24

25 **Town Office:** The Board spent the rest of the meeting working on the 2010 budget, 2010
26 warrant and finalizing year-end 2009 details. The town's budget hearing is scheduled for
27 January 20th this will also be the next meeting with the town's finance committee.
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30 Submitted,

31 Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

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37 Thomas P. Williams Jr

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41 Robert W. Taylor
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1 committee.

1 The committee will be limited to no more than 7-9 members. Interest in serving on the
2 committee has been strong, consequently, not all that wish to serve will be able to.

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4 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

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6 Submitted,

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8 Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

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Thomas P. Williams Jr

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Robert W. Taylor

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
3 **February 4th 2010**
4 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

5 Selectmen present:

6 Judy Belyea, Chair
7 Thomas Williams Jr.
8 Robert Taylor

9 The meeting opened at 6pm.
10

11 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Stocker reviewed the latest round of proposals for the
12 body and plow equipment for the new dump truck. Responding to a question from Selectman
13 Williams Ken noted that he feels strongly that the existing plow equipment should be replaced.
14 The new equipment is safer and far better designed. The new equipment should last through
15 the next truck or about twenty years. The range for the total cost of the vehicle replacement
16 is \$121,000 to \$131,000. Selectboard member Belyea felt it would be very hard, without more
17 documentation about durability, in these economic times to select the most expensive options
18 regardless of how good Ken feels the equipment would be.
19

20 **Police:** Chief Gillens reported that an electrical problem with one of the cruisers has been
21 corrected. The battery was draining very quickly on the car when not in use.
22

23 The Selectmen are planning to hold their first meeting with the chief search committee on
24 February 17th.
25

26 **Town Office:** The Selectboard chose a picture taken from the top of French's Ledges for the
27 cover of the annual report. The report is going to the printer tomorrow and will be mailed to
28 residents on or about February 25th in advance of the March 6th School Meeting.
29

30 Final edits were made to Selectboard member Rob Taylor's draft of the Select board's annual
31 report.

32 Halleran reported that Brad Wilder is in the process of cleaning up the debris from the former
33 Tuttle house. The clean up is a combination of hauling debris to a landfill and burning some
34 materials onsite. The Selectboard has expressed interest in having the old building cleaned up
35 as soon as possible. Brad had the house demolished last March.
36

37 **Plainfield Library Trustees:** Trustee Webber asked for clarification on the town's advertised
38 budget process. She was disappointed to learn earlier this week that the library could not
39 increase its appropriation at that time. Halleran explained that budget and town report
40 request letters are mailed out in early October. While a certain amount of changes are
41 anticipated, once the town has completed its budget hearing it becomes more difficult to make
42 additional changes. Selectman Taylor noted that any and all changes could be made at town
43 meeting. At some point, the materials

1 for the town report have to be finalized for printing.

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3 They're being no other business the Selectboard meeting was adjourned.

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5 Submitted,

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7 Stephen Halleran

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Judy A. Belyea, Chair

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Thomas P. Williams Jr

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Robert W. Taylor

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
February 17th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

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Selectmen present:

Judy Belyea, Chair
Thomas Williams Jr.
Robert Taylor

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The meeting opened at 6pm.

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The Board reviewed correspondence and signed orders. The Selectboard accepted the newly updated Town Hazard Mitigation plan, signing the required certificate of adoption.

Casella Waste Management: At the request of the Selectboard, Dave Allen met with the board to discuss the status of the ongoing collection program and to discuss possible cost cutting measures. From these discussions, two ideas emerged. This first was to provide homes with a second bin, perhaps yellow in color, that would be used for paper or fiber materials. Containers in one bin, fiber in the other would likely increase collection rate times saving the town some collection costs. Dave will crunch the numbers on this, but his experience suggests that, if done town wide, the payback period on the cost of the additional bins would like be two years or less. The second idea is to encourage the use of standard sized tote containers for waste, the collection truck has a device mounted on it that assists the driver with dumping these bins. Dave stressed that for both of these ideas in a town like Plainfield with low density, the savings is not as significant in higher density areas. Much of the trucks time in Plainfield is spent driving from stop to stop. The Selectboard did note that for the average homeowner, the town sponsored collection service is costing something like \$3 or \$4 per week, much less than the cost of driving the waste to the landfill themselves.

Police Chief Search Committee: The Selectboard went into nonpublic session at 7:05pm. Committee Members present: Fire Chief David Best, Fire Chief Frank Carrier, Resident Pat McNamara, Resident Carin Reynolds, Police Sergeant Lawrence Dore and the full Selectboard. Absent was resident Shawn Lundrigan who will be out of town through March 1st. Staff present: Stephen Halleran- Town Administrator and Police Chief Gordon Gillens

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Summation of the nonpublic session.

The committee discussed how to proceed with finding a replacement for the retiring Chief Gillens. Gordon has served the town as Chief for 25 years. There is one internal candidate for the position and that candidate has a positive recommendation from Chief Gillens. Both town fire chiefs noted that the relationship with all members of the existing police department is excellent and that keeping this positive relationship going forward is a real priority. All agreed that maintaining a police department, heavily focused on community service, is key and that the Chief establishes this tone.

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At the end of this discussion the committee decided to further evaluate the internal candidate before making any decisions about a full search. Halleran will solicit the assistance of the municipal association in developing a list of interview questions and the committee will hold an interview session after town meeting with the candidate.

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The nonpublic session ended at 8:15pm.

Town Meeting Preparations: The Selectboard began their preparation work for town meeting by finalizing who would present the various articles. The board then completed a cursory review of the warrant and necessary supporting materials for town meeting. Final decisions are plow equipment and body make for the dump truck replacement are still pending.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Submitted,
Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

2 **March 3rd 2010**

3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

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5 Selectmen present:

6 Judy Belyea, Chair
7 Thomas Williams Jr.
8 Robert Taylor
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10 The meeting opened at 6pm.

11
12 **Police Report:** Al Grindle Health Officer joined the discussions concerning a Lawton Lane
13 residence that because of a large number of cats and general junk and debris may represent a
14 health hazard to the neighborhood. The Humane Society is available to assist the town if
15 necessary. Al has spoken with the owners who have been given a week to make significant
16 progress on a clean up. Chief Gillens noted that state law requires that all cats be vaccinated for
17 rabies. The Selectboard determined that if significant progress is not made in the next seven days
18 the town will have no choice but to turn the issue over to the state Health Department and the
19 Human Society.
20

21 **Tax Deeding:** The Selectboard met with Stage Road resident whom after inheriting in the last
22 year his family's property is facing town tax deeding this May. The new owner has made
23 significant progress on catching up the latest of the taxes, but will still likely be \$1,500 behind
24 at deeding time. The Selectboard indicated that the town has not displaced a resident from
25 their primary home for back taxes in many years. However fees/interest will continue to
26 accumulate so its important that progress continues to be made to catch up.
27

28 **Police Chief Search:** This committee will be meeting next week to continue its efforts to find
29 a replacement for retiring Chief Gordon Gillens.
30

31 **Windstorm:** There was a brief discussion about last week's windstorm and the reverse 911 call
32 that was sent out to both Cornish and Plainfield residents from Hanover Dispatch. Halleran
33 has learned that Hanover purchased the database used for those calls ass they are not allowed
34 access to the state's 911 database. A link has been added to the town's website where residents
35 can sign up to make sure they receive future calls.
36

37 **Yield Tax:** A local settlement has been reached with property owner Shirley Hudson
38 concerning the Timber Tax bill from their recent cut. This settlement says both the taxpayer
39 and the town the expense of a hearing with the Board of Land and Tax Appeals.
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41

1 **Town Meeting Preparation:** The board spent the rest of the meeting making final arrangements
2 for the upcoming town meeting.

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4 Submitted,

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6 Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

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Thomas P. Williams Jr

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Robert W. Taylor

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **March 10th 2010**
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

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5 Selectmen present:

6 Judy Belyea, Chair
7 Thomas Williams Jr.
8 Robert Taylor
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10 The meeting opened at 6:30pm.
11

12 Prior to the start of the search committee work the Selectboard reviewed and approved three
13 building permits and signed a grant application for the Meriden Fire Department.
14

15 **Police Chief Search Committee:** The Selectboard went into nonpublic session at 6:40pm.
16 Committee Members present: Fire Chief David Best, Fire Chief Frank Currier, Resident Pat
17 McNamara, Resident Carin Reynolds, Police Sergeant Lawrence Dore Shawn Lundrigan and
18 the full Selectboard. Staff present: Stephen Halleran- Town Administrator.
19

20 Summation of the nonpublic session.
21

22 The committee reviewed Corporal Roberts resume and letters of recommendation and
23 finalized questions to be asked during the interview of internal candidate Paul Roberts for the
24 position of Police Chief.
25

26 The interview started at 7:15pm and ended at 8:00pm. A committee discussion followed the
27 interview. Based on the interview, letters of recommendation and recommendation of Police
28 Chief Gordon Gillens at the February 17th meeting the committee on a unanimous vote,
29 recommended that Corporal Roberts be offered the position of Police Chief. The details of
30 the employment offer to be worked out by the Board of Selectmen.
31

32 The nonpublic session ended at 8:415pm.
33

34 The Selectmen thanked the committee for its work .
35

36 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.
37

38 Submitted,
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40 Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

3 **March 25th 2010**

4 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

5 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
6 Thomas Williams Jr.
7 Robert Taylor
8

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.
10

11 This is the first Selectboard meeting since the 2010 annual meeting. The Selectboard was
12 pleased with the outcomes from the meeting and will work over the course of the next year to
13 carry out the voters established agenda. Selectman Tom Williams was elected as board
14 chairman for the next year.
15

16 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Ken Stocker reviewed additional cost estimate
17 information for Willow Brook Road. Best case, with a modified approach to resurfacing the
18 road, would cost \$700,000 if town forces are used for most of the work. To have the road
19 rebuilt with an outside contractor is estimated at \$1.8 million dollars. Halleran will continue
20 to push for information concerning the town's FEMA grant application.
21

22 The Selectboard approved the purchase of the new dump truck complete with the Beau Roc
23 dump body and LaRocelle front plow and wing. The decision to spend additional monies on
24 the items was based on the Road Agent's recommendation that this equipment would last for
25 two trucks or about 25 years.
26

27 **Police Department:** The Selectmen met with Chief Gillens and Corporal Paul Roberts.
28 Effective immediately Paul has been promoted to the position of Deputy Chief. He will
29 become Plainfield's full time chief at the end of May.
30

31 The Selectboard also supported the idea of amending part-time officer Tony Swett's police
32 academy application to indicate that Tony will have full time job with our department at the
33 successful completion of the state program. As the class size fills up, priority will be given to
34 those cadets that have commitments for full time work lined up.
35

36 **Town Treasurer:** The Selectboard met with resident Sara Brooks-Governo concerning the
37 town's Treasurer position. Sara explained that she has both an accounting degree and
38 experience as a financial advisor in addition she has significant experience with electronic fund
39 transfers. The Selectboard discussed with Sara the salary for the position. The Board voted in
40 favor of appointment her as the next Town Treasurer. She will work with retiring Treasurer
41 Fred Sweet in the coming weeks to make the transition as smooth as possible. Halleran noted
42 that the town's professional auditing firm would also be available as a resource.
43

44 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed and signed the state municipal forms detailing action
45 at the 2010 annual meeting. Town Office focus will now move to 2010 assessment work, the
46 printing of new zoning ordinances as amended and continuing to work on the broadband
47 expansion project with Comcast.
48

1 The March 25th meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

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3 Submitted,

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5 Stephen Halleran

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Thomas P. Williams Chair

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Robert W. Taylor

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Judy A. Belyea

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
3 **April 7th 2010**
4 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**
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6 Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr. Chairman
7 Robert Taylor
8 Judy Belyea
9

10 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

11 **Highway Department:** The Selectboard reviewed and approved the bid documents for the
12 sale of dump truck #2. At Road Agent's Stocker's request, the sale will be held off until closer
13 to the time with the replacement truck will be ready to be put into service, likely in early
14 June.

15
16 Ken hopes to be able to remove the road postings by the mid to late April. Pavement roads
17 and some gravel road postings may come down in the next week.
18

19 Gravel crushing has started in the town gravel pit. The contractor will crush 10,000 yards for
20 \$2.90/yard which is the same price as 2009.
21

22 **Police Department:** Deputy Chief Paul Roberts reported to the board on the last two week's
23 activities. At Chief Gillen's request Paul is updating the department's fee schedules. Insurance
24 reports, copies and special duty officer rates will all be adjusted up to be current with
25 surrounding department charges. Paul noted that he feels strongly that the town should
26 continue with the practice of not charging Plainfield residents for these services. The
27 Selectboard supported and approved the fee update project.
28

29 **Other:** Richard Atkinson and Susan Turner met with the Selectmen to provide draft language
30 for the required letters to be sent by the board that came out of the amended Article 13 at
31 town meeting. The Selectboard appreciated the drafts and indicated that they would likely use
32 some of the wording in their letters to the state. Richard will forward an electronic version to
33 the town office.
34

35 David Grobe and Myra Ferguson met with the Selectboard to discuss the membership of the
36 Conservation Commission and to discuss the possibility of getting some administrative
37 support from the town office. David has recently communicated to the Selectboard that he
38 wishes to step down as chairman, but will continue to serve either as a member or alternate
39 member to the commission. The Selectboard agreed to work on appointing two new
40 members to the board. Joe Dellabadia and Shawn Lundrigan have recently left the board. The
41 Conservation Commission will appoint a new chairman at their April or May meeting and
42 Halleran will work with that person to help post agendas, minutes and information on the
43 town's website for both the public and members to access.
44

45 **Town Office:** The Selectboard approved pay rates for 2010 (wages earned 4/1-3/31) reviewed
46 and approved building permits.
47

48 The board authorized Town Administrator Halleran and Health Officer Grindle to work

1 toward resolution of the large amounts of debris and garbage around the residence at 298
2 Route 12A. The town was able to get the property cleaned up in 2001, but debris has again
3 accumulated and requires attention. As in the past, the town will recover all costs and fees
4 associated with the project through liens on the property.

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6 Halleran will attend a meeting in Concord for Federal reimbursement for the February
7 windstorm clean up.

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9 The April 7th meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

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13 Submitted,

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15 Stephen Halleran

16 Thomas P. Williams Chair

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20 Robert W. Taylor

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24 Judy A. Belyea

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **April 21st 2010**
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**
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5 Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
6 Robert Taylor
7 Judy Belyea
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10 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.
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12 **Energy Committee:** Chairwoman Nancy Mogielnicki and member Allan Ferguson met with
13 the Selectmen to discuss energy saving measures for town streetlights, highway garage and
14 vehicle fleet. Halleran noted that in recent years the town has upgraded streetlights in
15 Plainfield Village for both dark sky requirements and energy savings. The highway garage
16 interior and exterior lighting was updated in 2008 as well. Focusing on streetlights in Meriden
17 Village, Nancy would like to see the town reduce some of the 38 lights around the village. The
18 Selectmen agreed to look into this, but felt it was important to keep in mind that streetlights
19 are for nighttime security. Other ideas discussed included limiting truck idling, adding solar
20 panels to the roof of the highway garage. Also the possibility of adding plastic strips like those
21 used on large overhead doors at refrigerated warehouses, to reduce heat loss when the doors at
22 the highway garage are opened during winter conditions.
23

24 **Highway Department:** Ken Stocker discussed his work plan for the next two weeks with the
25 Selectboard. Spring grading and brush cutting on gravel roads has started. As time allows, the
26 crew will continued with work on Freeman Road in anticipation of repaving the first 1,800
27 feet up the hill from Route 12A this summer.
28

29 **Other Business:** Logger Rier Jaarsma of Cornish met with the Selectmen to review how
30 timber tax harvest laws are interpreted in Plainfield when it comes to land conversion forest to
31 field. Timber Tax Agent Belyea noted that timber tax is assessed in these cases.
32

33 Resident Sarah Brooks attend the meeting to be sworn in as the town's deputy treasurer. She
34 will assume the role of treasurer in a couple of months when Fred Sweet retires. Swearing her
35 in now as deputy allows her to be a signer on the town's various accounts and should make for
36 a smooth transition..
37

38 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens reported that he feels Deputy Chief Roberts is doing an
39 outstanding job learning the administrative details of the department. Each week he is
40 assuming more and more of the responsibilities associated with running the police department.
41

42 Chief Gillens also cautioned the Selectboard about reducing streetlights. He feels strongly that
43 the lighting acts as a strong deterrent to theft and mischievous behavior during the night
44 hours.
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46 **Town Office:** The Selectboard approved and signed the letter to be sent to the State of New
47 Hampshire commending the state for enacting the same sex marriage law. This directive
48 resulted from an amendment to Article 13 at town meeting.

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The Selectboard set the final details for the June 5th community dinner for Chief Gillens. The PVFD will host the event and advertising will begin with the May Plainfacts.

Croydon Turnpike resident Anne Donaghy was appointed as an alternate member to the town's conservation commission.

298 Route 12A : The town has been working with the landowner to get some of the outside garbage and debris cleaned up. The landowner has asked to have until May 5th to gain material compliance. The Selectmen agreed to this with the condition that clean up work be ongoing.

Grantham Perambulation: Selectman Taylor, TA Halleran and Conservation Commission member Grobe will be joining a group from Grantham this Friday morning to look for missing stone #11. Local surveyor Chris Rollins may join the group as well on this hunt for the illusive stone that has not been located in many years.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
May 5th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

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Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
 Robert Taylor
 Judy Belyea

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The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Highway Department: The Selectboard accepted Ken's recommendation to have Pike Industries repave approximately 1,800' of Freeman Road from Route 12A up just past the access road to the Oak's. Ken hopes to have the work done by Memorial Day. The money to fund the work will come from money set aside from last year's Highway Block Grant.

Gravel crushing in the town's pit is now complete. The Selectboard reaffirmed its decision to not sell any overburden material from the town gravel pit this year. The sale last year was tied to a specific project that will not have to be repeated for the next couple of years.

Road intersection sweeping is nearly complete.

The Selectboard will start their next meeting on Willow Brook Road to finalize the 2010 work on the road.

Police Department: Chief Gillens updated the board on his work over last two weeks. Tony Swett is doing well at the Police Academy. Twelve weeks of training remain in the program. Once Tony successfully completes the academy he will fill the existing third officer spot with the department.

Deputy Chief Roberts met with the Selectboard to get approval for the new procedure manual for the department. Gordon has tasked Paul with the job of updating this required department document.

Town Office: The Selectboard approved and Chairman Williams signed a planning contract with the UVLSRPC for work involved with assisting the Planning Board with the Master Plan update. The town will also designate a portion of its annual dues "Service Incentive Program" to this contract to keep the overall project cost down.

After reviewing the quotes received, the Selectboard approved hiring local mason Joel Waters to repair the foundation at the Meriden Town Hall.

Later this summer Halleran will be putting out to bid, the painting of the Plainfield Town Hall and two sides of the Meriden Town Hall. The Selectboard want to make sure that as many local contractors as possible have an opportunity to bid on the work.

The Selectboard will place a wreath at the town's service memorial on Thursday afternoon May 27th.

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Halleran noted that substantial improvements have been toward cleaning up the 298 Route 12A property. Work remains to be done, but as long as the owner is making steady progress, the Selectboard are willing to delay additional enforcement actions.

The Selectboard will hold a hearing on May 19th concerning the possible donation of 3.4 acres of backland along the Connecticut River from TransCanada power. The Plainfield project is part of a larger project involving the transfer of land to Hartland Vt.

Other Business: The Selectmen continued to refine some of the details for Gordon’s retirement dinner. The board will be meeting with Frank Carrier at their next meeting.

Town Assessor George Hildum will be starting 2010 assessment work tomorrow. George will be in town for most of the next four work days.

Halleran will notify Tax Collector Wheeler that the board has reviewed the possible deed list for properties with delinquent taxes. The TQS Trust property is one that the Selectboard would not accept a deed for, but liens and fees will continue to accrue.

The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted,
Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **May 19th 2010**
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

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5 Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
6 Robert Taylor
7 Judy Belyea
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10 The meeting opened at 5:45pm. Willow Brook Road site visit.
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12 **Willow Brook Road:** The Selectboard viewed with Road Agent Ken Stocker and Assistant
13 Road Agent Richard Collins Willow Brook Road. The goal of the trip was to finalize areas of
14 the roadway that will be rebuilt with the remaining sections to receive a pavement overlay.
15 The board will focus its reconstruction efforts on the section from just north of House Lane,
16 northerly toward the Lebanon line. Morrill Construction will be asked to submit a bid for
17 this mile of the roadway. Town forces will concentrate on ditching and trimming along the
18 areas of the roadway to be overlaid. The Selectboard remains commitment to being done with
19 the Brook Road project in 2011.
20

21 6:30pm, returned to Meriden Town Hall.
22

23 The Selectboard signed orders and reviewed correspondence. Halleran noted that the first
24 round of appraisal work is complete for 2010. Spring tax bills should be mailed out in the next
25 week.
26

27 The Selectboard confirmed that they will place a wreath on the Service Memorial on Thursday
28 May 27th at 1:30pm.
29

30 **Sumner's Fall Land:** The public hearing was opened at 7:00pm. TransCanada is proposing to,
31 as part of a larger project, donate 3.4 acres of land in Plainfield to the Town of Plainfield. As
32 part of its relicensing agreement, the utility has agreed to donate the land to a public entity.
33 Most of the Sumner's Fall land is located in Hartland Vermont and is being donated to them.
34 While no one is entirely sure of the exact boundaries of the parcel, given the choice of
35 Hartland Vt owning the land or Plainfield the Conservation Commission has recommended
36 that Plainfield accept the gift. There being no public wishing to speak, the hearing was closed
37 at 7:10pm and was followed by a motion to accept the donation. The motion was seconded
38 and voted in the affirmative on a vote of 3 to 0.
39

40 **Mike Williams:** Plainfield property owner Mike Williams met with the board to gain
41 clarification on how much longer he has before the town assumes ownership of his property
42 for nonpayment of taxes. Selectperson Belyea explained that by being in arrears for three
43 years and having been provided the notices required by law, the town can now take the
44 property to settle his debt. Mr. Williams was granted, by the board, one final chance to pay
45 the taxes. If not paid by June 16th the town will assume ownership of at least the undeveloped
46 lot owned by Mr. Williams. The sale of that parcel should be sufficient to cover the taxes due
47 to the town on both parcels. Note: Selectman Tom Williams did not participate in these
48 discussions as Mike Williams is a relative.

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Gordon's Retirement Party: The Selectboard spent the next hour working with Fire Chief Currier planning the June 5th event for Gordon's retirement. Townline Equipment has donated the use of their tables. The Christ Community Church has agreed to allow parking at their facility across the street from the Fire Station. The jointly owned town/school public address system will be used. Meals and arrangements will be made using an estimate of about 300 guests attending the event.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **June 2nd 2010**
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**
4

5 Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
6 Robert Taylor
7 Judy Belyea
8

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm
10

11 **Highway Report:** Paving on Freeman Road has been moved back to June 14th, it had
12 originally been scheduled for June 1st. Tree work is continuing on Willow Brook Road.
13 The town's roller is in need of motor repair which includes damage to one piston and the
14 motor head. Road Agent Stocker will do most of the repair, but some of the work will have
15 to be outsourced to a machine shop.
16

17 **Police Report:** Deputy Chief Roberts reported on the memorial day weekend which included
18 both a large gathering on Burnhops Island and an ATV accident with injuries. Fire Chief
19 Currier supported the idea of requiring permits to camp on the island.
20

21 Selectboard Chair Thomas Williams swore in Paul Roberts as Plainfield's 6th Police Chief
22 replacing Gordon Gillens who retired last month.
23

24 **Town Office:** The Selectboard worked through the final arrangements for Chief Gillen's
25 retirement party this coming Saturday. Townline Equipment and Smith's Auction Gallery
26 have donated tables and tents respectively to insure that this day is a grand success.
27

28 Halleran reviewed with the Board, the latest plans for establishing a trailhead on Route 12A
29 for the Home Hill Trail. The town is committed to completing this project this summer.
30

31 The Selectboard approved a request by Bill Knight to use \$3,500 from the Townsend Bridge
32 and Trail fund toward the purchase of a trail groomer. The majority of the groomer is being
33 funded through a state grant. The \$8,600 balance in the fund is all from private donations. No
34 taxpayer money will be used for the project.
35

36 The Selectboard will open bids, on June 16th for the sale of the existing town dump truck
37 which is being replaced this summer. The new truck should be in service by early August.
38

39 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.
40 Submitted,
41

42 Stephen Halleran
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Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
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1 MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
2 June 16th 2010
3 MERIDEN TOWN HALL

4
5 Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
6 Robert Taylor
7 Judy Belyea
8

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm
10

11 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts met with the Selectboard to introduce part-time officer
12 trainee Mat Agan. Mat is a fulltime employee of Dartmouth Security and will be attending the
13 part-time police officer academy in Concord. Mat discussed his qualifications with the
14 Selectboard. The board, on Chief Robert's request, appointed Mat as a part-time officer for
15 the Police Department. This will allow Mat to attend the part-time officer academy.
16

17 Chief Roberts discussed a program that he would like to implement with the school system
18 where parents would have, at their home, a kit that they could use to have ready the necessary
19 information when a child becomes lost or separated from a parent. The board supported this
20 idea.
21

22 Paul and Steve reported on the safety committee meeting where the idea for a police
23 equipment capital reserve fund was discussed. If established this fund would work exactly like
24 the Highway Equipment fund only on a much smaller scale. The board will discuss this with
25 the town's finance committee.
26

27 Paul reported on a recent drill at the elementary school where the building was evacuated up
28 to the KUA campus. This annual event is done to test the school's preparedness for an
29 emergency.
30

31 The Selectboard established the location for the sign dedicating the Police Station to Retired
32 Chief Gordon Gillens.
33

34 The Selectboard made it clear that all duty officers or officers that are responding to
35 emergency calls will wear the town provided Kevlar vests, no exceptions.
36

37 **Highway Department:** Assistant Road Agent Rich Collins met with the Selectboard. No bids
38 have been received for the truck sale. This being the case truck #2 will be traded in as part of
39 the new truck replacement. Trade in value is \$8,500. The town will continue to be open to
40 purchase of the used truck, but the minimum sale price was set at \$9,500.
41

42 Morrill Construction has done test borings along the worst section of Willow Brook Road
43 and should have a reconstruction estimate to the Selectboard for next meeting.
44

45 The steep hill on the south end of Freeman Road has been re-paved, shoulder work will follow
46 next week.
47

48 Coincident with the school being out of session, four ten hour day work weeks will begin for

1 the Highway crew starting next week.

2
3 The Selectboard made it clear that safety gear, including but not limited to helmets and chaps,
4 will be worn at all time that chainsaws are in operation. No exceptions.

5
6 **Town Office:** As no payments have been received, the Selectboard instructed the Tax
7 Collector to deed tax map 237 lot 14.1 vacant land on Route 12A to the Town of Plainfield.
8 Once title matters are resolved the town will resell the property to pay off the tax debt.

9
10 The Solid Waste Committee is holding its 5th annual clean up day on Saturday from 8:00am to
11 noon at the Highway garage.

12
13 Attorney Barry Schuster has started the town's defense of the ZBA's approval of the Parrish
14 House Museum. Abutter Si Mintz has appealed that approval.

15
16 The town's operating budget remains within projections. At 52% of the remaining, 57% of
17 the budget is available.

18
19 Halleran and Bill Knight will meet with property owner Brad Atwater and the NHDOT
20 tomorrow morning to make final arrangements for the parking lot installation at the east end
21 of the Home Hill Trail on Route 12A. The next step will be to receive competitive bids for
22 the work.

23
24 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

25
26
27 Submitted,

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29 Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

2 **July 7th 2010**

3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

4
5 Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
6 Robert Taylor
7 Judy Belyea

8
9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm

10
11 **Highway**

12
13 **Willow Brook Road two year plan:** Year one, Road Agent Ken Stocker and the Selectboard
14 reviewed the latest proposal from Morrill Construction for the Willow Brook Road. See attached.
15 Morrill has estimated that a total rebuild of the worst 1.2 miles of the roadway will cost \$480,075
16 this year. The town has in hand, \$252,000. The town can by doing some of the work reduce the
17 Morrill quote by some \$93,000 leaving a deficit of \$135,075 on the 1.2 miles.

18
19 Year two: Pike has provided a proposal for repairing the remaining 3.8 miles of the road. If town
20 forces do some of the preparation work, the estimated cost of this is \$550,000. Its expected that
21 in 2011, without additional tax dollars, the town will have about \$160,000 designated for
22 pavement.

23
24 To complete Brook Road in two years will cost in round numbers about \$950,000 for which the
25 town has \$412,000 available. A FEMA grant application for \$490,000 is still pending, but seems
26 to be taking years to work through the review process. The FEMA grant, being the key to the
27 next step in the reconstruction process, the Selectboard instructed Ken to have the highway crew
28 continue to work on vegetation clearing and drainage issues along Brook Road. If the FEMA
29 grant is not approved the town will have to seek additional property tax funds for the Brook Road
30 at the 2011 town meeting. Alternatively, the entire roadway could be overlaid with fresh
31 pavement. However, this "fix" has by far the shortest life expectancy and is the least desirable as
32 it does not address most of the road's base and drainage issues.

33
34 **Other Highway Business:** Kevin McNamara purchased the Highway Truck #2 for \$9,500. After
35 receiving no bids on the truck the vehicle was going to be traded in toward the new one for a
36 value of \$8,500. The town reserved the right to sell the truck right up until the new truck was
37 delivered.

38
39 The board approved \$3,000 worth of engine work for the town's compactor. Ken will do the
40 repairs, but the parts alone are nearly \$3,000.

41
42 Repair work is completed on the covered bridge planks. The repairs should eliminate the excess
43 noise that was occurring when cars went through the bridge. Eleven planks were replaced and all
44 were re-secured to the bridge super structure.

45
46 Ken reviewed 2011 salt prices with the board. It looks as though next year's price should be
47 down about \$6.00/ton over the 2010 price.

48
49 **Police:** Chief Roberts reviewed the Selectboard his department's activities over the last three
50 weeks. The 4th of July parade went well. Paul shared several positive letters from residents
51 commending the work of officers Larry Dore and Tony Swett.

1
2 The Police Department has been working on alerting residents to several scams that are targeting
3 the town's elderly residents. Residents should not be sending money orders to claim prizes or to
4 help relatives that they personally have not had direct contact.

5
6 Chief Roberts requested that Master Sergeant Larry Dore be promoted to the rank of Deputy
7 Chief. Larry will, as he has in the past, run the department in the absence of Chief Roberts and
8 Paul feels strongly that this change in title should be made. The Board indicated a willingness to
9 let Paul organize the department as he sees fit. The Selectboard approved the request.

10
11 **LGC:** Member relations executive Tom LoPizzo met with the Selectboard to review the various
12 functions and services provided by the local government center. Should the Selectboard need
13 assistance from LGC, Tom is available to help.

14
15 **Town Office:** The Selectboard appointed Conservation Commission member William Knight as
16 the grant administrator for the cross country ski trail groomer grant that the town has received
17 from the State of NH Trails Bureau. The \$24,000 grant will cover the cost of a new groomer for
18 the trails around the Townsend Bridge. Bill wrote the grant on behalf of the Conservation
19 Commission and Trails Group and the entire project is being paid for from a combination of
20 private and grant funds. The town is responsible for paying for the groomer and then seeking
21 reimbursement from the state. However, the unanticipated revenue will cover the cost of the unit
22 and no property tax money will be used.

23
24 The Selectboard finalized paperwork for the School's Energy Grant. A resolution was made,
25 seconded and adopted designating Town Administrator Stephen Halleran with the authority to
26 sign grant documents on behalf of the town. Here too, the town is the recipient of the grant
27 monies, but has designated others, in this case the school superintendant, to administer the grant.

28
29 The Selectboard approved an RFP for the painting of the Plainfield and Meriden Town Halls.
30 Proposals will be sought for painting the entire Plainfield Town Hall and two sides of the
31 Meriden Town Hall.

32
33 The Selectboard prepared a letter to the town's library trustees concerning the passage of Article
34 8 at the 2010 town meeting. The Selectboard is suggesting an August 18th meeting to begin to
35 map out a strategy for merging the two boards into a single board.

36
37 Halleran reported, that as directed the town vacant land parcel was taken on Route 12A for
38 nonpayment of taxes. The property will retain his residence, but the undeveloped lot will be sold
39 to satisfy all the outstanding taxes owed the town. The Selectboard expressed regret for having to
40 do this, but in this case, the taxpayer has made no attempt to satisfy his lawful obligations to pay
41 property taxes to the town. Not taking the land would, in the board's view, not be fair to others
42 who are paying their taxes despite difficult economic times.

43
44 ***

1 The July 7th meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

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3

4 Respectfully submitted,

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7 Stephen Halleran

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Thomas P. Williams Chair

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Robert W. Taylor

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Judy A. Belyea

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
July 21st 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

5 Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
6 Robert Taylor
7 Judy Belyea
8

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm

10
11 **Highway Department:** The Selectboard continued its planning session with Road Agent Stocker
12 concerning the Willow Brook Road project. The Selectboard remains committed to completing
13 work on the road in 2011. The board agreed that just overlaying the existing pavement is not an
14 option, but that a complete rebuild is not possible either. The board settled on a hybrid option
15 that has town forces doing the necessary drainage, replacement of failed or near failure culverts
16 and slope work followed by a pavement overlay of the roadway. Road Agent Stocker felt that the
17 Highway Department should concentrate its efforts on the area from the Lebanon Line to the
18 intersection with Houser Lane and if possible overlay this section this year. The remainder of the
19 roadway would be done in 2011. The expected cost for the two year project is about \$500,000.
20 The pavement overlay alone is \$375,000. As part of this work the Selectboard approved the
21 rental of an excavator for a month. Ken will look into whether the rental charge can be based on
22 the hour meter rather than a thirty day period of time.
23

24 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts updated the board on various cases the department is working
25 on. Given the full cost of the police chief transition and having a new officer trained at the Police
26 Academy, Halleran acknowledged that the 2010 police budget did not include enough funding in
27 several areas. The Selectboard, Town Administrator and Chief worked on some strategies for
28 minimizing any budgetary overage that the department might have in 2010.
29

30 Paul noted that Kimball Union Academy has made the school's fitness facility available to the
31 department.
32

33 The Selectboard thanked William Knight for recently installing the Gordon Gillens dedication
34 sign at the Police Department.
35

36 **Town Office:** The Selectboard expressed support for having a granite watering tub, lost to the
37 town in the 1970's, returned to the town. Elizabeth Backofen now has possession of the tub and
38 feels that it should be returned to the town. The tub served as a horse watering trough on Old
39 County Road for the then Daniels Farm. The neighborhood is working on a plan for returning the
40 object to as close to its original location as possible.
41

42 **Painting bids for the Meriden and Plainfield Town Halls:** The Selectboard opened the bids,
43 see attached. Halleran will make sure that each bidder was qualified. The Selectboard instructed
44 Halleran to award the work to the lowest qualified bid for each project.
45

46 **Walker Conservation Land:** Halleran explained that the property owned by Lynn Walker which
47 includes conservation easements has likely been sold. The new owner will be pursuing a building
48 permit for the property. Halleran will contact the state agency that monitors the LCIP easements
49 to insure that the building is located on the land that was purposely excluded from the easement.
50

1 **Library Trustees:** The Selectboard is trying to set up a meeting with the Library Trustees to
2 begin the process of transition to a single board of trustees for 2011 and beyond. A date of
3 August 18th has been rejected as many of the trustees are on vacation. A date in early September
4 is a possibility.

5
6 **Townline Equipment Case:** The Selectboard was pleased to learn that one of the two cases
7 brought by abutters concerning the Townline Equipment expansion has been decided in favor of
8 the town by the NH Supreme Court. The case in question concerned zoning matters and was
9 widely viewed as the more significant of the two appeals. The fate of the second case, which
10 contests the site plan review approval by the Planning Board, is unclear at this time. The
11 Selectboard felt that it was unfortunate that tens of thousands of dollars of public money has had
12 to be spent defending this longstanding business in our town. Board members noted that the
13 owner has spent significantly more than the town on this legal issue.

14
15 The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

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18 Respectfully submitted,

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21 Stephen Halleran

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24 Thomas P. Williams Chair

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26 Robert W. Taylor

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28 Judy A. Belyea
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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
August 4th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

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Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

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The meeting opened at 6:00pm

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Highway Department: Road Agent Stocker reported that shoulder work is now completed on Freeman Road and work on Willow Brook Road is fully underway.

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Summer grading is continuing as necessitated by summer storms.
The town's compactor remains out of service, but Ken now has the parts to complete the repair on order.

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Police Department: Chief Roberts reviewed the department's activities over the last two weeks. He continues to work with the school administration on the fund raising concert that is being planned. As proposed, Livingston Taylor will perform on the school grounds. Paul hopes that by talking with the promoters he can obtain a better estimate on how many people will likely turn out to see Livingston Taylor. This will be important for planning an appropriate level of security and traffic control for the event.

Other Business: Contractor Brian Morse attending the meeting to answer any questions on the Audra Bucklin application for a building permit. There being none, the permit was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **August 18th 2010**
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**
4

5 Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
6 Robert Taylor
7 Judy Belyea
8

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm
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11

12 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Ken Stocker reported that the Highway crew has continued
13 with its efforts to prepare the northern end of Willow Brook Road for paving. Ditch line work,
14 cross culverts and bank stabilization efforts will continue for another week to ten days. New
15 pavement should follow in late September.

16 The new dump truck has been put into service. The Selectboard is very interested in how
17 well the automatic transmission works for winter plowing. Ken noted that he was sold on the
18 technology based on a demonstration ride he took with a local oil delivery driver. The fully
19 loaded fuel oil truck did very well going up hill in winter conditions with the automatic
20 transmission.
21
22

23 **Town Office:** The Selectboard voiced continued support for doing all that is necessary to bring
24 the #830 Route 12A property into conformance with the zoning ordinance. As Zoning
25 Administrator Halleran has asked the owner to come forward by 8/30 with an application to the
26 Zoning Board of Adjust to establish the auto detailing business being operated from the site. The
27 only approved use of the building is, as stated by the owner at the time of construction, the
28 storage and repair of his personal car collection.

29 The Selectboard reviewed the initial estimates by Comcast for the cable system
30 expansion. On average Comcast is requesting \$3,500 per household to build plant on various
31 roads in town. The range was \$800 to \$8,500 per household depending on street density.
32 Halleran will be contacting Comcast about the proposals.

33 The trailhead at the Home Hill trail Route 12A end is now ready for construction.
34 Proposals from local contractors are due in the office next week.

35 Halleran distributed to board members copies of the Valley News articles from 1967 that
36 covered the loss from Old County Road of a stone watering trough located near the Lebanon line.
37 The trough was placed there and used by the Daniels Farm, now owned by Peter and Nancy
38 Mogeilnicki. The trough was removed in 1967 by Stephen Cole, who claimed ownership of it
39 and refused to return it. Elizabeth Backofen has offered the trough back to the town and provided
40 copies of the Valley News article as a frame of reference for the project.
41
42

1 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts was involved in an interview and was unable to meet with the
2 Selectboard. Halleran noted that he is working on a case involving theft of auto parts from a
3 Route 12A car repair facility.

4

5 The Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

6

7 Respectfully submitted,

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9

10 Stephen Halleran

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August 18th Minutes

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Thomas P. Williams Chair

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Robert W. Taylor

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Judy A. Belyea

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
3 **September 1st 2010**
4 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**
5

6 Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
7 Robert Taylor
8 Judy Belyea
9

10 The meeting opened at 6:00pm
11

12 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Ken Stocker requested, and was granted permission to
13 extend the rental of the small excavator that is being used on Willow Brook Road. Ken needs at
14 least two more weeks to complete the rock wall at the clay bank adjacent to Willow Brook Sand
15 and Gravel. Ken hopes to be able to stabilize the uphill portion of this problematic slope by
16 removing a large pine from the top and shaping and seeding the bank. Extensive drainage work
17 has been done below the slope and Ken is confident that the fix will be successful. Paving at the
18 north end of Brook Road is scheduled for late September.
19

20 The Selectboard reaffirmed their position that four day work weeks can only be used during
21 summer months when the school is not in session.
22

23 **Building Inspector:** David Lersch met with the Selectboard to review several changes in the
24 building codes. In particular, Dave discussed the need for improved drawings and project
25 specifications with submitted applications. The Selectmen noted their strong preference for the
26 town to work very cooperatively with applicants, but agreed that any project that involves living
27 quarters, will be required to submit measured drawings and an inventory of materials to be used
28 on the project.
29

30 **Police Chief:** Paul provided a detailed run down of the departments work over the last week.
31 Based on data from the speed trailer, Paul has placed a new emphasis on having the duty officers
32 work traffic during peak commuter times. Vehicle speeds have increased and with school back in
33 session, a stronger police presence is necessary.
34

35 Paul is working with KUA administrators on a memo of understanding concerning crimes on the
36 KUA campus. Historically, KUA has not wanted to enter into this commonly used arrangement
37 with local law enforcement and academic institutions. Paul has made it clear to the school that
38 not reporting crimes is a crime and that in absence of clear direction on how issues will be
39 handled, teachers, coaches and staff shielding students from possible prosecution for crimes will
40 be themselves be charged. Not doing so, puts the town at fault under NH law.
41

42 **Town Office:** The board discussed the 2010 budget noting that, while tight, the budget seems
43 overall to be well within approved limits. Selectmen Williams noted that the road project is very
44 tight on cost and that it should be carefully watch so that no overage occurs.
45

46 The Selectboard discussed the upcoming meeting with Library Trustees concerning the merger of
47 the two boards. The Selectboard is firm in its position that the 2011 budgeting be done as a single
48 department.
49

1 Selectboard Taylor noted that he feels that the KUA Field House project review must include a
2 detailed review of the adequacy of campus center drive. Halleran will make sure that town
3 engineer Lou Caron includes this in his work.

4
5 The Selectboard signed all the papers necessary for the establishment of the 2010 tax rate. The
6 new rate should be set in early October and is expected to be around \$23.50. The current rate is
7 \$22.50.

8
9 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

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12 Respectfully submitted,

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15 Stephen Halleran
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20 Thomas P. Williams Chair

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23 Robert W. Taylor
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26 Judy A. Belyea
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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
September 15th 2010
PLAINFIELD TOWN HALL

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Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
 Robert Taylor
 Judy Belyea

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The meeting opened at 6:00pm

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The Selectboard toured the Plainfield Town Hall and view the exterior paint work being done by local contractor George Hadlock. The board was very pleased with the work.

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The Selectmen walked over to the Plainfield Library and met with Road Agent Ken Stocker.

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Highway Department: Ken updated the board on the Willow Brook Road project which should be ready for paving in two weeks.

Ken and Halleran presented a proposal for the board to consider the purchase of a vibratory screen for the town's gravel pit. Ken, like Scott MacLeay who has worked for the town in the pit on reclamation and management now feels that a screen would reduce the need for crushing as much gravel with an outside contractor. Much of the cost of the screen could be paid for with a sale of overburden material from the pit. The last sale took less than a month and paid for the cost of having some of the pit reshaped and winter sand exposed. The board agreed to consider the project with the finance committee.

Out Reach Program: The Selectboard left the meeting for 45 minutes to go and visit new business owner to Plainfield, Ann Yates who has reopened the Plainfield Village Store. Ann provided a tour of the facility and discussed with the board some of her challenges in getting the store up and running. The property had become bank owned and much of the equipment needed repairs or updating to satisfy building code requirements. Ann has been very pleased with the support from the community and continues to search for ways to make the store a success.

The board returned to the Plainfield Library.

Police Department: Chief Roberts provided a detailed report of his department's activities over the last week. Paul shared some photos and pieces of the device that was discovered up at the TQS Trust property on Center of Town Road. The state police explosive squad determined that the device was not a functioning bomb and then broke the shot filled canister up.

Paul is making sure that to the extent possible the town's two police cruisers are out and visible during commuting times. Traffic complaints remain a real concern.

Paul is working with KUA to determine, what if any, special duty coverage is necessary at the hockey rink during tournaments and large gatherings. The department has heard from several individuals who feel that parents behaving poorly can be a real intimidating factor at hockey events involving Twin Valley Hockey league.

Town Office: The Selectboard continues to try and hold a meeting with both board's of library trustees. To date, no date that works for everyone has been possible. As an alternative the

1 Selectboard instructed Halleran to ask that a member from each board attend the October 6th
2 meeting.

3
4 Halleran reported that the Tuesday election went very smoothly. Town Clerk Michelle Marsh
5 and Deputy Ruth Wheeler worked very hard to make sure the day went smoothly.

6
7 The town's energy committee continues to work on a variety of projects. Tuesday members of
8 the group met with consultants who have federal funding for performing additional energy audits
9 for all town buildings.

10
11 The town's employee safety committee met earlier this week. The visit was to the Meriden
12 Library. The group was impressed with the work that has been done to the facility. Solving the
13 ADA compliance issues with the building continues to be the biggest challenge the trustees face.

14
15 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

16
17 Respectfully submitted,

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20 Stephen Halleran

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Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
October 6th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

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Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

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The meeting opened at 6:00pm

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Highway Department: The group discussed the recent award to the town of a \$490,000 hazard mitigation grant to be used to make drainage way improvements on Willow Brook Road. The town applied for this grant in March of 2009 and has just now been notified of the award. This is the second grant in the last five years that the town has received and brings the total to \$660,000 received for work on Willow Brook Road. Halleran will be working in the coming weeks with Hazard Mitigation Director Richard Verville on finalizing the grant documents.

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Ken reported that fall grading and hauling of winter sand is on going. Last week's 5" of rain resulted in very little wash to town roads, downed trees and some minor repairs have now been completed.

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Police Department: Chief Roberts reviewed with the board the various investigations that his department has been working on. The large carved wooden bear that was stolen from Ledge Road has been found and returned. Those responsible for the theft face a variety of charges.

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Steve and Paul are working on a capital improvements project for the department. It is very likely that voters will be asked to establish a Police Department capital reserve fund at the 2010 town meeting.

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Library Trustees: The Selectboard met with representative of both the Meriden and Plainfield boards of library trustees to discuss the ongoing unification project that was approved with the passage of article 8 at the 2010 town meeting. The two boards have met several times and have now developed a memo of understanding with regard to this project.. All recognized that this project will take several years to fully implement. The 2011 budget will be a compilation of both library budgets and the 2012 budget will be the first true single budget that will be developed by the one board of five. In regard to the transition from six trustees to five, since two terms expire at the end of this year, only a single trustee will be elected in 2011.

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Other Business: Halleran reported that the stone water trough will be moved tomorrow morning. The trough is being returned to Old County Road after an absence of more than 40 years.

1 The Selectboard approved taking enforcement action against #830 Route 12A. A business
2 concerned with making modifications to cars is being operated from the building on the lot
3 without the proper zoning approval.

4

5 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

6

7 Respectfully submitted,

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10 Stephen Halleran

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Thomas P. Williams Chair

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Robert W. Taylor

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Judy A. Belyea

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **October 19th 2010**
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

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5 Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
6 Robert Taylor
7 Judy Belyea
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9 The meeting opened at 2:45pm

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11 The Selectboard, School Board Member Mike Sutherland, Superintendent Noelle Vitt and
12 Business Manager Beth Bierwirth met with NH DRA Auditor Jamie Dow to establish the 2010
13 tax rate. The various reports from the town and school district were reviewed. The 2010 tax rate,
14 subject to final DRA approval was established at \$23.75 up from \$22 in both 2008 and 2009.
15 The new rate should be ready for tax billing later next week.
16

17 The meeting was recessed until Wednesday evening at 6pm at the Meriden Town Hall.
18

19 **Wednesday October 20th 2010**

20
21 Richard Verville and Danielle Morse from the NH Department of Emergency Management
22 attended the meeting to obtain signatures on the town's approved hazard mitigation grant in the
23 amount of \$490,118. These monies to be used in 2011 for Willow Brook Road drainage work.
24

25 In accordance with authority granted by article 5 of the 1995 town meeting pursuant to RSA 31-
26 95-b the Selectboard opened a public hearing on the acceptance of this grant. No one spoke
27 against the acceptance of the funds. The Selectboard, Town Administrator and Road Agent all
28 voiced support for the grant. The public hearing was closed and a motion to accept the funds was
29 made by Chairman Williams, seconded by Selectman Belyea and voted in the affirmative
30 unanimously. Next, grant contracts were signed and returned to Richard Verville who will take
31 them to the governor and council for final approval.
32

33 **Sale of Route 12A town owned property acquired by Tax Collector deed.** The Selectboard
34 opened the three bids received for property formally owned by Mike Williams map 237 lot 14.1.
35

36 Everett Williams \$6,000.00
37 Robbie Williams \$15,300.00
38 Judith Ptak \$19,000.00
39

40 The property was awarded to Judith Ptak, subject to review by Town Counsel Barry Schuster.
41

42 **Highway Department:** Ken reported that the over lay on the Lebanon end of Brook Road has
43 been put town with a top to be added in the coming days, shoulder work to follow after that.
44 As outlined in the grant application the FEMA monies will be used for drainage improvements
45 along the middle 2.5 miles of the roadway.
46

47 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts reported that he would like to use a possible \$7,000 donation
48 to the town's recently created Beautification, Operation and Maintenance Fund, created in 2008
49 with the passage of article 10, for the purchase of a used Crown Victoria car for the Police
50 Department's use. The donor, a private trust, would like to earmark the funds for this purpose
51 and the town operations fund may provide the necessary legal framework for the transaction. The

1 Selectboard are named agents to expend on the fund. The board will consider this request, but
2 noted that as a general rule large purchases should go through the town meeting process. Paul
3 agreed noting that right now he uses his personal car for a lot of town business. Consequently, at
4 times he has to respond to emergencies in a car that is not properly equipped for the work that
5 needs to be done. The board noted that this car will not become part of the standard car rotation
6 and that if acquired it will be expected that its use will be limited to extend the life of the vehicle.
7

8 **Town Office:** The Selectboard confirmed Clara Perry as the next recipient of the Boston Post
9 Cane. The board hopes to present the cane on November 3rd to Ms. Perry.
10

11 The Selectboard signed the agreement between the town, Mary Ann Palmer and her assigns that
12 makes it clear that the now returned stone watering trough, which has been located on the Palmer
13 property, is owned by the Town of Plainfield. The agreement will be recorded at the Sullivan
14 County Registry.
15

16 The Selectboard appointed the 2010 KUA Study Committee. This year's group will include
17 Gordon Defoe, James Bonney, Elizabeth Duany, John Yacavone, Robyn Hadlock, Robert
18 Hewett, Shelley Andrews a School Board member and representatives of the KUA
19 Administration.
20

21 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.
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23 Respectfully submitted,
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26 Stephen Halleran
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31 Thomas P. Williams Chair
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34 Robert W. Taylor
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37 Judy A. Belyea
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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
November 3rd 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The formal meeting opened at 6:00pm

BOSTON POST CANE: Prior to arriving at the Meriden Town Hall the Selectboard was please to visit Plainfield's oldest resident Clara Perry at #147 Dodge Road and present to Ms. Perry the town's Boston Post Cane. A group comprised of family members and friends gathered to celebrate this achievement with Clara. She indicated how proud she was to be a recipient of the cane and she hoped to keep it a long time.

The Selectboard moved across town to the Meriden Town Hall

GOODWIN ROAD: Forester Ehart Frost and Head of Buildings and Grounds for KUA Doug Plummer met wit the Selectboard to discuss the school's desire to make improvements to the class VI Goodwin road. The road will be used to access KUA's 700 acres on Snow Mountain for forestry purposes. Once improved, the class VI road will be gated, but not locked. Selectboard member Belyea noted that the town's Road Agent should oversee the project, including culvert sizing and placement. KUA will pursue all necessary wetland permits. Halleran will forward to the school the town's permitting process for work on class VI roads.

WALKER EASEMENT: Resident George Sandmann and Conservation Commission Chairman Myra Ferguson met with the Selectmen to discuss amending the permitted access to the one house site on the 104 acre property (map 252 lot 35.1) that had previously been part of the Walker Farm and was encumbered with an LCIP Conservation Easement in the 1980's. After holding a site visit with Mr. Sandmann, the town's Road Agent and Steve Walker from the State's Office of Energy and Planning, the town's Conservation Commission has agreed to the change which moves to the driveway access to the edge of the existing field avoiding the disturbance of ledge and a small wetland area. All utilities will be buried along the driveway and overhead poles will not be permitted. Halleran noted that the town holds the easement and therefore must apply for any amendment to the easement. The Selectboard supported the change. Halleran will work with George Sandmann to submit the formal application for the amendment.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Roberts reviewed his work over the last two weeks. Halloween was relatively uneventful. Halleran noted that he has heard many positive comments about the glow bracelet program that Paul established. The bracelets were paid for by local businesses and helped to keep the kids visible. Residents also appreciated all the efforts by both fire departments to keep the village areas safe for young children.

The department is working on several complex cases involving theft and domestic violence. Trials are pending.

Paul updated the board on the incident involving an Old County Road resident who was found dead in the woods of an apparent heart attack while deer hunting. Fish and Game is the lead agency on the case, but Plainfield Police along with other rescue agencies were involved in the matter.

1 **TOWN OFFICE:** Halleran noted that the tax sale of land formerly owned by Mike Williams is
2 moving to a closing with high bidder Judy Ptak. The sale should be finalized by mid November.

3
4 The Willow Brook Road tax sale continues to languish, although the town has received all of its
5 money, but is waiting to turn over the deed when the owner removes the existing house on the lot.

6
7 Halleran reported that former resident Edward Brown has sued the town in Superior Court for
8 failing to protect he and his wife Elaine from Federal Authorities. Town Counsel Barry Schuster
9 will file a motion with the court to dismiss the suit. Halleran will also notify the town's insurance
10 company about the suit which seeks monetary damages.

11 .
12 **OTHER BUSINESS:** The Selectmen reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week.
13 Building permits were also reviewed and approved.

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15 The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

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17 Respectfully submitted,

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20 Stephen Halleran

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25 Thomas P. Williams Chair

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28 Robert W. Taylor

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31 Judy A. Belyea

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
November 17th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

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Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

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The formal meeting opened at 6:00pm

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Highway Department: Road Agent Stocker again inquired with the Selectboard about purchasing a used screen for the town gravel pit. The Selectboard felt that a screen might be useful periodically and thus renting a unit as needed might be a more cost efficient approach.

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Ken is interested in selling or trading one of the town's small pick up trucks for a larger one ton truck to facilitate salting the town's asphalt roads. The larger truck would allow the department to reduce the amount of time it takes to get salt applied. The Selectboard agreed to look at the used truck, however, the board felt that even though these smaller used vehicles typically cost less than \$10,000 and in the past have been paid for out of the operating budget, such purchases should be part of annual meeting business.

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Ken hopes to complete road stripping prior to winter setting in.

Halleran reported that surveyor Chris Rollins and Town Engineer Lou Caron are now doing field work for the necessary wetland permits for next summer's completion of the Willow Brook Road.

Winter sand has been hauled and the department is making final preparations for winter. Shoulder work on Willow Brook Road is nearly complete and is the final piece of the 2010 project.

Town Office: The Selectboard held some general budgetary discussions. No final decisions were made on employee compensation rates for 2011, but the Selectboard acknowledged, that holding the town rate flat is a priority for the board. Halleran is looking into health care plan options that might save the town on premium costs. Employees will be subject to greater health care costs in 2011.

Police Department: Chief Roberts explained that the department has been involved in several complex investigations which have been taking away from patrol time. Progress is being made on these cases, including a burglary on Old Country Road. Paul has been scheduling part-time officer Mat Agan for some of the patrol shifts to keep the town's cruisers highly visible.

Finance Committee: The Selectboard met with the Finance Committee to discuss the basics of the 2011 plan. Establishing a capital reserve fund for the police department and adding some additional funding to the police department for shift coverage, are both likely in 2011. The Finance Committee encouraged the Selectboard to make sure that all employees are being compensated fairly; noting that asking too much from salaried positions will only increase the likelihood that highly valued employees will be lost.

The Finance Committee acknowledged the efforts that the town has taken over the years to keep costs low and the town tax rate relatively stable.

1 Halleran noted that the Plainfield Fire Department, Meriden Fire Department and Meriden
2 Library have all committed to level or nearly level operating budgets for 2011.

3
4 The town is in process of trying to negotiate a 15% reduction on the refuse collection costs. Its
5 too early to know if this will be successful.

6
7 The Selectboard will meet next with the Finance Committee in mid December. An initial draft of
8 the 2011 budget will be available at that time.

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11 The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

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13 Respectfully submitted,

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16 Stephen Halleran
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21 Thomas P. Williams Chair

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24 Robert W. Taylor
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27 Judy A. Belyea
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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
December 1st 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

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Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
 Robert Taylor
 Judy Belyea

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The formal meeting opened at 6:00pm

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Highway Department: Road Agent Ken Stocker attended the meeting between dealing with downed trees and muddy roads from the in progress wind and rain storm. The Selectboard has determined that based on the current economic climate the town would not at this time pursue either the trading of one of the small pick ups for a one ton truck or the screen for the gravel pit. Both projects have some merits but simply can't be afforded at this time.

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School Board Meeting: The Selectboard met with School Board Members Chris Foreman, Myra Ferguson and Doug Cogan. Superintendent Noelle Vitt and Finance Committee members Scott MacLeay and Doug Adams both sat in on the meeting. The group discussed ways that additional collaboration between the school and town might be possible. It was noted that the pooling of the town and school employees with School Care Health Insurance which the town is now switching to has allowed both organizations to secure pricing in the 50 or greater pool. This change will save the town over \$10,000 on its 2011 coverage.

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A brief discussion followed about combining recreation with school athletics. However, it quickly became clear that such a consolidation would not save any money and could even end up costing more. If the school ran the recreation program, it would have to be done in a manner commensurate with school certifications, and while this might result in an enhanced program it would also cost more.

The group also touched base on the work that the KUA Study Committee is doing to get a solid understanding of the impact that KUA faculty children have at the Elementary School. Some on the committee feel that KUA should be paying something toward the cost of the elementary school.

Halleran noted that growth in the town's taxable grand list is very minimal. Building starts are way down.

At 7:30pm several teachers from the school arrived to hear the discussion and indicated that the school administration had advertised a 7:30pm start for the meeting. A recap of the discussion was held for their benefit.

Both the School Board and the Select Board pledged to do all that was possible to hold the line on spending. Both noted that declining state and local revenues are making zero based budgeting very difficult.

Judy Ptak: Judy attended the meeting to complete the sale of the 5.02 acres of undeveloped land on Route 12A formerly owned by Mike Williams. Attorney Barry Schuster's office has prepared the necessary documents. The Selectboard accepted the \$19,000 bid for the lot and signed the deed. The transfer will be recorded at the registry of deeds in the next few days.

1 **2010 Budget:** Based on the previously determined schedule the Selectboard reviewed draft 01 of
2 the 2010 budget, see attached. The operating budget is level, however necessary increases in
3 reserve funding and declining revenues result in a net increase of \$47,000 proposed to be raised
4 from taxes. These funds would add \$.17 to the tax rate. The Selectboard continue to hope that
5 this number can be further reduced in the coming weeks. The Selectboard discussed an increase
6 in the trash user fee sticker, but was not immediately in support of this idea.

7
8 Halleran noted that reducing the reserve fund contributions is a possibility, but doing so will leave
9 the town less prepared for the next property revaluation and or major highway equipment
10 purchases.

11
12 The Selectboard signed the various documents necessary for switching the town's health care
13 coverage from the NH Municipal Association to School Care. The new coverage will take affect
14 01/01/11. This change has allowed the town to budget nearly \$10,000 less in premiums and
15 deductible expenses than would have otherwise been required.

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18 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

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21 Respectfully submitted,

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24 Stephen Halleran
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29 Thomas P. Williams Chair

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32 Robert W. Taylor
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35 Judy A. Belyea
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **December 15th 2010**
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**
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5 Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
6 Robert Taylor
7 Judy Belyea
8

9 The formal meeting opened at 6:00pm
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12 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts reviewed with the board, the major investigations he and his
13 officers are working on. Most recently we have two cases of identity theft. In one case a
14 Plainfield resident's credit card was used to gain access to an emergency room in California. In
15 the second, heating oil for a home in Boston was charged to a Plainfield resident.
16

17 The department continues to work on leads concerning the break in at Ann's Country Store. The
18 department has security camera data on those that are responsible.
19

20 **Highway Department:** Halleran presented the Selectboard with several purchase orders for road
21 salt, grader tires and roadside mower tires. The highway department worked on Sunday to clean
22 up from the weekend storm.
23

24 The Selectboard discussed the broad concept of a low cost lease for the remaining Karl Klinges
25 property on Ferry Hill Road. Mr. Klinges has indicated a willingness to donate the remaining
26 portion of the land to the town, but must wait for two more years before doing so. During the
27 interim he would like to at have the town responsible for the property.
28

29 **Finance Committee:** The Selectboard met with the Finance Committee to review the 2011 town
30 budget. Currently, the town's proposal will raise the municipal rate some \$.12/\$1,000. See
31 attached. Several members of the committee noted that while they appreciated the work done by
32 the town, all avenues for saving money must be considered. In particular, consolidation of town
33 services and perhaps regionalization of some functions should be looked at.
34

35 The Selectboard informed the Finance Committee, that based on discussions at the first meeting,
36 the board has now signed a contract with the NHMA to conduct a wage and salary classification
37 study for the town's full-time positions. This study will be aimed at determining whether
38 Plainfield's compensation packages for employees is competitive with what is offered in other
39 similar communities.
40

41 Members of the Finance Committee helped make some funding decisions for the town's human
42 service agencies. In general, no new agencies will be added at this time and existing funding
43 levels will be maintained.
44

1 **Walker Easement:** The Selectboard approved the amendment to the Walker Conservation
2 Easement which will allow the access for the 104 acre lot now owned by Jennifer Brunori (252
3 35.1) to be relocated along the western edge of the existing field.

4
5 **Other business:** The Selectboard voted to encumber, pending the outcome of the town's
6 financial audit, the following funds from the 2010 budget:

7
8 Highway Radio \$2,500 for Highway
9 Road Projects \$9,000 for Willow Brook Road
10 250th Celebration \$4,000 for 2012 Celebration
11 Executive \$3,000 for Wage Study
12 Cemetery \$3,000 for lot layout Freeman Cemetery/fence repairs.

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14 The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

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17 Respectfully submitted,

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20 Stephen Halleran
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25 Thomas P. Williams Chair

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27 Robert W. Taylor

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30 Judy A. Belyea
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