MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday January 6th 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6pm

Fire: The Selectmen were updated on the fire department operations over the last month from Fire Chief Frank Currier. Calls for service in 2015 were about the same as 2014. The new Chief's vehicle donated to the Plainfield Fire Department by TransCanda is now in service.

Chief Currier updated the Plainfield Fire Department's 2016 budget request. The Chief noted that after looking at their 2015 finances, including a change that is forthcoming in the department's insurance costs an increase of $5,000 to their appropriation is being requested. The Chief will be at town meeting to answer any questions about the increase.

Halleran noted that while still in negotiations with Lebanon, at the moment it looks as though Lebanon Ambulance cost to Plainfield will rise at least $8,500 in 2016. Chief Roberts is contacting other service providers in the area to see what it would cost to switch some of the coverage area to them. Lebanon currently covers 2/3 of the town and Windsor Ambulance covers 1/3. Years ago the town used Golden Cross as well. Returning to them for some of the town is an option.

Police: Chief Roberts updated the Selectboard on department's work. He noted that all members of the department, including him, have now passed the required state physical endurance test and are certified for three years. The testing was done at the Claremont Police Department by their training officer.

Town Office: The Selectmen spent the next hour working on fine tuning the 2016 budget. Including the additional monies requested by the Fire Department and the increase by Lebanon for ambulance service the proposed budget is up 4.6% and will require an additional $84,000 in property tax money. As proposed the 2016 financial plan would add $.32 to the tax rate. The Selectmen directed Halleran to take another look at each line item once the 2015 expenditures are finalized as part of the audit process. The town's first budget hearing is January 20th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday January 20th 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6pm

Road Agent: Rich Collins updated the Selectboard on his department's work over the last two weeks. The dry winter has the crew still out brush cutting and working on projects as temperatures allow. Rich reviewed some paving options for 2016. Penniman Road and Thrasher Road are likely recipients of work this next year. In total, the Selectmen will have a maximum of $200,000 to spend on pavement projects. The Selectmen approved the purchase of a used front plow for Truck #1 from Osgood Welding in Claremont NH. The existing plow for truck #1 is badly worn from previous winters.

Police: Chief Roberts discussed the concept of a local drug paraphernalia ordinance that would allow the town to receive money from these types of fines. Any fine money now goes to the state. The Chief will draft an ordinance based on the City of Lebanon for Selectmen's review.

Paul hopes to have officer William Heighes back on the active roster in February. Once cleared for duty Officer Heighes will have to complete two state certification programs before he can return to full duty.

Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed orders and correspondence. The board discussed the 2015 town report and the upcoming town meeting. Halleran noted that attorney Barry Schuster is assisting the two fire departments with a review of their formation documents. At issue is whether the departments are public or private entities. If they are public they qualify for Primex property liability insurance, if private they do not. Both departments are loosing their current provider and wish to change to Primex.

Budget Hearing: The remainder of the meeting was spent working on the 2016 financial package for town meeting. The full finance committee was in attendance along with Moderator Paul Franklin. Members of the general public were represented by Penniman Road resident Richard Atkinson. In reviewing the operating budget, Halleran note that costs associated with employees, recycling, and ambulance service were the main drivers in the projected $74,000 in new tax money that would be needed in 2016. A tax rate impact of $.28 is anticipated if all articles are approved. Included in the package is a full slate of reserve funding request that have become customary at each town meeting. The Selectmen are hoping to create a stipend facility manager position to help with the planning and upkeep of all town buildings. This position would be modeled after the success of the Plainfield School with its facility manager position. Several town meetings are in need of enhanced capital and operational planning. In particular, the highway garage needs several system upgrades.

Reacting to concern raised by some members of the Finance Committee, the Selectboard agreed to place an article on the warrant for the new backhoe purchase. The finance committee is generally in favor of the replacement. The 2015 town meeting granted the Selectmen the authority to expend, without further action, from the highway equipment fund. Historically new equipment purchases have been warrant articles at town meeting. The authority to expend does allow the Selectmen to take advantage of unique opportunities to buy used equipment that might come up during a budget year. The original intention was to discuss the backhoe purchase during the reserve funding article at town meeting. However, given the concern raised, a separate warrant article will be included.

The budget hearing closed at 8:30pm. A second hearing will be held on February 3rd at the Plainfield Library.

Other Business: Halleran shared with the Selectmen the preliminary results of the town's financial audit. The town's financial position remains very strong, the unassigned fund balance grew by $64,000 in 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday February 3rd 2016
Plainfield Library

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6pm

Police: Chief Roberts reviewed the department's log for the last two weeks. Paul is trying to get the word out to our residents that there are several telephone scams that seem very convincing, but are just that scams. Most recently people claiming to work for the IRS have been calling, trying to extort money.

The Chief expressed frustration for not having been included in the discussions about some of the employee benefit changes, including health insurance and wages that are taking place this year. The Selectboard agreed to meet with Paul at their next meeting to discuss his concerns.

Highway: At the direction of the highway study group, the town is moving as quickly as possible to drill a new well to serve the highway garage. The existing shallow tiled well has not been used for drinking water in more than thirty years. Testing of the water has revealed that its quality is very bad and drilling a new well is indicated. The Selectmen hope to have the well drilled this month.

Town Office: Halleran reported that the town report and warrant are basically complete. The town report goes to the printer on Monday. The Selectmen reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week.

Budget Hearing #2: The remainder of the meeting was spent on the second budget hearing. Two members of the finance committee (Atwater and Sutherland) and three library trustees (Brown, Liston, Pensgen) were in attendance along with residents Dennis Girouard, Bonnie Allard, Clint Swift, Maria Guzman, Nancy Norwalk. . In reviewing the operating budget, Halleran note that costs associated with employees, recycling, and ambulance service were the main drivers in the projected $74,000 in new tax money that would be needed in 2016. A tax rate impact of $.28 is anticipated if all articles are approved. Focusing on the library budget, Maria Guzman asked the trustees to consider not changing the hours at the Plainfield Library so that the facility closes at 8:00pm rather than 9:00pm. She values this time and does not want to see it changed. Mark Pensgen noted that the change to 8:00pm is proposed because the department budget is up 10% and most libraries for small towns seem to close at 8:00pm. It was suggested that an amendment could be offered at town meeting to increase the library budget the necessary amount to keep the library open to 9pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The Selectboard noted that there are several issues in play (ex. workers compensation issue and if winter stays soft)within the town budget and that if possible, the hope is to be able to reduce the proposed operating budget further at town meeting.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday February 17th 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6pm

The board reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the coming week. The 2016 town meeting warrant and budget forms were signed and will be posted tonight at the conclusion of the meeting.

Selectman Eberhardt moved to enter a nonpublic session to discuss an employee compensation issue. Robert Taylor seconded the motion. A roll call vote followed: Taylor-yes, Eberhardt-yes, Belyea-yes.

The board entered the session at 6:30pm, the session ended at 7:30pm.

Police Report: Chief Roberts updated the Selectmen on the department's activity log over the last two weeks. The board approved light duty work for officer William Heighes. Bill has been cleared for light duty by his attending physician. He will work at the police station two mornings per week. The Selectmen hope that he will be cleared to return to full duty by the end of this month.

Responding to continued concerns about target shooting on Porter Road the Selectmen directed Halleran to contact Attorney Schuster to determine how RSA 159 B impacts the town's ability to enforce the town's zoning ordinance in the cases of private shooting ranges.

Given continued problems with police department vehicles, the Selectboard authorized the Chief to begin the process of obtaining the two new leased cruisers. The cars to be delivered as close to March 15th as possible. The Selectmen noted that when complete the department will, as it does now, have a total of three vehicles.

Town Office: The Selectboard discussed the proposed settlement for the Brown property as offered by the Federal Government, $31,000 toward back taxes of $136,000. The Selectmen affirmed Town Administrator Halleran's decision to not sign off on the settlement at this time. Attorney Barry Schuster will be in communication with the IRS attorney handling the case. A hearing before a Federal Judge is likely in the coming months.

The Plainfield Fire Department is looking at making changes to their organizational structure that will more clearly align the department as a municipal or public entity as viewed by current statutes governing fire departments.

Halleran reported that the Lebanon Ambulance service has agreed to reduce the 2016 ambulance charges by approximately $3,000. The 2016 invoice is based on the prior year's calls for service which saw a significant increase from 2014. The Selectboard expressed appreciation for this adjustment.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday March 2nd 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6pm

Highway Department: The Selectmen met with Road Agent Richard Collins and local contractor Brad Atwater. Brad has been hired to assist the town in evaluating the existing shop building on the gravel pit annex property that has recently been donated to the town by Dr. Klinges. Highway has been cleaning up the lot and hopes to utilize the building for storage. Brad has inventoried the building components and is meeting with local subcontractors to get pricing on getting the structure weather tight. The town purchased a set of used commercial garage doors for the building some years ago, these will be installed in the coming weeks. The Selectmen thanked Richard and Brad for their continued work.

Richard reported that the highway department has been trying out a John Deere backhoe. The crew likes the machine. Next on the list is a Case backhoe to be followed by a Caterpillar unit. Halleran noted that Townline also has a rental machine with low hours that they suggest the town take a close look at before making a decision to go new.

Selectman Taylor will stop in at the highway garage to review the old backhoe with Richard. Rob will be handling the backhoe article at this year's town meeting.

The contract for the new well at the Highway Garage has been awarded to Wragg Brothers of Ascutney Vt. Jay Wragg and his family lives here in Plainfield.

Police Report: Halleran reported that the AED unit paid for with a grant from Mascoma Savings Bank has arrived and is being put into service.

Chief Roberts was unavailable for the meeting as he was involved in an ongoing a police investigation.

Town Office: The Selectmen went over the various articles for town meeting. Responding to a request from the finance committee the board reviewed the various reserve funds and established the following target amounts for each fund:

	Balance 12/31/15	**Target**
Town Facilities Maintenance Fund	$38,600	$60,000
Revaluation Fund.	$47,000	$70,000
Highway Equipment Fund.	$90,265	$250,000
Transportation Improvement Fund	$35,024	$250,000
Bridge Capital Reserve Fund	$119,500	$200,000
ADA Access Fund	$33,800	$75,000
Police Equipment Fund	$15,900	$25,000
Gravel Pit Reclamation Fund	$20,115	$100,000
Town Hall Repair Fund	$17,400	$25,000
Library Building Repair Fund.	$ 5,500	$25,000

The Board completed its work preparing for the upcoming town meeting.

The March 2nd meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday March 16th 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6pm

Correspondence was reviewed and orders for the week signed.

The Selectmen met with resident Sara Givent who is requesting that the Selectmen proclaim April 19th Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Action Day. Ms. Givent explained how this difficult medical condition has affected her family's life. The goal of this proclamation campaign is to raise awareness about this condition. Beyond the proclamation there is no stated or implied obligation for the town to take any action. The Selectboard voted unanimously to grant the request. Copy attached.

Brad Atwater: Brad met with the Selectboard to update the board on his work down at the gravel pit annex. He has completed his baseline analysis. The Board favored moving ahead now with getting the utilities back on line and making the building weather tight, as opposed to more detailed analysis of the structure. Brad will work with Road Agent Collins on schedule the large overhead door installation.

Police: Filling in for Chief Roberts, Sergeant Mathew Foss updated the board on department activities. He noted that the department might need some help with special duty pay policies. Several officers are working for other departments on these details and how the compensation and billing work for this is to be handled seems to be changing. In the past the town that the detail was in made the payment and collected the fees. It is now being suggested that the sending department handle those duties. Halleran will look into this with the City of Lebanon, who is the primary source of these types of details.

Town Office: The Selectboard signed the necessary state forms certifying the actions taken at the 2016 town meeting. The Board held a discussion about the charge for the committee that needs to be formed to study the Meriden Library/Meriden Village issues (see Article 6 2016 Town meeting minutes). The funding was not approved for this article, in its place a study committee was suggested. Dewey Jones, who recommended the committee, will be contacted to clarify the charge for the group.

As is customary for Plainfield, at the first meeting after Town Meeting the Selectboard who will be elected at the next annual meeting becomes the Chairman for the New Year. This being the case, Selectman Ron Eberhardt will serve as Chair for 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday April 6th 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm

Correspondence was reviewed and orders for the week signed.

Highway: Road Agent Collins reported that a tree has fallen on the gravel pit annex building that is currently being weatherized. The Selectboard have commissioned a baseline study of the building and its systems that is being handled by Atwater Construction. The goal of the project is to get the building weather tight and operational as highway department storage by May 1st of this year. The work has been progressing. Last Friday's wind storm resulted in a tree hitting the building and doing moderate damage to the roof. The tree has been removed and a temporary repair made. Permanent repairs will follow as part of the weatherization project.

The Selectboard approved the crushing of 3,500 yards of gravel in the town pit for municipal use. The work should begin in the next two weeks.

The Selectboard asked Halleran and Collins to bring final proposals for the backhoe to them at the April 20th meeting along with a recommendation on which machine the town should purchase. The highway department has tried out Case, John Deere and Caterpillar Machines.

Fire: Fire Chief Currier reviewed both departments' activities over the last month. The Fire Chief also asked for a key to the town's diesel pumps in the event its late at night at Fire needs access to fuel. Rich indicated that he is closing in on getting the old key system operational with the new pump and that the department should have fuel access very soon.

Police: Chief Roberts reviewed the status of the new cruiser leases. The cars should be delivered later this week or early next. Paul hopes to be able to replace all the individual car equipment with new including the video camera system now in use. The Selectboard approved this approach however expressed some concern that the final lease payments come in at or under budget, not over.

The Chief reviewed the Police activity log with the Selectboard, focusing on the more complex cases.

Town Office: The Selectboard board opened the bids for the sale of the old roll off container formerly used at the town's recycling center. The box has been taking up space in the gravel pit for the ten years. The bid notices were posted around town and on the town's website. One bid was received that was from Selectboard member Judy Belyea who bid $905.

The Selectboard held a discussion with the Town Administrator, Police Chief and Road Agent on the pending implantation of the new health insurance cost share program. The start of the new program coincides with any annual pay increases. The current deduction amounts are based on the plan in place at this time. Employees will be meeting with the town's insurance provider on April 19th to review plan options for the group.

The Selectboard reaffirmed the following policies on motions from Selectboard member Taylor which were seconded and voted in the affirmative:

The official posting places for all town notices are the Plainfield Town Hall and the Meriden Town Hall. Informational copies of same will be posted on the town's website.

To the extent that New Hampshire law allows, all public officials, elected and appointed, and employees shall be indemnified from personal loss or liability while serving in their official town capacity.

Both of these motions simple reaffirm long standing policies. Halleran will include references to these two motions in the town report as part of the "Ongoing Authorities report."

The Selectboard reviewed and approved town employees pay rates for 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday April 20th 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm

Correspondence was reviewed and orders for the week signed.

Trails Discussion: The Selectboard held a meeting with Trail Director Bill Knight and Conservation Commission Chairperson Myra Ferguson. Bill provided two aerial photos from Google Earth with the various trails depicted on them. One concern with the trials is unauthorized trail creation and maintenance. Many of the trails are on private land. Some of the recent trail work has included the creation of mountain bike jumps and spray painting on trees. Bill noted that none of this work has been sanctioned by the town. Myra noted that the Conservation Commission needs to be included in trail decisions on land that is monitored by the commission. The group discussed educational strategies including trailhead signage, and posting of use rules. The Upper Valley Trails Alliance and the Kingdom Trails Association will be consulted for ideas.

Library Study Committee: The Reverend Harold "Dewey" Jones, Dennis Girouard, Diane Rogers, and Emily Sands joined the Selectman for this important discussion. The Selectboard reviewed a draft charge for the committee (see attached) that resulted from the 2016 town meeting. Dewey Jones explained he made the motion to form the committee as a means of starting a discussion about the future of Meriden Village and the needs of the Meriden Library. Chairman Eberhardt guided the group through the discussion. He reviewed an e-mail from Bonnie Swift suggesting changes to the charge. Among the issues raised by Bonnie was the notion that the committee should be evenly split between Meriden and Plainfield residents. Dennis Girouard felt that the town should first be given an opportunity to decide if it wishes to fund two libraries.

In completing its review the, Selectboard felt that the draft charge was sufficiently broad to allow the committee to go in a variety of directions. Dewey Jones noted that he envisions a process filled with public input and opportunities for discussion. A motion to approve the charge was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative. The Selectboard settled on a committee size of nine members. Halleran was asked to contact the following Plainfield residents to see if they would be willing to serve.
Harold "Dewey" Jones, Amy Lappin, Cindy Heath, Brad Atwater, Rod Wendt, Shawn Rogers, Steve Taylor and two members of the Board of Trustees.

Other Business: Town Administrator Halleran update the Selectboard on various projects. The annual property assessment update work begins tomorrow. George Hildum will be in town for the next three days.

Electrician Joanna Sharf is working to get the gravel pit annex building energized and fitted with basic lighting and outlets.

The Selectboard spent the rest of the meeting discussing the town's organizational chart and changes that might be considered to clarify lines of authority within the town operations.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday May 4th 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm

Correspondence was reviewed and orders for the week signed.

Highway Report: Jeff Allbright presented to the Selectboard some information on the importance of ongoing pavement maintenance. Studies have shown that after a ten year period, the cost of reconstructing a paved road skyrockets as the condition of the pavement deteriorates beyond reasonable repair.

Jeff also provided some information to the Selectboard about the worst of the corners on Penniman Road. The town hopes to complete the repaving of Penniman which was started in 2015. Jeff noted that several of the corners are banked incorrectly and some attempt should be made to correct this before any repaving project. Jeff will work with Road Agent Collins to develop a remediation plan.

Police: The group met with Kenny Lynn Dempsey of the Bureau of Emergency Services to discuss the upcoming 911 mapping for Plainfield. Plainfield is one of just a few towns in the state that has not been mapped. The mapping will allow the dispatch service to have a special map reference available to them for each residence in Plainfield. The project involves taking GPS coordinates for every driveway in town that leads to a building with a phone line. The goal of the project is quicker response times to all 911 calls.

The Selectboard developed a plan for publicizing this project and to allow those who wish to opt out. The town's website, Plainfacts, and social media will be used to get the word out. The mapping will start in mid June and should take two weeks to complete. Upon inquiry Ms. Dempsy indicated that the state is not willing to use GIS data generator by others like CAI who already does the town's tax maps.

Town Office: Resident Dennis Girouard asked the Selectmen to schedule time for three issues at future meetings: 1) Improving communication with residents 2) Holding everyother Selectboard meeting in Plainfield Village, 3) Alternating polling places between PES and PTH. Chairman Eberhardt indicated that the Selectboard would try and honor this request during the summer.

Halleran noted that both the Plainfield and Meriden Volunteer Fire Departments continue to explore changes to their organizational models. Neither is currently a public entity. Both are private fire companies organized as nonprofits. There could be some advantages to their becoming departments of the town, however this is a complex issue with a lot of study needed. A meeting is planned for next Thursday at the MVFD station at 7pm. Selectman Taylor and Halleran will try to attend.

Steve Halleran reported that all that we asked have agreed to serve on the newly formed Meriden Library/Meriden Village Study Committee. The group will be meeting with the Selectboard on May 18th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.
Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday May 18th 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm

Correspondence was reviewed and orders for the week signed.

Human Services Director: Stephanie Schell met briefly with the board to update them on the work she has been involved with in the community. She is adding one day a month to the food pantry open hours. She and Chief Roberts are collaborating with the school on developing a program to educate parents on warning signs for young adults and illegal drug usage. One of the upcoming senior luncheons will also feature an opportunity for seniors to safely dispose of out of date prescriptions and medications.

Stephanie updated the board on her efforts to assist a Plainfield Village resident so that this person may remain in his home. The person is currently out of work and far behind on bills.

Meriden Village/Meriden Library Study Committee: The Selectboard thanked this folks for being willing to serve: Harold Jones, Chair, Brad Atwater, Cindy Heath, Mary King, Amy Lappin, Mark Pensgen, Shawn Rogers, Suzanne Spencer, Steve Taylor, and Rod Wendt. The Selectboard pledged to help them with their charge in anyway that is possible. Dewey Jones is the Chairman and will forward information to the town office for meeting postings and such. Town webmaster Mike Sutherland has set up a webpage and common e-mail for the groups use.

The group left the main meeting to work on some of their organization details. As a result June 21st at 7pm at the Meriden Library was established as the groups first meeting.

Town Office: Town Administrator Halleran updated the board on ongoing issues. The annual wreath ceremony at the service memorial is set to coincide with the May senior luncheon and is scheduled for next Thursday May 26th at 1:30pm.

The process has begun to get the owners of the former Berwick property to assemble a zoning board application for the property. There is no established use on the property. The use of the property for vehicle storage and composting of soil has developed on the site and needs to be formalized.

Rob Taylor and Steve Halleran met with members of the two fire departments last week. The departments have some questions about their organizational structure and how it conforms to NH law with respect to liability limits and certifications for fire departments. The Selectboard approved, in concept, using town attorney Barry Schuster to answer some of these questions. Halleran will develop a scope of services for the work to be reviewed by the board at their next meeting.

The Selectboard will start next meeting at the gravel pit annex building and will likely meet that night in Plainfield Village. Responding to an inquiry by Dennis Girouard from last meeting, the Board will set some time aside to discuss holding one meeting a month in Plainfield.

The Selectmen spent the rest of the meeting working on improving the job description for the Town Administrator position. Part of this project is to clarify supervisory responsibilities within the organization. The other part of the project is to insure that the description accurately reflect the position.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday June 1st 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

Ferry Hill Road Site Visit: The meeting opened at 5:15pm with a site visit to the gravel pit annex building #67 Ferry Hill Road. The Selectmen viewed the work that has been done to date and held a broad discussion with Road Agent Collins over the future use of the ground floor of the facility. It was determined that the building would be used to keep mobile equipment out of the weather. In the winter the roadside mower, roller, air compressor and grader might be stored in the facility. Once three problem pine trees are removed, and roof damaged caused by one of them has been repaired, a small dozer will be brought in to shape the lot directly around the building and the project will be done for the time being.

The group moved over to the town offices, continuing the meeting at 6:30pm.

Correspondence was reviewed and orders for the week signed.

Police: Chief Roberts updated the Selectboard on department activities. The Chief expressed disappointment that the highway had removed their shooting facility at the gravel pit without consulting them about it.

Other Business: The Selectboard approved as edited a scope of services letter to Attorney Schuster concerning the fire department's organizational structure. See May 18th minutes.

As previously requested the Selectboard held discussions on two of Dennis Girouard's requested items.

The first issue is the alternating or moving of the polling place between Plainfield and Meriden Village. Mr. Girouard expressed his desire to see the Selectboard do things that will bring the town together. He feels this would help. Clint and Bonnie Swift noted that they agree with this and would like to see the polling place alternated or moved to Plainfield. Moderator Paul Franklin felt that consistency was important and keeping the polling place at one location had value. The elementary school building has served that roll for many years and is fully compliant with state election place requirements. Halleran noted that in his view the Meriden/Plainfield thing is an old guard thing, new residents moving into town don't think in that way, they simply go to the established facility for the service they need, thinking of it all as Plainfield. Town Clerk Michelle Marsh has indicated a strong preference to have the polling place remain at PES.

The Selectboard discussed what they had heard; Rob Taylor noted that the school is geographically located closer to the center of town than Plainfield Village. Chair Eberhardt noted that he felt the added benefits from alternating the polling place or moving it do not out weight the costs associated with the change. Selectwoman Belyea concurred with this thinking. Belyea moved to keep the polling place as the Plainfield Elementary School. The motion was second voted in the affirmative and passed on a 3 to 0 vote.

The second discussion centered on moving the Selectboard meetings to the Plainfield Library meeting room. All agreed that this move was much easier to facilitate than a changing of the polling place. Currently, the Selectboard meets in Plainfield at least 2 or 3 time each year. There are good reasons to hold the Selectboard's meetings at the facility that house the Town Clerk (notary service) and the town's municipal records. Selectman Taylor reminded the group that the Meriden Town Hall has been designated as the Selectmen's office. Acting on a suggestion by Bonnie Swift, a motion was made by Selectman Taylor to hold quarterly meetings in Plainfield Village. Judy seconded the meeting. The motion was approved on a 2-1 vote. Chairman Eberhardt explained his vote in the negative was to show support for the idea of holding every other meeting in Plainfield Village.

As previously agreed, the Selectmen will hold a discussion on the third issue raised by Dennis, improving town communication with residents, at a subsequent meeting.

Town Administrator's Report: Halleran updated the board on ongoing projects. Attorney Schuster is requesting a hearing in Federal Court requesting full payment on the delinquent taxes owed the town. To date the government has been unable to supply the town with a complete accounting of charges.

The Selectboard reviewed and agreed in concept to a new draft Town Administrator job description. The major changes in the document make it clear that the position has supervisory authority over all town employees and is responsible for the outcomes of all town departments. The Selectboard will be discussing these changes and getting input from the town's major departments.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday June 15th 2016
Plainfield Library

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

Public Comment: Plainfield resident Andrea Bueno-Keen met with the Selectboard to ask the board to look into measures to improve safety on area roadways for both pedestrians and cyclists. Andrea's husband commutes via a bike to Lebanon on Route 120 and her children routinely walk/bike on Bonner Road. Andrea thinks more education is needed for motorist and that perhaps both traffic calming devices like a round about and sidewalks are needed on Bonner Road. The Selectmen discussed the matter and agreed in the short term to help distribute some educational materials. In addition, traffic enforcement activities will be increased on Bonner Road.

Highway: Halleran reported that given the dry weather, magnesium chloride is now being spread through town on the gravel roads. This year is shaping up to be a much better test case for the product than last year.

The highway crew is busy cleaning up around the shop getting ready for the installation of the closed drain system for the floor drains.

The Selectboard set Wednesday July 6th at 5:00pm as the date and time that they will walk Thrasher Road with residents to discuss the planned road project.

Police Chief: The Selectboard and Chief held a discussion about plans for the use of a second Chevrolet Trailblazer donated to the town by TransCanada. This car replaced the first donated trailblazer that developed a motor problem. That car was traded in as part of the new cruiser purchase, but the second vehicle was not. Paul advocated for keeping the car as a spare unit. The Selectboard felt that the cost of carrying the car was too great when compared to the benefits that would come from holding the car. Two of the department's three vehicles are brand new with extended warranties. This being the case, the group came to consensus that this vehicle would be sold by sealed bid.

The chief reviewed the activity log with the Selectboard. One concern that the Chief had was an incident involving a Plainfield deputy fire warden and a bonfire. Paul has reported the incident to the Fire Chief and to the State Forest Fire ranger. No formal charges are anticipated, but Paul felt the issue warrants a firm response from the Fire Chief. . Fire Chief Currier informed the Selectboard that he is handling the matter internally.

Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed and denied a request by Win Call of Cornish for repairs to his horse trailer. Mr. Call feels the trailer was damaged from a hole on Hell Hollow Road that was left during grading operations. The town had not received any calls warning of a hazard on the roadway.

The Selectmen reviewed a request from Jesse Stalker to use his pay as Trustee of the Trust Funds to create a Trust Fund for the future purchase of flags for Veterans graves. Halleran will contact DRA on how to proceed with the matter. A town meeting action is likely necessary to establish the desired fund.

Virginia Drye met with the Selectboard to ask for town support for a 100th year celebration for the World War I War Memorial located in front of the library. The Selectboard pledged their support to her effort and thanked her for doing the good work.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday July 6th 2016
Plainfield Library

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

5:00pm Thrasher Road site visit.

The Selectboard, Road Agent and Jeff Allbright held a public site walk down Thrasher Road to discuss the upcoming road project. Road Agent Collins explained that this would be the first major work on the road since 1995. The project will include some tree trimming, removal of three large pines, culvert replacement, pavement reclamation and paving. The work is expected to take four to six weeks and should be done by early September. Town traffic counts show about 60 cars per day use the roadway. Abutters Susan Green and James McBride attended the walk they were pleased to know that the road will stay approximately the same width. Both encouraged the town to keep the road work in scale with the neighborhood.

Plainfield Library

Highway Department: Richard Collins reported the following: The town's new backhoe should be in service later this month. The enclosed drain system is now being installed at the highway garage. Shoulder work is nearly complete on Penniman Road Road.

Chairman Eberhardt discussed with the Road Agent the board's consideration of a change where department heads would be supervised by the Town Administrator position. Currently the TA, RA, and PC are all equally positioned on the organizational chart and supervised by the Board of Selectmen. This new system would make the TA's job performance tied to the successes of all town departments. No final decision has been made on this change and the board will be accepting comments from department heads for the next couple of weeks. The Selectboard was clear that this change has come from the Selectboard and reflects how the town operates now.

Clint Swift expressed concern that the Selectboard could be delegating executive power which under NH law is expressly vested in the Selectboard unless a Town Manager change is approved at town meeting. Chairman Eberhardt, Rob Taylor and Judy Belyea all noted that the proposed change is not a change in the form of government. The Selectboard will continue to be responsible for all town operations.

Bev Widger asked the Selectmen to look into the following issues:

The relocation of the Plainfield Cemetery northern drive closer to Stage Road. This issue has been discussed for a year and would improve both the site distances for traffic and drainage for the cemetery. In the past the Trustees have conceptually approved this but have not found a funding source. The Selectboard will look into the matter, but acknowledged that any changes would need Trustee approval.

Updating of the Plainfield Town Hall rental policy: In Bev's view the current policy needs reworking and needs to be administered to all renters of the facility whether they are associated with the town or not.

Town Office: The Selectboard approved a three year deal for the town's insurance needs with Primex of NH. The cap program insures that rates will not increase significantly over the cap period. This is the second renewal of the cap for Plainfield.

The Selectboard approved Brad Atwater as the Town's Facility manager; this will be a part time position with the initial appointment being for the remainder of this budget year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday July 20th 2016
Plainfield Library

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Highway Department: Rich Collins reported that tree work for Thrasher Road is now complete. While the tree service was potentially dangerous, trees on Gleason and Old County were also removed.

The Selectboard approved moving ahead with line striping now rather than in the fall.

Rich noted that the town's grader continues to have mechanical problems. Replacing the grader with either a new or used one in the next year, needs in his view needs to be a real priority.

Police Chief: The chief reviewed the activity log from the last two weeks with the Selectboard. Several domestic violence cases and one copper theft have taken up a lot of the department's investigative time.

The chief noted that a recent river rescue continues to show need for a more central command on these types of calls. Lebanon, Hartford and Hanover are all involved in these calls. This can result in an overwhelming response to what are often simple problems. Last weeks call involved a man who was stranded on ledge at Sumner's Fall and simply wanted a life ring or some help getting to shore. More than 50 people responded to the call.

Other Business: The Selectboard asked for reaction from Road Agent Collins and Police Chief Roberts to the idea of modifying the TA's job descriptions so that the Town Administrator is responsible for the management of all town employees and departments. The Selectboard, by statute, is responsible for all town operations and delegates that work as they decide. Both Paul and Rich indicated no objection to the plan. Both agreed that the changes were in keeping with how the town is operating now. Paul asked that if there was some particular reason for the change it would be helpful to know that. Chairman Eberhardt indicated that the reality is the Selectboard meets twice a month for a few hours. The Town Administrator who reports directly to the Selectboard and is in the town office, is in a much better position to be charged with managing town operations on a daily basis.

Town Administrator Report: The Selectboard reviewed a timber harvest for a 205 acre parcel on Ladieau Hill. Based on the size of the cut the board felt that a security bond for the Houser Lane bridge might be in order. Halleran will convey this information to the forester. Timber Agent Judy Belyea signed the intent to cut.

The board was updated on the job description for the facility manager part time position. Judy Belyea, and Beth Bierwirth at PES have contributed to the description.

The upcoming state mapping work has now been advertised on social media and will likely begin in early August.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday August 3rd 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Timber Harvest: Forester Erhardt Frost met with the Selectboard to discuss the details of the upcoming harvest on Melvin Miller's 205 acres of land on Ladieu Road. At issue is the use of the Houser Lane bridge, which has had a lot of logging truck traffic in the last two summers. This bridge which is still in good shape is the only way to access that part of town with heavy trucks. The group determined that a bond for $25,000 (1/3 of the deck replacement cost) would be issued to the town and that the logger and Road Agent would visit the site and look at the possibility for adding protective cribbing to the bridge to further reduce the likelihood that the bridge would be damaged.

Highway Department: Road Agent Collins reported that the town's road grader is experiencing significant transmission noise which likely means a bearing is going bad. The Selectboard authorized Richard to investigate several used graders that are available. Drew Marrazzo from Townline Equipment has offered to assist the town with evaluating a used machine.

The Selectmen approved a quote for road markings. The 2016 work will be the same as the 2015, Bonner Road, Methodist Hill Road and Willow Brook Road. Penniman Road will be added if funds are available.

As directed by the Board of Selectmen, the highway department will make snow removal on the sidewalks in Plainfield Village more of a priority this next winter. The goal will be to clear the walks no later than the third day following a major storm.

Town Office: Selectmen Taylor and Town Administrator Halleran will be participating next Tuesday in a meeting with Town Attorney and the two fire departments. At issue is a review of the organizational structure of the town departments as it pertains to state law. The study came out of a request by the two departments. At issues is insuring that the members of each department's are eligible for all the protections afforded by state law to municipal fire departments.

Steve Halleran will be attending several upcoming Primex mini courses dealing with employment law. The one day courses run from late August through October.

Town Facility Manager Brad Atwater met with the group to discuss his work over the last month. As expected, the job is turning out to be a split between planning work and actual repair and improvement work. Brad has open projects at the PTH, Plainfield Library and Meriden Library.

Having now completed their review of the issue, the Selectboard voted unanimously (Taylor moved, Belyea seconded) to amend the Town Administrator's job description to make it clear that the position is responsible for and has direct supervision over all town employees and department operations. The Selectboard retains all of its statutory responsibility and authority, but has delegate additional responsibilities to the Town Administrator to run day to day operations of the town. The Selectboard is

free to expand or retract this authority as the board sees fit.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday August 17th 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.

POLICE: Police officer William Heighes met with the Selectmen to discuss his fit for duty status. He was asked if he would like to go into nonpublic session. He declined indicating a preference for being in public session. Halleran noted that Chief Roberts had wanted to attend this meeting, but he had asked him not to as Paul is very sick with flu like symptoms. Officer Heighes has been out of work for nearly 18 months on a work related injury. His latest doctor visit (8/16) was not encouraging for him returning to work anytime soon. Bill thanked the Board of Selectmen and his fellow police officers for all their patience. He was sorry that he could not return to work within the 18 month time frame and expressed understanding if the town felt it must move forward with filling the position. His next appointment is in November. The town will soon (8/25/16) have satisfied the statutory obligation for holding his position for 18 months. The Selectmen thanked Bill for this update and indicated that no final decisions have been made, but obviously this news is not a positive development for getting him back in uniform. The Selectboard expressed support for Bill and all that he has been through with the surgery and continued rehabilitation of his injured knee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Bonner Road resident Andrea Bueno Keen met with the Selectboard to advocate for the installation of traffic calming devices on Bonner Road. In her view, either speed tables or a round about at the Bonner Road School Street intersection would address her concerns. The Selectboard will forward this request on to the Meriden Village Study Group for their input. The group discussed several organizations that might be helpful with traffic calming ideas.

HIGHWAY: The town has taken delivery of its new backhoe this week. The Case 590 machine was delivered on Tuesday. The board expressed thanks to Townline Equipment for providing, at no additional cost, a loaner machine for most of the summer while the new backhoe was being built.

Road Agent Collins is headed to Palmer Ma. tomorrow with a local trucker to bring back a test grader for a month. The used John Deer 672B grader is essentially the same machine as we have now with far fewer hours. The month long rental should provide ample opportunity for the highway grew and others to evaluate the machine as a possible low cost replacement for the current grader.

Chairman Eberhardt walked the group through the nine pages of the Highway Garage Study group's final report. The report and all attachments is available on the town's website. The Selectboard reviewed all of the recommendations made by the group. A detailed meeting with the group is planned for September 21st.

TOWN OFFICE: Steve Halleran reported that final preparations are underway for submitting the various tax rate setting reports to the state. The new rate should be established in early October.

At this time the town has 35% of its fiscal year remaining with 38% of the budget remaining. On the revenue side through June, actual collections were in line with projections.

Town Attorney has filed a motion asking a Federal Court to award Plainfield all of its back taxes on the Brown Property on grounds that the process has taken far too long to complete resulting in unwarranted expenses being deducted from the town's share. The attorney handling the case has asked for a additional time to respond to the motion.

The meeting with Town Counsel and high level representatives from each Fire Department went well. Basically Attorney Schuster based on his firm's research does not feel that either department, as organized, meets the test for being a municipal fire department. Should the two departments want to convert to a municipal, rather than private status, which can be done with a vote at town meeting, but it would be a wholesale change. You are either municipal or you are not, there is no in between status. Of the 36 fire departments in the state that were organized as nonprofits, at least 18 have in the last decade converted to a municipal (town owned and operated) status.

The town's annual Spirit Day Celebration is planned for this Sunday evening at the PES. Again this year, a corn roast, live music and fireworks are planned. Recreation Director Dan Cantlin is the event organizer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday September 7th 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm. Chairman Eberhadt was away.

Highway Department: Road Agent Collins reported on the testing of the 1989 672B grader with 3,400 hours. The machine has been performing well. It appears to be a solid machine with just normal wear. The town hired a retired JD mechanic to offer an opinion of the grader. The outcome was favorable. The examination did reveal a failing water pump, which the owner has agreed to replace and the motor's fuel mixture is slightly richer than it should be. The fuel issue can easily be corrected. Road Agent Collins is recommending to the Selectboard that the town purchase this grader for $40,000 and sell the existing grader which has 14,000 hours and seems to be developing a noise in its transmission. The Selectmen have authorization to spend from the highway equipment fund. The goal would be that for a net of something like $25,000 the town could get at least six or seven years from this used grader while the reserve fund was replenished from the recent purchases of dump trucks and a new backhoe. Halleran noted that it has received several favorable comments on the proposal, as long as the used machine was evaluated by a heavy equipment mechanic. The Selectboard read into the record a letter from Plainfield resident Roger Sharkey who advised against the purchase, noting that a new or nearly new machine was in his view, a better way to go forward. Selectmen Taylor noted that while he does not see this as a long-term solution he does think of this as an opportunity to acquire a very solid machine that will last for years for relatively few dollars. Taylor moved to approve the purchase as outlined. Belyea seconded, both voted in the affirmative.

Police Department: Town Administrator Steve Halleran reported that he has notified William Heighes that the town must rehire for his position. Waiting any longer for Bill's knee to fully recover is not an option. Bill's employment with the town ended on September 1st. Advertisements for a new officer ran in the Valley News with applications due in by September 12th. Steve and Paul hope to have three finalists for the Selectboard to interview at their late September meeting.

Paul updated the group on the department's log.

The noticed public hearing to accept the donation of a dozen firearms and associated items from the Neda Mashouff Trust was called to order. The current owners of the 393 Bean Road estate are moving back to California and do not wish to transport these guns back there. The Selectboard asked the Chief what his plans for the weapons would be. Paul indicated that other than removing some accessories from a couple of the assault rifles, the guns and accessories will be used for store credit with a an approved FFL business. The department will not be selling privately any of the weapons. The Selectboard voted to accept the donation.

Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed the status of the 2016 budget. The 2016 tax rate should be set in early October. The Selectboard were reminded that polling will be taking place at the PES gym next Tuesday for the state primary.

Halleran reported on a human resources seminar he attended last Wednesday on employee evaluations. The Selectboard has established a goal as part of his last evaluation to improve the town office's skill level in employment law. Three more seminars are scheduled for October and November.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Steve Halleran

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday September 21st 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Clint and Bonnie Swift met with the Selectboard to update the board on the fundraising work done by the friends of the Plainfield Library. The grand opening of the basement is set for Sunday November 6th. Chairman Eberhardt will be speaking at this event.

Police: After meeting with Porter Road resident Anthony Swett, who is a certified police officer and a finalist for the open position, the Selectboard accepted the recommendation of Police Chief Roberts and Town Administrator Halleran that the town hire Mr. Swett to fill the vacant position in the Police Department. Selectmen Belyea did not vote on the recommendation as she is related to Tony. The hope is that the Tony will begin work around Columbus Day weekend.

Town Office: The Selectboard approved the various forms required for the setting of the 2016 tax rate. The actual rate setting should take place in two weeks. A rate of $28.15 up from $27.25 is expected.

The Selectboard voted to accept a private trustee fund to be known as the Stalker Veterans Flag Fund. A $5,000 donation from the Stalker's will be placed into this fund. Going forward, the resulting interest from the accumulated principle will be available for the annual purchase of gravesite flags for Plainfield's veterans.

At this same time the Selectboard voted to accept the following as private Trust Funds:

Bill Hendrick Vision Fund	balance	$3,900.
Mother's & Daughter Fund	balance	$2,500.
Beaulah Picker Fund	balance	$48,245
Ruth Brady Camp Fund	balance	$1,743
Mericrafter's Fund	balance	$571

The town's records are unclear as to whether previous boards of Selectmen had voted to accept these funds. This reaffirmation is indicated to make it clear that the funds have been accepted by the Board of Selectmen as permitted by the 1995 town meeting vote.

Highway Department: The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the Highway Garage Study Committee's report. The full report can be viewed at http://www.plainfieldnh.org/ptgsg_rpt.htm Essentially, it is the recommendation of this group that the town should continue to make long term improvements to the site and to make necessary repairs to the building, but at the same time begin the planning process for a new highway garage facility to be located at that site. No major upgrades or project should be done on the building. See report for more details.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm. The next meeting is on Wednesday October 5th at the Plainfield Library.

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday October 5th 2016
Plainfield Library

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.

In keeping with the board's new meeting schedule, the first Selectboard meeting of each quarter is held at the Plainfield Library. Clint and Bonnie Swift along with Virginia Drye attended the meeting to learn about happenings in town government.

Highway Department: Road Agent Collins reported that paving on the Thrasher Road is on schedule for tomorrow. The road base is ready. The Selectboard confirmed that the new pavement will be installed at a uniform width similar to the old. Likely 19'. Tthe existing pavement averages about 18.5' but varies from 17' at the bridge to over 22' at Route 12A.

The final step on replacing the highway garage floor drain system will occur on Thursday with the excavation of the old tank and any contaminated soil. Bill Knight from the Highway Garage Study Committee, has been supervising this project. This final step is expected to cost $8,000 or less.

Richard and Allison Colburn: The Colburns met with the Selectboard at the town's request to discuss a land swap between their property and the town's gravel pit lot, annex so called. The existing building on the annex, constructed by a previous owner, is very close to the Colburn line and the town would be interested in creating more of a buffer around the building owned by the town. Swapping some of the Colburn's frontage land at this location in exchange for the Colburns receiving some additional back land to straighten out the side property line has been suggested. The Coburns were not opposed to this idea. Dick will develop a sketch that addresses both of these issues and if agreeable to both parties an annexation plan will be made up by a local surveyor. Both parcels of land are significantly large enough and have existing development on them in such a way that the land swap is a relatively minor project with few if any impacts.

Cemetery Trustees: Margaret Drye and Brad Atwater met with the Selectboard to discuss the request made by Bev Widger to relocate the access ramp for the Plainfield Cemetery to the north. This move has been planned and discussed for many years as a necessary part of the opening of the new section of the Plainfield Cemetery, which is still some years away. Bev feels there are sight distance safety concerns with the old ramp that would be mitigated by the relocation. Given that there are plenty of unsold lots in the existing cemetery and that the Cemetery Department is facing something on the order of $30,000 in maintenance costs (tree work all in cemeteries all over town and stonewall repair in Plainfield) the Trustees are recommending that the existing ramp be improved to address the safety concerns and the relocation of the ramp be deferred until more long range planning has been done about the planned configuration and final elevations for the new cemetery. Jeff Allbright has estimated that vehicular sight distances can be improved with an additional 55 yards of gravel. This will give cars a level approach onto the state road. In addition, some drainage maintenance work has been suggested for the ramp's culvert.. The Selectboard agreed with this approach.

Meriden Village Study Group: Dewey Jones, Chair, Shawn Rogers and Steve Taylor met with the Selectboard to discuss the groups progress to date and to request Selectboard support for an application to Plan NH to hold a community charet focused on the future of Meriden Village as it pertains to the Meriden Library and the surrounding properties. The group is still debating the best approach for gaining ADA compliance with the library building, addition v. complete rebuild, but part of this depends on how Meriden Village sees itself evolving over the next decade. The Selectboard unanimously gave its support to the concept.

Facilities Manager: Brad Atwater updated the Selectboard on the recent Labor Department inspection of town facilities. The inspection went quite well, there are of course things that need to be improved upon, but basically the town came through the inspection in very good shape. Brad commended the highway department for its work facility which has the most exposure and came through the inspection with just a few minor changes needed.

Town Office: The 2016 Town tax rate will likely be set later this week. The new rate is expected to be between 3.5 to 4% higher than the current rate of $27.25. The biggest variable is catastrophic aid from the state for the school district. Those numbers should be made available in the next day or two. If fully funded a rate of $28.15 is expected. If partially funded the rate could go to $28.50.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday October 19th 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Police: Chief Roberts brought forward a proposal to make two of his officers Justices of the Peace. The cost is $75 per officer. The Selectboard did not object.

Chief Robers, now that the department is at full strength, outlined his plans for emphasizing community policing. Besides increased patrol time, each officer will be expected to spend time at or around the school and on Bonner Road during key times such as the morning commute or afternoon dismissal.

Town Office: Selectmen Eberhardt asked that the minutes reflect that the group led by Nancy Norwalk who was responsible for the 100th anniversary celebration of the back drop did a wonderful job. The presentation was well thought out and well attended.

The Selectboard reviewed and approved bid specification for the town's grader. The replacement unit is now in service, and the old unit will be offered for sale.

The Board received an update on the status of the 2016 budget. There remains 21% of the budget period with 23% of the budget unspent. Revenues are coming in on or just above projections.

Facility manager Brad Atwater stopped into the meeting just to catch up and update the board on ongoing projects. Resurfacing of the hardwood floors at the Plainfield Town Hall is planned for mid November.

Moderator Paul Franklin has seated the 16/17 Finance Committee. The Selectboard's first meeting with them is November 16th.

Selectman Robert Taylor brought forward a proposal to have the town join the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce. This 100 year old organization serves as one of the business drivers in the Upper Valley. The fee to join would be $135. Selectman Eberhardt made a motion to join, Selectmen Belyea seconded the motion and the motion passed on a 2-0 vote. Selectman Taylor did not vote since he recently took a job with the Chamber.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday November 2nd 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Highway: Road Agent Collins reviewed department work from the past two weeks. Pouring the fueling pad for the new Convault tank has been a priority this week. The pad, which includes 5 gallons worth of fuel retention groves in the concrete is the final step to satisfy state requirements for the new fueling area.

Having only received a single $5,000 bid for the old grader (rejected), the Selectboard instructed Halleran and Collins to make the necessary arrangements to sell the grader at a used equipment auction in Hooksett NH. The next sale is December 11th.

After a detailed discussion, the Selectboard voted on the recommendation of Halleran and Collins to hire MRI of Meredith NH to perform an evaluation of the highway department work responsibilities and equipment needs as it relates to sizing of a new highway garage facility. This study is widely seen as the first necessary step in the process of replacing the highway garage facility.

Police: Chief Roberts reviewed the department's log for the last two weeks. Several bad car accidents and a suicide by one of our elderly residents have taken a fair amount of the department's time and resources.

A floor board leak, likely caused by a poor installation of some of the necessary police equipment, has resulted in a significant water leak on the passenger side of the marked police interceptor. More than an inch of water has gotten under the rubber flooring during a recent rain storm. Paul is working with the town's cruiser vendor, MHQ to get the car scheduled for warranty repairs. It appears the necessary gaskets to protect penetrations through the floor boards were not installed.

Fire Department: Chief Currier reported on two significant equipment develops for the town's fire coverage. Meriden Fire Fighter Jeff LeBlanc has written a federal grant that was approved. The grant will cover the entire cost of a new pumper truck for the Meriden station. The grant has a value of more than $300,000. Dingee Machine of Cornish NH has been awarded the contract to build the new truck.

Deputy Fire Chief Bill Taylor recently travelled to Pennsylvania to look at and eventually purchase a used ladder truck for the department. Bill had located the truck as part of an internet search. The truck is basically the same unit used by the City of Lebanon and the City of Claremont. New this truck cost more than a half a million dollars. The truck which has been refurbished and is now being retired, was purchased for $25,000. The vehicle will need about $20,000 in improvements, but should then last our town for the next twenty years.

Town Office: The Selectboard approved a $300 interest abatement for a True Road resident. The resident had documentation showing that the July tax payment had been made in June, but the check has never been cashed. While paying his fall bill the resident became aware that the July payment was not made. The entire tax bill has now been paid. As with past cases where evidence supported the claim of a timely payment the abatement was granted.

The Selectboard completed their plans for attending the upcoming dedication of the now finished basement at the Plainfield Library. Chairman Eberhardt is scheduled to be one of the speakers at the event.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday November 16th 2016
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Town Administrator Halleran updated the Selectboard on the status of various projects in both the highway and police departments. Highway is finishing preparations for the upcoming winter. The Police Department is enjoying a return to full staffing levels.

An updated on the various expenditures from reserve funds where the Board of Selectmen are agents to expend followed.

The Selectboard reviewed and signed the 2016 equalization cover letter to DRA. The work on the project has been completed by town assessor George Hildum.

Finance Committee: Members of the 2016 Finance Committee (Mike Sutherland, Brad Atwater, David Grobe, Sarah Gillens) met with the Selectboard to hear an update on the 2016 budget and to discuss broad concepts for 2017. The 2016 budget is at or under projections. At this time there are no concerns about over expending the approved budget. The 2017 town operating budget will be similar to past budgets. Moving the library director to a full time benefit position and changes to the types of health insurance plans that will be necessary, will be the main drivers in any change to the new town budget. The town has no new capital expenditures planned for 2017, but would like to focus on reserve funding in anticipation of projects and necessary purchases to come. Revenues are at or just above projections for the 2017. The group will next meet with the Selectboard on December 21st.

A highway department study has been commissioned by the Selectboard as the first step in understanding the likely size requirements that would be necessary for any new highway facility. There are no immediate plans to replace the garage, but replacing the existing building at the current site in the next decade may well be the most cost effective approach to pursue.

Other business: The Selectboard approved the concept of closing the Plainfield Town Hall from January 1st to April 1st each year. The approach will be tried this coming year. The propane furnace will be turned off and the water drained from the building. Heating the bathrooms all winter for far little use just doesn't seem to make economic sense and has led to past freeze ups.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday December 6th 2016

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair
Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Human Services Director: Stephanie Schell updated the Selectboard on her department's activities which as of late have been centered on helping Plainfield's residents in need to prepare for the coming winter.

In addition, Stephanie has worked out a relationship with the Town of Cornish, which will begin to make financial contributions to the food pantry. The pantry serves that entire are in need, but primarily Plainfield and Cornish residents.

Town Administrator Halleran took the opportunity while Stephanie was in attendance to open a public hearing on whether or not the Selectboard should accept a unanimous gift of $5,000 to start the Schell Community Assistance Fund a private Trust Fund. Both the principle and interest earned to be available to help Plainfield residents who have financial need as determined by the town's Human Services Director. All accumulated funds will be by private donation. No one spoke against the idea and the Selectboard gladly accepted the donation, established the fund and directed the Town Administrator to forward the money and purpose document to the Trustees of Trust Funds. Stephanie Schell thanked the donor and the Selectboard noting that she was honored that the fund will carry her name.

Fire Departments: Members of both fire departments met with the Selectboard. This meeting was in follow up to Town Attorney's review of their departments and determination that neither satisfies the organization requirements to be deemed municipal departments. Both are legally organized as nonprofits which own and control their own assets. This being the case, a fire department committee was formed and has come back with the recommendation that both departments be merged into one municipal department and all assets and liabilities be conveyed to the town as necessary. Operationally, from a fire protection stand point little will change, but organizationally this change is necessary to insure that both departments have the full protections that come with being municipal entities. Essentially, the fire department will be exactly like the police department or highway department. The fire chief will be appointed by the Selectboard and will report to the town administrator. The Selectboard voted to act on this request by authorizing the Town Administrator to pursue all necessary steps to prepare for the conversion of our two existing independent fire departments to become a municipal department. This conversion is expected to take a year or more, with some action in the form of an authorizing warrant article (s) likely at the 2017 town meeting.

2017 Budget: The remainder of the meeting was spent working on the 2017 budget draft for presentation to the Finance Committee on December 20th. During the discussion, increasing monies to the legal budget for the fire department issue and perhaps the replacement of the one remaining crown vic cruiser were items that were added to the 2017 budget proposal. The cruiser replacement would be a multi year lease,

with the goal being to get all three cars on a four or five year rotation. The Chief recommends a rotation replacing all vehicles at the same time.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor