

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **January 4<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
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 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Collins met with the Selectmen. The early winter season  
12 continues to be very quiet. No major snow storms, however, several icing events have  
13 necessitated calling the crew out for sanding and salting.  
14

15 Rich will ask SG Reed to provide a quote for the new plow truck with a built in sander body.  
16 This technology has the advantage of not having to take the sander in and out of the body for  
17 various projects. At the Selectmen's request, he will also investigate the additional cost  
18 purchasing a ten wheel rather than a six wheel truck. The town spends additional money each  
19 year renting trucks for hauling large quantities from the town's gravel pit. A ten wheeler hauls  
20 more than two to one the volume of material that our six wheeled trucks can carry.  
21

22 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts reported to the board that officer Anthony Swett has resigned  
23 his position and has accepted a job with the Lyme New Hampshire police department. Tony will  
24 work for the town for another two weeks. The Selectboard expressed their disappointment with  
25 Tony's leaving. He was a highly valued member of the department and the board is sorry to see  
26 him leave. The Selectmen and Police Chief spent time discussing what changes could be made in  
27 the future to minimize turnover in the department.  
28

29 **Town Office:** The Selectboard expressed their disappointment in Primex's decision to reject a  
30 workers compensation claim for a Meriden Fire fighter. The board instructed Town Administrator  
31 Steve Halleran to draft a letter from the board to Primex requesting that this decision be  
32 reconsidered. The Selectboard is firm in its position that coverage should be provided to all fire  
33 fighters who are injured while on a call.  
34

35 The Selectmen spent the final half hour of the meeting fine tuning the 2012 budget. The first  
36 hearing on the new budget is January 18<sup>th</sup>.  
37

38 Submitted,  
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40 Stephen Halleran

Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

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

2 **January 18<sup>th</sup> 2012**

3 **Meriden Town Hall**

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

7  
8 The meeting opened at 6:00pm  
9

10 **Police Department:** The Selectboard spent time with Chief Roberts discussing possible staffing  
11 models for the Police Department. Paul requested and was granted permission to advertise for a  
12 full time officer to replace Anthony Swett who took a position with the Lyme NH police  
13 department. The Selectboard would like Paul to work out the savings for operating the Police  
14 Department with two full time officers and two or three part-time officers, thus avoiding the cost  
15 of providing benefits.

16  
17 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed and signed a Fund Balance policy for the town. This  
18 work was done to gain material compliance with GASB 54.

19  
20 The Selectboard agreed to hold a hearing on a proposed donation of 19 acres, much of which is  
21 frontage on a large wetland area, from the Shulman subdivision currently before the Planning  
22 Board. The parcel is highly valued for its prime wildlife habitat and the owner would like have it  
23 protected, but has been unable to find a land trust organization willing to accept such a small  
24 isolated parcel. The hearing will likely be in mid February.

25  
26 **Town Budget Hearing:** The first of two budget hearings on the 2012 budget was opened at  
27 7:10pm. The town's finance committee was in attendance along with library trustees, library  
28 directors and resident Richard Atkinson. Mr. Atkinson was once again complimented for being  
29 the "general public" at the hearing.

30  
31 The 2012 budget was explained as a proposal that maintains a like level of service, but offers no  
32 expansions. In an effort to contain personnel costs the Selectboard has made one of the highway  
33 department positions a part-time offering with no benefits. A similar change is under  
34 consideration within the Police Department which will be dealing with the likely retirement of  
35 Dept. Chief Lawrence Dore later this year.

36  
37 The Selectboard has acted on several of the wage and salary study recommendations from the  
38 now completed study. On average town employees will be receiving a 2.5% increase in overall  
39 pay in 2012.

40  
41 As currently proposed the operating budget is up 3.44% or \$65,000. Accounting for capital  
42 reserve funding and special warrant articles monies to be raised from taxes would increase by  
43 \$52,000 adding \$.19 to the tax rate. The Selectmen are proposing the replacement of one large  
44 dumptruck, funded from reserves, as well as the creation of new fund for eventual closing of the  
45 town's gravel pit. An article to ratify a proposed expansion of the town's gravel pit land area is  
46 also proposed.

47  
48 Operating budget is proposed at \$1,955,393, reserve funding \$157,500, special projects \$12,000.

49  
50 Finance Committee members asked several questions about how the budget is constructed. The  
51 group encouraged the Selectmen to squeak out another 5% to 10% from the highway department

1 and to make sure that motor vehicle registration projects were realistic. The committee  
2 supported the changes that have been made since the last meeting, but hope that further  
3 reductions are possible to the operating budget.

4  
5 Halleran noted that a \$1,000 expenditure request came in today from Stephen Taylor. The request  
6 is related to last year's 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration and seeks to establish a town spirit day in late August.  
7 The Selectboard agreed to include this article on the warrant.

8  
9 The hearing closed at 8:30pm and the meeting was adjourned.

10  
11  
12 Submitted,

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14 Stephen Halleran

Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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16

Judy A. Belyea

17  
18

19  
20

Thomas Williams

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

2 **February 1st 2012**

3 **Plainfield Library**

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

8 The meeting opened at 6:00pm  
9

10 **Police Report:** Chief Roberts reported on the efforts to hire a new full-time police officer.  
11 Advertisements have been running in local newspapers and trade publications. To date, Paul has  
12 had three inquiries and is expecting at least two applications to be filed by the February 6<sup>th</sup>  
13 deadline.

14  
15 The Police Department has been concentrating its investigative energies at solving a burglary that  
16 took place on the Plainfield side of town last week. Paul is expecting to make an arrest shortly.  
17

18 **Highway Department:** Interim Road Agent Collins feels that the Selectboard should consider  
19 upgrading the replacement dump truck to include a built in sander unit into the body. The  
20 Selectmen will investigate this further. A visit to an area town that is using these will be  
21 arranged.  
22

23 **Town Office:** The Selectboard approved the cover for the 2011 Town Report. The document is  
24 nearly complete and should be at the printer in the next couple of business days.  
25

26 Halleran noted that the hearing on the Shulman proposed land donation to the town will likely be  
27 February 15<sup>th</sup>.  
28

29 The Selectmen signed a three year contract to continue with Windsor Ambulance. The cost of the  
30 contract has decreased by about 14%.  
31

32 **Budget Hearing:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> and final budget hearing was opened at 7pm at the Plainfield Library.  
33 Mike Sutherland played the role of the general public. The Finance Committee was also in  
34 attendance. Halleran noted that an additional \$18,000 has been reduced from the budget since the  
35 first hearing. Dollars to be raised from taxation now stands at \$48K which would add about \$.15  
36 to the tax rate. Finance Committee members asked some final questions about special warrant  
37 articles and plans for future replacement of heavy equipment. Member Scott MacLeay  
38 questioned whether we are setting enough money aside to properly fund the replacements of all  
39 the major pieces in the highway department. Likewise committee members noted that the  
40 Highway Garage which is now coming up on 30 years old may need some updating.  
41

42 The hearing was closed at 8:00pm and the board meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

43 Submitted,  
44

45 Stephen Halleran

Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas Williams

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **February 15<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**  
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5 Selectmen present:

6 Judy Belyea  
7 Thomas Williams  
8

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm

10  
11 Halleran reported that Selectmen Rob Taylor was home with the flu and would not be attending  
12 this evening's meeting.  
13

14 **Highway Department:** The Selectmen reviewed the data gathered on built in sander bodies for  
15 the proposed truck replacement. Based on the evidence before it, the Selectmen voted to move  
16 forward with a proposal to equip the new dump truck with one of these bodies. The pros of the  
17 body include the ability to carry more material, the ability to sand under the trucks drive wheels,  
18 the ability to use the sander in the summer for road shoulder work and perhaps most importantly  
19 the ability to utilize the truck during the winter for other jobs without having to pull the sander  
20 out.. Cons include the added cost of the unit, about \$10,000, and the complexity of having the  
21 sander and the body being a single unit.  
22

23 Rich Collins reported that the crew is out trimming and doing road side maintenance. The lack of  
24 any real snow depth and warm temperatures allows this work to move forward.  
25

26 **Police Department:** Paul reported that he has received three applications for the open officer  
27 position. Only one of the candidates has police experience. The Selectmen asked Paul to set up  
28 an interview with the applicant and the board for sometime in the next week.  
29

30 **School Board:** School Board members Chris Foreman, Mike Sutherland, and Myra Ferguson met  
31 with the Selectmen to discuss the upcoming school and town meetings. The school board will be  
32 sending out the annual letter to residents summarizing the budgetary changes for the coming year.  
33 The group agreed that the most pressing issue facing the school in the coming year is to continue  
34 to downsize the school to the appropriate level for the declining enrolment.  
35

36 **Schulman Property:** The hearing on the proposed gift of 19 acres of wetlands to the town was  
37 opened at 7:15pm. Mike O'leary explained the gift on behalf of the owner. The proposal  
38 involves a donating to the town the area owned by Mr. Shulman that is directly adjacent to  
39 including about ½ of the large beaver pond on the property. The property has significant wildlife  
40 value and conserving the land would protect the wetland from encroachment by future homes  
41 planned for the upper part of the Shulman property. The donation does come with condition of no  
42 hunting on the 19 acres, however, that condition is going to be imposed by the owner regardless  
43 of who owns the property in the future. The Selectboard has tried to have this condition  
44 eliminated, but that was not possible. The property will not be posted; a small sign at the parking  
45 area will outline the rules of use.  
46

47 Halleran read letters of support for accepting the gift from the Conservation Commission,  
48 residents Richard and Diane Rogers, Robyn and Robert Carpenter, Gretchen Cherington and  
49 Nancy Mogielnicki.  
50

51 Halleran also noted that the office has heard from resident Reginald Tyler and Brue Plummer

1 who have expressed concern about public ownership of land with a no hunting restriction.

2  
3 Research has shown that the town accepted a similar restriction back in the 1980's from Ira and  
4 Sally Townsend on land adjacent to French's Ledges. The issue gets even more complex when  
5 the expenditure of public money is necessary to acquire the property. In the current case, the land  
6 is being donated and the foregone annual tax bill for the property, due to current use valuations, is  
7 something like \$25/year. Much of the adjacent pond will remain in private ownership and has  
8 historically been available for hunting.

9  
10 The hearing was closed at 7:45pm and the Selectboard voted to accept the donation as proposed,  
11 subject to a review of the proposed deed by town counsel.

12  
13 **Other business:** The Selectmen signed the official copies of the town warrant and budget sheets  
14 instructing Halleran to, on their behalf, post the documents at the Plainfield Town Hall, Plainfield  
15 School and the Meriden Town Hall.

16  
17 Halleran noted that the town report is now available on the town's website and the printed books  
18 will be back from the printer next week.

19  
20 The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

21  
22 Submitted,

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24 Stephen Halleran

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27 Judy A. Belyea

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30 Thomas Williams

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **March 7<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

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

8  
9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm

10  
11 **Police:** Chief Roberts reviewed the last fourteen days of the department log with the Selectmen.  
12 Paul noted that the approved candidate for the full time police position has past the required  
13 polygraph test and will undergo psychological testing in the next day or so.

14  
15 **Library Trustees:** The trustees continued their dialog with the Selectboard about the past  
16 accounting practices used at the Meriden Library. It appears that public and private funds retained  
17 in the same account from year to year. Private monies need to be accounted for separately, and  
18 unspent public monies returned to the town. Neither library has a history of returning unspent  
19 appropriations, however, its clear that the Plainfield library has not accumulated a fund balance  
20 from year to year, having instead spent any year end remaining funds on books or supplies. In  
21 Meriden the unspent funds were retained and earmarked for larger projects. The Trustees have  
22 now met with Terry Knowles of the AG's office and notes from that meeting were provided to  
23 the Selectmen and those in attendance. The Trustees will immediately turn over to the town any  
24 remaining public funds once the private donations/gifts have been properly segregated. Trustee  
25 Mark Pensgen noted that his research indicates that much of the money that has been held  
26 resulted from the year that longtime librarian Bettyann Dole past away. Volunteers filled in at the  
27 library that year, leaving an expended balance in the payroll line of the libraries budget.

28  
29 Resident and library employee Diane Rogers who has been very critical of the accounting at the  
30 Meriden Library, made it clear that she feels the Selectboard and Town Administrator have let the  
31 town down on this issue by not paying more attention to the work of the Library Trustees.

32  
33 Resident Gordon Wilder asked that Plainfield not become like the federal government, if unspent  
34 monies remain at the end of the year, those funds need to come back to the taxpayers of  
35 Plainfield.

36  
37 Dennis Girourd questioned the exact amounts of money that were in play and the timing of the  
38 work that needs to be completed. Trustee Bernadina Webber and trustee Mark Pensgen noted of  
39 the \$81,000 held buy the Meriden Library, \$60,000 is clearly private monies held in the building  
40 fund. Of the remaining \$21,000 some is private and some is public.

41  
42 The Selectboard thanked the Trustees for attending the meeting and putting a lot of effort into  
43 working on this project.

44  
45 **Plainfield Town Hall Committee:** Bev Widger, Nancy Scott and Nancy Norwalk met with the  
46 Selectmen to discuss the possibility of purchasing new table and chairs for the Plainfield Town  
47 Hall. The existing chairs game from Dartmouth College and have provided 16 years of service.  
48 Those chairs were going to be thrown out by the college. The Committee acknowledged that they  
49 have missed the budgeting process but were inquiring about amending the budget. Halleran  
50 suggested that perhaps by years end some of the necessary funds could come from the 2012 town  
51 hall budget and the remaining from the 2013 budget. Selectperson Belyea noted that she feels the

1 chairs and tables are warranted and that she will donate the necessary funds to purchase  
2 replacements. Those in attendance thanked Judy for this generosity.

3  
4 **Town Office:** The Selectboard spent the remainder of the meeting preparing for the Town  
5 Meeting. Moderator Paul Franklin met with Selectmen to go over the various article for the town  
6 meeting.

7  
8 Other business: The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week.

9  
10 The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

11 Submitted,  
12  
13 Stephen Halleran

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16 Robert W. Taylor

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18 Judy A. Belyea

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20 Thomas P. Williams

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **March 28<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**  
4

5 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor  
6 Judy Belyea  
7

8  
9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm. This was the first gathering of the board since the 2012 annual  
10 meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

11  
12 **Highway Department:** The Selectboard approved the purchase of a new International Cab and  
13 chassis from Reed's Truck Service in Claremont NH. The town will be participating in the state  
14 bid program for this purchase.

15  
16 McCullough Crushing will be moving into the town's gravel pit in the next week or so do crush  
17 5,000 yards of gravel at an agreed price of \$3.10/yard. The last time the town crushed was in  
18 2009, 10,000 yards cost \$2.90/yard at that time.  
19

20 **Police Department:** Paul a continuing to review two applicants for the open police officer  
21 position. Paul hopes to have the candidates meet with the Selectmen in the next couple of weeks.  
22

23 Paul reviewed the department's activity log noting the major incidents that have taken place since  
24 the last meeting.  
25

26 Paul asked the Selectboard to become involved with a discussion with the Lebanon Ambulance  
27 Service concerning continuing life support on all patients until a death has been declared by a  
28 medical examiner or doctor. Halleran will contact the City of Lebanon on this matter.  
29

30 **Town Office:** The Selectmen reviewed and approved the state documents that detail the 2012  
31 annual meeting.  
32

33 The Selectboard approved pay rates for 2012 (April to April) and signed orders for upcoming  
34 week.  
35

36 The Selectboard signed a letter to the Library Trustees offering support for the work they are  
37 doing to combine the operations of the two library buildings into a single operation.  
38

39 The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.  
40

41 Submitted,  
42

43 Stephen Halleran  
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45 Robert W. Taylor  
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47  
48 Judy A. Belyea  
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

2 **April 4th 2012**

3 **Meriden Town Hall**

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

9  
10 The meeting opened at 6:00pm  
11

12 **Highway Department:** Following a review of his performance, the Selectboard appointed  
13 Richard Collins to be the town's new Road Agent, effectively dropping the term Interim from his  
14 title. The Selectboard praised Richard for his work this winter noting the many favorable  
15 comments received from residents who have interacted with Richard.  
16

17 Road postings will be removed on most roads starting Monday April 9<sup>th</sup>. The early spring and  
18 warm temperatures have made this date possible.  
19

20 **Police Department:** At Chief Roberts request the Selectboard met with Mat Foss, candidate for  
21 our open full time police position. Mat lives in Claremont and is a fully certified police officer  
22 with ten years experience. The board was favorably impressed with his work history and resume.  
23

24 Paul reported that the first of the two replacement police cruisers is now in service. The new cars  
25 are black and white and have generated favorably comments. As discussed during the budget  
26 process and at town meeting, leasing the two cars now allows the town to use most of the existing  
27 mobile equipment from our existing cars. A model change with the Crown Victoria will not  
28 allow this to happen in the future. By the time we need new cars again, any issues with the new  
29 models should be worked out.  
30

31 **Class VI Roads:** Several residents and members of the local snowmobile club, led by Ann  
32 Donaghy of Croydon Turnpike met the Selectboard to encourage the board to take all necessary  
33 actions including gating to protected the town's class VI road network. These highly valued roads  
34 are being damaged by heavy trucks and mud running type activities. This issue has been going  
35 on for years, but as groups spend money and resources to improve the class VI roads, protecting  
36 them from future damage needs to be a priority. While the Selectboard has generally not been in  
37 favor of allowing unlocked gates on these highways, the board indicated a willingness to look at  
38 some criteria for when a gate might be viable option.  
39

40 Selectman Taylor encouraged the group to look at the class A & B trail enabling legislation to see  
41 if future action at town meeting might be a way to control motorized vehicle use on these roads.  
42 By adopted ordinance 1991-01 all class VI roads in Plainfield are posted against wheeled  
43 motorized vehicle use from March 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Chief Paul Roberts encouraged  
44 residents to record plate numbers of violators and the department will pursue criminal charges for  
45 those that violate the ordinance.  
46

47 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed and signed orders and various correspondence. A  
48 current use application and disabled exemption application were also approved.  
49

50 The Selectboard accepted the resignation of Diane Rogers from her town office position and the  
51 Supervisor of the Checklist. In accepting the resignation the board acknowledged the many

1 contributions Diane has made over the years.

2

3 The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

4

5

6 Submitted,

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8 Stephen Halleran

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Judy A. Belyea

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Thomas P. Williams

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Robert W. Taylor

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

2 **April 18th 2012**

3 **Meriden Town Hall**

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

9  
10 The meeting opened at 6:00pm  
11

12 **Highway Report:** Road Agent Richard Collins reported on the department's work over the last  
13 two weeks. Road postings have been lifted and spring grading is now underway. To give each  
14 crew member more experience, Richard is providing each of them an opportunity to run the  
15 town's grader on their own route.  
16

17 Richard and Steve Halleran reported on the possibility that TDS might donate their 1995 Ford  
18 bucket truck to the town. Resident and TDS employee Dave Chellis has suggested this to the  
19 company. Richard has looked at the truck and while it does need some work, his feeling is the  
20 vehicle would be an asset to the department for tree work. The Selectboard agreed to move  
21 forward with the town's donation procedure if an offer from TDS is brought forward.  
22

23 Morrill Construction is pulling together the final details for the two large culverts that are to be  
24 replaced on Willow Brook Road this summer. The Selected will meet with Jason Morrill prior to  
25 start up to discuss the handling of traffic.  
26

27 **Complaint against the Town Administrator:** Residents Dennis Girouard met with the  
28 Selectboard to file a complaint against Town Administrator Stephen Halleran. Gordon and Fern  
29 Wilder, Jesse and Ruth Stalker, Bev Widger, Richard Rogers, Gene Hewes, Melissa Longacre,  
30 Mark and Elizabeth Pensgen and Stephen Beaupre were also in attendance. Mr. Girouard read  
31 from a letter to the Selectboard detailing why he feels that Mr. Halleran should be disciplined for  
32 a letter that he and his wife, Melissa Longacre wrote in the Viewpoints section of Plainfacts last  
33 month. The letter, in his opinion, is full of many slanderous and inaccurate comments intended to  
34 hurt him and Diane Rogers. Gordon Wilder, who recently authored a letter to the Eagle Times  
35 expressing a similar viewpoint about Halleran spoke strongly in favor of placing the town  
36 administrator on administrative leave.  
37

38 The Selectboard made it clear that it has no role in what residents Steve Halleran and Melissa  
39 Longacre print in the Plainfacts under their name as their opinion.  
40

41 Richard Rogers provided the board a letter to be included in the town record on this matter.  
42

43 At the request of the Selectboard, Library Trustee Mark Pensgen updated the meeting and the  
44 public on the Trustees findings to date concerning the funds held by the Meriden Library. The  
45 Trustees believe that a total of about \$6,000 in public monies has been retained by previous  
46 library boards. That money will be returned or repurposed at the will of the town voters. All  
47 Meriden Library funds in the Vanguard mutual fund are private donations targeted for future  
48 additions to the Meriden Library building.  
49

50 **Class VI Road Gates:** Residents Paul and Nancy Franklin met the Selectmen as a follow up to  
51 the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting on the subject of gates on class VI roads. As landowners of property off

1 Farm Road they are putting together an application for a gate. The Selectboard discussed with  
2 them what to include with the application. The board noted that this will be the first such  
3 application since 1990 when Gordon Wilder was granted a similar request for Tallow Hill Road.  
4 Consequently, it may take the board a little while to work out the details of the procedure for  
5 reviewing the request.

6  
7 **Streetlight Timers:** On behalf of the Energy Committee, David Taylor met with the Selectboard  
8 to see if the board would be willing to hold a public hearing in Plainfield Village to discuss the  
9 option of install timers on the town's streetlights. The Selectboard agreed to this request and  
10 directed Halleran to set up a hearing for mid May in the Plainfield Town Hall.

11  
12 The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

13  
14 Submitted,

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16 Stephen Halleran

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19 Judy A. Belyea

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22 Thomas P. Williams

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25 Robert W. Taylor  
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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
3 **May 2nd2012**  
4 **Meriden Town Hall**  
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6  
7 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea  
8 Thomas Williams  
9 Robert Taylor  
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11  
12 The meeting opened at 6:00pm  
13

14 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Rich Collins discussed with the Selectboard paving options  
15 for 2012. Both BlackTop and Pike Industries have provided quotes for paving both Main Street  
16 and Bonner Roads. Bonner will cost \$68,000, Main Street about \$70,000. The Selectboard will  
17 consider paving only half of Bonner Road, Route 120 to School Street, in an effort to also be able  
18 to afford a top coat on Main Street as well. The board feels strongly that several of these roads  
19 that have been reconstructed in the last twenty years need to be repaved now to prevent  
20 significant damage to the base.  
21

22 Gravel crushing is now complete. The Selectboard will visit the town's gravel pit prior to the next  
23 Selectboard meeting to continue their long-term planning efforts for the gravel pit. At this same  
24 time, the board will tour the Klinges property that the town now has custody over.  
25

26 **Maria Guzman:** Westgate Road resident Maria Guzman added her voice to those from last  
27 meeting who feel that the Town Administrator over stepped his bounds when he and his wife  
28 authored an opinion letter in the Plainfacts. She asked for a copy of the town administrator's job  
29 description and the worksheet the town uses. She feels the Selectboard should consider making  
30 the position a part time job.  
31

32 **Diane Rogers:** The Selectboard met in private session with Diane, who at her request asked the  
33 Bev Widger be allowed to accompany her for this exit interview. The board met for about one  
34 hour with Diane and Bev discussing a wide variety work related concerns that Diane had as a  
35 town and library employee.  
36

37 **Town Office:** The Selectboard accepted with regret, the resignation of Kim Moss as a Library  
38 Trustee. In her resignation letter Kim cited a health issue as her reason for leaving her elected  
39 office. Halleran was directed to have the Library Trustees forward to the Selectboard a  
40 recommendation for Kim's replacement.  
41

42 Reacting to complaints from neighbors along various roads, the Selectboard will once again begin  
43 a process of encouraging residents to clean up their property by properly disposing of junk. If  
44 local solutions are not possible, district court will again be used to gain compliance.  
45

46 Based on input from the Police and Fire Chiefs, the Selectboard voted not to support a Sullivan  
47 County Regional dispatch center. Neither Chief Currier nor Chief Roberts supports this ide. Both  
48 feel that keeping multiple dispatch centers at the local level provides Plainfield more choices.

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Allan Ferguson met with the Selectboard to ask permission to negotiate with power producers on behalf of the town for lower electric rates. The board agreed to this and thanked him for his work. All hopes to be able to pool Plainfield's electric usage with other businesses in town to save few cents per kilowatt hour.

Reacting to an April 16<sup>th</sup> request, the Selectboard approved an expenditure of \$670 from the Library Repair Fund. The balance in the fund is \$12,750. The funds were for window washing service provided by Jeff Hale.

The May 2<sup>nd</sup> Selectboard meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Submitted,  
Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **May 16<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
3 **Plainfield Town Hall**  
4

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

10 The meeting opened at 5:00pm with a Selectboard visit to the town's municipal gravel pit on  
11 Ferry Hill Road. Following up on a meeting from last year, the board met with Road Agent  
12 Collins to discuss how the pit is being managed. The board was very pleased with the clean up  
13 efforts that have taken place over the last year. Halleran was asked to contact Hammond Lumber  
14 about having some of the old wood/tree debris in the pit ground up. The wood is stored in a  
15 single location and is ready to be ground.  
16

17 Based on Rich's assessment the board determined that the town would not have any overburden  
18 material to sell this summer.  
19

20 The Board moved up to the Klinges property which is now controlled by the town. The board  
21 discussed strategies for cleaning up the mass of debris that is on the site. Some is scrap metal  
22 which will help offset the cost of getting rid of the refuse and construction trash. Rich will use  
23 the clean up as fill in work with an overall goal of having the place substantially cleaned up by  
24 next winter. Once free of debris, the large barn on the property should provide some much  
25 needed storage.  
26

27 **Plainfield Town Hall:**  
28

29 **Town Office:** The Selectboard voted to abate the 2012 property taxes on the LaFlam property  
30 169 Main Street. Similar property tax forgiveness has been extended to families who experience  
31 a devastating house fire. In this case, the Selectboard felt that this one year gesture was  
32 appropriate, given the unique circumstances the LaFlam's are now enduring.  
33

34 Following up from last meeting, the Selectboard approved a round of junk car/debris letters for  
35 property owners with clearly visible violations. The town office has received a significant number  
36 of complaints this spring about the amount of junk that is visible around town.  
37

38 The Selectboard will place the annual wreath at the town's Service Memorial on Thursday May  
39 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm. This annual vent is timed to coincide with the end of the Senior Social luncheon.  
40

41 The Selectboard will ask Morrill Construction for a performance bond on the project to replace  
42 the two large culvert on Brook Road.  
43

44 **Police:** Chief Roberts reviewed the department log for the last two weeks going over the major  
45 crimes and incidents under investigation.  
46

47 The Police Department is working with Michelle Marsh, Town Clerk on the annual effort to get  
48 all of Plainfield's dog's registered. Currently, there are 42 owners who face fines and penalties for  
49 keeping an unregistered dog.  
50

51 The Selectboard will hold a rare morning meeting next Thursday at the Meriden Town Hall to



1 discuss Police Department staffing with the Chief. Chief Roberts is ready to move forward with  
2 filling Lawrence Dore's position.

3  
4 **Plainfield Village Streetlights:** Selectman Taylor opened the hearing by noting that the focus of  
5 the meeting was to investigate whether or not to add timers to the streetlights in Plainfield  
6 Village. Periodic maintenance scheduled for this summer on the lights allows this work to be  
7 done for only \$5/light, rather than the normal \$176/light. If placed on the timers the 29  
8 streetlights in the village area would save about \$800 of the \$6,000/year bill. This initiative is at  
9 the request of the energy committee. Those at the hearing who spoke, all opposed the idea citing  
10 concerns about increased speed at night, to safety, to security. Chief Roberts noted that he has  
11 studies that show that shutting the streetlights off can increase the crime rate late at night by as  
12 much as 30%. Brad Migill , Brad Atwater, David and Nancy Scott, Nancy Norwalk, Edward  
13 Mitchell, Anita Brown, Robert Drye all spoke against the change. Claudine Spencer phoned the  
14 office to voice her concern about the project. The Conservation Commission provided a letter of  
15 support. While this project was not supported by the group in attendance, all in attendance  
16 thanked the energy committee for its efforts on this and other energy saving initiatives. The  
17 Selectboard felt, that based on the public's response and the recommendation of the Police  
18 Department, that timers would not be installed at this time.

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20 The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

21  
22 Submitted,

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25 Stephen Halleran

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28 Judy A. Belyea

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32 Robert W. Taylor  
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**  
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5  
6 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea  
7 Thomas Williams  
8 Robert Taylor  
9

10 The meeting opened at 7:00am.  
11

12 **Police:** This meeting was a continuation of last meeting's discussion about staffing levels for the  
13 Police Department with the pending retirement of Deputy Chief Lawrence Dore just a few weeks  
14 away. After looking at several spreadsheet options, discussing input that the Selectmen have  
15 received from community members, and staffing models used by other towns the Selectboard  
16 determined that the Police Department will remain with three full time officers and a maximum  
17 of 20 hours per week of part-time officer coverage. This will keep staffing at the same level it has  
18 been for the last two years. The Selectboard stressed the need to have the Police Department  
19 budget stabilize after two budget cycles of significant growth.  
20

21 The Selectboard asked that Halleran schedule some discussions with the institutional members of  
22 the community about requiring special detail coverage at large events. In these cases, the  
23 organization hosting the event would be required to pay for extra coverage.  
24

25 **Town Office:** The Selectboard signed a timber tax warrant for just under \$18,000 of tax. One of  
26 the cuts in the warrant is the clear cut on Willow Brook Road (West property). Halleran has  
27 walked the site with a ranger from the division of forest and lands and the timber tax appraiser  
28 from the NH DRA. Both feel that the report of wood cut that has been filed with the town is  
29 reasonable based on stump size, count and species type.  
30

31 Acting on a recommendation from the Board of Library Trustees, Nancy Liston was appointed to  
32 take over for Kim Moss who resigned early in the month.  
33

34 **Service Memorial:** The board will lay a wreath at the town's service memorial at 2:30pm today.  
35 This annual event, which coincides with the May senior luncheon, has become a favorite event of  
36 the Selectboard.  
37

38 The meeting adjourned at 8:05am.  
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40 Submitted,  
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42 Stephen Halleran  
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45 Judy A. Belyea

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48 Thomas P. Williams

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50 Robert W. Taylor  
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

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

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

10  
11 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts updated the Selectboard on the department's efforts to solve  
12 three burglaries in town. These types of crimes have occurred throughout the Upper Valley in the  
13 last few weeks. Law enforcement is confident that the thieves will soon be caught.

14  
15 Chief Roberts introduced Glen St. Amant to the Selectboard. Paul would like to hire him for the  
16 department position that is being vacated by Lawrence Dore, who is retiring. The Selectboard  
17 spent about an hour talking with Glen and learning about him. Glen is currently a patrol officer  
18 for the City of Claremont.

19  
20 **Highway:** Halleran reported that Road Agent Collins continues to concentrate on ditching work  
21 and tree trimming. This past week Main Street and Bonner Road have received the most  
22 attention. Richard is exploring options for replacing the Road Agent truck which is a 1986 and  
23 has more than 216,000 miles.

24  
25 **Andy Schmidt:** Representative Schmidt met with the Selectboard to discuss the challenges  
26 facing local and state government. The Selectboard stressed the need for the state to stop reducing  
27 local aid and/or passing expenses down to the small towns. Democrat Schmidt agreed, but noted  
28 that he feels that things will get tougher before they get better. Employee benefits and energy  
29 costs are so high its making sustained economic growth a real challenge.

30  
31 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed and selected a flag pole design for the Service  
32 Memorial. The board reviewed and approved the recommendations on tax abatements  
33 formulated by appraiser George Hildum. Three applications were granted and two were denied.  
34 The board completed its night work with a discussion about class VI roads and gates. The board  
35 is developing a score sheet to use when assessing any requests for unlocked gates on these public  
36 ways.

37 The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

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39 Submitted,

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41 Stephen Halleran  
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44 Judy A. Belyea

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47 Thomas P. Williams

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49  
50 Robert W. Taylor  
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**  
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5 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea  
6 Thomas Williams  
7 Robert Taylor  
8

9 The meeting opened at 11:00am.

10  
11 The Selectboard met early on this date in conjunction with a retirement luncheon for Deputy  
12 Chief Larry Dore who is leaving the department after more than 23 years of full time service and  
13 another 14 or so of part-time service. The Board thanked Larry for his long dedicated service to  
14 the Town of Plainfield.

15  
16 **Highway Department:** The Selectboard reviewed a proposal by the Meriden Water District to  
17 cross School Street with a replacement water line that will run along the edge of the adjacent  
18 town owned land. This will replace an old section of plastic water line that is failing. The  
19 Selectboard approved the road crossing subject to the district installing, at the time of the cut, a  
20 second sleeve that will be available should the town owned land every need water service. This  
21 will prevent the need for cutting pavement a second time.  
22

23 The Selectboard authorized Rich Collins to replace the existing Road Agent pick up truck with a  
24 used vehicle paid for from the 2012 operating budget. The truck to be replaced is a 1994 with  
25 216,000 miles. As in the past, Selectboard feels that this periodic purchase of a older vehicle for  
26 the Road Agent truck saves the town's from the much higher expense of purchasing a new  
27 vehicle. The Selectboard is comfortable with this approach if the purchase costs less than  
28 \$10,000. In this case the board authorized the expenditure of no more than \$8,500 which  
29 represents about 1.1% of the department's operating budget.  
30

31 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed and approved final abatement recommendations from  
32 Town Assessor George Hildum. In this batch three abatements were approved and four were  
33 denied.  
34

35 The Selectboard approved the location of the service memorial flag pole. Highway should have  
36 the unit installed by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Townline Equipment was thanked for its donation to  
37 the project.  
38

39 Halleran reported that the Highway Department will pick up ten folding picnic tables from  
40 Townline Equipment that will be stored at the Plainfield Fire Station. Townline is donating these  
41 tables to the town which will be used for the newly established Spirit Day. In the past the tables  
42 were borrowed from Townline on an as needed basis. Again, the Selectboard thanked Townline  
43 for its continued community support.  
44

45 **Police:** Paul reported that a suspect from Massachusetts who seemed to be targeting homes with  
46 close proximity to Interstate 89, has been arrested by the Lebanon Police Department.  
47

48 The Selectboard recessed their meeting to enjoy a farewell lunch with retiring Deputy Chief Larry  
49 Dore. The meeting will resume at 5:30pm with a site walk on Goodwin Road concerning the  
50 State of New Hampshire's plans to log the Annie Duncan State Forest.  
51

1 **5:30pm Annie Duncan State Forest:** Robert Hardy and Daniel DeHart met with Robert Taylor-  
2 Selectboard, Stephen Halleran-TA, Lou Caron-Town Engineer, Myra Ferguson CC, Matrick  
3 Magari-land abutter, Anne Donaghy land abutter, Jim Gray KUA, Erhardt Frost-KUA Forester to  
4 discuss the state's request to upgrade some 500' of Goodwin Road to allow for access and timber  
5 harvest on the Annie Duncan State Forest. The project involves completing the last section of the  
6 Goodwin Road upgrade that was approved last year for KUA and an additional 500' to reach the  
7 state land. Accessing the property from Red Hill Road has been considered by the state,  
8 however, the newly improved Goodwin Road allows for access with less environmental impact  
9 than the Red Hill Road which is much wetter ground. The state plans to do a bare ground  
10 operation as soil disturbance is necessary to gain the tree species regeneration that they are  
11 managing the property for, many pine and oak.  
12

13 The group walked the road and discussed the details of the project. Engineer Lou Caron will  
14 report his recommendations to the Selectboard. Ann Donaghy asked that the Selectboard  
15 consider not allowing this work on the road noting that the Croydon Turnpike neighborhood has  
16 had enough truck traffic and logging activity from last year's KUA project which has now been  
17 suspended. Robert Hardy noted that the state would be willing to impose time of day conditions  
18 on the work. Halleran voiced support for having the road work done by a local contractor.  
19

20 The site walk ended at 6:45pm. The board will meet next on June 27<sup>th</sup>, this meeting replacing the  
21 July 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
22

23 Submitted,

24  
25 Stephen Halleran  
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28 Judy A. Belyea  
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30 Thomas P. Williams  
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33 Robert W. Taylor  
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **Wednesday June 27<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**  
4

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

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

10  
11 **Town Office:** Steve Halleran reported that the flag pole for the Service Memorial has been  
12 installed. The pole is equipped with a solar light to keep the flag illuminated at night.  
13

14 Dump truck bids are due in on Monday, once the bids have been opened Halleran will notify the  
15 Selectboard of the outcome so that a final decision on the disposition of the truck can be made.  
16

17 Tax bills are due next week, payments have been coming in at about the same rate as previous  
18 years.  
19

20 **Police:** Paul explained that he is away during the day this week, attending a fire arms instructor  
21 course in Concord. Both new officers are working out very well. Paul hopes that the department  
22 can now settle into a more defined work schedule for the officers.  
23

24 **Duncan State Forest/Goodwin Road:** The Selectboard met with Kenneth Desmarais and Robert  
25 Hardy to continue the discussions about using Goodwin Road (class VI) as an access point to the  
26 Annie Duncan State Forest for a timber sale. Several Croydon Turnpike Road residents were in  
27 attendance to learn more about the state's plans for the land. Mr. Desmarais provided information  
28 about how the state manages its land and how decisions are made concerning timber harvest.  
29 This project like all state projects will be open to public comment and will not move forward until  
30 all possible efforts have been made to address reasonable concerns. Most who spoke cited  
31 concerns for increased traffic on Croydon Turnpike while the operation is being conducted,  
32 noting that the road has a significant grade from bottom to top. Several questioned whether  
33 environmentally and/or economically a timber sale on this remote land was a sound decision.  
34 The Selectboard noted that while they are not involved in the decision as to whether or not a  
35 landowner sells their timber, it is very likely that the board will, as it has in the past, grant  
36 permission for the class VI road to be used, subject to conditions to insure safety. As was done  
37 with Kimball Union on their project last year, town engineer Lou Caron is reviewing the proposal  
38 and will comment on the drainage plan for the improved road. The Selectboard did not take any  
39 action on the Goodwin Road request, but will likely vote on it at the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
40

41 **Hartland Vermont Shooting Range:** Residents Ted Moynihan and Richard Colburn met the  
42 Selectboard to ask whether the town be willing to request that the State of Vermont Fish and  
43 Game hold a hearing in Plainfield to discuss the planned improvements to the state owned  
44 shooting range in Hartland. Its not clear if the planned improvements will help with noise  
45 abatement, but Ted and Richard felt it was important that Vermont officials at least be aware that  
46 this range has impacts on Plainfield residents. The Selectboard agreed to ask for a hearing or

1 meeting and agreed to make the Plainfield Town Hall available.

2

3 The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

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5

6 Submitted,

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8 Stephen Halleran

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Judy A. Belyea

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Thomas P. Williams

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Robert W. Taylor

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **Wednesday July 18th 2012**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**  
4

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

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

10  
11 **Highway:** Halleran reported that Pike Industries has now installed the overlay on Main Street  
12 and Bonner Road. Shoulder work is ongoing. Selectman Taylor suggested that the town install  
13 wide, hardpak shoulders on Bonner Road to give pedestrians additional room. He noted that in  
14 the mornings when school is in session, the road is very busy. Halleran will have Road Agent  
15 Collins work up an estimate for the work.  
16

17 **Police:** Chief Roberts updated the board on several ongoing investigations. Several key cases  
18 will be coming up for trial in the next month. Paul noted that his new officers continue to be very  
19 well received by the community. He feels very good about his department and its long-term  
20 outlook for stability.  
21

22 **Hartland Shooting Range:** The Vermont Fish and Game has agreed to come to Plainfield to  
23 discuss with neighbors, the planned improvements to the state owned fish and game shooting  
24 range in Hartland. The Selectmen held meeting will be Monday July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Plainfield Town  
25 Hall.  
26

27 **Goodwin Road Duncan State Forest:** The Selectboard reviewed the file on the state of New  
28 Hampshire's request to make improvements to Goodwin Road beyond those done by Kimball  
29 Union last summer. The state is looking to improve access to the Annie Duncan State Forest and  
30 to perform a timber harvest. To date, the Selectmen have visited the site, had the work plan  
31 reviewed by town engineer, and taken public comments. The town has a long history of allowing  
32 landowners to work on class VI roads that provide access to their property. The board voted to  
33 approve the state's request with conditions. See attached.  
34

35 **ComCast Cable:** Halleran informed the board that the first meeting for the franchise renewal  
36 process will be on August 1<sup>st</sup>.  
37

38 **2012 Budget:** The Selectboard spent the rest of the meeting reviewing the 2012 budget and  
39 checking budget to actual expenses on the town's planned highway projects.  
40

41 The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

42 Submitted,  
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44 Stephen Halleran  
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Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor



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

2  
3 **Wednesday July 30th 2012**  
4 **Plainfield Town Hall**

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

10 The meeting opened at 7:00pm.

11  
12 **Hartland Vermont Shooting Range:** This informational session was being held by the  
13 Selectboard to provide a forum for Plainfield residents to discuss directly with State of Vermont  
14 there experiences living near the state owned shooting range located in Hartland Vermont.  
15 Vermont Fish and Wildlife held a similar meeting in Hartland Vermont, but has no authority to  
16 hold a meeting outside of Vermont. Tom Decker Chief of Operations for the Vermont Fish and  
17 Wildlife service and his team, made a brief presentation to the group of about thirty present  
18 including residents of Plainfield, Cornish and the Hartland Vermont Gun Club. The range has  
19 been state owned since the late 1960's, a significant upgrade is planned for the range this  
20 summer. The range is located directly across from River Road in Plainfield near the intersection  
21 with Ferry Hill Road. The Hartland Vt gun club currently takes care of the range for the state and  
22 a more formal arrangement is being worked out to continue that relationship into the future. The  
23 planned upgrade will include safety improvements, rules for its use, hours of operations and  
24 fencing. The orientation of the range will not change. Shooting is done perpendicular to the  
25 Connecticut River. Rules of operation will likely prohibit large caliber firearms, (over 50 caliber)  
26 and will set ours of operation from something like 8:00am to 7:30pm seven days per week.  
27 Operational hours have not been set and the state is still accepting suggestions on what those  
28 should be. Currently, there are no posted hours. It was noted that several other privately owned  
29 gravel pits in the area also have shooting taking place in them.  
30

31 The rest of the meeting was a general discussion between River Road and Freeman Road  
32 residents and the Vermont Fish and Game about what living near the shooting range is like. The  
33 residents were encouraged about the changes that are planned for the range, generally feeling that  
34 these should help with some of their concerns. Particularly the hours of operation for the range  
35 and restricted access outside of those hours were seen as improvements. The residents asked that  
36 consideration be given to adding additional noise abatement measures to the range. Things like  
37 vegetative plantings and additional earth embankments. Tom Decker provided the group with his  
38 e-mail and encouraged residents to forward suggestions and comments to him directly.  
39

40 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

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42  
43 Submitted,

44  
45 Stephen Halleran  
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47 Judy A. Belyea

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49  
50 Thomas P. Williams  
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **Wednesday August 1<sup>st</sup> 2012**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**  
4

5 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea  
6 Thomas Williams  
7

8 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.  
9

10 **Police:** Chief Roberts discussed with the Selectboard the status of his budget for 2012. It's been a  
11 strange year with the turn over in the department but both he and Halleran believe the budget is  
12 adequate to complete the year. The Selectboard cautioned Paul, the 2013 must look very similar  
13 to the 2012 budget. All departments are going to be asked to keep increases to no more than  
14 inflation.  
15

16 **Highway:** Halleran reported that Road Agent Collins is looking into having the annual line  
17 striping done now since paving for the year is completed. The crew is starting work on repairing  
18 the base of the Houser Lane bridge abutment that was damaged by Irene last August.  
19

20 Resident and retired state transportation engineer, Jeff Albright stopped into the meeting to offer  
21 his assistance in coming up with a solution for dealing with a steep embankment on Camp Road  
22 that has caused problems in the past. The Selectmen thanked Jeff and will have Road Agent  
23 Collins visit him early next week.  
24

25 **Comcast Cable:** The Selectboard met with Tuck Rainwater of Comcast to discuss the process for  
26 renewing the town's franchise agreement. The current agreement was for eight years and expires  
27 in 2012. Riverview Farm owners Paul and Nancy Franklin attended the meeting to advocate for  
28 expanding the cable plant in Plainfield. They noted that River Road has at least six businesses  
29 and twenty homes and does not have any access to cable broadband. The Selectboard indicated  
30 that insuring all homes in town have broad band internet access available is a priority, but one  
31 that has been frustrating to make much progress on. Mr. Rainwater indicated that he is happy to  
32 investigate areas in town to expand cable. If the town can identify key areas he will look into  
33 expansion possibilities. The group reviewed coverage maps noting places like Ladieau Hill,  
34 Columbus Jordan, True Road, River Road, Freeman Road that do not have access.  
35

36 As a first step in the formal franchise renewal process the town will hold a public hearing in late  
37 September.  
38

39 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.  
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41 Submitted,  
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43 Stephen Halleran  
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Judy A. Belyea  
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Thomas P. Williams  
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**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday August 15<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

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Selectmen present:      Judy Belyea  
   Thomas Williams  
   Robert Taylor

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The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

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The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and orders for the week.

**Police Department:** Chief Roberts is soliciting a quote from WaveCom for an improved communication system that might assist the police and fire departments with problems they have been having with pagers not working properly.

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Based on a large amount of police time recently spent working on a Cornish case, Town Administrator Halleran feels that it might be appropriate for the Selectmen to discuss with the Cornish Selectboard limits to the service that Plainfield is able to provide without some financial support from Cornish. No one questions the value or need for emergency mutual aid. In these cases both agencies will always help each other. The Selectboard agreed.

**Kimball Union Academy:** A team from KUA lead by CFO Jim Gray met with the Selectboard to update the town on plans for the school's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration. Police Chief Paul Roberts was in attendance for this meeting as well. The celebration will take place over three days, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2013 thru June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013 and will likely include about a 1,000 guests coming to the campus. A typical KUA graduation brings about 1,500 guests to campus. The school is working on a variety of logistical issues, including parking, alcohol availability during events, and having extra security on the campus. Selectman Taylor noted that this discussion fits nicely with the overall discussion the town has been having concerning when large institutional events which should be required to have a police officer on site. Jim Gray noted that the school expects to need to hire extra officers for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The Selectmen thanked KUA for updating the board on the plans. KUA was encouraged to contact some of the Plainfield 250<sup>th</sup> celebration committee members that helped put together that very successful event.

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**Highway Department:** The Selectboard approved the purchase of a new 600 gallons/minute water pump for the Highway Department use. The department's two small pumps are old and often are not powerful enough to do the work that is necessary. Most recently these pumps have been used for work around bridge abutment repairs.

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Morrill Construction is starting to mobilize for the Brook Road culverts that were delayed last year by Irene. Morrill feels that they can do both sites simultaneously and that the road can remain open during the construction. Each site will be necked down to a single lane, but the road should remain open daily excepting small delays during critical work times.

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**Farm Road Gate Hearing:** The Selectboard opened the public hearing on a request by Paul and Nancy Franklin to install a gate on Farm Road. This is the first application for a gate on a class VI road since 1991 when a request was approved for Gordon and Fern Wilder. That gate was not ever constructed. Paul noted that the gate will not be locked and is only meant to deter those who plan on doing damage to the agricultural and forestry land beyond the gate. Following the town's draft gate policy Paul noted that the turnaround for the gate will be at the Heath's residence and

1 that as planned, the gate will have good to excellent visibility. The gate will be able to be locked  
2 in the open position and will be constructed to meet NH DRED gate standards. Paul further noted  
3 that Farm Road is now a dead end class VI road that does not continue past the foundations for  
4 the old poor farm. Doris and Maurice Mercier noted that they have no objection to the gate, but  
5 were concerned that additional through traffic down to their place might result. Paul and Nancy  
6 Franklin assured them there are no plans to open or improve any roads between the Farm Road  
7 and the Mercier land to the west. There being no further comments the public hearing was  
8 closed. The Selectboard will decide on the request within the next month.

9  
10 **Other business:** The Selectboard reviewed and signed the reports necessary for the setting of the  
11 2012 tax rate. The new combined rate is expected to be in the area of \$24.55 depending on how  
12 the school was able to complete its fiscal year and the availability of state aid.

13  
14 The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

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17 Submitted,

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20 Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

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24 Thomas P. Williams

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27 Robert W. Taylor  
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**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

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Selectmen present:     Judy Belyea  
                              Thomas Williams  
                              Robert Taylor

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The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

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**Morrill Construction/Brook Road:** The meeting opened at the Loomis Road culvert replacement site for a meeting with interested landowners and abutters. Jason Morrill and Barry Ward of Morrill Construction were in attendance. The plans for the culvert replacement were discussed including the need to build two temporary by- passes around the construction to allow Brook Road to remain open. Neighbors present asked that the town be aggressive with signage and traffic warning devices, noting that at times of the day Brook Road is very busy. Halleran noted that any work done outside the town's right of way would be returned to its original condition. Jill Young, whose property is to be used for one of the detours asked if she could have some written assurance that she would not incur any liability from the temporary road. The Selectboard directed Halleran will work with her to develop the necessary temporary road easement document.

The group moved down to the Jenny Road site having a similar discussion. The Selectmen then returned to the Meriden Town Hall.

**Library Trustees:** The Selectmen met, at their request with town's library trustees, Hillary Sundell, Kara Toms, Mark Pensgen and Nancy Liston. Trustee Anita Brown was unable to attend the session. Resident Dennis Girouard also set in on the meeting, recording the discussion. The Trustees explained that they are meeting with Terry Knowles of the Secretary of State's Office next week to go over the forensic accounting they have done. Once this work has been reviewed by Ms. Knowles, the Trustees should be in a position to discuss with the Selectmen how to return or repurpose the unexpended public funds that have been held in the Meriden investments.

The trustees asked the Selectboard for assistance in establishing a committee to study the Meriden Library for ADA compliance issues. The group read a letter from resident Judy Hallam that encouraged the Trustees to move forward with making the library building compliant. Judy offered her assistance to this process as well. The Selectmen agreed to establish a committee once the Trustees have agreed on the wording for the groups charge.

**State Primary Election:** Moderator Paul Franklin met with the Selectmen to discuss Tuesdays election. Paul and Town Clerk Michelle Marsh have recently attended training for this election. The state's new voter ID law is slowly being implemented. Paul encouraged the Selectmen to spend some time at the polling places on voting days. As Moderator he plans to do all that he can to insure that no one feels intimidated by the new state law.

1 **Class VI Road Gate Ordinance:** The Selectmen approved ordinance 2012-01 which spells out  
2 the procedure to be followed when a request to install a gate on a class VI road is received. A  
3 motion followed to approve the request by Paul and Nancy Franklin to install a gate on the Town  
4 Farm Road a class VI highway in Plainfield. See the August 15<sup>th</sup> for background on the  
5 application.

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8 The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

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11 Submitted,

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14 Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

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18 Thomas P. Williams

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21 Robert W. Taylor

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**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday September 19<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea  
Thomas Williams  
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

**Highway Department:** Halleran reported that Morrill Construction has encountered a significant amount of ledge at the Cole Brook sight. Test borings had revealed some ledge, however the amount of ledge that has been discovered now that the old culvert is out is much larger and will require blasting and more money to remove. The cost is expected to be \$18,000, Halleran is investigating the possibility of getting some or all the money from the state Hazard Mitigation Program that has funded much of the Brook Road project.. In any case, the Selectboard approved the change order, the work on the two culverts will continue.

Halleran reported that the town's Employee Safety Committee met at the Highway Garage Tuesday evening. The group was very favorably impressed with how clean and organized the Highway facility is under the leadership of Road Agent Collins.

**Police Department:** Chief Roberts reported that both Plainfield Sales and Ann's Country Store were burglarized on Saturday evening. The thefts occurred late at night and within a few minutes of each other. The department is following up on several leads and hopes to make an arrest shortly.

Paul asked the Selectmen to consider funding the set up of a small trailer with emergency signs, traffic cones and such to be used during storm events like Tuesday night that results in multiple downed trees all over town.

**Energy Committee:** Chairman Mogelnicki updated the Selectmen on the groups efforts to make energy improvements at the town offices. The effort has been divided into two phases. The first low cost things like new set back thermostats, weather striping, and air sealing. The second phase will be more costly and might include things like window shades, a new front door and perhaps a different furnace. The group discussed the possibility of making these improvements a special warrant article at the 2013 town meeting. If, like the school the payback period on the work is very short it seems likely that the work would be approved. The Selectmen thanked the energy committee for its work.

**Cable Franchise Hearing:** The Selectmen held the required public hearing as part of the Comcast franchise renewal. Melissa Pierce was the Comcast representative filling in for Tuck Rainwater who was called away.

At the hearing the Board took testimony from those who struggle with no reliable broad band service. Complaints about Comcast not living up to verbal agreements to extend cable lines were brought up as well as concerns about the quality of the company's customer service. The need for reliable broad band access for all homes in town was a reoccurring theme.

1 The possibility of assessing a franchise fee to fund cable line expansion was discussed as well as  
2 enhancing the service available at the libraries to provide a no cost option for those that need  
3 access to the internet. Currently, the system slows way down when multiple users are accessing  
4 the modem at either library.

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6 **Other business:** The Selectmen acknowledged the work and assistance that Judy Hallam has  
7 brought to the Conservation Commission. Judy recently resigned from the Commission, but  
8 continues to be willing to serve the community in any way that she is able.

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11 The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

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13 Submitted,

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16 Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

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20 Thomas P. Williams

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23 Robert W. Taylor



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**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday October 3rd 2012**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

5 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea  
6 Thomas Williams  
7 Robert Taylor  
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10 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.  
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12 **Public Comment:** Library Trustee Anita Brown met with the Selectboard to drop off a copy of  
13 the proposed charge for the ADA Compliance Committee for the Meriden Library that the  
14 trustees are requesting that the Selectboard appoint. See attached copy. The Selectboard will  
15 review the document and attempt to appoint the committee within the next month.  
16

17 Jane Stephenson, Chairman of the Planning Board met with the Selectboard to discuss some of  
18 the findings from the 2010 Census. Of particular concern to Jane is the increase from 2.6% to  
19 5.5% of Plainfield residents living below the poverty level. Jane noted that according to the  
20 Census data 13% of the children at the Plainfield School live below the poverty level. Jane is  
21 asking that the Selectboard do all that it can to reach out to needy families in town and provide  
22 enhanced information about the local, state and federal social safety net that is available. All  
23 agreed that no children in our town should be hungry or be living without their basic needs being  
24 met .  
25

26 **Building Inspector David Lersch:** David met with the Selectboard to review permitting  
27 procedures. David would like to see the town require more advanced design layouts and to  
28 provide better documentation on compliance with the New Hampshire energy code. While  
29 wanting to keep the permitting process low cost and user friendly, the Selectboard agreed that the  
30 NH Energy Code needs to be followed and that the building inspector needs to have sufficient  
31 information to review a proposed structure for general code compliance. The group decided that  
32 in the case of heated space projects, enhanced efforts would be made to have applicants meet with  
33 David prior to submitting permit applications to the town for approval.  
34

35 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts explained the department's current efforts to catch those  
36 responsible for stealing two used excavators from Townline Equipment. In addition to the  
37 investigative efforts, Paul is going to increase, yet again, night time patrols around town. Paul  
38 noted that a State Trooper had checked the Townline lot on the night the theft occurred and  
39 found nothing out of the ordinary.  
40

41 **Highway Department:** Morrill Construction should have traffic on the first of the two large  
42 pipes by early next week. The second culvert has already been delivered and will be set in  
43 about two weeks.  
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45 Fall road grading is progressing. Rich is running a split crew right now with some involved  
46 with grading and ditching, the others performing tree trimming.  
47

48 **Town Office:** The Selectboard approved an information letter to be sent out to all Plainfield  
49 introducing the start of the 2013 property reassessment project that will begin the last week of  
50 October. The project will officially be started on October 17<sup>th</sup> when the Selectboard meets

1 with Avitar, Town Assessor George Hildum and Sam Greene from the State's Department of  
2 Revenue Administration.

3

4 The 2012 Tax rate should be established in about two weeks and is expected to be about \$24.60  
5 depending on how final state numbers come in for revenue to the town and school.

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7 **Solid Waste:** The Selectboard and members of the town's Solid Waste group will be touring the Casella  
8 Zero Sort facility in Rutland Vermont that receives all the town's recyclables on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

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11 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

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13 Submitted,

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16 Stephen Halleran

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Judy A. Belyea

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Thomas P. Williams

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Robert W. Taylor

1                                      **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2                                      **Wednesday October 15th 2012**  
3                                      **Meriden Town Hall**

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5 Selectmen present:       Judy Belyea  
6   Thomas Williams  
7   Robert Taylor  
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9  
10 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

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12 **Police:** Chief Roberts updated the full board on the recovery of the two excavators stolen from  
13 Townline Equipment. The Chief was very pleased that his department could play a positive role  
14 in finding the machines. Resident Roger Sharkey has sent a letter to the Selectboard praising the  
15 work of the Police Department on this case.

16  
17 Paul is continuing to work with Fire Chief Frank Currier and Hanover Dispatch Chief Doug  
18 Hackett on possible repeater opens for improving radio coverage in town for EMS. Paul noted  
19 that the volume of calls that resulted from the regional earth tremor on Tuesday night jammed up  
20 both landlines and cell phones, revealing a weakness in the Upper Valley Communication  
21 network during possible emergencies.

22  
23 **Highway Garage:** Traffic is now on the first of the two new bridges on Willow Brook Road. The  
24 second should be opened next week. The town has received the final payment from the state for  
25 the grant award and should have sufficient funds in hand to complete the project.

26  
27 Fall road grading and ditching continues daily along with road side trimming. The Highway  
28 Department was praised for its work in the Raynesford Cemetery. The work involved realignment  
29 of some granite posts and a lot of tree limb and brush removal along the perimeter of the  
30 cemetery.

31  
32 **Sullivan County Commissioner Jeff Barrette:** Mr. Barrette met with the Selectmen to update  
33 them on the work of the County Commissioners. Sullivan County is now solvent, the deficit paid  
34 off and the Commissioners are very pleased with the operational efficiencies that have bee  
35 achieved in all county departments but particularly the nursing home. The 2012 county tax  
36 apportionment did not increase for this year.

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38 **2013 Revaluation:** Loran Martin-President of Avitar, Mark Stetson Avitar job supervisor, Sam  
39 Greene- NH DRA Review Appraiser met with the Selectboard and Town Assessor George  
40 Hildum for the formal “kick off” of the 2013 revaluation project. This revaluation work will  
41 include a full measure and list of all properties and that data collection work is scheduled to begin  
42 the week of October 29<sup>th</sup>. The group discussed process and a timeline for the project. Values will  
43 be established for April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. Sam Greene will be monitoring the project for the state. Town  
44 Assessor George Hildum will monitor the project for the town. The Selectboard approved the  
45 process as outlined and recommended by Assessor Hildum. This effectively green lights the  
46 project for start up,

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48 **Meriden Library ADA Study Committee:** The Selectboard determined that the “community  
49 residents” portion of the committee would consist of five members. The Trustees will be allowed  
50 to decide if they wish to appoint two of their members to sit on the committee. In determine a  
51 membership pool, the Selectboard reviewed the work of the Library Needs Assessment

1 Committee that operated back in 2001. After a full discussion, the board determined that Rod  
2 Wendt, Brad Atwater, Judy Hallam, Shirley Hudson and Amy Lappin would be asked to serve.  
3 Road Wendt would be asked to also serve as Chair.

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5 **Other business:** The first meeting of the KUA Study Committee is November 13<sup>th</sup>. The Select  
6 board's first meeting with the Finance Committee will be November 28<sup>th</sup>.

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9 The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

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12 Submitted,

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15 Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

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19 Thomas P. Williams

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22 Robert W. Taylor

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**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday November 7th 2012**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

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Selectmen present:     Judy Belyea  
                                  Thomas Williams  
                                  Robert Taylor

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The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

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**Police:** Chief Roberts reported that the stolen excavators that were recovered in New York state have now been returned to Townline Equipment. Paul reviewed the most significant police calls over the last two weeks. He is working on his 2013 budget and should have draft ready in the next couple of weeks.

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**Highway Department:** The Selectboard congratulated Road Agent Richard Collins on his first full year as Road Agent. The board has heard a lot of positive feedback from residents on the work that Richard has done. Richard was thanked for all his hard work.

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The two culvert to small bridge conversions on Brook Road are now done, Morrill Construction is moving out this week.

The new town dump truck should be in service in about two weeks. The cab and chassis has been at Osgood Welding since July.

The highway crew is all set should tonight's weather bring the first snow storm of the season.

**Election:** The Selectmen noted the extraordinary effort that Town Clerk Michelle Marsh put into the 2012 election. All of the ballot clerks, counters and election workers along with Moderator Paul Franklin deserve credit for making this a successful day.

**Library ADA Study Committee:** Halleran reported that Shirley Hudson has declined to serve on the committee. The Selectmen appointed Robert Kline of Old Country Road to be the 5<sup>th</sup> and final citizen member of this committee. The full committee will be Rod Wendt- Chair, Amy Lappin, Judy Hallam, Bradford Atwater, and Robert Kline. Trustee Nancy Liston will join the group as a nonvoting member.

**Cable Franchise Renewal:** The Selectmen spent time reviewing a draft contract from Comcast. The board made edits and clarified their goals and objectives for the rest of the franchise negotiations. Expansion of cable lines in town and improved bandwidth for the two libraries are the main focus.

1 **Other business:** The Selectboard will meet next on November 28<sup>th</sup>, rather than on the 21<sup>st</sup> the  
2 night before Thanksgiving.

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4 The November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

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6 Submitted,

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9 Stephen Halleran

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Judy A. Belyea

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Thomas P. Williams

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Robert W. Taylor

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
Wednesday November 28th 2012  
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea  
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

The Selectmen reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week. Included in the batch was a state grant awarded to Plainfield to cover the cost of updating the town's Local Hazard Mitigation plan. Having an updated plan is a prerequisite for receiving Federal Funds. The grant agreement was signed and notarized and will be forwarded to Concord.

The Selectboard also reviewed and approved six current use penalties as prepared by Town Assessor George Hildum. The Penalties totaled \$16,930. Half of this money will go to the Conservation Commission in 2013, the other half goes to the town to offset property taxes.

**Police Department:** Chief Roberts reviewed the major calls to the Police Department for the last three weeks. Next, Chief Roberts informed the Selectboard that officer Glen St. Amant has resigned his position effective the end of December. The Selectboard accepted, with deep regret, the resignation. Glen is going to work for the Sullivan County Sheriffs Department.

Chief Roberts held a conceptual discussion with the Selectboard about the department's 2013 budget. Changes in the NH Retirement System are making a zero based budget impossible without changing either coverage hours or staffing. The Selectboard plans to workshop the police department budget at their December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Finance Committee:** The Selectboard met with the Finance Committee for a update session on the status of the 2012 budget and to discuss broad concepts for the 2013 budget. The operating budget with 9% of the year to go, has 9% of the budget available. The only significant overage that has occurred, is the ledge removal on the Willow Brook Road culvert project. The Selectboard is hoping to receive state reimbursement for that overage. If not, the town's operating budget will absorb the overage.

The new property revaluation is moving forward. New values will be available online sometime next spring. The Selectboard will be accepting comments over the next year about making the various assessments permanently available online.

For 2013, the NH Retirement System contributions will add some \$15,000 to the existing budget. The town has no plans to add any additional positions or staff or make any significant new purchases in 2013. The Selectboard does plan to fully fund existing reserve funds and to maintain existing town services as currently configured.

1 The November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

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3 Submitted,

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6 Stephen Halleran

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Judy A. Belyea

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Robert W. Taylor

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