**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday January 4th 2017**
**Plainfield Library**

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm. This being the first meeting of the new quarter it was held at the Plainfield Library.

**Fire Department Discussions:** Members of both the Plainfield and Meriden Fire Departments attended the meeting to continue discussions about the merger of the two departments into a single municipal department. The group asked that the town meeting vote on this proposal be delayed for at least one year. The statute requires the new department to begin operations one year after the date of the vote. Neither department feels they are far enough along in the process to be ready twelve months from March to make the change. The Selectboard continued to pledge their full support to both fire departments with any desired organizational change. Selectman Taylor volunteered to be part of the transition study committee. The Selectboard thanked both departments for their service.

Ken Goodrow asked that the minutes reflect the fire department's deep appreciation to all Plainfield residents who contributed to the ladder truck purchase. More than $18,000 has come in to defray the cost of the replacement truck.

**Fire Chief Report:** Chief Currier gave a brief overview of the departments busy last two weeks. The structure fire that destroyed the KUA Penniman Cottage on Route 120 was likely caused by improper disposal of wood ashes. The removal of batteries from smoke detectors in the residence likely slowed the department's response. Thankfully all the residents made it out of the structure safely.

Both departments assisted the City of Lebanon with the Baptist Church Fire on Route 120 near the Post Office.

**Public Comments:** Bonnie Allard asked that the record show her deep disappointment for the decisions that resulted in the Plainfield Library Trustees eliminating the position of special collections librarian, held by longtime Library Director Nancy Norwalk. Nancy vacated the director position in late June and moved to the now eliminated position.

Clint Swift asked that the Selectmen reconsider their position on meeting in Plainfield Village once per quarter. He feels splitting the meetings evenly between the two villages would be a better approach.

**Police Department:** Chief Roberts informed the Selectboard that he has sent the previously unmarked police cruiser down to MHQ for markings. It will be back later this week and will look very much the same as the marked car. Taking delivery of the unmarked one, put the vehicle into service quickly, but now that the department is back to full staff and has three vehicles having the marking work done makes good sense. Paul took the opportunity to discuss with the Selectboard the idea of replacing the one remaining Crown Victoria cruiser with either a truck or SUV. The Crown Victoria has over $90,000 miles and is unlikely to make three more years. Having three identical cruisers all replaced every five years would be, in the Chief's view, the most beneficial to the Police Department. The finance committee members present (Sutherland, Atwater, and Grobe) agreed to take this up at their next meeting.

**Budget and Warrant:** The Selectmen spent the rest of the meeting on their budget and warrant for town meeting. As a result of these discussions the board decided not to pursue any changes to the solar exemption adopted at the 2003 Town Meeting. This being the case the exempted value will remain capped at $50,000. Value over $50,000 will be taxed. The $50,000 cap easily exempts all residential systems in town and the vast majority of most business systems.

As requested the municipal fire department article was struck from the draft warrant.

**Other Business:** The Selectboard voted to accept the year end financial reservations made by Town Administrator Halleran, see below:

| Account: | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1-4210-711 | Police Cruiser | $7,000 |
| 1-4312-741 | Highway equipment repairs in progress | $8,000 |
| 1-4550-900 | Plainfield Library addition, door replacement | $4,000 |
| 1-4194-520 | Town Hall Window Restoration, in progress | $7,000 |

In total $26,000 from unreserved fund balance will be earmarked for these in progress projects.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday January 18th 2017**
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm.

**Public Comment:** Clint and Bonnie Swift provided the Selectboard copies of letters that were distributed at the recent public hearing where the Library Trustees were asked to reconsider their December 2nd decision to not have a part-time position at the library that focused on special collections.

**Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed, edited and approved a report for the annual report. Ron Eberhardt was thanked for his efforts at pulling the report together.

Steve Halleran shared a request by the Mt Ascutney Sub Committee for the River's Commission asking that the Selectboard place an article on the warrant encouraging the establishment of a mitigation fund by TransCanada or its assigns, to assist with riverbank erosion down stream of the hydro plants on the Connecticut River. Halleran who has represented the town on this committee in the past does not feel that normal operations at the Wilder dam have resulted in significant erosion along Plainfield's river bank. Major storms like Irene have likely resulted in more damage. Ron Eberhardt agreed to look into the matter and report back at a subsequent meeting.

**Police Report:** Chief Roberts reported on several complex cases involving sexual misconduct that the department is trying to sort out. Paul noted that these cases consume a lot of time and often are difficult to prosecute.

The previously unmarked police cruiser is now marked and back in service.

**Highway Report:** Halleran reported that the replacement grader motor repair is now fully in the works and the grader will be ready for spring work. While disappointed that the grader developed a motor problem, Road Agent Collins remains confident that the investment in the replacement grader will prove to be sound. The grader is intended to be in service for the town for the next 5-10 years.

**Budget Hearing:** The Selectmen held their first budget hearing, see attached. Members of the town's Finance Committee (Sutherland, Morgan, Atwater, Grobe), Clint and Bonnie Swift and Richard Atkinson were in attendance. The proposed budget calls for $42,000 in new taxes a tax rate increase of $.16. The only position changes in the budget involve a full year of the part time facility manager and the consolidation of the library director position. The town's workers compensation claim experience and rising health care costs both contribute significantly to the increase. Halleran noted that as the person responsible for developing the budget, once the Selectboard establishes the goals and objectives, he would be uncomfortable making any significant cuts to the proposal without the Selectboard making specific program changes.

Halleran noted that non tax revenues were strong in 2016 making it likely that the town will be able to show some growth in the unassigned fund balance. The final resolution of the Brown property remains an open issue.

The Selectboard will hold a second budget hearing on February 1st at the Plainfield Library. The budget will remain open to change right up until the vote at town meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday February 1st 2017**
**Plainfield Library**

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Chairman Eberhardt asked for public comment. There being none, he moved forward with the planned business for the evening. In follow up to the January 17th public hearing that was held by the Library Trustees at the request of former Director Nancy Norwalk, the Board of Selectmen has met with Town counsel Barry Schuster. The result of that meeting is the following motion: Moved, that after careful and thoughtful deliberation, the Selectboard has unanimously decided to support the actions of the Library Trustees with regard to the agreement with Nancy Norwalk. It is our belief that the Trustees have expended a great deal of effort to achieve a fair solution, and it is our opinion that the results of the mediation reflect that. The motion was seconded by Belyea and voted in the affirmative 3-0.

**2017 Warrant:** The Selectboard reviewed the draft warrant, approving its layout and order. Halleran noted that after further inquiry he is comfortable as the town's appointed representative to the Mt. Ascutney Subcommittee in requesting that the Selectboard place an article on the warrant sending a message to the Wilder dam ownership to consider the creation of a bank erosion mitigation fund. This being the case, the Selectboard approved the request by the sub committee. Halleran will present the article at Town Meeting. The warrant will be signed on February 15th and will include any petitioned articles received between now and February 7th.

**Highway Report:** Halleran reported for Road Agent Collins. Department activities have, as is typical for this time of the year, centered on treating the roads for snow and ice and repairing and rebuilding equipment in anticipation of next summer's work. To date the Department has utilized about half of its sand stockpile and a little more than half of its road salt allotment.

**Police Report:** Chief Roberts provided an update on his department's activities over the last week. Several fraud cases and one domestic violence case have consumed a lot of their investigative hours.

Responding to inquiries from last meeting by the Finance Committee the Chief indicated that the goals and objectives for his department to provide full time 24hr a day police protection, in his mind justifies their total compensation, including pay and having a take home police vehicle. There are 21 shifts per week for which we can fill 17 with normal work hours (full and part-time) the remaining 4 required extra work the officers.

**Budget hearing:** As has become customary, the Selectboard held a second budget hearing, this one in Plainfield Village. Halleran kicked off the hearing with a discussion about the directed levels of service established by the Board of Selectmen that he and the rest of the town's administrative team are charged with budgeting for. See attached. The proposed budget calls for $42,000 in new taxes a tax rate increase of $.16. The only position changes in the budget involve a full year of the part time facility manager and the

consolidation of the library director position. The town's workers compensation claim experience and rising health care costs both contribute significantly to the increase. The hearing was closed at 7:35pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday February 15th 2017**
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Gary Chilton and Robert Drye of Cornish Rescue met with the Selectboard to introduce Gary as the new president of the organization. Gary encouraged the Selectmen to contact him with any issues and concerns about the squad. Likewise, Gary asked that the squad be kept informed about any possible changes to Plainfield's ambulance contracts or dispatch service.

**Highway Department:** Road Agent Collins took a break from the endless snow plowing to meet with the Selectboard. The grader is now back in service and ready for spring work. The new highway closed drain system was serviced for the first time yesterday. Stearns Septic emptied the tank, taking the effluent to a waste water treatment facility.

Halleran and Collins updated the Selectboard on preliminary plans to repair or replace the Camp Road Bridge. The bridge was red listed by the NHDOT during the last bridge inspection. The two are looking at both replacement as well as rehabilitation options. In all cases, abutment work is going to be necessary, therefore work on a wetland permit for the structure has begun.

**Barrington Power Solar Array Plainfield Elementary School:** The Selectmen began their review of the recently (2/14) received request by Barrington Power to substitute property taxes for a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) as allowed by RSA 72:74. Rather than pay taxes the company is proposing that the town received 5% of the expected revenues or about $1,400 per year. If fully taxed the array might pay as much as $6,000 per year in taxes. Plainfield currently offers a tax exemption on solar up to $50,000 in value. Barrington Power has indicated that if property taxes are a must, the project is not economically viable. In this case the town will also save about $1,500 a year on the PES electric bill. If the school should in the future purchase the array (in five years once the tax credits expire) the revenue from the array would return something like $25,000 per year going forward. If the array does not get built, these funds would of course not come to the school district in the future.

The Selectmen directed Halleran to schedule the required hearing on the PILOT request for their next meeting, March 1st. Halleran will try to get a school board member and folks from Barrington Power to attend as well.

**2017 Warrant and Budget:** The Selectmen signed the 2017 warrant and budget forms for posting.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3 to 0 to unseal their June 3rd 2015 minutes making them part of the public record. Taylor moved the matter, Belyea seconded. Eberhardt yes, Belyea yes, Taylor yes.

Chairman Eberhardt asked that the Board take up the matter of alternating board meetings between Plainfield and Meriden Villages. This was in follow up to a request by Clint Swift.
Selectman Taylor noted that the community has selected a location for the town offices and except as already agreed the board should meet at that location. Reacting to a prior request by Clint Swift the Selectboard has already agreed to meet the first meeting of each quarter in Plainfield Village, in addition one budget hearing is held each year in Plainfield. Withstanding special projects five meetings a year are held in Plainfield now.

Selectwoman Judy Belyea added that Meriden is in the geographic center of Plainfield making it a good location for town government.

Chairman Eberhardt felt the idea had merit and he was in favor of alternating the meetings.
Judy moved to keep the Selectboard meeting schedule and locations unchanged. Taylor seconded and the motion was approved on a vote if 2 to 1, Eberhardt against.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday March 1st 2017**
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm.

**Plainfield Energy Committee:** Co Chair Steve Ladd attended the meeting with several other members of the committee to seek Board of Selectmen support for the Ready 100 initiative. The effort involves committing to trying, as a community, to reach 100% use of renewable energy for electricity by 2030 and renewable for all energy usage by 2050. There are no regulatory teeth in the program, but a lot of educational work will be done to achieve the goal. Hanover will have this item on their town meeting this May. Plainfield's energy committee would like to have an article on the 2018 town warrant for the effort. The Selectboard gave their broad support for the program. Chairman Eberhardt indicated that the board would have to wait until a draft of the warrant article was available before commenting on the specifics.

**Highway Department:** The Selectboard unanimously endorsed hiring retired Hanover Public Works Foreman Thomas Bircher to work for the Highway Department. Road Agent Collins and Town Administrator Halleran feel that Tom's road grading skill will be an asset to the department. Halleran feels that Richard should focus his time on the Road Agent function. Asking him to be the town's Road Agent, Mechanic and Grader operating is too much. Bircher will work three to four days a week, mid April to early November. Road grading will be his primary function.

**Town Office:** The Selectmen received their town meeting preparatory materials. The annual report is now out and has been mailed to residents. The document is also posted on the town's website.

**Barrington Power:** The Selectmen held the required RSA 72:74 public hearing on the request by Barrington Power to use a payment in lieu of taxes for the planned 137 Kw solar array at the school rather than be subject to property taxes. Chairman Eberhardt,in opening the hearing,cautioned the group that this discussion was about the PILOT issue not whether or not the array was compatible with the school or a good use of the hayfield. Dave Russell of Barrington power explained that to keep the project economically viable a PILOT of 5% of revenues from the array is proposed. The payment should equate to about $1,400/year. If the array were taxed a bill of $6,000 or more would result. The most likely scenario for the array is that once the investors had exhausted the Federal tax credits,the school district would purchase the system at a discounted price, receiving essential free electric power ($26,000 year) for the ten years after the array was paid in full.

The Plainfield School Board has not yet voted to accept the project and the project must go through the town's land use process, both ZBA and Planning.

Comments from the public centered on full support for the array. Members of the Energy Committee noted that this project was exactly in line with the Ready 100 program. Others expressed concern that tax dollars should not be fore given and that the project should not be given special treatment. The school is a public asset that was developed for a specific purpose. It was noted that a vote at the school district meeting two years ago approved the concept as long as it did not cost the district any money. There also was broad support for doing all that can be done to minimize the impact that the array might have on the open space around the school.

The Selectmen have sought input from Town Assessor, who noted that PILOTs for renewable energy projects are fairly common. The public hearing was closed and the Selectmen indicated that a decision would be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday March 15th 2017**
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm. Chairman Eberhardt was congratulated on his reelection to the Board. Beginning in April, Robert Taylor will serve as Chairman for the next year.

Chairman Eberhardt opened the meeting by asking for public comment. There being none, he moved on to the first item on the agenda.

**PILOT Request Barrington Power:** Following up from last meeting, Board members voted to accept, as allowed by RSA 72:74, a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for a five year period from Barrington Power for the proposed solar array at the Plainfield Elementary School. However, the Board felt a PILOT of 5% of generated revenues estimated to be $1,500 was insufficient. The approved PILOT is to be 10% of generated revenues, but in no case less than $3,000/year. In approving this PILOT the Selectboard noted some of the unique characteristics of this array that warrant forgiving of property taxes. Mainly, that the array, if built, will more likely than not be purchased by the School District and has the potential once paid for to save the town far more than the lost tax revenues. Initially, the saving to the school district is only about $1,500/year. If district owned and paid for, the array could save the town the full cost of electricity each year at the school, currently $26,000, for more than a decade.

The Selectboard remains concerned about the configuration of the array and its impact to the aesthetics of the school campus. These concerns will be expressed to the school board in a letter.

**Police Report:** Chief Roberts updated the Board on an investigation the department is conducting regarding a stray bullet striking a home on Croydon Turnpike. No one was hurt and damage was limited to a broken piece of siding. The bullet seems to have originated from a small specialty ammunition manufacturing facility at 168 Croydon Turnpike. Paul has not yet determined whether criminal charges will be brought against the owner. A quick check of the businesses website revealed that each batch of ammunition is tested for quality and accuracy. Halleran will immediately inform the owner that the homemade outdoor firing range, as configured, cannot be used. As previously discussed with the owner, all business related testing must be done at an approved off site range. Zoning Board approval would be required for any employees and onsite testing of ammunition. The Home Occupation designation limits the owner to inside work related to the crafting of the specialty ammunition.

**Other Business:** The Selectboard rejected a request by the Friends of the Plainfield Library to store used books at the Plainfield Town Hall. If desired, space can be used at the Gravel Pit Annex building on a temporary basis.

**Town Meeting Preparation:** The remainder of the meeting was spent preparing for Saturday's business portion of Town Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday April 5th 2017**
**Plainfield Library**

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6pm.

**Public Comment Period:** Lee and Evan Oxenham along with David and Sue Tayor met briefly with the Selectboard to discuss the town's policies on immigration. The group met previously with Police Chief Roberts and found his policies to be in line with their views on this national issue. The police department does not unnecessarily depend emigration documents as part of routine investigations, however, if Federal assistance is sought to locate someone with emigration issues that may be in Plainfield, our Police Department will assist them locate the person. A follow up meeting with Chief Roberts is planned for two weeks and might be scheduled so as to be part of the next Selectboard meeting.

Paul and Amy Franklin met with the Selectboard to encourage the town to keep a close eye on the former Berwick Property now owned by the 360LLC. The new property owners have a record of noncompliance with their state permits on this brown field site and the Franklin family is concerned that they will avoid the town's land use approval process unless forced to participate. The Selectboard acknowledged their concerns and assured the Franklins that a file is being developed and kept on the property for future use. The town has had multiple communications with the owners about what is permissible and what is not permissible on the property without some additional land use approvals.

Fire Chief Currier updated the Selectboard on Fire Department activity over the last month. The department was able to take advantage of a valuable training opportunity by participating in a "live burn" of a house located at 432 Stage Rd. The existing house was to be razed; burning the building was a great way to train the younger fireman on the fire fighting craft.

**Road Agent Report:** The group did some planning work on prioritizing bridge work. Halleran was instructed to pursue state bridge aid program for the painting of the beams under the Meriden Covered Bridge. The town will pursue replacing the Camp Road Bridge first, followed by the Ladieau Road Bridge. Selectman Taylor encouraged Halleran and Collins to talk with Jim Taylor in Enfield about a recent bridge project their. They had a very positive experience with a Springfield NH bridge company.

**Facility Manager:** Brad Atwater met with the Selectmen to discuss options for repairs at the Plainfield Town Hall. The building has some long-term structural problems that can be improved upon and repaired, but solving them while desirable, could be very expensive. There was general agreement that repairs to the foundation, improvements to the grades and structure should be made so as to extend the life of the building. However, there are no plans for a large scale project that would replace or reconfigure the entire foundation of the building.

**Town Administrator:** The Board certified the actions/reports from town meeting that will be forwarded to the DRA for fall tax rate setting.

Steve Halleran updated the Selectboard on employee evaluations that are being conducted at this time. Once these evaluations are complete, the Selectboard will evaluate the Town Administrator.

The Board reviewed the Federal Court decision which added $4,000 to the town's disbursement from the sale of the Brown property on Center of Town Road. The town had hoped for much more. Attorney Barry Schuster is looking for guidance from the Selectboard on whether to proceed with a second appeal. Barry

has cautioned that the odds of success are not, in his view, in the town's favor the further up the Federal Court ladder we go. The Selectboard agreed to end the appeal and accept the reimbursement.

The Board viewed a web based GIS mapping service that is under consideration for after the 2018 revaluation. The service would allow for the digital use of the town's tax mapping data that was developed some years ago, funded by the Conservation Commission. The data is maintained annual but the town has no way to effectively use the data other than looking at the paper or pdf versions of the maps. This new service would allow the maps to be linked to the town's assessing data and other attributes and could be accessed from any web connected device.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Robert Taylor, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday April 19th 2017**
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6pm.

At the request of Selectman Taylor, the Selectboard endorsed, with its full support, the work of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve organization. This section of the Defense Department works with local towns and cities and employers to enhance employment opportunities for those serving in our nation's military reserve. Rob has been working with the organization as part of his role as Executive Director of the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce.

Resident Mark Horne used the public comment portion to inquire about a notice sent to the town's volunteer fire department personnel asking them to limit the use of sirens. The notice implied that the request came as a result of interactions with town officials. Neither Town Administrator Halleran, Police Chief Roberts nor any of the Selectboard was aware of siren usage being an issue. Mark thanked the board for its time.

**Police Report:** Halleran reported that the group interested in Plainfield's policies on immigration cancelled for tonight's meeting, but will try to attend a future meeting.

Chief Roberts discussed with the board some options for redistricting Plainfield's ambulance coverage. Increasing the area covered by Windsor Ambulance and reducing the area covered by Lebanon ambulance at the next contract renewal might save some money without significantly altering response times.

**Highway Report:** Halleran reported that road postings will be taken down on Monday April 24th. Mud season has been very minimal this year. Road Agent Collins is in the process of getting paving quotes for this year. The hope is to pave Methodist Hill and Thrasher Road this year. The Selectmen directed Halleran to insure that some paving money is directed toward dealing with the portion of Willow Brook Road that has started to break down.

The bridge quotes for the Camp Road bridge indicated that using a pre-stressed concrete bridge deck may be the best value. There are still several engineering questions to be addressed, but the laminate beam wooden deck bridge options has turned out to be more expensive than anticipated.

The Selectmen signed a NH DOT request to start the bridge aid assistance with the cleaning and repainting of the Meriden Covered bridge supporting I Beams. Getting approval will be a long process, so it's important to start now.

**Town Office Report:** Spring assessment work begins tomorrow. Assessor George Hildum will be in town for the next three days getting ready for the June tax billing.

Halleran reported that the Plainfield Library had a very successful kids program. Members of VINS spoke to the kids about raptor birds. Several birds were on display for the children to see. The library was very busy the entire afternoon.

Halleran updated the board on the 2017 budget. While more expensive than the previous winter, with the worst of the season behind us now, the current year budget is on track, with 67% of the year left 70% of the overall operating budget remains in place.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Robert Taylor, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday May 3rd 2017**
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6pm.

**Trails Discussion:** Recreation Department Trail Director Bill Knight met with the Selectboard to discuss summer plans for the town's trail system. The Townsend Bridge deck is soon to be replaced. The new decking is a gift from the Upper Valley Mountain Bike club. The new deck will be marine grade pressure treated wood. Bill is hoping to purchase a 2009 Alphina Sherpa groomer to act as a back up to our existing Alphina. The machine will be funded from private donations. The Selectboard will, at their next meeting, hold the required public hearing to use the private funds. The machine has a value of $15,000; the town has $12,000 in donations. The other $3,000 is being raised privately at this time. The first groomer, the tracked machine will be sold to make room for the new/used one.

The Selectmen did not object to Bill trying to obtain a state grant for some additional equipment for the trail work. To date no public funds have been used to support the trails or the purchase/upkeep of equipment.

The possibility of developing a mountain bike trail on town land adjacent to the existing trail network is under consideration. The trail would be designed and encouraged for mountain bike use. However, there would be no restrictions against hikers using the new trail. The hope is to give the bikers a loop where they could ride more technically.

**Highway Discussion:** Road Agent Collins reported that gravel crushing has commenced. This year 3,500 yards of gravel will be processed. As in the past supplemental stone will be added to try and improve the quality of the gravel.

Rich noted that his new part time hire, equipment operator Thomas Bircher, is working out well. Tom is a retired Hanover Public Work foreman who has more than 35 years of equipment operating experience. Specifically Rich, with the full support of the Selectboard, has hired Tom to be the town's grader operator. Tom will work 32 hours per week, April-Nov.

Road Agent Collins met with the Selectboard and consultant Jeff Allbright to discuss summer highway work plans. On the recommendation of Road Agent Collins, the Board accepted the idea of repairing the Camp Road bridge abutments this summer and installing the new deck next spring. The deck will likely be a pre-stressed concrete structure. Pike Industries was selected for paving work on Thrasher Road, Methodist Hill and some patch work on Willow Brook Road. At the conclusion of the discussion, Road Agent Collins and Consultant Allbright went to look at some repair work for the Willow Brook Road pavement.

**Immigration Discussion:** To complete their review of town policies related to immigration Lee Oxenham, Sue Taylor and David Taylor met with Chief Robert and the Selectboard. The group thanked Paul for all his time and feels comfortable with how Plainfield law enforcement is handling immigration related issues. See draft policy.

**Town Administrator:** Halleran noted that preparations for first half tax billing are fully underway, George Hildum should be completed with his update work my mid May.

Halleran will be attending a NH Labor Department employment seminar in Claremont tomorrow. The NH Labor Department has now completed its inspections of town facilities. All previously noted items have been addressed. The next inspection will be in five or more years.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Robert Taylor, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday May 17th 2017**
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea
Ron Eberhardt

**Harriman Road:** The Selectboard made a site visit to Harriman Road to discuss with neighbors at the north end of the road, the town's recent road work. Richard Collins explained that he needs to have the road crowned and to establish ditch lines on either side. Neighbors expressed frustration that they was no advance notice given to them of the work and that each time work is done the road is further widened. The group walked the affected area and Road Agent Collins explained the rational for the work, noting that it is not yet complete; some of what has been reshaped will be seeded and mulched. Tracy Wallace objected to the Road Agent's visiting his house at 6:20am and repeatedly asked that the cross pipe on his property be replaced to help drain water away the road in front of his house. Tracy Further noted that he does not want any additional water dumped into his pasture. The Selectboard felt that the current width is sufficient and would not need to be further changed. The Selectmen will consider having an apron paved at the Harriman Road intersection. This will delineated the road width and provide a solid starting and stopping surface for cars negotiating the intersection. The gravel road tends to pothole badly at this location.

The meeting opened at the Meriden Town Hall at 6:30pm.

Meriden Village Study Committee Chairman Harold "Dewey" Jones met with the Selectboard to discuss plans for this year's work. Library Trustee Chairwoman Susan Spencer attended the session. Dewey hopes to meet with the Planning Board and perhaps hold a community wide forum to discuss future plans for Meriden Village. The Selectboard thanked Dewey for coming in. The Selectboard expressed support for the idea of Meriden Library building committee.

**Groomer Hearing:** In accordance with the town's donation policy, the Selectboard opened the hearing on Trail Director Bill Knight's proposal to use $12,000 in private donations to purchase a second Alpina snowmobile for groomer on the cross country ski trials. No public was present to comment. The hearing was closed and the Selectboard approved the request, thanking Bill Knight for all his efforts with the trial system.

**Police:** Chief Gillens did a quick run through on the department log. Extra patrol work on Bonner Road is key right now as the weather has turned and lots of kids are riding bikes and walking to school.

Kimball Union has again contacted the Chief about funding a fourth police officer to serve as the school's resource officer. The Selectmen remain guarded about this idea but directed Paul to have the KUA administration contact Steve Halleran about attending an upcoming Selectboard meeting.

**Town Office:** First half tax bills will be mailed out before Memorial Day. Halleran noted that Simple Energy has completed a repair of the shut off whistle at MTH's underground fuel tank.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Robert Taylor, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday June 7th 2017**
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6pm.

**Frank Currier:** Plainfield Fire Chief and Fire Warden Frank Currier met with the Selectboard. He is retiring effective June 30th, after 43 years with the town's fire departments. William Taylor has been elected by both departments to serve as the new Chief. Frank was here tonight to ask the Selectboard to nominate Bruce Elder as the town's Fire Warden. The state reviews and approves the nomination. The Board gladly agreed and thanked Frank for his long service to the community.

**Police Chief:** Chief Roberts presented a proposal to purchase two replacement radar units using the Police Equipment Reserve Fund which has a balance of $21,000 as the funding source. The Selectboard approved this request.

**Highway Department:** After several weeks of research, the Selectboard authorized Steve Halleran and Richard Collins to move forward with negotiations with Hansen Bridge of Springfield NH for the replacement of the Camp Road bridge. The design to go with a wooden replacement was driven by the vast weight difference between this option and a pre-stressed concrete option. The wooden bridge deck will weigh 26,000lbs, the existing bridge weights 50,000lbs the concrete option weights 162,000. Since there is no engineering record for the abutments but they are useable for the new bridge, the lighter bridge deck seemed a sound option. The laminated wooden bridge is fully NHDOT compliant will carry HS 25 loads and will last for 50 years of life. The Selectboard voted in the affirmative that the funds will be withdrawn from the town's bridge fund. The Selectmen are agents to expend from the fund.

**Town Office:** The Selectboard signed the contract with Avitar Associates for the 2018 assessment update. The statistical update will begin in late fall or winter. The new values will be in place for April 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Robert Taylor, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday June 21st 2017**
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6pm.

The Selectboard reviewed plans for the dedication of the Zea garden at Meriden Town Hall on July 5th. To accommodate this event, the Selectmen will hold their July 19th meeting at the Plainfield Library rather than the July 5th (1st meeting of the quarter) one.

**Police Report:** Chief Roberts reported that a second underage drinking party that also included some illegal drugs has occurred at a residence in Plainfield Village. Diversion was used for the first party, but will not be an option for this one. The conduct of the party organizer, which includes attempted escape from Police custody, has the department planning to ask a judge for enhanced penalties.

Paul anticipates that the new Police Cruiser will be ready for delivery by July 1st. As discussed at town meeting this will put the town on a three new cars every four year rotation, the current fleet will be replaced again in 2021.

**Town Office**: The Selectboard reviewed and approved various building permits and correspondence from the last two weeks.

Jim Toher from Casella met with the Selectboard to discuss the town's refuse collection program. The current contract expires in December. Jim would like to see the program continue with the change that recycling and trash would be collected on the same day. So on your assigned trash collection day you would also put out your recycling. Selectman Taylor expressed interest in having the town move to a toter program for both waste and recycling. Jim agreed, but noted that it might be cost prohibitive as the toters are very expensive.

Halleran indicated that the Finance Committee has asked that the town to consider bidding out the trash collection. At this time the Selectboard is not inclined to split the program between multiple vendors, one for trash and one for recycling. At this time no one in the area offers a comparable curbside recycling service. The board does need to; at least consider taking the program out of the town's service realm. Plainfield would meet its statutory obligation by having access to trash and recycling at the Lebanon transfer station. Residents would be responsible for getting the material to the facility on their own. Many would likely contract with Casella. This would remove approximately $120,000 from the town's property tax commitment, a reduction of something like $.45 on the tax rate or $113 a year for the mythical $250,000 home. The presumption has always been that collectively we save more as a community by having a town wide system. Lately, the town office has seen a dramatic increase in the sales of Lebanon landfill coupons suggesting that more and more residents are electing to take their garbage at least directly to the landfill. So, while perhaps not ideal, the Selectboard has to at least consider whether or not it makes sense to continue the program.

Jim Toher agreed to prepare some proposals for the Selectboard to consider; the longer the board is willing

to commit to with Casella the more likely that toters could become part of the program.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Robert Taylor, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday July 5th 2017**
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 5pm with the dedication of the Zea Garden established in memory of long time Town Clerk Howard Zea. Phil Zea and Connie Zea were in attendance with 30-40 Plainfield residents who turned out for the event. Chairman Robert Taylor, former Selectman and Moderator Stephen Taylor and Phil Zea all make brief remarks. Refreshments were served inside the Meriden Town Hall. The Selectmen were extremely pleased to have Howard's contribution to the community acknowledged. At the time of his retirement Howard make a private request to the Selectmen that the town not hold a retirement event in his honor. The recovery of the Mill stone from below Howard and Connie's home created a unique opportunity to honor someone who made such long lasting contributions to the community.

**6:30pm:** State Representative Lee Oxenham met with the Selectboard to discuss an initiative she is involved in to get towns and cities to agree to continue to work to reach climate changes goals despite the Federal Government pulling out of the Paris Accord Climate Agreement. The Selectmen agreed to look closely at her supporting documentation and to have more discussion on the matter at their next meeting.

**Highway Report:** Road Agent Richard Collins updated the board on the clean up work from Saturday's rain event. More than 12 million dollars in damage was done to Grafton County in less than one hour. The storm, while heavy in Sullivan, was not nearly that damaging. All Plainfield roads remained open and generally received only minor to moderate wash.

**Police Report:** Chief Roberts briefed the Board on all the fourth of July events that took place. The Town was honored to have summer resident Stephen Breyer participate in the celebration by reading the Declaration of Independence on the steps of the Plainfield Town Hall. The event went very well and there were no security issues. The parade was also a grand success. The Board acknowledged the efforts of Elizabeth McNamara and the entire McNamara family to once again organize a wonderful town parade.

**Town Office**: The Selectboard signed the necessary paperwork to finalize the new loan with Mascoma Savings Bank for the town's police cruiser. The loan will finance all three police cruiser and will put all the cars on a four year rotation. The fleet will next be replaced in the summer of 2021 meaning the existing two, purchased last year will have to do a fifth year.

The Selectboard will meet next on July 19th at the Plainfield Library.

Robert Taylor, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday July 19th 2017**
**Plainfield Library**

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair
Judy Belyea
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6pm.

**Public Comment:** Virginia Drye met with the Selectmen to propose a rededication of the WWI Service Memorial located in front of the Plainfield Library. The event would take place on November 11th 2018 the one hundredth year anniversary of the end of the war. The Selectboard fully supported the idea and pledged to work with Virginia to make the event a grand success.

**Highway:** Road Agent Collins updated the Selectboard on the department's progress in getting Methodist Hill Road ready for a pavement overlay. Two culverts have been replaced and the apron on Harriman Road has been marked out.

A project to establish an improved ditch on the east side of Main Street, below MTH, is planned for next week. Heavy runoff has scoured out the shoulder near the pavement edge.

Town Administrator Halleran complimented Richard on the workers compensation safety record for his department. Highway work related injuries have been very minor in the time Richard has been Road Agent.

**Town Office:** The Selectboard signed building permits including the one for the PES solar project. The necessary Intent to Cut form for the PES solar project was also signed.

The Selectmen reviewed the petition provided by Lee Oxenham last meeting where she requested that the Board adopted a resolution in support of the climate goals established at the Paris Climate Accord. The petition was signed by over 100 residents. The board agreed to support the resolution, noting that the action while showing support for efforts to reverse climate change does not commit the town to spending any money or future Selectboards to any position.

The Selectmen approved the MS 535 prepared by Plodzik and Sanderson. The form will be electronically submitted to the DRA.

The Selectboard discussed an e-mail from Bonnie Swift to Chairman Taylor expressing concern about the posting practices at the Plainfield Town Hall for meetings. Mrs. Swift feels that on several occasions notices were not posted on the board. Halleran noted that in the case of the July 5th Selectboard meeting he had e-mailed the Swifts the details of the location change and that Clint Swift had attended the Zea garden dedication at the start of the July 5th meeting. The meeting on the 5th was scheduled for the Plainfield Town Hall but was switched to the Meriden Town Hall to accommodate the garden dedication. Halleran suggested that the posting board at the Meriden Town Hall and the town website be designated as the official posting spots. The Selectboard was reluctant to eliminate the posting board at the PTH, instead the Board voted to lock the board as a way of controlling what happens to posted notices. Halleran will have Brad Atwater modify the bulletin board so that it can be locked with a combination lock.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Robert Taylor, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
**Wednesday August 2nd 2017**
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair
Judy Belyea
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6pm.

**Public Comment:** A resident presented the board with information about one of the town's nontaxable entities that she feels may have an impact on the organizations tax exempt status. The information was obtained from the group's own website and limits the population the organization is willing to serve. The Selectboard directed Halleran to forward this information to town assessor for review and an opinion.

A Route 120 resident met with the Selectboard to request that consideration be given to developing a noise ordinance for the town. A recent party at a neighbor's home was very disruptive to them. Some advance warning about the event would have been appreciated and could have eliminated their call to the police for assistance. The Selectboard will discuss the particular case with the Police Chief. The Board is hesitant to develop a noise regulation, but acknowledges that all people have the right to enjoyment of their property. Noise from one property can certainly have adverse impacts on other property owners.

**Highway:** The department is nearly complete with preparations for paving on Methodist Hill and Harriman Road (intersection apron). Grading and ditching is ongoing. Winter sand is being hauled back to the shop on rainy days.

**Police:** The department has been busy with a high profile case that resulted from a murder for hire attempt. Arrests have been made and the case will be handled going forward by the County Attorney's office which has been heavily involved with the case since it started. State Police also provided valuable assistance to the town. Thankfully, due to the quick action of an informant no one was injured.

**Town Office:** The Selectmen signed the now adopted climate change resolution and the town's 2016 audit representation level.

The board discussed holding a joint meeting with the school board in late summer to discuss and coordinate major expenditures on the horizon. The town has a need to increase funding for reserve funds, the Meriden Library is in play as well as the Highway garage facility. It will be important to plan for these projects with the coordination of the school board.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Robert Taylor, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt