



1                                   **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2                                   **January 19<sup>th</sup> 2011**  
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 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed orders and correspondence from the last two weeks.  
12 Selectboard Taylor provided a draft of the Selectmen’s report for the town report. Board  
13 members review and approved the draft.  
14

15 Halleran reported on the now completed field work for the 2011 audit. The town’s unreserved  
16 fund balance stands at \$485,059, down about \$9,300 from the previous year, mostly due to year  
17 end revenues not being as strong as projected.  
18

19 **Highway Department:** The department has been busy the last four days with various snow  
20 events. A break is forecast for tomorrow; Ken plans to have the crew out pushing back snow  
21 piles and intersections.  
22

23 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts shared with the board some of the department’s year end  
24 statistics. Paul is very pleased that all of the burglaries that were reported last year were solved.  
25 Now that some of the department’s investigative work has slowed, he is placing emphasis on  
26 making the town’s police cruisers highly visible throughout the community. The department’s  
27 first open house was Tuesday night, sleet and snow kept attendance down, but a second open  
28 house is planned for mid February.  
29

30 **Town Budget Hearing:** The town’s 2011 proposed budget and slate of warrant articles was  
31 presented. As proposed, dollars to be raised from taxes are up about \$38,000, mostly due to  
32 reduced revenues. Halleran noted that the goal is to maintain a like level of service in all areas,  
33 the assumption being that until toward otherwise by the community, this body of work reflects the  
34 wishes of the collective community. In the operating budget the Police Department line is up the  
35 most, about \$20,000, mostly due to funding for many of the shifts that retired Chief Gillens used  
36 to cover on his own. Paul continues to absorb many shifts on his own, but feels strongly that a  
37 transition to a more equitable cost structure is necessary. Officers covering double shifts and  
38 performing overtime duties, must be paid for this work. The town has engaged the NH Municipal  
39 Association to perform a job classification and pay study for all town full-time positions for year  
40 2012. The last time this work was done was in 1993.  
41

42 The Selectboard was able to get a \$10,000 reduction in the town’s refuse collection agreement  
43 and moving from the LGC Health Insurance to School Care helped reduce the inevitable  
44 increases in health insurance for 2011.  
45

46 The new budget includes a 2.5% increase for town employees.  
47

48 Halleran noted that the Plainfield Library, after closing its books, feels that it must increase its  
49 appropriation request by \$900.  
50

1 The town hopes to complete Willow Brook Road this summer, using a combination of the  
2 Highway Block Grant money (\$121,000) the Highway Transportation Reserves (\$55,000) and the  
3 FEMA Mitigation Grant (\$490,000).

4  
5 No equipment purchases are planned for this year. The town's capital reserve fund calls for a  
6 dump truck replacement in 2012.

7  
8 The Selectboard is hoping to receive funding for the typical slate of reserve funds. Some of the  
9 proposed contributions to these funds have been reduced slightly, most notably the revaluation  
10 fund really needs to be funding at \$25,000, but is requested at \$20,000. The town needs to have  
11 \$100,000 available for the next revaluation in 2013. Currently we have \$26,000 in the fund with  
12 three budget years left to set aside \$75,000.

13  
14 Projected revenues were discussed, 2011 estimates have been adjusted to reflect 2010 actual  
15 receipts. In absence of some further budget cuts or new source of revenue the amount to be  
16 raised from taxes will increase in 2011, adding about \$.14 to the town tax rate.

17  
18 The Selectboard also discussed the with group in attendance, the idea of phasing out the KUA tax  
19 exemption over the next two to three years. This year's committee is being asked to look into this.  
20 Local students attending the school are dropping as enrollment at PES drops and as the exemption  
21 has increased to over \$170,000 the Selectboard naturally is looking at that as a possible way, to  
22 increase the grand list and help with local property taxes. If the entire exemption were to go  
23 away, the tax rate would be reduced by \$.60. Resident Richard Atkinson cautioned the board to  
24 make sure that it understands the impact this added taxable value would have on Plainfield's state  
25 education adequacy grant.

26  
27 The hearing ended at 8:15pm.

28  
29 **Other Business:** The Selectboard completed a cursory review of the 2011 town warrant.

30  
31 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

32  
33 Respectfully submitted,

34  
35 Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea

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**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011**  
**PLAINFIELD LIBRARY**

Selectmen present:        Robert Taylor  
                                      Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Due to an in progress winter storm, this meeting was moved from the Plainfield Town Hall to the Plainfield Library, across the street, saving the need to heat up the town hall for what would likely be a smaller than hoped for attendance at the second budget hearing.

Due to the storm, Selectman Williams was unable to attend as he was out plowing snow for his business.

**Police Department:** Chief Roberts updated the board on his plans for second open house on February 12<sup>th</sup>. By design, this event is family orientated and the department will be assisting parents with the making up, in advance, emergency kits designed to aid authorities in finding a missing child.

Paul has continued his efforts at grant writing for department equipment upgrades.

Focusing on speed concerns for both Main Street and Bonner Road, the Selectboard, on the recommendation of Police Chief Roberts, Road Agent Stocker and after consultation with town engineer Lou Caron reaffirmed their position that the speed limit for Main Street from the Covered Bridge to Route 120 is to be set at 25 mph. Likewise, Bonner Road is also to be set at 25mph. Chief Roberts noted that both roads contain school zones and that pursuant to RSA 265, further speed limit reductions are in effect when school is in session.

**Town Office:** Halleran reviewed with the Selectboard, a preliminary map by Surveyor Chris Rollins to assist with article 7 at the town meeting which proposes to discontinue the old section of Main Street that runs directly in front of the Foreman residence. The Foreman's have hired Chris to develop an annexation plan for land that will be given to the Foreman's from Taylor Farm if the discontinuance is approved. Giving the Foreman's the sliver of land located between the two Main Streets insures that their property will maintain adequate road frontage.

The Selectboard signed the deed accepting the small piece of land near Sumner's Falls given to the Town by TransCanada. The Board voted to accept the land after holding a public hearing on the issue on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2010. Transcanada is required to divest itself of several parcels of land along the river and had Plainfield not accepted this land, it would have gone to Hartland Vermont as part of the Sumner Falls property.

**250<sup>th</sup> Celebration:** Committee Chair Margaret Drye updated the Selectboard on the group's plans for a the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. An entire menu of events are planned from August 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>. A town sponsored art show, fun run, parade, games, dances, meals and fire works are all part of the plans.

**Budget Hearing:** The board held its second and final budget hearing. As requested this hearing was held on the Plainfield Plain side of town. Halleran explained that the only substantive

1 change from the hearing two weeks ago was to accept the recommendation of the Finance  
2 Committee that the Road Project line item in the budget we reduced by \$10,000 and \$10,000 be  
3 added to the Revaluation Fund which must have a balance of at least \$110,000 by 2013. The fund  
4 currently has about \$27,000.

5  
6 Resident Eric Brann asked about the KUA exemption issue and whether or not consideration is  
7 being given to reduce or eliminate the optional exemption. Halleran explained that the study  
8 committee has been meeting at that a majority of the committee supports the exemption at the  
9 100% level. Halleran further explained that he found himself in the minority on this issue and  
10 supports a modest reduction in the exemption for the following reasons: KUA has further  
11 reduced its own tax liability by converting another home to faculty housing, which is tax exempt,  
12 the number of children at the elementary school that come from on campus tax exempt housing  
13 is significant, and finally reduced access to school facilities for the town's recreation department.

14  
15 Resident Bradford Atwater asked about the increasing cost of the Police Department. Chief  
16 Roberts explained how he is scheduling and compensating the officers. Paul noted he has  
17 continued to make service to the Plainfield public the department's primary mission. Assisting  
18 residents with identify theft, house checks, lockouts, motorist assists, help with bad checks are all  
19 things that many small town department's no longer due, but that Plainfield makes a priority.

20  
21 The budget hearing adjourned at 7:45pm. Once the board completed its work on correspondence  
22 and orders the meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

23  
24  
25 Respectfully submitted,

26  
27 Stephen Halleran

28  
29 Robert W. Taylor

30  
31 Judy A. Belyea

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
3 **February 16<sup>th</sup> 2011**  
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  
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12 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Ken Stocker reviewed maintenance activity totals to date for  
13 the winter. The department has spread 2,800 yards of sand and 300 tons of salt. Ken feels he will  
14 have to purchase an additional 100 tons of salt to finish the winter and to build the sand pile for  
15 next year. In past years, without using the salt and manufactured sand combination salt usage has  
16 totaled over 600 tons.  
17

18 **Cable Expansion:** Freeman Road resident Sandra Voege and Tallow Hill resident Jerry Burt met  
19 with the Selectboard to discuss their experiences trying to gain neighborhood financial support  
20 for extending cable lines. In both cases, Comcast has provided estimates for the work and each  
21 has tried to raise some of the needed funds. The Selectboard will take this information to  
22 Comcast and try to negotiate more favorable pricing for both projects. The discussion expanded  
23 to other options that each might want to try to gain high speed access at their homes. Resident  
24 Eric Brann, who was in attendance, noted that for his home using the Verizon Hot Spot  
25 technology has worked well.  
26

27 **KUA Discussion:** Head of School Mike Schafer and CFO Jim Gray met with the Selectboard.  
28 Also in attendance was John Yacavonne who is member of the KUA Study Committee, resident  
29 Eric Brann and Police Chief Paul Roberts. KUA updated the board on their plans for improving  
30 lighting on Main Street. A temporary light will be added to illuminate the Main Street crosswalk  
31 at Miller. KUA plans to upgrade the lighting along Main Street this summer and is asking the  
32 Selectboard to give them time to let that process work itself out. The Selectboard agreed to this,  
33 but requested on the recommendation of the Police Chief, that the lights along Main Street remain  
34 on all night long, currently they shut off after 12:00am. KUA agreed to this change.  
35

36 Head of School Mike Schafer inquired as to the process for adding stop signs on Main Street.  
37 The Selectboard noted that Main Street is not a town road, so such a request would be made to the  
38 NH DOT.  
39

40 Head of School Mike Schafer provided the board some insight onto KUA's building plans which  
41 include the construction this summer of a field house. Future plans include more faculty housing  
42 on Main Street, the addition of a new hockey rink to be located where the tennis courts are now,  
43 The existing rink would be converted to a basketball arena, making that part of campus the  
44 athletic focal point for the school.  
45

46 Halleran noted that he feels that KUA and the Selectboard need to have some discussions  
47 concerning the appropriate level of financial commitment the school should be making toward its  
48 share of local municipal services such as police, fire, and school. By example, in a year when  
49 most resident's taxes rose 8%, KUA's actually dropped 10% due to their request for additional  
50 faculty housing exemptions. Mike Schafer noted that KUA will always pay what the law requires  
51 the school to pay.

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Resident Eric Brann noted that he supports a reduction on the optional exemption as he feels that at a time when everyone is paying more with less, KUA should as well. Jim Gray noted that as the optional exemption is reduced, less aid will be available to assist local students in attending the private school making it more likely that some will switch to Lebanon High School increasing the town's tuition charges.

KUA repeated its past offer to transfer the ownership of property near the Covered Bridge to the Town. In any event KUA, plans to divest itself of this property in 2011. The Selectboard felt based on the historical significance of this parcel to Meriden Village and the Covered Bridge, town ownership might be appropriate. In accordance with the town's donation policy, Halleran was instructed to schedule a public hearing on the issue for late March or early April.

**Police:** Chief Roberts update the board on his efforts to get some grant funding to assist the department with some of the equipment upgrades he is planning. Chairman Williams signed, on behalf of the Town, for one such grant to purchase two sets of tire deflation devices.

**Other Business:** The Selectboard completed its work on the 2011 warrant and budget by signing both documents. Town reports are due out next Thursday.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair  
Robert W. Taylor  
Judy A. Belyea

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
March 2nd 2011  
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

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

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

**Police:** Chief Roberts updated the Selectboard on the many accidents that have taken place around town over the last week. Icy conditions have made travel difficult.

The Police Department has received a written complaint from a motorist concerning speed and conduct of one of the Highway Department employees. Per town policy, the Police Department will not investigate this matter, but will turn it over to the State Police to determine if any motor vehicle laws were broken. The Selectboard will meet with the employee to hear his side of the incident before determining any disciplinary action.

**Highway Department:** Preliminary cost estimates are starting to emerge for the two large culvert replacements on Brook Road. Currently the thinking is that drainage work along the remaining roadway will cost about \$100,000, the two culverts will cost around \$175,000 installed and the new pavement will be about \$350,000. The town has about \$660,000 available to complete the roadway.

**Town Office:** The Selectboard will hold a hearing on April 4<sup>th</sup> concerning the land donation from KUA. KUA is proposing to give the town the land the school owns that is adjacent to the covered bridge.

April 20<sup>th</sup> will be the initial meeting with the Local Government Center concerning the new Wage and Salary Study that has been commission by the Selectboard. The last such study was done in 1993.

The Selectboard spent the rest of the meeting working on presentations for the upcoming town meeting.

The board will meet next on March 23<sup>rd</sup> rather than March 16<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair  
  
Robert W. Taylor  
  
Judy A. Belyea



1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **March 8<sup>th</sup> 2011**  
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 **Ice Storm:** The Selectboard met as part of the emergency response to the 2011 Ice Storm. Road  
12 Agent Stocker updated the board on the status of the town's roads. Beginning on Sunday, heavy  
13 rains combined with over 3' of snow on the ground resulted in several road culverts becoming  
14 overwhelmed. Ken noted the extraordinary effort of resident Ken Reney who used his own heavy  
15 equipment to avoid a major washout on Croydon Turnpike. Sunday evening the rain turned to  
16 freezing rain, coating the entire town the 1/2" or more of ice. Power is slowly coming back, but at  
17 its height, nearly all the town was without power. Many homes within the town remain without  
18 power, however, each utility has crews in the area working on the outages. All town roads are  
19 now open and the highway crew is starting the general clean up work.  
20

21 The Selectboard also noted the effort of both Fire Departments and our Police Department which  
22 have spent a lot of time over the last three days assisting residents and dealing downed trees and  
23 power lines.  
24

25 Due to no power at the Plainfield Elementary School the start of the 2011 Annual Meeting was  
26 moved up to the Meriden Town Hall where voting for town officers and school district official  
27 was held. The Meriden Town Hall has been fully operational thanks to the propane generator that  
28 was installed in 2007/8. The building serves as the town's emergency operation center during  
29 these types of events.  
30

31 **Other Business:**  
32

- 33 1) Final arrangements for Town Meeting were confirmed,  
34
- 35 2) The Selectboard signed the deed returning the #762 Willow Brook Road property taken  
36 for back taxes back to the previous owner. All back taxes and related fees have now been  
37 paid.  
38
- 39 3) The Planning Board's decision in the Townline Equipment case has been upheld by the  
40 Sullivan County Superior Court. The case remains open to a final appeal to the NH  
41 Supreme Court. In her decision, the judge denied all the allegations by those who  
42 brought the suit.  
43
- 44 4) Ferry Hill property owner Karl Klinges is interested in transferring the remaining  
45 property to the town. Mr. Klinges donated half the land, which abuts the town's  
46 municipal gravel pit to the town back in 2007. He is interested in offering the property to  
47 the town for a significantly reduced price. The Selectboard instructed Halleran to work  
48 with Attorney Barry Schuster on the framework for a contract that would allow the board  
49 to take the matter to the 2012 annual meeting.  
50  
51

1           The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm allowing the Selectboard to assist the town's election staff  
2           with counting of ballots.

3

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5           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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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **March 23rd 2011**  
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

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5 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair  
6 Judy Belyea  
7

8  
9 This being the first meeting since town meeting, Selectman Taylor was appointed board chairman  
10 for 2011.

11  
12 The board discussed the results of town meeting. The board reviewed and signed the necessary  
13 paperwork reporting the results to the state.

14  
15 Work will now focus on finalizing approvals for the Brook Road repair project.

16  
17 A public hearing will be held at the board's next meeting (April 6<sup>th</sup>) concerning a possible  
18 donation of KUA land at the covered bridge to the Town of Plainfield.

19  
20 Casella Waste: David Allen met with the Selectboard, Recycling Coordinator Hillary Sundell and  
21 Solid Waste Committee Chair Sue Williams to discuss the possibility of going to a zero sort at the  
22 curb program for the recycling. Basically, this change would allow the town to recycling more  
23 materials and allow Casella to complete the work more efficiently. Every place that this has been  
24 tried, recycling numbers have increased and trashes to landfill numbers have declined. No sorting  
25 would take place at the curb. All would done at one of five sorting facilities that Casella uses in  
26 the Northeast. Basically, existing sized bins would just be dumped into a packer truck.  
27 Consequently, all rigid plastics (yogurt containers, cups, clear plastic clamshell boxes could now  
28 be accepted along with all the other materials we currently take. The one concession that the  
29 company would ask for is that the recycling schedule be changed so that the entire town be  
30 collected on the Friday of trash weeks. Casella would take a lead roll in the educational  
31 component of the change.  
32

33 The group present generally thought this would be a good step for the curbside program and  
34 might serve to freshen up the program that has been in place since 1991. It was noted that to be  
35 successful residents would need access to additional bins. Dave Allen indicated that the company  
36 could help with this, but would likely ask for a multi year agreement for the collection service.  
37 Based on the presentation, the Selectboard approved moving forward with working out the  
38 operational details of this change.

39  
40 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm  
41

42  
43 Respectfully submitted,

44  
45 Stephen Halleran  
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47 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

48  
49 Judy A. Belyea

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **April 6<sup>th</sup> 2011**  
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**  
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5 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair  
6 Judy Belyea  
7 Thomas Williams  
8  
9

10 The meeting opened at 6pm.  
11

12 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Stocker explained that he and his crew have been  
13 focusing all efforts on the annual mud season; to date 2,900 yards of crushed gravel have been  
14 added to roads. Starting Monday of next week, the crew will begin ice storm clean up using  
15 the town crew and chipper. Halleran is soliciting pricing for bucket truck tree work for some  
16 of the hanging trees around town. In addition, two trees at the Plainfield Town Hall need to  
17 be removed, both are safety hazards for the town hall building, parking and adjacent  
18 property. Concerning the town hall work, the Selectmen did not feel comfortable granting a  
19 request by the abutting property owner that the trunks of the trees be left standing 6' high so  
20 that they could be sculpted. If the trees are to be removed they should be taken down at  
21 ground level.  
22

23 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts reviewed several of the more complex cases the  
24 department has been working on. Several youths from Claremont have been caught stealing  
25 from the McNamara dairy.  
26

27 **Town Office:** The Selectboard has approved the move to Zerosort curbside recycling  
28 program. Each home will be receiving an additional recycling bin and the new expanded  
29 program should start in early May.  
30

31 **Covered Bridge Land Donation:** The public hearing on Kimball Union Academy's offer to  
32 donate to the town the approximately one acre of land adjacent to the covered bridge was  
33 opened at 7:10pm. Resident Stephen Taylor spoke passionately in favor of accepting the land.  
34 Steve noted that the bridge is a James Tasker Bridge and that any opportunity to preserve the  
35 environs around the bridge should be strongly considered. This land was part of the two mill  
36 complex that is largely responsible for the development of Meriden Village.  
37

38 Also in attendance at the hearing was Jim Gray CFO of KUA, Myra Ferguson Chairperson of  
39 the Conservation Commission, David Taylor and William Knight member of the  
40 Conservation Commission. All generally spoke in favor of the grant, acknowledging that NH  
41 laws provided extensive immunity from liability for landowners who allow their property to  
42 be used by the general public. Kimball Union has decided to divest itself of the property and  
43 before offering it to the general public has made the property available to the town.  
44

45 Hallaran noted that the next step in the town's adopted donation review procedure is to  
46 provide the Conservation Commission and Planning Board thirty days to comment on the  
47 proposal, after which the Selectboard can act.  
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**Other Business:** The Selectboard reviewed and approved the 2011 pay rates for town employees. Halleran noted that the previously agreed to wage and salary study by the NHMA begins with a meeting with the Selectboard on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas Williams

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **April 20<sup>th</sup> 2011**  
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**  
4

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

10 The meeting opened at 6pm.  
11

12 **NHMA Wage and Salary Study:** The Selectboard met with Barry Cox of the NHMA who  
13 will be conducting the town's wage and salary study. The last project of this type was done,  
14 also by NHMA, back in 1993. The goal of the study is to insure that the town is compensating  
15 its full time employees in a competitive manner and that our current job descriptions and  
16 policies are up to date with existing employment law. The Selectboard made it clear that they  
17 want the entire compensation package taken into consideration and that the town's used in the  
18 study for comparative purposes should be, to the extent possible, in the Upper Valley labor  
19 market. Mr. Cox agreed with all this and indicated that the first step in the project will be to  
20 meet with all full-time employees and to begin the process of accessing the various positions  
21 that exist in the organization. The draft of the study should be available in three to six months.  
22

23 **Highway Department:** Ice storm clean up is continuing. The grader is out working on the  
24 worst of the potholed and rutted gravel roads.  
25

26 Morrill Construction is proving cost estimates for three options to replace the two large  
27 culverts on Brook Road.  
28

29 Ken will be renting a sweeper in the next few days to clean up road intersections.  
30

31 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts gave a detailed account of the various cases that his  
32 department has been working on. The department has been awarded a state grant for some  
33 reporting software. Paul is still working on the details of the grant.  
34

35 The Selectboard determined that the cost of a town license to sell firearms will be \$25 for a  
36 three year term. Pistol permits cost \$10. The local permit to sell is required by Federal law for  
37 anyone that has been issued a federal firearms license.  
38

39 **Town Office:** Assessor George Hildum will be in town in early May. He will be doing annual  
40 pick up work and processing the four abatement applications that were received. The first  
41 round of assessment work will be completed by May 19, in time for first tax billing.  
42

1 The changes to the curbside recycling program will go into effect on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Various  
2 information flyers will be sent out and or delivered to residents in the coming days.

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4 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

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6 Respectfully submitted,

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8 Stephen Halleran

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Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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Judy A. Belyea

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Thomas Williams

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **May 4th 2011**  
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

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5 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair  
6 Judy Belyea  
7 Thomas Williams  
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12 The meeting opened at 6pm  
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14  
15 **Highway Report:** Steve Halleran and Ken Stocker reviewed with the Selectboard the status of  
16 the Brook Road project. The town has a total of \$672,000 available to complete the project  
17 (\$65,000 from reserves, \$117,000 from Highway Blook Grant, and \$490,000 from FEMA.  
18

19 The latest update on pricing is that permitting and engineering will cost \$15,000, the large 5'  
20 pipes at Cole and Hibbard Brooks will cost \$230,000 to replace and upgrade, new pavement will  
21 cost \$372,000. This leaves approximately \$55,000 for the smaller cross pipes, ditching and under  
22 drain work that the Highway crew will be doing. Consequently the budge is very tight.  
23

24 The Selectboard directed Halleran and Stocker to find someway to get the Brook Road completed  
25 this year so that work on other roads can begin in 2012. Halleran noted that it might be necessary  
26 to use some of the bridge reserve fund for the two large pipes, which as resized will be considered  
27 bridges by the NHDOT.  
28

29 **Historic Barn Hearing:** Pursuant to RSA 79-D the Selectboard held a public hearing on the  
30 request by Robert Jordan to place his historically agricultural structures in the Historic Barn  
31 program. The program, much like current use for land, provides a reduced assessment for barns  
32 with historic significance. An easement is also placed on the property that give the town a say in  
33 what happens to the structure for the next ten years at which time the building can be removed  
34 from the program or be renewed into the program. In this case the barn has been owned by the  
35 Jordan family for more than 200 years. If approved for the program, Robert hopes to use the tax  
36 savings to affect needed improvements to the barns. Using a previously development worksheet  
37 the board determined that the barn scores 35 out of a possible 50 points, 25 points are needed to  
38 qualify for the program. The board voted to approve the request, the historic buildings will  
39 receive now be taxed at 65% of their full value.  
40

41 **Police:** Chief Roberts updated the board on a medical emergency that occurred earlier in the day  
42 on the KUA campus. On of the school's students became very ill after consuming a significant  
43 amount of alcohol. Paul is working with the family to insure the student received the necessary  
44 help.  
45

46 Suspects have been arrested in two Plainfield burglaries.  
47

48 The Selectboard will place the wreath at the service memorial on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the  
49 afternoon.  
50

51 **Other business:** Steve Halleran and Town Counsel Barry Schuster are working on the final



1 details of a lease arrangement for the Karl Klinges property on Ferry Hill Road. The lease will be  
2 voted on in March of 2012, if approved the project will result in the town obtaining the final 11  
3 acres of property that is directly adjacent to the municipal gravel pit, further extending the life of  
4 the pit.

5  
6 Wage and Salary Schedule: The Selectboard approved the town's that will be used in the study.  
7 The Selectboard have a strong preference for using town's located in the Upper Valley job  
8 market.

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10 The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

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14 Stephen Halleran

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16 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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19 Judy A. Belyea

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22 Thomas Williams

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**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**May 18th 2011**  
**MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

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Selectmen present:      Robert Taylor, Chair  
   Judy Belyea  
   Thomas Williams

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The meeting opened at 6pm

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**Highway Department:** Ken updated the board on the cost estimates for the highway crew's portion of the Willow Brook Road. Ken estimates that material hard costs will be about \$15,000 including exactor rental.

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Halleran thanked the Highway Department for their efforts to assist with the assembly of the team benches and bleachers for the Hewes Field that Selectboard member Belyea has donated to the recreation department.

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Ken noted that the ice storm clean up is now complete and that the crew is finishing up the first round of spring grading.

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The Selectboard reviewed with Halleran and Road Agent Stocker to complete a draft of the bid documents to be used for the sale of some overburden material from the town's gravel pit. The town is hoping to sell about 2,500 yards of material.

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**Town Office:** The Zero Sort recycling change begins this week. Halleran hopes that a recent article in the Valley News has helped with any confusion over the bins. Residents may continue to use their existing bins; the new town provided bin is to provide additional capacity.

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NHMA is now fully underway with the wage and salary schedule. Results of the study should be completed by late summer.

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**Other Business:** Dennis Girouard attended a portion of the Selectboard meeting, inquiring about timelines for business at the 2012 town meeting.

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Mark and Sandy Horne met with the Selectboard to discuss the taxes owed on their various properties. The Selectboard explained the town's assessing and collection procedures.

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School Facility Manager Bill Knight met with the Selectboard to go over the selected contractors for this summer's school project. The town is the recipient of the grant and must approve the contractors. The Selectboard reviewed the bid matrix prepared by Bill and quickly approved the contractors on the condition that the school board also approves of the selected vendors. The Selectboard understands the town's role in the grant, but also wants to make sure that the school board approves of the people that will be working in the building. Bill assured the board that the school board would review the list as well at their meeting next week.

1 The May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

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5 Stephen Halleran

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Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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Judy A. Belyea

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Thomas Williams

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

2 **June 1st 2011**

3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

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Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair  
Judy Belyea  
Thomas Williams

The meeting opened at 6pm

**Highway Department:** The Selectboard opened the bids for the sale of fill from the town gravel pit. Kevin McNamara was awarded the bid at a price of \$2.25 per yard. He will take all 2,500 yards that are for sale.

Ken updated the board on the plans for Brook Road. A rental excavator will be delivered to the job site this coming Monday and will be used for the next month for drainage improvements.

Spring road grading is nearly complete and storm damage from last week's thunder burst is nearly repaired.

**Police:** Chief Roberts is moving forward with upgrading the department's reporting software. The department will now use a system that standardizes all reports so that they can easily be shared with other law enforcement agencies.

Paul updated the board on various cases the police department is working on.

**Town Office:** Tax bill have now been mailed. Assessor George Hildum will be back in August to complete the 2011 assessing work.

Halleran reported that he has received many positive comments about the annual wreath ceremony at the Service Memorial.

The Zero-Sort program is off to a solid start and continues to be very well received by residents.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Stephen Halleran

Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas Williams

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **June 15th 2011**  
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

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

9 The meeting opened at 6pm  
10

11 **Highway Department:** Ken Stocker updated the Selectboard on the progress that is being made  
12 on phase III of the Willow Brook Road project. Ditch work, cross culverts and bank stabilization  
13 are now all in process. Caron engineering is working with Morrill Construction on the final  
14 details for the two large culverts (Hibbard Brook, Cole Brook).

15 Ken noted that, as opportunities allow, the grader is out working on rough spots and  
16 storm damaged areas. Ken hopes to have the town crew's portion of Brook Road completed in  
17 about a month and then return to road side trimming and road grading.  
18

19 **Police Chief:** Chief Roberts reviewed, with the Selectboard, several accident and burglary  
20 investigations that the department is involved with at this time. Paul noted that fraud claims  
21 continue to be a real issue. Residents need to be vigilant about sending money to claim prizes or  
22 providing personal information to third parties for any reason.

23 Paul and Steve are working to find some one that could help move around and set up the  
24 town's speed trailer. Halleran hopes to be able to expand this effort to provide the Selectboard  
25 and Planning Board with some traffic data from various roads around town.  
26

27 **Town Office:** Halleran updated the board on a situation at #830 Route 12A. Site work to the  
28 back of the property has not been properly done and is doing damage to the adjacent property. To  
29 date a significant amount of silting has occurred in the woods between the two properties and a  
30 farm pond has been damaged. At the town's request an inspector from the NHDES is scheduled  
31 to visit the site on Friday morning.

32 The Selectboard reviewed the proposed lease for the Karl Klinges property on Ferry Hill  
33 Road. The land is adjacent to the town's gravel pit. The Selectboard is planning to seek town  
34 approval to lease/purchase the property over a five year period. The additional land will extend  
35 the life of the town's existing gravel pit. This parcel is the second half of a lot donated to the town  
36 by Mr. Klinges back in 2007. Halleran will take board edits/comments back to Attorney Barry  
37 Schuster.  
38

39 **Other business:** The NH Division of Forest and Lands is monitoring a timber harvest on  
40 Hedgehog Road. Several abutters have question the quality of the work that is being done and  
41 whether the required best management practices are in place.  
42

43 The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm  
44

45 Stephen Halleran

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47 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

48  
49 Judy A. Belyea

50  
51 Thomas Williams

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **July 6th 2011**  
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

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

9 The meeting opened at 6pm  
10

11  
12 **Highway Department:** Ken shared with the Selectboard the progress on Willow Brook Road.  
13 The crew is about one half done with the town's share of the work. Progress will be slower the  
14 next couple of weeks as employees begin to take their summer vacations. Ken hopes the  
15 Selectboard will approve a second month long excavator rental in August.  
16

17 The Selectboard reviewed the wetland permitting documents for Brook Road that have now been  
18 submitted. Morrill Construction should start the replacement of the two large culverts in mid  
19 August.  
20

21 The Selectboard and Ken decided to not rehire for David Hollinger's full-time position until  
22 closer to the end of the fiscal year.  
23

24 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts reviewed with the Selectboard, some of the case work over  
25 the last three weeks. Most recently a large underage drinking party occurred at 46 Hayward Road  
26 over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. The department, with the assistance of outside agencies, arrested  
27 over 17 minors. The associated paperwork will take weeks to sort out. Paul noted that he will be  
28 recommending diversion for the kids who stayed put and acted respectfully of the officers. For  
29 those that ran into the woods and were later caught charges will be brought forward. This may  
30 include one parent who assisted a group of kids in getting away from the scene.  
31

32 Halleran noted that Retired Police Chief Gordon Gillen's work with the speed trailer is getting  
33 great reviews all over town. Halleran hopes to have road data posted up on the website in a week  
34 or so.  
35

36  
37 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week. Kevin  
38 McNamara was granted one additional month to complete the removal of the over burden  
39 material from the gravel pit that he has agreed to purchase.  
40

41 The wage and salary schedule project is now fully underway. The Selectboard asked Halleran to  
42 make sure that the final product contains a recommendation on vacation time.  
43

44 **KUA Field House:** Jim Gray met with the Selectboard to review the necessary steps for  
45 obtaining the building permit for the new field house. The project received PB approval last year,  
46 with that approval containing a condition that Campus Center Way be returned to a width of 20'.  
47 KUA would prefer to look to other options. The Selectboard has made finality of the Campus  
48 Center Way width issue, a condition of their issuing a building permit for the project. If KUA  
49 wishes to have that decision revisited, the school must do so prior to having the building permit  
50 issued. The Selectboard made it clear that they do not support a one way option for the private

1 roadway that has traffic exiting onto Chellis Road. The widened road does not have to be paved,  
2 however, the next time Campus Center Way is paved, the full width must be paved.

3

4 The July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

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6 Stephen Halleran

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Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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Judy A. Belyea

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Thomas Williams

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
3 **July 12th 2011**  
4 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

5  
6 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair  
7 Judy Belyea  
8 Thomas Williams  
9

10 The meeting opened at 6pm

11  
12 At the request of Kimball Union, the Selectboard met with Head of School Mike Schafer and Jim  
13 Gray to view Campus Center Way and to hear the school's objections to widening the roadway.  
14 KUA feels that a wider surface will jeopardize the safety of students crossing the roadway and  
15 those using the adjacent soccer field. Police Chief Paul Roberts attended the meeting along with  
16 Assistant Head of School Joe Williams. Selectboard members made it clear that they cannot  
17 change conditions of the Planning Board site plan review approval, further the Board agrees that  
18 the private roadway should be widened to at least 20'. It was noted that the original width of the  
19 roadway as built was 22' and that KUA narrowed the road to 18' back in 2009/10. Chief Roberts  
20 added that at 20' in his view and per state law the road is still too narrow for the uses it serves.  
21 KUA is considering a one way solution bringing the roadway all the way out to Chellis Road.  
22 The Selectboard noted that there is no support for this proposal on the board. The Selectmen do  
23 not control Campus Center Way, but they do control Chellis Road.  
24

25 KUA requested that they be allowed to escrow the cost of the road improvements with the town  
26 while they pursued a modification with the Planning Board. The Selectboard responded that they  
27 strongly prefer to have the site plan finalized before any construction is started, however, they  
28 would take the proposal to the Planning Board at the upcoming meeting to gage the board's  
29 response to this proposal. The Selectboard will make a final decision on the matter at their  
30 meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>, following the Planning Board meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. If KUA want to be sure  
31 that a building permit is issued, conforming to the existing approved site plan is the surest way to  
32 proceed.  
33

34 The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.  
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37 Stephen Halleran

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39 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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41 Judy A. Belyea

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43 Thomas Williams



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**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**July 20th 2011**  
**MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair  
Judy Belyea  
Thomas Williams

The meeting opened at 5pm

**Goodwin Road Site Visit:** The Selectmen joined a group from the Conservation Commission and abutters to Goodwin Road to view the 4300' of the roadway that KUA is proposes to make improvements on as part of a timber management plan for the school's 700 acres of land around Snow Mountain. The group walked along the roadway from the intersection with Croydon Turnpike to the snowmobile bridge. Forester Ehrhard Frost explained that this is multi year commitment to the land and that initially work will focus on improving Goodwin Road so that logging trucks and vehicles can access the three proposed landing sites. The Selectboard caution KUA that Goodwin Road is a public road and if improved it will get more use and some of that use will undoubtedly result in damage.

Erhard explained that the road will be opened up and widened basically stonewall to stonewall, gravel and fabric will be added, two small culverts installed along with a large 48' pipe to replace the existing snowmobile bridge. NRC has assisted with the sizing of the culverts for a ten year storm event. Necessary forestry wetland crossing notification has been filed with DES.

In general, abutters and those in attendance at the walk did not object to the proposal, noting that KUA has right to use the public road and to harvest the timber on their land. The Selectboard returned to the Meriden Town Hall.

Highway: Assistant Road Agent Richard Collins updated the Selectboard on the crew's work while Road Agent Stocker is away on vacation. During the early morning hours work is continuing on Brook Road. During the heat of the afternoon the crew goes to hauling gravel and or shop work.

**Meriden Town Hall**

**Goodwin Road:** Based on the site walk, the Selectboard determined that a permit to work on Goodwin Road would be issued to KUA subject to the following conditions: Culvert sizing is based on 50 year storm events and that additional plans and erosion measures be submitted for the large culvert. In addition, at the time that the culvert is replaced, Town Engineer Lou Caron will be asked to monitor the work.

**Klinges Land Lease:** The Selectboard approved the amended lease for the Klinges property at 67 Ferry Hill Road. The Selectmen will enter the lease now; however, to be fully in affect will require ratification at the 2012 town meeting. Under the agreement the town will gain control of the land directly adjacent to the municipal gravel pit and in 2016 the land will be donated to the town. The lease calls for payments of \$3,000 per quarter for five years or a total of \$60,000. This land will significantly add to the useful life of the pit. Having a municipal gravel pit saves the town tens of thousand of dollars in avoided costs.

1 **KUA Field House:** The Selectboard approved the building permit for the new structure. Campus  
2 Center Way has now been widened to a travelled width of 20'.  
3

4 **Police:** Chief Roberts updated the Selectboard on various investigations that are underway around  
5 town. In addition, as part of the speed trailer work being done by Retired Chief Gillens, the  
6 Police Department is trying to increase patrol time spent on traffic calming.  
7

8 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.  
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10 Stephen Halleran  
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12 Robert W. Taylor, Chair  
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15 Judy A. Belyea  
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18 Thomas Williams  
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011**  
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**  
4

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

9 The meeting opened at 6pm  
10

11 **Highway:** Ken updated the board on the progress on Brook Road. He has decided to add an  
12 additional culvert on Brook Road near Loomis Road. Morrill Construction should begin work on  
13 the two large culverts in about two weeks.  
14

15 Grading and summer maintenance is ongoing. Ken has had the crew cutting out along  
16 intersections and bridge guard rails.  
17

18 **Police:** Chief Roberts walked the board through his department's activity log over the last week.  
19 Fraud and identity theft cases continue to take a lot of the department's time. A car rollover on  
20 Houser Lane and a car crashing into the Meriden Post Office were two of the accidents that the  
21 department covered this week.  
22

23 Two of the department's officers attended a DART helicopter class to be prepared to assist the  
24 pilots with landing at accidents scenes.  
25

26 **Town Office:** Halleran reported that the Westgate Cemetery layout has now been completed by  
27 local survey Chris Rollins. George Hildum has completed the town's residential assessing work  
28 for 2011. Work on utility assessments and review of Kimball Union Academy faculty occupied  
29 property remain to be completed before the tax rate setting.  
30

31 The wage and salary study will be completed in about a month and will be the first step in the  
32 2012 budget process.  
33

34 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.  
35

36 Stephen Halleran  
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41 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

42 Judy A. Belyea

43 Thomas Williams  
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **August 17th 2011**  
3 **MERIDEN TOWN HALL**

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

8 The meeting opened at 6pm  
9

10 The Selectboard thanked the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee for all the work that was done to bring  
11 such a fine celebration to our community last weekend. Selectboard members attended several  
12 events during the weekend and have received many favorable comments about the committee's  
13 work. Selectwoman Belyea accepted a proclamation from the Town of Plainfield Connecticut  
14 during the charter signing reenactment. All agreed that was a wonderful weekend and a job  
15 extremely well done.

16  
17 **Highway Department:** The wetland permit for the two large culvert replacements on Willow  
18 Brook has now been issued by the NHDES. Morrill Construction has been notified and is making  
19 preparations to start the work. Ken is getting updated pricing from Pike Industries on the paving  
20 portion of the work.

21  
22 Ken asked the Selectboard about dealing with a large amount of pine brush that has been stacked  
23 on the edge of Hell Hollow Road near 71 Hell Hollow Road. The owner of that property had  
24 some tree work done this spring and the brush has been stacked beside the road for sometime.  
25 The Selectboard instructed Halleran to notify the owner that this material must be moved. If this  
26 effort is not successful, Highway will push the material out of the right of way with the town  
27 loader.  
28

29 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts updated the Selectboard on several ongoing investigations.  
30 The Selectboard thanked Paul for the work done during last weekend's 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration. All the  
31 events were well covered by the police department.  
32

33 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and orders for the week. Finalizing  
34 work for the 2011 tax rate setting is the board's next priority.  
35

36 The board discussed the logging that is ongoing on Ladieu Road. The NH Division of Forest and  
37 Lands has inspected the two work sites several times. While large operations for Plainfield, both  
38 sites are in material compliance with state law. The logger has been responsive to making repairs  
39 on the road when the trucks have damaged it.  
40

41 **Class VI Roads:** As a result of the various logging operations that are now utilizing class VI  
42 roads in town and landowners desires to protect the investment that they have made to improve  
43 these roads the Selectmen discussed the advantages and disadvantages of gates and bars on class  
44 VI highways. In no case would these gates ever be locked. In acknowledging the historical uses  
45 that these public ways have been available for throughout the town's history, Selectboard voted  
46 that at this time gates and bars would not be allowed on class VI roads. Landowners who make  
47 improvements to the roads do so at their own financial risk. In making this decision the board felt  
48 that even an unlocked gate sends a message that you are not permitted to enter and this is not in  
49 keeping with the public's right to use these roads.  
50

1 The Selectboard will meet next in Plainfield Village at the library on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2011.

2

3 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

4

5 Stephen Halleran

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Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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Judy A. Belyea

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Thomas Williams

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **Monday August 29th 2011**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**  
4

5 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair  
6 Thomas Williams  
7  
8 Frank Currier, Fire Chief  
9 Road Agent Stocker  
10

11 The meeting opened at 8:00am  
12

13 Following tropical storm Irene, the Selectboard met at the town's emergency operation center to  
14 assess damage to the community and to develop an action plan. Selectperson Belyea was  
15 available by phone on an as needed basis.  
16

17 Road Agent Ken Stocker reported that three roads in town are impassable they are Eaton Road,  
18 Barker Road and Grantham Mt. Road. Several others are damaged, but still usable. Eaton has  
19 two homes that can't be reached and Barker has a single home that depends on it.  
20

21 The group toured the various sites and the following plan took shape:  
22

23 At Barker Road a temporary access would be quickly roughed in which avoids the blown out  
24 crossing; this should provide access to the home by the end of the day.  
25

26 At Eaton Road, Halleran and Fire Chief Currier will contact theses residents. Current information  
27 suggests that they were able to place cars on the far side of the washout before the event occurred.  
28 Depending on pipe availability, Ken should be able to have a new culvert in place within two  
29 working days. In the case of Barker and Eaton both pipe will be increased in size.  
30

31 At Grantham Mountain Road, this was wash will be repaired by day's end and the road should be  
32 passable by night fall.  
33

34 Once all roads are passable, Ken will begin repairs on the other damage roads.  
35

36 About 50 homes are without power, however, the various utility companies believe that the  
37 damage is fairly minor in Plainfield and that all homes should have power restored within twenty  
38 four hours.  
39

40 The meeting adjourned at 9:30am  
41

42 Robert W. Taylor, Chair  
43

44  
45 Thomas Williams  
46  
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3 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
4 **September 7th 2011**  
5 **PLAINFIELD LIBRARY**  
6

7 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair  
8 Judy Belyea  
9

10  
11 The meeting opened at 6pm. Selectman Williams was unable to attend but was available by  
12 phone if needed.  
13

14 **Highway Department:** Ken Stocker followed up with the results of last week's storm repair  
15 work. A new culvert is in place on Eaton Road and one has been ordered for Barker Road.  
16 Grantham Mt was repaired and various smaller washouts around town are being fixed. The  
17 Connecticut River Bank is holding fairly well. The Houser Land bridge abutment has sustained  
18 some damage from water scouring under it,. This will be temporarily fixed this fall with rock, but  
19 will require a concrete pour next summer.  
20

21 Kevin McNamara's large excavator will be used to repair a slide on Brook Road and Ken  
22 Reney's smaller excavator will be used to repair several other damaged areas.  
23

24 Brook Road will receive new pavement in the next few days. It looks as though Irene has  
25 effectively delayed the two large culvert replacements on Brook Road until next summer. The  
26 damage in Vermont is all consuming with regard to specialty culverts and contractor time at this  
27 point. Given this and the water flows Morrill Construction has delayed the work until next spring.  
28

29 Once the new pavement is down, Ken will perform shoulder work and finish slope stabilization.  
30

31 **Police Report:** Library Director Nancy Norwalk joined the group and asked the Police to monitor  
32 the side door at the Plainfield Town Hall. It has been found open four times in the last two weeks.  
33 She has locked it each time. Halleran and Taylor will check out the locking mechanism after  
34 tonight's meeting.  
35

36 Paul indicated that increasing daytime patrols is now a priority. Several day time thefts in the last  
37 week have occurred. The criminals are very bold and will enter homes in the middle of the day.  
38

39 To save money, Corporal Tony Swett has made several repairs to the town's cruisers in his own  
40 shop. The Selectboard acknowledged this extraordinary effort.  
41

42 **Town Office:** The Selectmen reviewed and approved the various reports for the 2011 tax rate  
43 setting. The new rate will be established in about one month.  
44

45 Halleran has requested that officials with the Blue Mountain Forest attend the next Selectmen's  
46 meeting to discuss the town's taxable property inventory for the park. A recent EMS call in the  
47 park has revealed that several camps may have recently been constructed in Plainfield without  
48 any permits or current use penalties having been paid. The town has for many years, inventoried  
49 camp "P" as a taxable structure, but has not issued any necessary permits for other camps.

50 Likewise, the park has not sought any zoning approvals for multiple residential buildings that are  
51 accessed from class VI roads. The Selectboard agreed that there are several complex issues here

1 and that a meeting with the park ownership is warranted. The board will likely ask to view the  
2 land and improvements that are in Plainfield to insure that our inventory is correct.

3  
4 **Other business:** In keeping with the board's desire to get out into the community several times  
5 each year, the Selectmen visited the newly opened in Plainfield Estabrook School located in the  
6 former Runnemedede School building on Route 12A. Principal Ellen Busl gave the board a tour and  
7 explained the program that is available at the school.

8  
9 Ellen indicated that she believes the school/church is interested in developing community trails  
10 on the 50 acres that the school owns and that a partnership with local town trail groups and  
11 interested residents would be welcomed.

12  
13 The Selectmen's meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. Selectman Taylor and Town Administrator  
14 Halleran moved on to the Plainfield Town Hall to investigate the open door issue and to perform  
15 some necessary maintenance on the building.

16  
17  
18 The meeting adjourned at 9:30am

19  
20 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

21  
22  
23 Judy Belyea  
24  
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26



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

2 **September 21st 2011**

3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4  
5 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair  
6 Judy Belyea  
7 Thomas Williams  
8  
9

10 The meeting opened at 5:45pm at the Barker Road/Croydon Turnpike intersection.  
11

12 **John and Jeanne Woodward Poor:** At the request of the Woodward Pools the Selectboard met  
13 on site to see if there were any viable options to not replacing the Barker Road culvert washed out  
14 in Irene, but rather to fortify the temporary access built after the storm and allow that to become  
15 Barker Road. Road Agent Stocker explained that a rerouting of the road would be far more  
16 expensive than replacing the culvert, a lot of fill would have to be brought in and at least one  
17 utility pole relocated to allow for proper turning radius for large vehicles. The Woodward Pools  
18 agreed with this, noting that while they would prefer not to have the culvert as they have thought  
19 more about the project they understand that the work is more complex than the temporary access  
20 that was created. This being the case the Selectboard determined that the project would continue  
21 as a culvert replacement.  
22

23 The Selectboard discussed with Ken the need to fill the vacancy in the highway department this  
24 fall. The Selectboard wishes to be heavily involved in the selection. The board feels that the town  
25 should be able to hire a person with significant construction, heavy equipment, and truck driving  
26 experience.  
27

28 **Meriden Town Hall:**  
29

30 **KUA/Main Street Crosswalks:** Jim Gray, CFO and Doug Plummer, Director of Buildings and  
31 Grounds met with the Selectboard to explain the strategy the school has come up with to improve  
32 the lighting on the three crosswalks on Main Street. Four dark sky complaint LED light fixtures  
33 will be mounted on 28' poles to provide up to five times more lighting on the crosswalks than is  
34 available at this time. These fixtures are in use in Hartford Vermont and in several Park and  
35 Rides on I 89. A second phase of the project will involve adding more of these lights to Main  
36 Street and removing the sidewalk lights installed by KUA some eight to ten years ago. The entire  
37 project is being funded by KUA. The Selectboard acknowledged the schools work in addressing  
38 the board's concern that the crosswalks were not properly illuminated.  
39

40 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts began some conceptual budgetary discussions with the board.  
41 Paul feels that his department would benefit from some part-time administrative help. The  
42 Selectmen will review the request with the finance committee but are cautious about anything that  
43 increases budget costs in the current economic climate.  
44

45 Paul updated the Selectmen on various investigative cases the department is involved with at this  
46 time. Each of these cases consumes a lot of officer time. Despite this Paul is working hard to  
47 have a patrol car out on the roads during all hours of the day.  
48

49 **Town Office:** The full Selectboard and town assessor George Hildum will meet with the  
50 management of Corbin's Game Park to fully inventory the parks taxable property. A recent fire  
51 call in the park has led to concerns that there may be more development in the Plainfield section

1 of the park than has been properly permitted. The park has agreed to provide a tour of the  
2 Plainfield property next Tuesday AM.

3  
4 The Selectmen reviewed some of the conceptual findings and provided some organizational  
5 direction for the nearly completed wage and salary study. The new system will break down the  
6 town's 11 full time positions into 16 labor grades with a system of eight pay steps that will be  
7 based on merit and performance.

8  
9 Initial data suggests that the town's cash wages by position are slightly less than the  
10 compensation paid for similar positions in like towns. In determining how competitive  
11 Plainfield's salary structure is the board wants to make sure that the full health insurance benefit  
12 is properly accounted for in any comparisons that are made with other towns.

13  
14 The town's offered vacation time is less than that of other towns, but the sick time policy is fairly  
15 generous. The board will be meeting with the consult in early November to discuss in detail the  
16 outcome of the study.

17  
18 The meeting was recessed at 8:30pm until Tuesday September 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am for the  
19 assessing work in Corbin's Park.

20  
21 **Tuesday September 27<sup>th</sup> 8:30am:** The Selectboard met at the town hall with assessor  
22 George Hildum to update him on the issue with the new cabin the park. The group agreed  
23 that the most prudent thing to do was use the opportunity to inventory all of the taxable  
24 property within the park.

25  
26 Reporter John Gregg and a photographer from the Valley News attended the meeting.  
27 The group left the Meriden Town Hall and moved up to the Park Road gate. At the gate  
28 the group was met by Scott Gilroy, President of the park, and Gerald Miller Park  
29 Superintendent. Mr. Gilroy refused to allow the Valley News reporters inside. The  
30 Selectboard noted that they would go forward only to observe, no board discussion would  
31 take place while in the park.

32  
33 The group moved through the park visiting two cabins, three barns and four feeding  
34 areas. It was determined that the new cabin is a replacement of camp P which was moved  
35 to a slightly different location. Assessor George Hildum measured and listed all taxable  
36 property. The group left the park at 10:30am and returned to the Meriden Town Hall.

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The Selectboard returned to their meeting, providing documentation to the Valley News that were requested (descriptions of buildings and photos taken). The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am. The board's next meeting will be Wednesday evening October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Stephen Halleran

Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas Williams



1 built and then hid from the town. The board noted that key to this decision is the park filing  
2 inventories with the town for several years that reported no change to facilities.

3

4 The Selectmen will hold their first meeting with the finance committee on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2011.  
5 This will be the official kick off of the 2012 budgeting process.

6

7 The deed from KUA to the town for the land around the covered bridge has now been received  
8 and the land ownership records changed.

9

10 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

11

12

13 Stephen Halleran

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Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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Judy A. Belyea

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21

Thomas Williams

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **October 19<sup>th</sup> 2011**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**  
4

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

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm  
10

11  
12 **Highway Department:** The Selectboard authorized crack sealing on several paved roads. The  
13 board would like to keep this expense to no more than what was spent in 2010, about \$6,000.  
14

15 Winter stand is now all hauled and plows and sanders are ready to go should it be necessary.  
16

17 Brook Road final shoulder work will be complete later this week. The Highway crew has  
18 removed the down trees along the eastern bank of Brook Road below the covered bridge. Ken has  
19 been waiting for the slope to dry out enough to minimize damage.  
20

21 Ken reported that a large dead maple has been removed from the Moulton Cemetery. This work  
22 was at the request of the Trustees. The job had to be done by hand, as it was impossible to get a  
23 crane truck near the tree.  
24

25 **Irene:** FEMA review of our sites has resulted in a reimbursement request for about \$50,000.  
26 These funds will not be available to the town until next year, but will cover about 75% of the  
27 damage due to the storm.  
28

29 **Police Department:** The board had a discussion with Paul about the extremely difficult week the  
30 entire Plainfield Community has had with the loss of one of our young people. The Selectboard  
31 encouraged Paul to pursue a debriefing session with a professional trained counselor for all first  
32 responders to this tragedy. The board expressed its gratitude to everyone that is assisting the  
33 family through this difficult time.  
34

35 **Library Trustees:** The Selectboard met with the town's Library Trustees and directors along  
36 with resident Dennis Girouard. The meeting was an opportunity for the trustees to share with the  
37 Selectboard some of the progress that is being made on the unification project. Most exciting is  
38 that both library collections will soon be automated utilizing a system that is in place for the  
39 Howe Library. The project has been planned for many years, but is now moving forward at a  
40 fraction of the projected cost. The entire process should be able to be done for about \$5,000 rather  
41 than the \$15,000 or \$20,000 that was planned. Rather than pursuing additional taxpayer funding,  
42 the project will be paid for from available funds originating from the Meriden Library  
43 appropriations. The Selectboard fully supported this project and funding mechanism.  
44

45 Addressing the issue of unexpected appropriation balances the group determined that the library  
46 operating checkbooks would utilize the same fund balance rule that town's adhere to. Fund  
47 balance will be retained to a maximum of 10% of gross expenditures, any balance above 10%  
48 will be returned as a revenue against future appropriations in the subsequent year. This should  
49 allow the trustees to maintain sufficient cash flow but will also cap the amount of public money  
50 that can be retained.  
51

1 **Other Business:** The setting of the 2011 tax rate should occur in the next couple of days.  
2 Reduced staffing at the state level has made getting an appointment this year difficult.  
3  
4 The Selectmen will be meeting with the Finance Committee on November 16<sup>th</sup>.  
5  
6 The KUA Study Committee has had representative attend a recent School Board meeting to  
7 encourage the School Board to provide enhanced opportunities for our local students to become  
8 familiar with the KUA campus during their PES years and the various options that exist for  
9 attending the private school. Regardless of how it occurs, the study committee feels that there are  
10 positive outcomes when there are solid working relationships with the school and when many of  
11 our local students elect to attend KUA.  
12  
13 Halleran noted that the brush piled along Hell Hollow Road has been nearly all removed by the  
14 property owner and that the issue is close to fully resolved.  
15  
16 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.  
17  
18  
19 Stephen Halleran  
20  
21 Robert W. Taylor, Chair  
22  
23  
24 Judy A. Belyea  
25  
26  
27 Thomas Williams

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

2 **November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011**

3 **Meriden Town Hall**

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

9 The meeting opened at 5:30pm

10  
11 The Selectmen went into executive session at 5:31pm to discuss a personnel issue. The board  
12 came out of the session at 5:55pm and voted to seal the minutes of the session.  
13

14 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Stocker reported on the fall grading. The crew did have to  
15 plow the unfrozen roads over the weekend as the region was hit with an historic October snow  
16 storm. Plainfield received between 6" and 9" of snow, depending on elevation. Road damage  
17 was minimal and the crew has now returned to fall year end work..  
18

19 **KUA Field House:** At the request of the Selectboard CFO Jim Gray and General Contractor  
20 James DePaul discussed with the Selectboard a structural issue that have come up on the job site  
21 with respect to a crack that developed in the next to the last pier on the east side of the building.  
22 The crack occurred as the steel was being erected on the pier. Mr. Depaul stressed that the  
23 concrete mix is not the issue, all concrete has been tested and past the job's specifications. Jim  
24 Depaul feels that crane operator error caused the crack, his company has prescribed an engineered  
25 repair to the pier and that repair is being reviewed by another structural engineer hired by the  
26 school. Jim confirmed this, noting that once the repair is approved copies of the reports will be  
27 included with the town's inspection records for the project.  
28

29 **Wage and Salary Schedule:** Barry Cox from New Hampshire Municipal Association presented  
30 the Selectboard with the finished employee wage and salary study that was commission by the  
31 town. This project was last done in 1993. Barry toured the board through their copies of the plan,  
32 noting that in total when the entire benefit package is compared to other similarly sized  
33 communities the town has some deficiencies but on balance is in pretty good shape. No  
34 employees are being paid more than the average maximum for compensation of the study group,  
35 seven positions are being paid cash compensation less than the mid point for their job. The  
36 town's offered vacation time is the least competitive benefit, but the health insurance offering is  
37 highly competitive when compared to the group.  
38

39 The board will spend some time reviewing the report in detail and will incorporate the study into  
40 the next few budgetary cycles.  
41

42 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts was given approval to spend about \$2,000 on year end  
43 purchases for needed department equipment. Town Administrator Halleran and Chief Roberts



1 have developed a performa budget for the department through the end of the year and have  
2 confirmed that these purchases can be absorbed by the overall town budget.

3

4 The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

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10 Stephen Halleran

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Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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Judy A. Belyea

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Thomas Williams

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**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**November 16th 2011**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

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Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair  
Judy Belyea  
Thomas Williams

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The meeting opened at 5:30pm

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**Highway Department:** The Selectmen met with acting Road Agent Richard Collins. Rich has replaced Road Agent Ken Stocker whose employment with the town was ended effective Friday November 4<sup>th</sup>. This being the first board meeting since Richard was asked to lead the department the Selectmen appointed Richard Interim Road Agent for the next three months. At the end of that period the board will evaluate the position further.

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The Selectboard set the compensation for the Interim position and made decisions on final compensation for former Road Agent Ken Stocker.

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Rich updated the board on his work over the last two weeks. The department plans to work tomorrow on a small parking lot expansion for the Meriden Library. The Selectmen noted that these types of projects are more in keeping with a public works department and that the board supports highway assisting other town departments anytime tax dollars can be saved. The highway department connecting the school to the Meriden Waste Water Plan some years ago is often cited as having saved more than twenty thousand dollars.

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51

**Police Department:** Chief Roberts discussed some broad budgeting concepts with the board. Systematic replacement of the department's three cars will be a challenge with the current allotment of \$11,000. Design changes to cars typically used for police cruisers are also complicating matters making it difficult to move equipment from one car to the next. Paul is looking into the purchase of a 2011 car which is the last year that Ford will make what is currently thought of as a Crown Victoria.

**Town Office:** The Selectboard approved a 54 month contract for curbside refuse collection with Casella. The contract will carry forward the current program and contains a non-appropriation clause meaning that the town has the ability to opt out of the contract each year at town meeting by not approving the necessary funding.

The Selectmen discussed a significant appropriation request increase by the Cornish Rescue Squad. Halleran will coordinate a meeting with the Cornish Selectmen so that whatever the response to the more than doubling of the cost of this highly valued service is, will be consistent between both Plainfield and Cornish.

**Finance Committee:** The Selectboard held their initial meeting with the Finance Committee. The group discussed the status of the current budget and general plans for 2012. The town hopes to keep any spending increase to less than 3.5%. One highway department plow truck is due for replacement and will be funded from reserves. One police cruiser is up for replacement and will likely be leased. The town will also begin a full measure and list revaluation with a targeted completion date of 4/1/13. This project is expected to cost around \$100,000 and will be funded from the revaluation reserve fund.

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Finance Committee member Scott MacLeay asked the Selectmen to consider establishing a reclamation fund for the town's gravel pit, noting that at some point in the future funds will be necessary to reclaim the played out portions of the town's gravel pit.

The group will meet next on December 21sts where the Selectboard will present its draft budget to the Committee.

Stephen Halleran

Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas Williams

1 draft  
2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
3 **December 7<sup>th</sup> 2011**  
4 **Meriden Town Hall**  
5

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

10 The meeting opened at 6:00pm  
11

12 **Town Office:** The Selectboard started their review of the proposed 2012 budget. Currently  
13 dollars to be raised from taxes would be up about 4% or \$54,000 adding \$.19 to the tax rate.  
14

15 The board focused its work on reviewing the now completed wage and salary study. The  
16 Selectboard hopes to discuss some of the recommendations with the finance committee on the  
17 16<sup>th</sup> of December.  
18

19 Chief Roberts is requesting that this year's cruiser lease be for two cars, this will allow him to  
20 take advantage of the last year that a full sized crown vics will be available. All our equipment  
21 will have to be resized or replaced to fit the next generation of cars.  
22

23 Halleran noted that fuel pricing and employee related costs, mainly changes to the NH Retirement  
24 System are driving most of the first cut budget increases.  
25

26 **Maria Guzman:** Resident Maria Guzman attended the meeting to discuss with the Selectboard  
27 what she views as unprofessional behavior from Town Administrator Halleran. In recent years the  
28 town office has inquired about her plan for the 71 Hell Hollow Property, given her inaccurate  
29 information on building permit requirements and most recently mailed her a letter asking her to  
30 move brush that she piled too close to the road. She did not like the tone of the letter. The  
31 Selectboard noted that it is the Zoning Administrator's job to make inquiries about uses on  
32 property and that the Selectboard had directed Steve Halleran to send the letter concerning the  
33 brush, some of which still has not been removed from the road right of way. Ms. Guzman agreed  
34 to remove the remaining brush by December 20<sup>th</sup> and thanked the board for listening to her  
35 concerns.  
36

37 **Lisa Ulf:** Attended the meeting to ask the Selectmen to reconsider a \$250 parking ticket she  
38 received for parking in a handicap spot at the Miller building on the KUA campus. She is not  
39 handicapped, did park in the spot but only with her flashers on and while she was unloading some  
40 interior decorations for the building. The Selectboard did not abate the fine, noting that the  
41 amount is dictated by state law.  
42

1 **Other Business:** The Selectboard requested improvements to Main Street lighting around KUA  
2 will be in place in the next couple of weeks. The light is going to be much brighter; the fixtures  
3 are however dark sky complaint as requested by the Planning Board.  
4

5 The town office has been having some furnace related problems that occurred after the annual  
6 cleaning, Simple Energy the town's supplier has been very good at following up and dealing with  
7 the issue.  
8

9 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm  
10

11 Stephen Halleran  
12

13 Robert W. Taylor, Chair  
14

15  
16 Judy A. Belyea  
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18  
19 Thomas Williams  
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