

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
January 4th 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea
Mark Wilder

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway Department: Ken Stocker reported that while overall sand usage this winter is down, the many small storm events have resulted in an about average use of salt for this time of the year.

Ken hopes to have the crew continue work on brush cutting in the coming days. The warm weather and light snow accumulations make this a good winter for this type of work.

The new plow truck continues to perform well. There have been a few minor issues, but all covered by the manufacturer.

Other Business: The Selectboard met briefly with and swore in Judy Ptak as a full member of the Conservation Commission. Judy has lived in town for almost twenty years and is looking forward to working with the commission on several of their ongoing projects.

Town Office: The Selectboard approved a contract for continuing to use Windsor Ambulance in 2006. Halleran reported on budgetary work to date. The Selectboard will meet with the Finance Committee on January 18th. As the 2005 books are closed out, final numbers will allow for some fine-tuning off the 2006 proposed budget.

There was a brief discussion about a new shed at 782 Stage Road, see permit '05-81. The Selectboard will require that the owner verify that the shed, which is not on a permanent foundation, is located out of the state's right of way for the highway. Likewise, the owner will be encouraged to move the shed as far back on the property as possible. The small size of the lot makes locating any temporary outbuilding on the site difficult.

The Board reviewed the Town Call Committees annual report on the condition of the Plainfield Town Hall. The board instructed Halleran to continue to work on the committee's recommendations as funds allow. Halleran noted that both the rear shed roof replacement and the floor resurfacing are already scheduled for this year. The propane tank relocation is another issue that he hopes to address this spring.

Police Department: Chief Gillens reported on his department's activities over the last week. Officer Tony Swett leaves for the full-time academy on Monday.

The Police Department is receiving some cosmetic improvements at this time. Where cracked walls are being patched and painted and the floors will be resurfaced as well.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Mark Wilder
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
January 18th 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:30pm

This meeting was devoted to the first of two town budget hearings. The Finance Committee was in attendance along with Fire Chief David Best and Plainfield Library Trustees Anita Brown and Jennifer Frederick. The 2006 budget was reviewed, currently the amount of monies to be raised from taxation is slated to increase by 12% or about \$81,600. Much of the increase has to do with the full year of the new police officer, increases in the highway department, and increases in the town's garbage/recycling collection contract. Throughout the budget, salaries are slated to increase on average about 3% with health insurance premiums having risen 9%. The Plainfield Library appropriation is up about \$6,000 but this projection is in keeping with the projections the trustees made to the Finance Committee prior to the construction of the new addition.

The planned road project for 2006 is Westgate Road, with Willow Brook Road planned for 2007. At this time the town is pursuing some federal monies for Willow Brook Road, however, with the damage from hurricanes Wilma and Katrina the grants have become very competitive so obtaining funding is far from assured.

Finance Committee comments focused on the group's sense that the town is falling behind on overall road infrastructure maintenance. To this end, the group supports an increase in funding for roadwork, particularly ditching and brush cutting. Likewise the group would also support additional technical assistance to aid in making key road improvement decisions. The Selectboard will look into establishing a road reconstruction capital reserve fund at this year's town meeting. On the recommendation of the Finance Committee the town voters will be given a choice to fund some or all of this from current use penalty monies currently going to the Conservation Fund.

A second budget hearing will be held on Wednesday evening February 1st at the Meriden Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
January 25th 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea
Mark Wilder

The meeting opened at 6:30pm

Police: The Selectboard, at the request of Chief Gillens, held a meeting to discuss the third full-time officer position. Despite our best preparatory efforts the hired officer has, for personal reasons, dropped out at week two of the required twelve week Police Academy. This being the case, in the Chief's view he will no longer be able to fill the full-time position, but may continue to work on a part-time basis. Chief Gillens recommended that prior to advertising the vacancy that the position is offered to one of the other candidates who had initially applied back in March of last year. If successful, this approach would greatly reduce the time the search might otherwise take and would insure that Plainfield hires a certified officer with knowledge of our town. The Selectboard approved this approach. If unsuccessful, the position will immediately be advertised and full-scale search started.

Other business: Halleran updated board members on the warrant for town meeting, including the new articles to create a road improvements fund and to isolate the current use penalty monies for additional voter consideration.

The Board also reviewed the FEMA grant application that is being put together by the town office for submission on or before February 3rd.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm, the board's next meeting will be February 1st, 2006.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Mark H. Wilder

Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
February 1st 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea
Mark Wilder

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway: Road Agent Stocker reported that to date the Highway department has applied 2,900 yards of sand to town gravel roads. This equates to over forty applications. Likewise 171 tons of salt have been spread on paved roads over sixty applications. A typical winter will result in the use of 4,000 yards of sand and 600 tons of salt. This year, the many minor snow and ice events are the main focus. However, like most years, in the end, the quantity of materials and labor used during the winter season is about the same from year to year.

Ken indicated that the loader bucket has been rehabbed with a new steel bottom. This is the second time the bucket has been rebuilt while he has been road agent. The work saves the town about \$5,600 each time it is done. A new bucket would cost approximately \$15,000. Ken again noted that the loader is approaching 20,000 hours of service.

The '94 Chevrolet truck (#8) is on the road and performing well. The vehicle uses much less fuel than the other pick ups and is a good alternative for daily department errands and job site inspections.

Much time and effort has been spent these last two weeks filling ruts on town roads caused by the very warm winter season. There is nearly no frost in the roads and when the temperature reaches 50 degrees or more for a day or two, mud season occurs. As conditions allow, the highway department is making repairs until spring grading can begin.

Town Office: Chairman Taylor signed the town's representation letter to Podzik and Sanderson. Halleran noted that the audit is now complete. Despite higher than anticipated expenditures in several areas, the town's financial health strengthened this past year on strong receipts. An additional \$64,000 has been added to unreserved fund balance.

The Selectmen reviewed, edited and approved a letter from the town and Kimball Union to Senator Gregg concerning the possibility of obtaining federal monies for Main Street, Route 120, Bonner Road improvements related to pedestrian safety. See December 21st 2005 minutes. While still very early in the process, the Selectmen made it clear that a better understanding of what the town's responsibilities for the project will be is needed. Halleran will try to get a meeting set up with the Selectboard and KUA administration to address these concerns.

Finance Committee: The remainder of the meeting was spent working with the Finance Committee and the public in attendance on completing the 2006 warrant and budget proposal. This hearing also served as the town's second budget hearing. Most of the discussion focused on three issues: 1) Creating a new capital reserve fund for Highway Transportation Enhancements and funding it with \$50,000 each year. The Selectboard and Finance Committee feel that spending on town road projects needs to increase. 2) Providing the voters a change to redirect some of the current use penalty monies to other municipal projects. At this time 50% of these revenues go to the Conservation Fund. The current proposal would amend that to 25%. Conservation Commission David Grobe noted that the Conservation Commission is not opposed to bringing this issue to the voters for either amendment or affirmation of the existing arrangement. 3) The establishment of a new fund (RSA 79) that would hold all current use penalty monies not allocated to the Conservation Fund aside for one year until the voters were given an opportunity at annual meeting to direct those funds to a specific project. The Finance Committee supports this approach as a way of providing voters an opportunity to be more directly involved in how these monies are used each year. Any remaining balance in this holding fund, lapses to the general fund after town meeting.

Based on the above full discussion the Selectmen determined that all three issues would be on the 2006 warrant for voter consideration and input.

Halleran noted that one additional warrant article request has come to the town, this from the Conservation Commission to use \$5,000 from the forestry maintenance fund to mark boundaries of town owned lands. The group in attendance was supportive of this project and the article will be placed on the warrant.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Mark H. Wilder

Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
February 15th 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea
Mark Wilder

The meeting opened at 6:30pm

Highway: Halleran reported that work has continued on repairing ruts and muddy areas caused by the unusually warm weather this winter. Ken is intending to get all the roads patched together before the forecasted cold front moves in this weekend.

Police: Chief Gillens reported that officer Tony Swett has been cleared to return to work as a part-time officer. Toney hurt his back while attending the police officer training academy. He will begin filling in a few shifts as the schedule allows.

Halleran and Gillens discussed with the Board an upcoming meeting with Lebanon Fire Chief Allen concerning his plans to assist the upper valley in preparing for a bird flu related event. Plainfield is being considered as a possible inoculation site for Plainfield and Cornish residents.

Town Office: The board reviewed and approved the warrant and budget forms for the 2006 annual meeting. Town Meeting is March 14th and March 18th this year. In preparation for the meeting the Selectboard divided up the various articles for presentation.

Halleran reported that the town report is due back from the printer on next Thursday and will be mailed to residents on Friday.

The Planning Board master plan survey is now being distributed to residents, the completed surveys are do back Friday March 3rd.

Board members discussed the ongoing Mark Horne case, which is before the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Several residents from Plainfield Village have objected to the Zoning Board's process in handling the case. In Halleran's view three of these residents were unnecessarily mean spirited toward the Zoning Board at the February 13th meeting. The Selectboard voiced support for the Zoning Board membership and the service that they provide to the town. Further the Selectboard noted that this experienced board has handled many difficult cases on behalf of the town in the past.

Halleran reported on a meeting he had last week with Lebanon City Manager Gregg Mandsager. Lebanon hopes to have criteria in place by mid May to evaluate requests from communities to use the landfill. Plainfield has been discussing this issue with Lebanon since 2002 and is part of the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District which uses the landfill as its end facility for residential waste.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Mark H. Wilder

**March 1st 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:

Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea
Mark Wilder

The meeting opened at 6:00pm. Resident Anita Brown and her son Aaron attended the meeting as part of his civics class

Highway: Ken Stocker updated the Selectboard on the highway department's activities over the last two weeks. The open winter continues to allow for tree and brush removal work to be done in between the various warm spells that have required gravel hauling to address muddy road conditions. Most recently the crew has been working on brush removal along Westgate Road, the site for this year's main road project. To date, winter maintenance has used 3354 cubic yards of sand. The highway budget has 54% of its salt budget left, although much of that is used to build next winters sand pile.

On Ken's recommendation, the Selectboard agreed to gravel crushing this spring and to make monies budgeted for crack sealing available for additional gravel crushing. This warm winter has required the use of a lot of gravel and replenishing the crushed gravel stockpile needs to be a priority.

Police: Chief Gillens reported that the extended power outage of two weeks ago was yet another example of how well the community and our emergency service providers all work together. Neighbors helped neighbors and damage from the storm was minimal.

Land Use Change Tax Fund Hearing: Chairman Taylor opened at 7:00pm the hearing, which is a requirement of the statute when a community is trying to establish a fund. Conservation Commission member Gordon Wilder was in attendance. If approved, the fund will be used to hold unencumbered current use penalty monies out of the general fund for voter consideration at the next annual meeting. Funds not specifically allocated to a project return to the general fund to offset future taxes. The hearing was closed at 7:15pm.

Other Business: Town Hall Operations Committee member Bev Widger met with the Selectboard to voice her concerns that the ceiling in the foyer area in the Plainfield town hall be replastered not sheet rocked. In addition, the committee feels that they should not be asked to fund raise for any portion of the added cost for the plaster repair as this is building maintenance a town responsibility.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Submitted,

Robert Taylor

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Mark H. Wilder

Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
March 15th 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea
Mark Wilder

The meeting opened at 6:30pm.

Town Office: The Board discussed an offer by resident and carpenter John Stephenson to provide to the town a set of kitchen cabinets and some appliances that came out of a home remodel he recently completed. The items are to be used in the Plainfield Town Hall for the long awaited kitchen. The Board reviewed photos of the cabinets and counter tops and agreed to accept this generous offer. Halleran will contact John about more of the details and will inform the town hall operations committee of this generous gift.

Based on the approval of the Board of Selectmen, Halleran will contact both the Town of Cornish and the Plainfield School Board concerning having a bird flu inoculation site in Plainfield, to likely be located at the Plainfield Elementary School. This effort is part of a wider regional plan with most selected communities agreeing to participate. If the sites were needed, the governor would close the public schools. Local school buildings are often selected because of their office space, multiple phone lines, bathroom facilities, large parking areas etc.

The Board directed Halleran to work toward getting the garbage and debris from several residences along Stage Road cleaned up. The debris is starting to blow into the road and causing safety problems.

Police Department: Chief Gillens encouraged the Selectboard to write a letter to the NH DOT about the winter maintenance on Route 12A. This winter has seen several accidents on the roadway, which does not seem to be getting the necessary maintenance. This morning the road was particularly icy and the DOT response was again slow. The Selectboard agreed to send the letter.

Highway: Repairing muddy road sections and thawing frozen culverts continues to be the main objectives of the department these days. Ken Stocker indicated that as time allows work on tree and brush removal is ongoing.

Other Business: The Selectboard spent the remainder of the meeting preparing for the upcoming annual meeting. The business portion of the meeting is this Saturday.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Mark H. Wilder

Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S

April 5th 2006 Meeting

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Judy Belyea
Mark Wilder

The meeting opened at 6:30pm.

Highway Department: Road Agent Ken Stocker reviewed applications for the vacant highway department position with the Selectboard. Ken hopes to fill the new position in the next week or so. Ken reported that he has met on Westgate Road with Public Service of New Hampshire to discuss relocating a utility pole near the Westgate Condominiums. This work is part of the road reconstruction project started last summer. The existing pavement on Westgate Road from the Hayward Road intersection eastward will be removed as soon as gravel crushing in the town pit is complete. To insure that the highway department's plan for the road reconstruction is in line with the wishes of the Selectboard, the Selectboard will walk the roadway with Ken Stocker in the next week or so. Following this meeting, but before the project starts a public hearing will also take place.

The Selectboard agreed to allowing the highway department to experiment with using a 2/3 manufactured sand with 1/3 salt mixture to cut down on salt usage next winter. The project could have both budgetary and environmental benefits.

At Ken's urging, the Selectmen will look at a recently installed split rail fence, which has been located well within the town's right of way. Ken's recommendation is that the owner be informed that the town will not be responsible for damage to the fence. The Selectboard members noted if the fence is right adjacent to the traveled portion of the roadway the owner will be required to move it.

Police Department: Chief Gillens noted that the early April snow caused some travel headaches on roads in and around Plainfield last evening.

Gordon is having a fuel pump problem with the new cruiser. However, the repair work is under warranty and should be no financial cost to the town.

Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed and approved the financial reports from town meeting. These documents will be forwarded to the New Hampshire Department of Revenue as the first step in the 2006 tax rate setting process.

The 2006 Salary Schedule was approved. As presented at town meeting, this year's schedule represents, on average, a 3% increase over the previous year.

Other business: At this time, the Selectboard left the town hall to view the fence mentioned above. From this visit it was determined that the new fence is too close to the road and the owner will be asked to move it back away from the roadway to at least its previous location.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Mark H. Wilder
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S

April 19th 2006 Meeting

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Judy Belyea
Mark Wilder
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 5:45pm with a site visit to the Westgate Road project. The Selectmen started the visit at Hayward/Westgate Road intersection and moved along the entire paved portion of the roadway. The existing pavement will be ground up and turned into road base in mid May. Tree removal along the project is minimal and to large extent is now complete. Several trees near the Westgate Condominiums have been removed and one or two utility poles may have to be relocated. Where needed, gravel and stabilization fabric will be used and under drain will be installed.

Selectman Wilder noted that where ditches can be sloped to allow for a depth of more than 4' under drain is not needed saving the town the cost and time of installing the system. To improve the existing small open ditch, some ledge will be removed from the ditch line across from the Gordon LaPan residence. Once proper drainage ways have been established and gravel and fabric added, the roadway will be repaved to a width of 20'. Prior to starting this summer's work, the Selectmen will walk the roadway with interested abutters to answer their questions and address any outstanding issues.

Town Office 6:40pm

Tax Collector Ruth Wheeler met with the Selectmen and provided them a list of Plainfield properties that may be tax collector deeded this year. Currently, there are three properties on this list, but hopefully each of the land owners will come forward with sufficient payments to negate the need for any deeding. Ruth pointed out that the law does not give the collector discretion; she must issue the deed and the present it to the Selectboard. It is then the Selectboard's decision as to what to do with the deed once issued.

Plainfield's NH/VT Solid Waste Representative Richard Atkinson met with the Selectboard to discuss the project's efforts to dissolve all of its assets as part of the July 1st 2007 contract expiration. Currently, the project is seeking permission to turn over the closed ash landfill to an economic development organization in Newport. The group "ECON" plans to place an easement on the property so that it will not be used as a landfill in the future. Based on assurances from Richard that the Town government of Newport favors this action, the Selectmen voted to authorize Richard to vote for the transaction.

Police: Chief Gillens reported that he is evaluating the benefit and costs of having the police department accredited by the State of New Hampshire. All officers are certified, but recently more and more departments are also becoming accredited. The endorsement will likely result in more favorable insurance rates and does provide an outside peer review of the department's policies and procedures.

Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed and signed several new applications for the elderly and veterans exemptions. The period for filing applications for 2006 has now closed.

Halleran noted that both Senator Gregg and Sununu have provided letters of support to the town's FEMA grant application concerning Willow Brook Road.

The State of New Hampshire is having a region #5 update session concerning avian flu preparedness next Wednesday at Alice Peck Day hospital. Halleran will try to attend.

The April 19th meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Mark H. Wilder
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S

May 3rd 2006 Meeting

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Mark Wilder
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm at the Meriden Town Hall

Highway: Road Agent Ken Stocker provided the Selectboard with some initial pavement pricing from Pike Industries. The following roads were considered for paving: Westgate Road, Center of Town Road, Methodist Hill Road, Beauty Hill Road. Due to petroleum product price increases the Selectmen determined that repaving Westgate Road (2006 road project) and shimming Methodist Hill Road would require all available pavement maintenance monies for 2006. Pavement work on Center of Town Road and Beauty Hill Road will, unfortunately, have to be deferred at this time. Due to its commuting traffic and deteriorating pavement surface, Methodist Hill was selected over the other two roads.

About half of the town's vehicle fleet has now been outfitted with the town seals. The other half will be completed in the next week or so.

Recreation Program: The Selectmen met with Dan Cantlin, Marty Morgan, David Dupree, and Judy Houde Hardy members of the town's recreation commission to discuss how best to handle Recreation Director George Prescott's extended hospitalization. It is the recommendation of the commission that George remain as the athletic director, but that the committee take a more active role in handling the menu of programs. At this time, the town's recreation department offers the following sports: **Winter**-Basketball, **Spring**-Baseball, softball, **Summer** T-ball, Swimming, Tennis, Fishing Derby, **Fall**- Soccer. In general, the department's activities are designed for children K-grade 4. Use of the town's new website for the posting of contact information, schedules, and programs was encouraged. Halleran noted that the town office remains a resource for the commission to utilize. The Selectboard thanked the group for all of its efforts. The commission plans to hold its own meeting in the next few days.

Police Department: Chief Gillens shared with the Selectboard the work his department and the Plainfield PTA are doing to put together a bike safety course for Plainfield Children. Officer Paul Roberts has put a lot of effort into this event. The support from local businesses has been very strong and is appreciated.

Gordon attended the Avian Flu planning workshop in Lebanon last Wednesday. All towns from region #5 were in attendance. Gordon feels, that with a little planning, our local resources will be well positioned to take advantage of any state or federal programs to handle a flu outbreak.

Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed and approved building permits; one application for an elderly exemption was deferred until additional information could be obtained. Various town board and commission reappointments were approved.

Selectman Taylor updated the board on the Site Plan Review the Planning Board is conducting for the proposed KUA athletic fields. Environmental concerns relating to the artificial turf field, parking issues and minimizing the impact of the proposed lights continue to be the main concerns over the proposed field complex.

The May 3rd meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Mark H. Wilder
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S

May 17th 2006 Meeting

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Mark Wilder
Robert Taylor

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

Highway Department: Road Agent Ken Stocker discussed a water-damaged area that has occurred on the Gillen property adjacent to one of the town's water turnouts for the road. Ken stressed that this has been happening for years and is not a recent change. Selectboard members will look at the area prior to the board's next meeting.

Board members approved a minor change to the 2006 approved paving work. By starting the Westgate Road project at the intersection with Hayward Road enough paving dollars can be saved to allow the Highway Department to install and pave over about 300' of under drainage on the Center of Town Road sharp corner adjacent to Reed's Mill Road.

Ken informed the Selectboard that the existing pavement along Westgate Road will be reclaimed during the last week of May. Halleran will schedule a sitewalk with the Selectmen and road abutters for June 7th.

The approved shim work on Methodist Hill is now complete.

Police: The Selectmen approved a request by Chief Gillens to upgrade the department's firearms. The existing weapons have been in service for twelve years and per police standards are now due to be replaced.

Gordon is continuing to work with state and local authorities on the Avian Flu a plan for an Avian Flu breakout. All towns in state are involved in this effort. Plainfield is located in what is known as region #5.

Town Office: Halleran updated the board on the 2006 work of town assessor George Hildum. Tax Collector Ruth Wheeler hopes to mail tax bills the last week of this month.

The Selectmen reviewed a brochure being developed by the Solid Waste Committee for the upcoming clean up day. Some minor changes were suggested, the board thinks the idea is a good one and thanked the committee for its work.

Concerning fuel prices for the coming year, Halleran reported that at this time it is not possible to lock into a diesel fuel price and that heating oil prices are not expected to rise significantly over the current market rate.

The town continues to wait for word from FEMA on the Willow Brook Road project. The flood damage in the southern part of the state over the last week is unlikely to help our chances of getting funding.

Halleran was instructed to intensify efforts to have garbage cleaned up from several properties along Stage Road. Some progress has been made, but not enough for the project to be considered complete at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Mark H. Wilder
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S

June 5th 2006 Meeting

Plainfield Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Mark Wilder
Robert Taylor

Westgate Road

The meeting opened at 6:00pm with residents to discuss on site, the work planned for Westgate Road which is currently being reconstructed. Bev and Robert Widger along with Joe Longacre and Robert Drye attended the meeting. Ken Stocker explained that from Hayward Road to the condominiums, most of the planned work involved re-establishing an open drainage ditch on the south side of the road. The road will be raised about six inches and water will sheet drain onto existing lawns on the north side of the road along this section. The road will be repaved to a width of twenty feet. Most of the significant work to be completed is from the Westgate condominiums easterly to Opengate Farm. Along this stretch, extensive drainage work is needed. Likewise, opening up a drainage ditch on the north side of the road near the Lapan residence is a priority.

Resident Bev Widger asked that the Selectboard consider additional signage along the road to help with anticipated speeding problems. Joe Longacre encouraged the Highway Department to use stabilization fabric as needed, particularly around culvert headers and drainage areas.

Plainfield Town Hall 6:45pm

Police: Chief Gillens is away on vacation Sgt. Lawrence Dore is in charge of the department in Gordon's absence.

Town Office: Halleran reviewed with the Selectboard the 2005 abatement work completed by assessor George Hildum. Minor abatements were granted on three properties, five other applications were denied. George is working on three other requests.

The Selectboard resigned a corrective deed concerning the Taylor land used for the Plainfield Village Water tank. The Taylor's title company asked for some additional clarification, which has now been provided and accepted by town counsel.

The Selectboard reviewed the marking of the town property bounds proposal by the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission, out of the Forestry Maintenance Fund, is paying for the town meeting approved work.

The Selectboard, on the recommendation of the Historical Society, approved the use of a stage set photo by Fritz Wetherbee in a new book that he is writing.

Beverly Widger met with the Selectboard to discuss nominations for the Plainfield town hall operations committee. As set up the committee is to have seven members it currently has four. Bev indicated that David Chellis, Pam Abramson, Nancy Scott are willing to serve. The Selectboard approved these nominations. The board will forward a letter of appointment to the full committee.

Other Business: Tom Wolkie met with the Selectboard to discuss his candidacy for becoming a member of the Conservation Commission. The Selectboard explained that in selecting persons who have expressed an interest in serving priority is typically given to those that have lived and owned property in the town the longest. The Selectboard are responsible for appointing the membership of the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board. The town's Moderator appoints the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Selectmen pointed out that they feel it is important to maintain a balance of viewpoints on all town boards.

Peter Berry Town Forest Fire Warden met briefly with the Selectboard to have some forest fire training reimbursements approved.

Halleran updated the Selectboard on various Planning and Zoning issues. The Planning Board is currently involved with a review of a 70'X120' metal building being proposed by Matthew Jackson. The building is to be used for storage of the applicant's personal property. The Planning Board is trying to work with the applicant to site the building so as to minimize any impacts on the Route 12A view shed as you enter and exit Plainfield Village.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Mark H. Wilder
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
June 21st 2006 Meeting
Plainfield Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
 Mark Wilder
 Robert Taylor

The Meeting opened at 6:30pm.

Highway: Road Agent Ken Stocker reported that drainage course maintenance; cutting back vegetation at road intersection and bridges and road grading has been the main focus for his department over the last two weeks. The department is trying to get these things shaped up so that the focus of the next six weeks can be the Westgate Road project. The Selectboard confirmed that calcium chloride may be used for dust control during road construction, but that it will not be used as a maintenance practice on gravel roads as per the vote at town meeting.

Police Department: Chief Gillens was called away before he could provide a report to the Selectboard to assist with a structure fire on Tallow Hill Road.

Town Office: Halleran reported that the clean up day sponsored by the town's Solid Waste Management Committee went very well. Over sixty yards of general junk, thirty yards of scrap material, thirty yards of tires, and more than a ton of used computer equipment were collected at this event. The assistance of two Highway Department Employees was very helpful and insured that the event went smoothly.

The Selectboard began its review of an ongoing project between private citizens and the Conservation Commission to re-establish a bridge and trail network from the elementary school to French's ledges. William Knight will speak to the Selectboard at an upcoming meeting about the details of the project. From its initial review the Selectboard is most concerned about insuring inclusive public access to the trails and clearly understanding what, if any, additional liability will result from the proposed bridge.

Responding to a letter from the Chairman of the Conservation Commission Halleran was asked to draft a letter from the Selectboard making it clear that the Commission is encouraged to forward suggestions for membership on the Conservation Commission to the Selectboard, but that in the end, by law, the Selectboard makes the appointments. The Selectboard feels strongly that qualifications for a seat on any town board should include the following items: General knowledge and understanding of the board's work, length of time having lived in Plainfield, and ownership of real estate within the community. In addition in making appointments, the Selectboard places an emphasis on insuring that all board's have a broad spectrum of viewpoints that represent the entire community.

Other Business: As part of region #5 Avian Flu preparedness, the Selectboard approved a memorandum of understanding with the State of New Hampshire to accept funding to be used to hire a consult to assist with planning for a pandemic.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Mark H. Wilder

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard

**July 5th 2006 Meeting
Plainfield Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
 Mark Wilder
 Robert Taylor

The Meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Highway: Road Agent Ken Stocker reported on the highway department's recent work. Ken was on vacation last week with Assistant Road Agent Richard Collins in charge of the crew. Ken noted that Richard did a very good job running the department for the week. Work has continued on Westgate Road with the replacement of several culverts. Resident Gordon Lapan has objected to the relocation of a culvert directly across from his driveway. Ken feels that the culvert needs to be replaced and that all work will be in the town's right of way. The Selectboard approved moving ahead with the replacement. Halleran reported that he has had several inquiries from both Colby Hill Road and Beauty Hill Road residents about the poor condition of the existing roads. In both cases the existing pavement is in very bad shape, however, since both roads are low volume roads the repair work has been pushed off as asphalt prices have risen dramatically. Beauty Hill seems to be in the worst shape and returning the road to gravel has been suggested. Ken noted that he would object to removing the pavement from Beauty Hill fearing that the steep grade would result in lots of gravel washing down onto Route 12A during storm events. The Selectboard asked Ken to obtain current estimates for overlaying both roadways. The Board noted that this is yet another example of why Plainfield needs to increase the amount of money being spent on paved road surfaces.

Other: Robert Gabrysch of 303 Freeman Road came in to talk to the Selectboard about pollution, in particular, trash pick up along the town and state roads. Mr. Gabrysch was directed to both the State of New Hampshire adopt a highway program and the town's conservation commission as means of becoming involved with established efforts to reduce the amount of garbage found on the roadsides.

Police: Chief Gillens reported to the Selectboard on the two untimely deaths in Plainfield last week. In accordance with existing policy both deaths were initially reported to the Selectboard at the time they occurred. In the first case an equipment operator died while working in the Blue Mountain Forest. It appears in that case the man died from a heart related problem. No accident with the heavy equipment he was operating had occurred. In the second case, a young Massachusetts athlete attending summer camps at Kimball Union drownf in the pool. It appears that the death was a tragic accident, as the young boy did not know how to swim. The camp was using KUA facilities, but provided its own staff including life guards.

Town Office: Halleran updated the board on the town's FEMA applications. Last winter the town began the process of seeking \$200,000 in federal assistance with repairs to Willow Brook Road. New Hampshire has been notified that along with the other New England states, no general federal hazard mitigation money will be coming to the state at this time. However, due to the flooding last fall in the southern part of the state, New Hampshire will received about \$800,000 in FEMA mitigation monies and the Plainfield project stands a very good chance of being funded from that money. A final determination should be made later this month.

The Selectboard approved the recommendation by assessor George Hildum that the town not reduce the New England Power transmission line assessment any further. A tax abatement was granted for 2005, however, NEP has remained unsatisfied with the revised assessment.

The Selectboard revised an approved a letter to the Conservation Commission regarding future appointments to the board.

The July 5th Selectboard meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Mark H. Wilder

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
July 19th 2006 Meeting
Plainfield Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
 Mark Wilder
 Robert Taylor

The Meeting opened at 6:30pm.

Town Office: Stephen Halleran reported that assessor George Hildum has been in town this week completing assessing work for 2006.

Brad Wilder has asked for confirmation, that despite the resolution of his 2005 tax appeal, the results of the 2003 appeal, when available, will be brought forward for subsequent years including 2005. The Selectboard confirmed that this was the town's position on all abatements.

The Selectboard will, at the board's August 2nd meeting, start formal meetings with Northeast Waste Services concerning a new contract, which could include garbage disposal.

Beauty Hill Road: Residents Jennief Fredrick, Carol Edwin, Jerome Clemens, Shirley Hudson with the Selectboard to present a letter, copy attached, signed by over thirty residents living in the Old County Road/Beauty Hill Road area, asking the town to address the poor condition of Beauty Hill Road. The Selectboard acknowledged the poor condition of the road and indicated that they are considering two plans of action. The first is a quick fix designed to improve the driving surface of the road's worst section. The second approach would be to make Beauty Hill and Colby Hill roads the 2007 highway project. This approach would result in a better project with a much longer useful life. This second approach is the preferable one for the Selectboard, but does potentially mean a longer delay before meaningful work is started on Willow Brook Road. This would not be the case if Willow Brook Road is repaired with an outside contractor, however, this option will require substantially more money to fund. The residents in attendance had a strong preference for waiting an additional year but having the road repaired properly. The Selectboard will consult with Road Agent Ken Stocker and the town's Finance Committee prior to making any final decisions on how to proceed.

William Nugent: True Road Resident Bill Nugent met with the board to discuss drainage improvement work that he has had done along his property to allow him to be able to mow the ditch line adjacent to his stonewall. The work was done by a local contractor and with the permission of the Road Agent. However, Mr. Nugent objects to the way the highway department left the project prior to his contractor starting work. The ditch that resulted from the department's efforts to drain the area was, in his view, left too deep and was not finished in way that assisted his efforts and likely made his project more expensive. Dr. Nugent did not ask for any remediation, however, he hopes that the Selectboard will insure that when a resident wants to improve their property that the town should be more helpful. Halleran noted that he felt the work done by the highway department was done with the knowledge that a private contractor would be immediately working at the site and therefore the usual finish work for a ditch line project was not done. Mr. Nugent felt this might explain some of the condition, but certainly not all of the aspects of the job that he is upset about.

Other Business: The Selectboard briefly discussed the idea of using town highway forces to make the wastewater connection between the elementary school and the wastewater plant. The school has been unable to locate a contractor for this work for the \$40,000 that was budgeted. If town forces did the work, any savings over the hard costs could go toward future paving projects. While not immediately opposed to the idea, the Selectboard indicated that a lot more information would be needed before the highway department could commit to the work.

The July 19th meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Mark H. Wilder

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S

August 2nd 2006 Meeting

Plainfield Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Mark Wilder
Robert Taylor

The Meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Highway Department: Road Agent Ken Stocker reported that the highway department has begun the most intensive portion of the Westgate Road project. This work involves the removal of a lot of clay from the road base starting at the condominiums and going up to Open Gate Farm. This work will be ongoing for the next few days. Using some of this material at the Stage Road ball field to continue past efforts to establish a parking area near Stage Road was considered. However, given the high moisture content of this material and the nearby Blow-me-down Brook it was decided not to use this material for this purpose.

Ken reported that he is down one man in the highway department, but he hopes to have candidates for the Selectboard to consider in the next couple of weeks.

Due to a significant price increase the town will be switching road salt vendors. The new rate will be approximately \$48 per ton, last year's price was around \$44 per ton. The town uses about 600 tons of salt each winter.

Following up on a site visit that had taken place earlier in the evening at the Stage Road ball field, resident and Conservation Commission member Gordon Wilder asked that the Selectmen monitor more closely how the Road Agent is treating town residents and town boards. Mr. Wilder feels that at times not enough respect is shown.

Following up from last meeting, the Selectboard determined that Beauty Hill Road and Colby Hill Roads will be the planned road project(s) for next summer. This plan is contingent on the Willow Brook Road work being done with an outside contractor.

Police Department: Chief Gillens reported that calls for service for the police department remain well above historical norms. Gordon reinforced that having the third full-time officer position has made a significant difference in his department's ability to meet the increased demand for service. He praised the work of both Sgt. Dore and Corporal Roberts for their extraordinary efforts in handling several complex cases in the last month.

Halleran reported that indications are that the Selectboard and Police Chief signed letter to the state concerning Stage Road may have resulted in the state returning to a plan for the paving Stage Road this summer. After learning that work on Stage Road had been postponed, the Selectmen and Police Chief sent a joint letter to the state and our local representatives asking that paving not be delayed. It now appears that the road is being prepared for paving.

Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed a letter from the State Bureau of Emergency Management. Plainfield, pending final FEMA approval, has been awarded \$160,000 hazard mitigation grant in connection with the planned work for Willow Brook Road. While not final, this letter is the strongest indication to date that the town will indeed receive some assistance with the planned work on this regionally important road. The funding effort has involved work by a lot of individuals including town residents who took the time to contact FEMA and our Congressional delegation.

The Selectboard met with Dave Allen of Northeast Waste Services concerning a five year contract proposal by NEWS to provide trash pick up, curbside recycling and all waste disposal services for the town for the next five years. The Selectmen will officially respond to the proposal in the coming weeks with a goal of completing a deal prior to the start of the 2007 budget process.

The August 2nd meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Mark H. Wilder

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S

August 16th 2006 Meeting

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Mark Wilder
Robert Taylor

The Meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Highway Department: Road Agent Stocker reviewed the application received for the open highway department position with the Selectboard. Based on the consent of the Selectmen, Ken hopes to fill the position in the next week.

Westgate Road is scheduled for paving on September 6th. Ken is confident that he can have the work done and ready for that date.

The highway crew is planning to work Friday and Saturday if necessary to trench the line for the Plainfield Elementary School sewer hook up. The Selectboard has authorized the highway department to do this work in an effort to save the school district money and to keep local tax dollars in town and available for other municipal projects.

Town Office: The Selectboard signed the tax rate setting documents, which will be forwarded to Concord. A tax rate of \$25/\$1,000 is anticipated.

Assessor George Hildum has recommended a settlement with the NH Electric Cooperative over the valuation of the electric company's transmission lines. The NH Coop will withdraw its 2004 tax appeal and will receive a revised assessment for tax years 2005 and 2006. The Selectboard accepted the recommendation of town assessor.

Plainfield Library: Trustee Anita Brown met with the board to request \$1,200 from the library building maintenance fund for the purpose of replacing the fuel oil pump that lifts fuel to the three furnaces located in the attic. This is the third pump replacement since the new addition was added, the second that the town has purchased. Anita explained that the trustees have used a new contractor for designing this latest "fix" which calls for a new type of pump. The Trustees have tried unsuccessfully to seek reimbursement from the project's original heating contractor. The Selectboard approved the requested, but again questioned the wisdom of locating furnaces in attic space, particularly when a full basement was available.

At this time the Board of Selectmen left town hall to meet with the Lebanon City Council regarding Plainfield's use of the Lebanon Landfill. The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm after a very helpful meeting with the council. The town hopes to reach a contract agreement with Lebanon in the next couple of months.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Mark H. Wilder

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
September 6th 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
 Mark Wilder
 Robert Taylor

The Meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Highway: The selectboard met with road agent Stocker to discuss the activities and priorities for his department. The main focus of work continues to be Westgate Road. Paving is scheduled for Sept. 11. The road will be graded to a precise crown one last time later in the week. Stocker reported that roadside mowing will commence on Sept. 11 as well. This work was delayed to give ditches time dry out from excessive rains earlier in the year. Stocker also presented an idea for some drainage repairs he would like to perform on Center of Town Road. The Selectboard agreed that this work should be completed as soon as possible. Lastly, the Road Agent mentioned that the department's front end loader should be considered for replacement in 2007, as many repairs are coming due and the value of the machine for trade-in is still good. The Selectboard agreed to review this replacement (scheduled for 2008), and indicated that a determining factor would be cost/capital reserve fund availability.

The Selectboard reviewed an appeal that was received concerning the Townline Equipment expansion. The Selectboard decided to forward the appeal to Town Counsel as well as the Planning Board and Zoning Board Chairs. A copy was also forwarded to Townline Equipment owner Bob Marrazzo.

Resident Bill Knight met with the board to review a draft easement for trails on the land owned by KUA that abuts the Plainfield School. The easement would formalize access rights of the public to some key trails in the vicinity of French's Ledges. The trail easement would also cover a proposed foot bridge to be constructed near the school across Blood's Brook. The Selectboard decided to have Town counsel review the document and will discuss the matter further at their next meeting.

Police Chief Gillens met with the board to update them on his department's activities. He shared a document concerning the registration of dogs in town. As is always the case, a few residents continue to break the law by not registering their dogs. The Selectboard and the Chief regret the amount of time that is wasted while trying to gain full compliance from these people. The simple act of registering a dog should not be a problem for anyone, and the town is required by state law to gain full compliance from its citizens. Court proceedings will be next for these unregistered dog owners.

Documents were signed and correspondence was reviewed as well. The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Mark H. Wilder

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
September 20th 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
 Mark Wilder
 Robert Taylor

The Meeting opened at 6:30pm.

Highway: Road Agent Ken Stocker reported that paving on Westgate is now complete. The installation of shoulder stone should be finished later this week.

As part of the Capital Improvements Plan Update for 2006, Ken Stocker recommended that the board considering moving up the replacement of the town's loader by a year. The loader has nearly 17,000 hours and will soon need four new tires at more than \$2,500/each. The board agreed to look into this with the finance committee. Currently, truck #1, the loader and then a dumptruck are listed as the next three replacements. Ken feels that truck #1 the Ford 550 could be delayed a year to allow for the loader purchase, but should be replaced as soon as possible.

The Selectboard approved pavement markings on Willow Brook Road, Methodist Hill, Bonner and if funds allow Westgate.

After reviewing the three fuel bids received, the Selectboard accepted the Irving proposal for 2006/7. The board elected a rack plus margin format over a fixed price option.

Police: Chief Gillens reported that he plans to seek a quote from Hillsborough Ford for the next cruiser replacement. Based on the experience of other area municipalities the Chief feels that some savings over the Upper Valley dealership pricing may be possible.

Chief Gillens has continued to work with a neighbor to the new Plainfield Village Store on her concerns about idling trucks and fuel odors. The NH Department of Environmental Services is looking into the odor matter as well.

Town Office: The Selectboard discussed the town's avian flu preparedness plans and approved the work done to date by Chief Gillens and Steve Halleran. Halleran and Gillens will meet with the Cornish Selectboard in the coming weeks to seek their assistance with some of the planning efforts. Plainfield and Cornish share a common site for inoculations, the Plainfield Elementary School.

The Selectmen approved the recommendation of using resident Thomas Lappin as a building code inspector while David Lersch is away this winter.

Halleran is awaiting town counsel review of the KUA trail easement connected with the bridge project. See September 6th minutes for background. The Selectboard continues to be concerned with liability issues and making sure that some designated group is responsible for maintaining the bridge.

New England Power is suing the town over the valuation of the high-tension transmission line that runs through Plainfield. Similar cases have been filed with other communities. It is expected the case will be combined with others.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Mark H. Wilder

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S

October 4th 2006 Meeting

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Mark Wilder

Robert Taylor

The Meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Highway: Completing roadside mowing and the start of fall grading are the main priorities at this time. The highway department is nearly complete with its work on the school sewer line hook up.

Glen McKinstry: Mr. McKinstry met with the Selectboard to determine how he could convert his single-family residence to a four-unit apartment building. See file for details. A special exception from the Zoning Board is required. However, the Selectboard noted that with only two acres of land, more than twelve acres would be required for a four unit building in the RR zone, Zoning Board approval seems unlikely. The newly installed septic system is also too small and would likely have to be replaced. Mr. McKinstry expressed his frustrations with the zoning ordinance and left the meeting.

Police Department: Chief Gillens reported that the state fire marshal office is continuing its investigation of the fire at 63 Blackhill Road. The house is a total loss. Arson has not been ruled out and this fire may well be related to a group of fires in the Upper Valley that are being linked to a person who is now in custody.

Halleran and Gillens meet on Friday night with the Cornish Selectmen to discuss Avian Flu preparedness. Plainfield has specific plans for handling the pandemic but needs Cornish support as Plainfield and Cornish share a common site in the even inoculations are required.

KUA land trail easement: Bill Knight and Conservation Commission Chairman David Grobe met with the Selectboard to continue these discussions. The Selectmen feel that it is necessary to insure that the easement include all the trails to the top of the ledges. Likewise, the Selectboard feels that if a bridge is involved, some party, perhaps the Conservation Commission, needs to be responsible for maintaining the bridge. The Selectmen made it clear that without a listed responsible party acceptance of the easement was unlikely. David will take the proposed changes back to the Conservation Commission for discussion at their October meeting.

Town Office: Halleran distributed the 2006/7 budgeting and town meeting preparation schedules. The Planning Board controlled capital improvements plan is nearly updated for 2006. Budgeting and town meeting preparation will begin in about a month. Moderator Steve Taylor has appointed the Finance Committee, which will begin meeting in the coming weeks.

The setting of the 2006 tax rate is being delayed due to a reporting issue with Sullivan County. Until the issue is cleared up no Sullivan County towns are able to have their rates set.

KUA lights: At 8:00pm the Selectboard left town hall to view the lighted artificial turf field that has been installed at the KUA campus. The lights are now operational and the school will have them on this evening from 8:00pm to 8:30pm. While visible from several locations around the campus and village, the Selectboard did not find the lights to be a significant distraction to the character of the village. In accordance with the Planning Board approval the lights must be used within strict guidelines.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Mark H. Wilder

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
October 16th 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Judy Belyea
Robert Taylor

The Meeting opened at 6:30pm.

Highway Department: The Selectboard viewed photographs of a stonewall that has been added to the turn around area at 427 Center of Town Road. The wall seems to be too close to the edge of the town road. A letter will be sent to the owner asking that the small section of wall be moved back, in line, with the existing wall, which marks the town's right of way.

The Selectboard acknowledged the receipt of two thank you letters to the road crew. The first from Bev Widger expressing support for the work done on Westgate Road, the second from Meriden Library Trustee Joe Crate thanking the crew for removing a tree limb that was hanging over the library roof.

A general discussion followed about how involved the Highway Department should be in other community projects. Ken noted that he is aware that the Selectboard wants more emphasis placed on road ditch line maintenance and brush removal, however, all of these other projects take time away from this effort. Halleran noted that currently it takes the highway department the equivalent of a half days work for two men to deal with recycling related materials left at the shed each weekend. The Selectboard acknowledged that this is a difficult balance these projects, ie the school sewer line hook up which save the taxpayers money. Expanding the highway department is an issue that will have to be looked at during the coming budget work.

Police Department: Chief Gillens reported on the police action at 303 Freeman Road. Thankfully, taking the resident into custody did not result in any injuries.

Town Office: Halleran reported that he expects a draft contract from Lebanon concerning the landfill in early November. The town has verbal approval to use the facility from the council, manager, and public works director. Plainfield's MSW will begin to be delivered to the facility starting July 1st 2007. All agreed that a formal contract is needed to formalize the arrangement.

The 2006 tax rate should be set the week of October 23rd. A reporting issue with the county has delayed all Sullivan County towns. Tax bills should be mailed the first week of November.

KUA Bridge/Trial Easement: The Conservation Commission is unwilling to accept responsibility for the new bridge being constructed on KUA land to provide access from the elementary school property to the trail network that features French's Ledges. This being the case, the acceptance of the easement is on hold until some other party will accept responsibility for future maintenance issues is identified.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judith A. Belyea

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
October 27th 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:

Judy Belyea
Mark Wilder
Robert Taylor

The Meeting opened at 11:15am.

The Selectmen met with Auditor Robert Anderson of the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration for the purpose of establishing the 2006 combined tax rate. The current rate is \$23.65. Auditor Anderson walked the board through the various sections of the tax rate setting process. The town, county and school reports were deemed to be in order. The 2006 rate was set at \$24.50. Tax bills will be mailed out as soon as the NH DRA confirms the rate.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Mark H. Wilder

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S

November 1st 2006 Meeting

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Judy Belyea
Mark Wilder
Robert Taylor

The Meeting opened at 6:15pm.

Highway: Assistant Road Agent Richard Collins met with the Selectboard. The crew has been busy this week cleaning up downed trees and debris from the weekend wind and rainstorm. Road damage was minimal, but there is a lot of tree related work to be completed.

The Selectboard listened to an audio tape left by resident Jason Downs concerning his displeasure with being asked to relocate a small section of stonewall that he has built to hold his mailbox. The Selectboard continues to feel that this item is within the town's right of way and is too close to the traveled road surface. Halleran will convey this to Mr. Downs and provide him an opportunity to meet with the Selectboard directly on the issue.

Police: Chief Gillens reported to the Selectboard that Halloween night went very smoothly. The Chief appreciates the help from the two fire departments and private citizens to insure that this is a safe night for the community's children.

Chief Gillens feels that the new store in Plainfield Village would benefit from some additional outside lighting. Halleran will speak with owner Richard Fontaine and the Planning Board about this issue.

Welcome to Plainfield Sign Committee: Reacting to a request from Plainfield Village residents concerning the development of new "Welcome to Plainfield signs" the Selectboard met with and appointed Greg Davini, Ruth Cassedy, Margaret Cassedy and Jane Stephenson to a committee to finalize a design for the new signs and to look into various smaller signs to be used to alert motorists to the town's various village areas. The committee will report back to the Selectmen by December 6th.

Town Office: Tax bills should be mailed out by Friday or Monday at the latest. The DRA is now completing its final review of the new rate, which has been established at \$24.50/ \$1,000.

The Selectboard began its review of a draft contract from the City of Lebanon for use of the landfill starting July 1st 2007. Commercial haulers will deliver all of the community's waste to the landfill. Residents will not be using the landfill directly for household garbage. The reduced tipping fee and hauling expenses could save the town as much as \$20,000 annually.

The Selectboard continued its work on the easement for the French's Ledges trail network. Insuring that the easement covers the entire trail system and that the bridge has a named steward have both been important issues for the Selectboard.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Mark H. Wilder

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
November 15th 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Judy Belyea
Mark Wilder
Robert Taylor

The Meeting opened at 6:30pm.

Highway Department: Road Agent Ken Stocker reported that it is likely that the town's grader operator will retire at the end of this year. The Selectboard encouraged Ken to start the search for a replacement for the position in the highway department as soon as possible. There are several internal candidates for the grader operator position.

The wet weather has delayed the road-stripping project, but Ken still feels the contractor will be able to do the work this year.

Halleran reported that the Baynes Road acceptance hearing is planned for December 6th at 6:30pm. All the work is now complete and the deed for the land under the roadway is being prepared. Once accepted, the town will be responsible for planning and other maintenance on the roadway.

Police Department: Chief Gillens reported that the department is making an effort to increase traffic patrols on both sides of town. Several complex criminal cases have taken up a lot of officer time, but the Chief feels that being highly visible throughout the community is a key part of their work. Recent complaints of high speed on several town roads have underscored the need for more patrols.

Finance Committee: The Selectboard met with town's Finance Committee for the first time. As is customary the meeting focused on current year issues and some broad concepts for the coming year. The Selectboard hopes that the Finance Committee will be able to assist them with investigating town staffing levels and whether or not to use outside contractors on areas such as planning and zoning special projects and large scale highway projects.

Town Business: Tax bills have been issued and are due in December 3rd. A problem with Sullivan County Reporting delayed the setting of the rate by about one week.

The NH Supreme Court has settled, in favor of the town, the final appeal related to the 2003 revaluation.

Halleran also reported that the Sullivan County Superior Court has dismissed the lawsuit by Plainfield and Cornish residents against the town regarding the Townline Equipment site plan approval. The court found that the lawsuit was neither properly nor timely filed. A case by the same parties against the Zoning Board of Adjustment is still pending. The town believes this case too was improperly filed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Mark H. Wilder

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
December 6th 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Judy Belyea
Mark Wilder
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Baynes Road Acceptance Hearing: The hearing was opened at 6:05pm. Project owner Lee Marden presented the Selectboard with the required deed to the land, plans detailing the road's construction and location of water and sewer lines. Halleran noted that he and town engineer walked the road on Monday, the required insurance bond for any defects that develop in the next year is in place and town counsel has reviewed the necessary documents for acceptance. There being no public in attendance wishing to comment, Judy Belyea made the following motion: Having followed the procedures as outline in RSA 674 and the Town's subdivision regulations including: a) The approval of the roadway by the Planning Board as part of the MVD, LLC subdivision, b) The monitoring of all aspects of the roads construction by the town's engineer, LC Engineering of Concord NH), and c) Bonding for future defects, d) the transfer of a deed for the land used to construct the road the Plainfield Board of Selectmen, from authority granted to it by article ten of the 1993 town meeting, accepts as of this date, Baynes Road as a town maintained highway. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Highway Department: Ken Stocker reported on the department's work over the last two weeks. Cold weather may prevent repair some of the minor damage done to gravel roads during last week's thunderstorm. All roads are passable; several need grading as a result of the storm. Ken is concerned that the lack of snow coupled with the high water flow through most culverts, will lead to a lot of icing and frozen culverts this winter.

Police Department: Chief Gillens reported that the department was able to apprehend a juvenile involved in several thefts at a town business this last week. The child was caught in the act of stealing.

The department continues to make every effort to be highly visible in both the villages as a means of slowing down traffic.

KUA Trail Easement: The Selectboard accepted the trail/bridge easement from KUA in conjunction with the Sally and Ira Townsend Bridge that has just recently completed. The easement insures that the trail network, which can now be accessed from the elementary school property, will always be available to Plainfield residents. The Conservation Commission will assist in monitoring the maintenance of the bridge.

Lebanon Landfill Contract: Following up on years of communications and a meeting this past August 16th with the Lebanon City Council, the Plainfield Selectboard signed a contract provided by the city which will allow Plainfield's garbage, collected by our waste hauling company, to be deposited in the Lebanon Landfill beginning July 1st 2007.

2007 Budget: The Selectboard began their review of the first draft of the 2007 budget. The budgetary increase currently stands at about 4%, the Selectboard directed Halleran to revise the budget so that the increase is no more than 2.5 to 3%.

Proposed Zoning Changes: The Selectboard will forward a letter to the Planning Board in opposition of both the Heritage District concept for the town's village areas and the proposed 50' buffer from wetlands. Concerning the idea of a Heritage District, the Board feels that the town's current zoning ordinance is adequate and has a proven track record.

Concerning the wetland setback, the Board does not object to updating the wetland ordinance to adhere to state regulations, but the board does not feel that an additional regulation is warranted.

Other Business: The Selectmen appointed Bev Widger, Margaret Drye and Steve Halleran to work on a long-term project for removing the new utility poles on the Westside of Route 12A in the area of Read's Hill so called. Local residents have objected to the poles, which were needed to provide power service to Matt Jackson's new car storage facility. The poles interfere with the often-photographed view of Mt. Ascutney from the top of the hill. Private funds, not public funds will be used to cover the cost of the project.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Mark H. Wilder

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
December 14th 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:

Judy Belyea
Mark Wilder
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 7:00am

The Selectboard met briefly this morning on two matters.

The first was to discuss a proposal, by the owner, concerning the possibility of accepting a land donation of property referenced as tax map 258-11. The Selectboard authorized the Town Administrator and the Town Attorney to continue investigating the idea. The Selectboard was granted the authority to accept gifts of this type at the 1992 annual meeting.

The second was to finalize a letter to the Planning Board on the board's position on the Heritage District concept and the Wetland Buffer zone proposal for the town's zoning ordinance. The Board does not support either proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Mark H. Wilder

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S
December 20th 2006 Meeting
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Judy Belyea
Mark Wilder
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:15pm following a brief discussion with town counsel.

As required by the town's property donation policy, the Selectboard held a public hearing on accepting a possible donation of land adjacent to the town's existing gravel pit on Ferry Hill Road. As proposed, the owner of the land directly to the east is willing to gift to the town approximately ten acres of land. They're being no public wishing to comment on the proposal, the hearing was closed. The Selectboard affirmed its previous authorization to have the Town Administrator continue to work on the project. If formally offered, the board unanimously agreed to accept the generous gift to the community. It was noted that action at the 1992 annual meeting authorized, indefinitely, the Selectboard to accept gifts of personal property.

Bev Widger: Acting on a request by the Board of Selectmen, resident Bev Widger agreed to head a private project to see if funds can be raised to remove the two utility poles, recently located on the west side of the highway at 830 Route 12A. The two poles are highly visible in the often photographed view shed that looks to Mount Ascutney. Bev walked the Selectmen through some of her initial ideas on how to organize the project, see attached. The Board thanked her for being willing to become involved and pledged their full support.

Police Department: Chief Gillens briefly updated the board on department activities over the last two weeks. The department has been successful in recovering nearly \$800 in expenses incurred while investigating a report of a stolen car that turned out to be false report.

Finance Committee: The second draft of the 2007 financial plan for town operations was reviewed with the committee. Halleran noted that in the first plan the operating budget was up some 4%, but at the direction of the Selectboard reductions have been made and the current operating budget stands at 2.5%. No new personnel positions are planned and the vast majority of the \$40,000 increase is directly related to wages and salaries for existing positions. A worksheet comparing Plainfield's salary and wages to several of the town's (Andover, Grantham, Sunapee, Canaan) used in Plainfield 1993 Wage Study was discussed. It was suggested that the same review should be made comparing Plainfield to other town's in the region such as Lebanon and Hanover since we all compete in the same labor market.

It was noted that the town has now entered into a contract with the City of Lebanon, which will allow our commercial hauler to deposit Plainfield's waste in their landfill starting July 1st of next year.

Regarding special warrant articles existing capital reserve funds will be funded as in previous years; a police cruiser lease is anticipated; responding to a request by town residents, approximately \$5,000 in funds are requested to purchase new signs welcoming motorists to Plainfield and its various villages. It is hoped that the new signs will help slow traffic down through the town's three village areas.

Revenue projections are still very early in formulation process and will be refined in the coming weeks. The town's financial audit begins January 15th.

The plan will continue to be fine tuned, but overall an increase of 2.5% to 3.5% seems unavoidable without cutting programs.

Other Business: The Selectmen accepted a negotiated settlement on the S-19 Trusts appeal to the state's board of land and tax appeals of their current use penalty. The trust will pay \$20,000 and the town will waive interest and fees to date.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Mark H. Wilder

Robert W. Taylor
Plainfield Selectboard