

## **SELECTBOARD REPORT - 2010**

2010 was a productive year for the Plainfield Selectboard. We are pleased to report that the town is well positioned and on solid fiscal ground. The national and regional economic outlook continue to shape our policy and budgeting, as it does for many residents. Our well-respected town employees continue to provide services in an upbeat and efficient manner. We would like to thank them as well as all those who serve in the various volunteer capacities that make Plainfield work. Listed below are some of our work areas and highlights from the calendar year 2010.

- After serving some 25 years, our well-respected and most trusted police chief, Gordon Gillens, decided to call it a career and retire. On behalf of of the entire town of Plainfield the Selectboard wishes to thank Chief Gillens for his service to our community. A special event was held in his honor in June and was well attended by the community. It truly was a special day for Gordon and his family as well as for the town.

- The Selectboard formed a committee made up of well qualified residents to work on finding a new chief. After much discussion it was decided that we first consider an internal candidate. Plainfield was lucky to have on its staff a highly qualified candidate in Cpl. Paul Roberts. He expressed interest and aptitude and a great knowledge of the inner workings of the Plainfield Police Department. The committee was unanimous in recommending Cpl. Roberts for Chief. He accepted the promotion and has been serving as the police chief since June, 2010.

- Officer Tony Swett was promoted to full-time status within the department to fill the third full-time position. This required the town to send him through the NH full-time police officer academy, which he graduated from with distinction.

- Sargent Larry Dore was promoted to Deputy Chief at the same time as the other promotions within the department. This is reflective of Mr. Dore's merit and service to Plainfield. The town is privileged to have such a professional, dedicated and hard working police department.

- Willow Brook Road-Phase 2 of this project was completed this year. This consisted of major upgrades to a section of road (approximately 2 miles) closest to the Lebanon line. This work included culverts and drainage, base paving, retaining wall construction, erosion control and surface paving. In Phase 1 we used Morrill Construction

to complete work from the covered bridge to the Baptist pool. In phase 2 most of this work was performed by our own highway department, thus significant savings were achieved. Our Road Agent and his staff are to be commended for their hard work on this project.

- Willow Brook Road-Phase 3 of this project got a significant boost through an award of a \$490,000 EPA “Hazard Mitigation” Grant. This will significantly help with the cost of the final repairs to this well-traveled road (1000+ vehicle trips per day). The Selectboard specifically wishes to recognize, Steve Halleran, our town administrator, for his work in securing grants for both Phase 1 and Phase 3. His work has helped us get nearly \$700,000 of federal support for Willow Brook Road.

- After 52+ years, Town Treas. Fred Sweet retired in 2010. On behalf of the town we wish to thank Fred, for his service to Plainfield. It truly has been a privilege to have Fred managing the town checkbook. Plainfield runs about as well as any in the state of New Hampshire, largely to the diligence of Fred Sweet. We wish Fred well in his retirement and also wish to welcome Sarah Brooks-Gaverno as our new town treasurer.

- Plainfield’s soon to be “unified library system” took a large step forward in 2010, after overwhelming approval from Town Meeting. The Selectboard met with both the Meriden and Plainfield (Philip Reed Memorial) Library trustees and discussed the plan of action to accomplish this by the next town meeting. A five-member board of trustees will now be elected to govern both libraries simultaneously.

- We were pleased to present the “Boston Post Cane” to Clara Perry of Dodge Road. It truly was one of the great privileges of the Selectboard’s year to bestow this honor to Plainfield’s oldest resident. Members of her family were present as Clara was given her ceremonial cane.

- The historic granite watering trough that once belonged to Mr. Daniels on Old County Road ground was returned to the town. Through a series of events and with the help of many, we are pleased to report that the monument/relic of Plainfield’s agricultural past is back and will be in use and on display this summer. The Selectboard is certain that old Mr. Daniels, who originally used the trough for his livestock in the 1800s, would be pleased.

As always the board would like to invite the participation of residents and taxpayers to both our annual town meeting and bimonthly meetings. The town office is open for

business daily and welcomes your input. Our meetings are on the first and third Wednesdays of the month beginning at 6 PM. Anyone wishing to be active in any volunteer capacity serving the town is encouraged to meet with us.

See you at Town Meeting,  
Tom Williams Jr , Rob Taylor, Judy Belyea,



**Amy and Darrell Beaupre with Benjamin Taylor Cow Patty Bingo Winner**