

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S**

2 January 2nd 2008 Meeting

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Mark Wilder

6 Judy Belyea

7 Robert Taylor

8
9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm

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11
12 **Town Office:** The Selectboard discussed the 2007 budget, which due to the severity of December's
13 weather has basically been exhausted. If January and February are as stormy further increases in the
14 2008 budget could be required.

15
16 The highway department will continue with snow removal operations into this next week. It is so
17 early in the winter that pushing snow banks back and clearly intersections of excess snow needs to be
18 a priority.

19
20 The Selectboard reviewed the 2008 warrant. Attention was focused on the possible addition of
21 exemptions for Solar and Wind powered generating systems. Selectboard member Wilder was
22 disappointed to learn that here does not seem to be enabling legislation for other types of renewable
23 energy generation facilities. The Selectboard will forward this concern to our state representatives.

24
25 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens provided the Selectboard his year end report on vehicle
26 accidents. As is customary, Willow Brook Road, Route 12A and Route 120 had the greatest number
27 of accidents. In the opinion of the chief most could be avoided if drivers would simply slow down.

28
29 The remainder of the meeting was spent working on the 2008 budget; the initial hearing on the new
30 budget is set for January 16th 2007.

31
32 Submitted,

33
34 Stephen Halleran

35 Mark H. Wilder, Chair

36
37 Robert W. Taylor

38
39 Judy A. Belyea

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S**

2 January 16th 2008 Meeting

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Mark Wilder

6 Judy Belyea

7 Robert Taylor

8
9 The meeting opened at 6:30pm

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11
12 **Former Berwick property 361 Route 12A:** Plainfield Fire Chief Frank Currier met with the
13 Selectboard to ask that they use their statutory power to have the abandoned house owned by Eureka
14 Investments either secured or removed. The Selectboard favored removal and will seek support
15 letters from the fire department, police department and the town's building inspector. The
16 Selectboard's position is that the building, which has not been lived in for more than fifteen years has
17 become a hazard that needs to be addressed.

18
19 **Highway Department:** The Selectboard discussed with Road Agent Stocker the details of the
20 highway department plow truck accident on True Road. Thankfully, the driver was not injured and
21 the accident, which resulted in the truck being on its side, did not involve any other vehicles. Ken
22 anticipates damage to the truck to be around \$500-\$1,000 and repairs will be made in house. The
23 truck should be ready to plow for this weekend's predicted storm. The Selectboard indicated those
24 plow routes should be adjusted to insure that more experienced drivers are tasked with the most
25 difficult hills around town.

26
27 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens reported that this past storm was extremely slippery and that his
28 department dealt with a lot of vehicles off the road. Reducing speed and coming to full stops before
29 turning at intersection, in Gordon's view, are two things that when done, dramatically reduce the
30 chances of having an accident.

31
32 **Town Budget Hearing:** The first of two budget hearings was opened. The Finance Committee
33 attended the hearings along with department heads, Fire Chief David Best, Library Trustee Beth
34 Williams, resident Richard Atkinson and resident James Ryan.

35 The operating budget presented calls for a spending increase of 7.4% and when special
36 warrant articles are included along with revenues, dollars from taxes are projected to increase by
37 about \$94,000 which will add \$.42 to the rate. Halleran made it clear that because of increasing costs,
38 the current budget includes virtually no new programs. The budget is designed to maintain existing
39 services. Requests for an additional highway employee, an excavator, and a dust control system for
40 gravel roads are not included in this budget. In addition, the town has received requests from two
41 additional human service agencies and those requests are not part of this budget. See attached
42 information for details of the budget discussion. In short 75% of the increase is related to full time
43 employee compensation, which at the direction of last year's town meeting has been increased across
44 the board but particularly in the Police Department and increases in fuel related purchases.

45 A detailed discussion was held concerning whether or not the highway capital reserve fund
46 should be increased. Cost estimates indicate that the \$45,000/annual contribution is no longer
47 sufficient to maintain our existing fleet. Because of the operating budget increase the Selectboard
48 has been hesitant to add more to reserves, however, several members of the Finance Committee and
49 Chief David Best encouraged the Selectboard to consider a small increase now as a way to avoid
50 more significant increases in the future.

51 Turning to the dust control proposal, it was generally acknowledged that this is type of
52 project that would likely increase our hard costs, but would result in additional highway work getting

1 done as a result of reduced gravel road maintenance as a result of the treatments. Capital costs for
2 the system would be about \$7,000 with operating costs from \$15,000 to \$30,000 depending on
3 application rates and road miles covered. At this time the measure was not added to the budget,
4 however, several in attendance spoke in favor of testing a road or two in town.

5
6 The hearing was closed at 9:30pm.

7
8 The Selectboard briefly discussed with Chief Gillesn a letter from resident Gordon Wilder
9 asking for an accounting of the Police Department's cost associated with both the Ed and Elaine
10 Brown investigation and providing services to Justice Stephen Breyer's property. Chief Gillens
11 indicated that the town received \$10,500 in reimbursements from the US Marshall Service to cover
12 expenses during the Brown matter. Further Justice Breyer's property is not accounted for any
13 differently than any other residence in town and does not pose any special burden to his department.
14 The board will respond to Mr. Wilder's letter in the near future.

15
16 The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 10:00pm. The board's next meeting is February 6th.

17
18 Submitted,

19
20 Stephen Halleran
21 Mark H. Wilder, Chair

22
23 Robert W. Taylor

24
25 Judy A. Belyea

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S**

2 February 6th 2008 Meeting

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Mark Wilder

6 Judy Belyea

7 Robert Taylor

8

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm

10

11 The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week. The January 16th minutes
12 were approved as amended.

13

14 **Park Road:** Selectman Taylor reported on a conversation he has had with Park Road residents Craig
15 Thompson and Christi Moore. The couple would like to see a gate installed on the class VI portion
16 of the road. This past fall the road has been used extensively by the Corbin's Game Park and the
17 added traffic has been a concern for the Thompson family. The Selectboard was firm in its position
18 that keeping class VI roads open to all users is a priority. This is especially true for landowners, such
19 as the Blue Mountain Forest who depend on the roads for access to their private lands. Additional
20 signage for all the town's class VI roads is under consideration. The signs would outline the rules that
21 govern the use of these un-maintained roadways. The Police Department has spoken with the Blue
22 Mountain Forest staff and the park will advise its users of the road to be mindful of their
23 speed/conduct when using the roadway.

24

25 **Senator Peter Burling:** The Selectboard discussed with the Senator broadening the existing enabling
26 legislation for renewable energy tax exemptions. The board feels that this would send the correct
27 message to residents that are considering private energy generation systems for their homes. Senator
28 Burling agreed to look into the issue.

29

30 The Senator provided the board with a general update. Dealing with the NH Retirement System
31 funding deficit is one of the main objectives of the current system. To insure that the system remains
32 solvent for generations to come the \$6 billion dollar fund needs fiscal revamping now.

33

34 Senator Burling is also working on a constitutional amendment to clarifying how the state will satisfy
35 its obligation to provide an adequate education for the children of the state.

36

37 **Budget Hearing #2/Meeting #4 Finance Committee:** See attached budget. This being the
38 second budget hearing the group spent its time discussing new information since the initial hearing.
39 Final audit numbers are now in and reflected within the budget sheets. On the affirmative
40 recommendation of the finance committee the group determined that the highway equipment vehicle
41 fund contribution would be increased from \$45,000 to \$50,000. This contribution has not been
42 increased in many years and the committee felt it was important to insure that the fund keeps past
43 with the increasing costs of heavy trucks and equipment.

44

45 The group discussed the concept of the town purchasing land from Mitch and Fran Robinson at the
46 corner of Bonner Road and School Street. Approximately two acres are available on the site, while
47 there are no plans for using the land; its close proximity to the school and its frontage on municipal
48 water and sewer lines makes the site desirable. If the town owned the parcel, even temporarily, it
49 would in a position to control the future use of the land. A spirited discussion followed where all
50 sides of the complex issue of public ownership of land were aired. Given the timing of all of this
51 with the warrant nearly complete, the Selectboard will place an article on the warrant to purchase the
52 land, effectively keeping the option open while additional research is done. As currently proposed the

1 town's financial package for 2008 would add about \$.44/\$1,000 to the tax rate. This does not include
2 the land acquisition. Halleran noted that the Selectboard and Road Agent Stocker would have to
3 take a careful look at the highway-operating budget going into March to insure that remaining funds
4 were adequate to complete the summer priorities. The 2007/8 winter is turning out to be very
5 expensive. The budget hearing was opened at 7pm and closed at 8pm.
6

7 **Other Business:** The Selectboard spent the rest of the meeting discussing the 2008 warrant. As
8 directed by the Selectboard the land purchase article will be added as well as an article authoring the
9 town to accept credit card payments. The party making the payment will pay all fees associated with
10 the transaction.

11
12 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

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14 Submitted,

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16 Stephen Halleran
17 Mark H. Wilder, Chair

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19 Robert W. Taylor

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21 Judy A. Belyea
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S**

2 February 13th 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Mark Wilder

6 Judy Belyea

7 Robert Taylor

8

9 The meeting opened at 6:30pm. Note, the town experienced a full day of snow, sleet and freezing
10 rain. Nearly 2" of rain fell leaving a coat of ice on all exposed surfaces. The ice did not result in any
11 power outages; however, travel on all roads was difficult.

12

13 The Selectmen met to discuss the details of trying to purchase the small field at 86 Bonner Road
14 which is adjacent to School Street. The owners, Mitch and Fran Robinson have indicated that they
15 would consider selling the lower field to the town. The Selectboard feels that this is the type of long-
16 term planning that pays significant dividends to future generations.

17

18 At 6:00pm the Board met directly with the Robinsons and discussed details of a possible sale. As part
19 of any land transfer the Robinsons would connect their residence to the MVWD sewer line on
20 Bonner Road. Their home's leaching field is located in the lower field.

21

22 The Selectboard has determined that the field land does not abut School Street directly. The
23 Plainfield School District owns 100' of frontage along Bonner Road and the Selectboard in June of
24 1972 laid out the school driveway as a town road with a ROW 50' to be named School Street. The
25 property does have frontage on Bonner Road and does have access to both water and sewer
26 connections.

27

28 The Robinsons will get back to the Selectboard on a purchase price in the coming days. Halleran will
29 include on the warrant an article to give the community the option of purchasing the property.

30

31 The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

32

33

34 Submitted,

35

36 Stephen Halleran

37 Mark H. Wilder, Chair

38

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Robert W. Taylor

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41 Judy A. Belyea

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S**

2 February 20th 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Mark Wilder

6 Judy Belyea

7 Robert Taylor

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9

10 The meeting opened at 6:30pm.

11

12 **Robinson Land Purchase 86 Bonner Road:** The Robinson's have agreed to the Selectboard presenting the
13 purchase of a portion of their land, the lower field adjacent to School Street thought to be about two acres of
14 land for \$75,000. The town will be responsible for all related costs. The original price was close to \$90,000,
15 however, if the Selectboard is able to include the issue on this year's warrant the Robinson's would accept a
16 lower price. The Selectboard accepted these terms; the issue will be Article 6 of the 2008 warrant.

17

18 **Police Department:** Chief Gordon Gillens updated the Selectboard on the police department's work over the
19 last two weeks. Halleran and Gillens reported on a recent meeting with Douglas Hackett of Hanover Dispatch
20 and the town's two Fire Chiefs. At issues is the possibility of putting our two fire departments and Cornish
21 Fire on their own frequency. To accomplish this, the fire departments would have to spend between \$5,000
22 and \$10,000 to upgrade existing pagers. The conversion need not happen this year, but with Cornish Fire
23 being added to Hanover Dispatch this move might make a lot of sense for the two communities. Currently,
24 there are 19 agencies all using the same channel. The new channel will also be available to the Police
25 Department on an as needed basis.

26

27 **2008 Warrant/Budget:** A final review and signing of the warrant and budget documents was completed. The
28 warrant and budget will be posted at the Plainfield Town Hall, the Plainfield School and the Meriden Town
29 Hall.

30

31 **SB2 Petition:** The Selectboard held a detailed discussion about their views on the SB 2 petition
32 received by the School Board. While sympathetic to the often-stated concerns about traditional town
33 and school meeting, in general the Selectboard is not in favor of changing the existing system that
34 has been in place for more than two hundred years.

35

36 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

37

38 Submitted,

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40 Stephen Halleran

41 Mark H. Wilder, Chair

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Robert W. Taylor

44

45 Judy A. Belyea

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S**

2 March 5th 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Mark Wilder

6 Judy Belyea

7 Robert Taylor

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9

10 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

11

12 Selectboard candidate Thomas Williams attended the meeting. The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and
13 signed orders for the week.

14

15 **Berwick Property:** Halleran reported in response to the town's request William Fogelman of Eureka
16 Investments, which owns the former Berwick Property, is working with the NHDES to secure permission to
17 have the house on the property removed. Hiring a contractor to remove the structure is complicated by the
18 property's history of hazard material contamination.

19

20 **Service Memorial:** The town's service memorial committee has placed an order with Swenson Granite for the
21 monument portion of the memorial. The stone should be ready in one to two months.

22

23 **Police Department:** The Selectboard was pleased to learn that Chief Gillens has received a National Law
24 Enforcement Officer of the year award from the US Marshall's Service. Gordon and his wife Sarah will be
25 traveling to Washington DC at the end of this month to accept the honor.

26

27 **Town Meeting:** The remainder of the meeting was spent preparing for the March 11th/15th town meeting.
28 The Selectboard will not seek additional funds over those that have been proposed for the operating budget
29 electing instead to reduce, if necessary, some of the work planned for the coming summer as a way of dealing
30 with the unusually hard winter.

31 The Selectboard requested additional information on the proposed one-ton truck with plowing and sanding
32 equipment replacement is necessary. The board remains uncomfortable with the \$88,000 cost of this vehicle.
33 Halleran and Stocker will continue to work on the issue.

34

35

36 The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

37

38 Submitted,

39

40 Stephen Halleran

41 Mark H. Wilder, Chair

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44

45 Judy A. Belyea

46

Robert W. Taylor

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S**

2 March 19th 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Judy Belyea

6 Robert Taylor

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8
9 The meeting opened at 6:30pm.

10
11 Thomas Williams was welcomed to the board as the town's newest Selectman. In keeping with past policies,
12 Robert Taylor, the Selectmen next up for re-election, was elected Chairman for the year.

13
14 Now that town meeting is past, the Board went to work on the list of projects to be completed in 2008.

15
16 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Ken Stocker will work up the estimated costs for the Colby Hill and first
17 part of Willow Brook Road projects. The Selectboard expressed concern that the cost of this winter plus rising
18 pricing may significantly hamper the department's ability to complete these projects.

19
20 The board discussed the replacement for the 1999 Ford one-ton truck. Finding a 2008 GMC 4500/5500 with
21 the required specifications may prove to be difficult. The approved budget for the truck, sander, and plow
22 equipment is \$80,000. Ken feels strongly that the unit should include a replacement sander and a custom
23 fabricated front plow hitch.

24
25 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens reported on the Police Department's workload over the last week. The
26 department has experience some electrical problems with both cruisers. Gordon is in hopes that both issues
27 can be resolved in house saving the cost of having the repairs made at the dealership.

28
29 **Building Permit Fee Hearing:** Acting on the recommendation of the town's building inspector, the board
30 opened a public hearing on amending the existing permit fees. A survey of fee schedules for Lebanon,
31 Hanover, and Enfield has shown that permit fees for smaller projects are inline, but that Plainfield's permit fees
32 for new residences and commercial projects are low. Halleran has estimated that it costs between \$275 and
33 \$325 to inspect, measure and list, and map each new home. Currently, the average house pays about \$350 to
34 \$400 in permit fees. The board determined that the base fee for a new residence would be \$300 with the square
35 foot charge going from \$.05 to \$.15/ft sq. For commercial projects the base fee will be \$100 plus \$.15/ft sq.
36 Small accessory type projects will continue to be between \$25 and \$75. The hearing was closed and the new
37 fees will go into effect for all applications filed after March 20th 2008.

38
39 **Town office:** The Selectboard reviewed and approved the required DRA reports detailing action at the 2008
40 town meeting. Building permits were reviewed and approved. Orders for the week reviewed and signed.

41
42 Town Clerk Ruth Wheeler met briefly with the board to update them on her plans for training a new person.
43 Ruth hopes to start the training in the next week or two. Current town employee and longtime resident Diane
44 Rogers as agreed to try the position. The board approved the hire and had no objection to starting the training.

45
46 Halleran informed the board that property owner William Rossof will meet with the Selectboard in early April
47 to begin discussing the process he would need to follow to reestablish a single family house on his Cramhill
48 Road (class VI) property.

49
50 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

51
52 Submitted,

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54 Stephen Halleran

55 Rpbert W. Taylor, Chair

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Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams Jr.

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S**

2 April 2nd 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Judy Belyea

6 Robert Taylor

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8
9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

10
11 **Road Agent Stocker:** Ken discussed with the board the status of the truck #1 replacement. A GMC 5500
12 series cab and chassis has been purchased and the truck will be sent to Osgood welding for fabrication. The
13 completed vehicle will be put in service in one to two months. The truck and body cost is expected to be well
14 within the \$80,000 appropriation. Any small overage that results from the sander or plow purchase will come
15 from the highway department operating budget. It is expected that the entire truck and necessary equipment
16 will cost about \$81,500.

17
18 Ken reviewed with board members initial estimates for the paving costs associated with this summers work. At
19 a minimum the board hopes to be able to have work done on Colby Hill, River Road, and a top on Beauty Hill
20 Road.

21
22 Ken would like to design the Colby Hill project based on the assumption that paving will be reduced from the
23 current 2855' to 1310'. The new pavement will basically go from the covered bridge past the current Surgenor
24 residence located at 48 Colby Hill. The rest of the roadway would be returned to a gravel road. Given the high
25 cost of paving and that all the residents that are currently on a paved surface will remain on a paved surface.
26 Given the high costs of paving Ken feels this adjustment is warranted. The Selectboard agreed. A site walk of
27 the roadway with residents and landowners will take place before reconstruction begins.

28
29 Colby Hill paving is estimated at \$38,000 the River Road (slide repair) patch is \$16,500 and topping
30 Beauty Hill Road \$27,500.

31
32 As weather allows, Ken will mark out stations out the Willow Brook Road project so discussions can
33 begin with contractors on the first section. Board members discussed financing strategies for the
34 subsequent years of the Willow Brook Road project. Board members expressed support for getting
35 the work done as quickly as possible.

36
37 **Police Department:** Chief Gordon Gillens is away this week in Washington DC accepting an
38 award by the US Marshall's service connected to our local Police Department's role in the Brown
39 case this past summer. Sergeant Lawrence Dore is in charge of the Police Department while Gordon
40 is away.

41
42 **Town Office:** Responding to a letter from the Conservation Commission concerning the Home Hill
43 Estates trail head parking on Route 12A (see attached) the Selectboard directed Halleran to set up a
44 meeting between the Board and landowners Brad and Laurie Atwater to discuss the town's plan to
45 begin utilizing its parking lot easement on the property.

46
47 Halleran noted that he and Chief Gillens have started the necessary work move forward with the
48 street light improvement project in Plainfield Village.

49
50 Work is starting on the service memorial project, the monument itself should be delivered to the site
51 in about four weeks.

52 The April 2nd meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

53
54 Submitted,

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Stephen Halleran
Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams Jr.

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

2 April 16th 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8
9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

10
11 Reacting to a letter from the Conservation Commission Chairman the Selectboard met on Route 12A with
12 property owner Brad Atwater concerning the town's establishment of a parking area to serve the Home Hill
13 Trail. The trail as currently configured and a parking easement area was established in 2002 when several Home
14 Hill Estate lots were subdivided into a new layout. Brad and Laurie Atwater have since purchased the land
15 encumbered with the parking easement. The Conservation Commission has urged the Selectboard to have the
16 permitted parking spot constructed. As a first step, the Selectboard met with the landowner to view the site.
17 While generally supportive of public trails, Mr. Atwater expressed to the board some of the frustrations that he
18 has experienced with this particular location. Trash is often left at the site and cars stop and park along this
19 section of the roadway at all hours of the night and day. Mr. Atwater is concerned that if the parking area is
20 built, this type of activity will increase. He feels that there already exists ample parking along the edge of the
21 roadway and that given the limited use of the trail expending public monies for a more formal parking
22 arrangement is not necessary. The Selectboard viewed the site and the first section of the trail. The board will
23 take the matter up further in the near future.

24
25 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Ken Stocker discussed the necessary steps for moving forward with
26 scheduling the paving work for this summer. The town has received one quote from Pike Industries. The
27 board asked that Ken obtain a quote from at least one other paving contractor. Once that is done, the board
28 can make a final decision and the work can be scheduled.

29
30 Ken suggested to the board that the town consider a lease purchase of a small tractor that could be used for
31 various jobs including snow removal operations on the Plainfield Village sidewalks. Currently, the town sub
32 contracts that work out to a private company. The contractor has done a good job with the work, however, as
33 costs continue to rise the town may need to consider doing that work with the highway department forces.
34 The board agreed to look into this, however, the earliest that any tractor over \$5,000 could be purchased would
35 be at the March 2009 town meeting.

36
37
38 **Conservation Commission Ball Field Parking Project:** Project manager and Conservation Commission
39 Member William Knight explained that he has held a pre bid meeting with contractors to explain the work,
40 which involves developing a formal driveway and parking area for the ball field. He had hoped to have four
41 written bids for the work, but instead he has two written bids and two verbal bids. The Conservation
42 Commission project is before the Board of Selectmen as a means of expediting the construction process so that
43 the work can begin prior to next month's commission meeting. Selectman Williams recused himself from the
44 discussion, his brother has bid on the project. Contractor Mark Wilder was in attendance. The bids were as
45 follows: Black Hill Septic \$6,800, Plainfield Construction Company \$4,430, Robbie Williams \$3,400 and Mak's
46 Excavating \$3,000. The PCCI and Williams bid were in writing. Bill Knight explained that he felt all the
47 bidders understood the project and that all were qualified to do the work. This being the case, the Board of
48 Selectmen endorsed the use of Mak's Excavation with the condition that they submit a written proposal, which
49 demonstrates an understanding of the required work including that the topsoil from the project remains the
50 property of the Town of Plainfield.

51
52 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens reported to the Board on his trip to Washington DC to receive the Marshall
53 Service Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award. The Chief explained that he viewed the award as a
54 reflection on the entire town government and that everyone played an important role in resolving this difficult
55 case.

56
57 The department has begun to place the "speed trailer" around town as a reminder to motorists for the need to

1 be mindful of vehicular speed.

2
3 **David Quimby:** The Selectboard reviewed a written request by resident David Quimby to have his 2005
4 current use penalty abated. Appeals must be filed within two months of the date of the bill. Given that more
5 than two full years have passed the request was denied.

6
7 **Current Use:** As directed by the Board Halleran provided a written report to each member of all the property
8 that is in current use that is also receiving the additional 20% reducing for keeping the land open for use.
9 Board members will review the list, any landowner on the list who has posted their property will, by law, lose
10 the 20% reduction.

11
12 **Emergency Management Plan:** The Town has received a \$5,000 state grant to have its out dated emergency
13 management plan updated. An outside contractor will do the work over the course of this summer.

14
15 **Assessment Review:** The board spent the rest of the meeting working on exemption reviews as part of the
16 2008 assessment update.

17
18 The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

19
20 Submitted,

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22 Stephen Halleran
23 Rpbert W. Taylor, Chair

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25 Judy A. Belyea

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27 Thomas P. Williams Jr.
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

2 May 7th 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8
9 The meeting opened at 5:30pm.

10
11 **Willow Brook Road:** The Selectboard started this meeting with a site walk down the first section of Willow
12 Brook Road with Road Agent Ken Stocker and Assistant Road Agent Richard Collins. The project will start at
13 the Meriden Covered Bridge. Property owner Dana Lapan met with the Selectboard to discuss the repair of an
14 existing retaining wall on his property directly adjacent to the roadway. The following cooperative arrangement
15 was forged between the Selectboard and the landowner. Mr. Lapan will remove the existing wall and grub out
16 the site. He will also provide the needed number of concrete ready blocks to replace the wall placing them with
17 a rented excavator. The town will transport the blocks from the Carroll Concrete on Route 12A, provide any
18 natural materials and crushed stone needed to complete the project. Road Agent Stocker will consult with and
19 assist Dana and Dan Lapan with the project as needed. The goal will be to do this work in the next couple of
20 weeks so that this work is done before the selected outside contractor starts work on Willow Brook Road.

21 Moving down the road the group visited each of the "stations" that Ken and Rich have marked out
22 on the road. Discussions followed about the work that needs to be done at each station. Most of the work
23 involves bank stabilization to the downhill side, upsizing existing culverts, installing under drain on the up hill
24 side of the roadway and adding gravel in anticipation of repaving the roadway. Halleran will, based on this
25 meeting, put together an RFP for the project. The Board plans to walk the site with perspective contractors on
26 May 21st and to select a contractor at the board's June 4th meeting.

27
28 **Highway Department:** Ken Stocker reviewed with the board quotes for this year's paving work; top coat
29 Beauty Hill Road; repair River Road; Colby Hill Road. Quotes were received from Pike Industries and
30 BlakTop. See attached. The contracts were awarded to Pike Industries.

31
32 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens reported to the Board that the department has been actively working on
33 traffic calming around town. The department's speed trailer is out on a regular basis and both cruisers are
34 running traffic details above and beyond normal patrols. The Chief made it clear to the Selectboard that the
35 town was not a party to any of the state highway patrol enforcement issues on Route 12A over the last week.
36 A Plainfield Village resident had complained to the state government about the large number of Pike trucks
37 using Route 12A. Gordon's experience with these vehicles was that the trucks were obeying the posted speed
38 limits and were properly loaded. Gordon believes that these observations were consistent with the findings of
39 the Highway Patrol as well. The Selectboard supported this position. Legally registered and operated vehicles
40 clearly have a right to use the public highway system.

41
42 **David Quimby:** Mr. Quimby met with the Selectboard to seek relief from both his current use penalty and his
43 annual property taxes on his new home. As the appeal periods for both issues have long since expired, no
44 relief was forthcoming.

45
46 **Plainfield Village Street Lights:** The Selectboard held a public hearing on the proposed street light upgrade
47 for Plainfield Village. A committee of village residents has been working on this issue; a net of two new street
48 lights will be installed. Several will be relocated, all will receive new fixtures designed to reduce light trespass.
49 See attached. The hearing was opened at 7:30pm closed at 7:50pm. Robert Drye and Gregory Davini were
50 both in attendance.

51
52 **Former Berwick Property:** Halleran noted that the owner is prepared to remove the existing house. The last
53 remaining obstacle is approval from the NHDES. This approval is subject to an environmental assessment that
54 should be complete in early June.

55
56 **Tax Exemptions:** The rest of the meeting was spent completing work on the 2008 exemption requests. One
57 elderly exemption was granted, one was denied. In addition one exemption request for the disabled was also

1 denied. In the case of the two denials the applicants exceeded either the income or asset requirements as voted
2 on at town meeting.

3 .

4

5 The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

6

7 Submitted,

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9 Stephen Halleran

10 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

11

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Judy A. Belyea

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Thomas P. Williams Jr.

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

2 May 21st 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8

9 **Willow Brook Road Site Walk:** The meeting opened at 6pm with a site walk for contractors interested in
10 providing quotes for phase I of the Willow Brook Road reconstruction project. Representative from Pike,
11 Morrill, and Daniels Construction attended the session. Quotes are due in June 3rd. Phase I will go from the
12 Meriden Covered Bridge to the Baptist Pool so called. See attached RFP.

13

14 **Meriden Town Hall**

15

16 **Highway Department:** Ken Stocker reported that work has started on the River Road bank repair near the
17 Moynihan residence. The road is going to be shifted to the east by about 10'. This will allow for the planting of
18 a full row of trees on the riverbank. Ken noted that the Moynihan's have been very accommodating with the
19 plans for the project, which involves some of their land located outside the town road right of way.

20

21 The Selectboard will conduct a site walk for the Colby Hill Road project on June 4th. This meeting will also
22 include a walk with abutting landowners to discuss project details. Judy Belyea and Rob Taylor reported on
23 having been contacted by several residents concerned with the town's plans to shorten the pavement length on
24 Colby Hill. While the board understands the concerns about mud season, reducing the pavement length will
25 allow the project to be done within the approved budget. Ken feels strongly that with the addition of good
26 gravel base, and proper ditches turning the upper section of the road back to grave will not be a problem. To
27 date, none of the Colby Hill road residents have been against the proposal.

28

29 **Town Office:** Halleran reported that the 2008 pick up work, session one, is nearly complete and Ruth Wheeler
30 will be ready for a signed warrant to issue first half tax bills by next week. Bills will be out June 1st due in the
31 office July 1st. Assessor George Hildum will then be back later in the summer to complete the lesser projects
32 (sheds, decks, small additions) and to continue to monitor the overall assessment update being conducted by
33 Avitar Associates.

34

35 The Selectboard voiced strong support for the Planning Board's work on the KUA Athletic Field site plan
36 review. Kimball Union's initial reaction to the decision has been one of dissatisfaction. The Selectboard was
37 clear in their position that the private school will be expected to operate the facility within the Planning Board
38 approved guidelines or face enforcement action by the town.

39

40 Halleran reported that the town has hired a roll off container for a Methodist Hill Road residence, which has
41 been storing household garbage on the property rather than use the curbside program. The cost of the disposal
42 of the waste, which is a health hazard, will become a lien on the property.

43

44 The Selectboard continued its review of compliance with current use law for those property owners receiving
45 the 20% additional discount for not posting their land. In the cases where land has subsequently been posted,
46 the discount will be removed.

47

48 Halleran and Belyea reported that the Robinson's subdivision was approved at the Planning Board meeting
49 Monday night. The town should close on the town meeting approved land purchase (Article 6, 2008 meeting)
50 in mid to late June.

51

52 The May 7th minutes were approved as amended.

53

54 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

55

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57 Submitted,

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Stephen Halleran
Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea
Thomas P. Williams Jr.

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

2 June 4th 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8

9 The meeting opened at 6pm with a site walk of the Colby Hill Road project.

10

11 On the way to the project the Board stopped to view the retaining wall constructed by Dan and
12 Dana Lapan with the assistance of the highway department. The wall was seen as a solid
13 improvement over what was there before it.

14

15 **Colby Hill Road Project:** Abutters to the project were invited to attend. The road will be
16 reconstructed in basically the same configuration as it is now. No widening of the roadway is
17 planned. Base gravel will be added, culverts replaced. Tree trimming will be minimal. Pavement
18 width will not change, however, the new pavement will end at 48 Colby Hill Road rather than 126
19 Colby Hill Road. The town is aware that the section above 48 Colby Hill was, before paving,
20 historically very muddy in the spring. Ken is confident that if built properly returning this part of the
21 roadway to gravel will not be a problem. Howard Zea informed Ken that past road projects on the
22 road have had to deal with a spring near the covered bridge. Ken will take a look at this and walk the
23 site with Howard. Steve Surgenor asked that the town consider pulling down the knoll in front of his
24 home as a way of improving site distances. Ken will look into this, depth to ledge may be a factor.

25 The Board looked at the parking area for the French's Ledges trail. The trailhead parking
26 will be expanded on as part of the Colby Hill project. The current area will be approximately
27 doubled in size.

28 All residents in attendance asked that efforts be made to control speed after the road has
29 been improved. Many young children are now using the roadway as part of their route for going to
30 school. Residents thanked the board for taking the time to discuss the project with them.

31

32 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Stocker reported that the River Road slide repair has gone very
33 well, and the work, including the moving to the east a small section of River Road, will be completed
34 and be ready for pavement installation by mid June.

35

36 Summer grading has and will continue. The grader is now on the east side of town.

37

38 Ken has delayed the bids on Willow Brook Road for two more weeks, giving him more time to
39 provide test bid data on gravel depths along the roadway. Based on the work with the retaining wall,
40 Ken is now concerned that clay may be a factor and could result in far more excavation of materials
41 than was originally planned.

42

43 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens reported on his department's work over the last two weeks.
44 Gordon will soon be able to download data from the speed trailer. This data will allow provide an
45 additional enforcement tool for the department.

46

47 **Town Office:** Halleran reported that tax bills have been mailed out. The assessing work was
48 completed on May 23rd, the solid waste committee stuffed clean up day flyers on the 27th and Ruth
49 added the tax bills on May 27th and 28th. Bills are due for July 1st 2008.

50

51 The Service Memorial stone is scheduled to be set on Sunday June 8th. Jim Longacre and Mark
52 Wilder continue to donate much time and effort to this project. Tom Williams will be installing the

1 hedge and related landscaping for the project as well.

2

3 The board reviewed and approved assessor George Hildum's recommendation on several abatement
4 requests for 2008. In total only about \$6,000 in tax abatements were issued for 2007, this on a billing
5 of more than \$4,000,000.

6

7 The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

8

9 Submitted,

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11 Stephen Halleran

12 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams Jr.

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

2 June 18th 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8
9 The meeting opened at 6:30pm

10
11
12 **Highway Department:** The Selectboard reviewed the two quotes received for phase I of the Willow
13 Brook Road project, Covered Bridge to Baptist Pool so called. Both Morrill Construction and Pike
14 Industries quoted on the project. Several questions remain to be answered, however, from the
15 board's initial review Morrill Construction would appear to be the low bidder. Morrill's quote is for
16 \$267,000 and Pike's is for \$302,000. Halleran will confirm the available funds, Road Agent Stocker
17 will work with Morrill on several questions concerning the quote. The Board hopes that work on the
18 project can begin in the next month.

19 The Board reviewed a follow up letter from residents on Colby Hill requesting that the
20 Selectmen consider an even further reduction in the road length to be paved. While appreciative of
21 the request, the Selectboard feels strongly that the area to be repaved should go from the covered
22 bridge to just past the driveway at 48 Colby Hill Road.

23
24 **Robinson's Land Purchase:** The Selectboard met with Mitch and Frances Robinson and
25 completed the 2008 town meeting approved purchase of the small field adjacent to School Street.
26 Deeds and associated legal documents were signed and notarized. Payment for the land was made.

27
28 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens reviewed with the board the details of several bad accidents, a car
29 fire, and a trespass case at the former Edward and Elaine Brown property.

30
31 Gordon also reviewed with the board the various types of data that the department can now
32 download from the "speed trailer." It is hoped that this data can be used to further enhance the
33 town's traffic calming efforts.

34
35 **Town Office:** Stephen Taylor and Carl Strong met with the Selectboard to review the details of the
36 Service Memorial dedication that is planned for the 4th of July. The memorial is nearly complete and
37 should be ready by the 4th.

38
39 Halleran reported that the plans for the installation of a back up generator are moving forward. The
40 generator will be installed in the next month.

41
42 The town's 3rd annual clean up day was held at the Highway Garage last weekend. Used tires and
43 outdated computer parts dominated the collection event. User fees and volunteer time covers nearly
44 the entire cost of this annual day.

45
46 On the recommendation of the town's Solid Waste Committee plans, are moving forward to close
47 the town's drop off recycling center and to switch this portion of the town's solid waste management
48 plan to the Lebanon drop off facility. The Lebanon facility is fully staffed, open more hours and
49 takes a greater number of items.

50

1 Plainfield's recycling shed has continued to attract a lot of illegal after hours dumping. Our residents
2 can start using the Lebanon facility immediately.

3

4 The June 18th meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

5

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7

8 Submitted,

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10 Stephen Halleran

11 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams Jr.

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

2 July 2nd 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8
9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm

10
11
12 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Ken Stocker updated the Selectboard on the various projects
13 that are ongoing within his department. Between grading efforts, road projects, and the school
14 parking lot additional gravel crushing will be necessary. One quote has been received and Ken is in
15 the process of getting two more. Finding a company that can do the necessary work this month will
16 be an important part of the decision making. Last year the town paid \$3.35/yard for the crushing.

17
18 The Selectboard had a discussion centered on the town's purchasing policies. As recommended
19 from the town's financial audit, the board will update its purchasing procedures. In the interim the
20 Selectboard made it clear that all town purchases over \$2,000 are required to have at least three
21 written quotes. While the board has a strong preference to see that local business' gets town work
22 and purchases, local businesses must be economically competitive to earn the contract.

23
24 **Service Memorial:** The Selectboard reviewed the details of the service memorial dedication. The
25 event is planned for July 4th at 10:00am. Moderator and Service Memorial Committee member Steve
26 Taylor has organized the event. The Police Department will have an officer onsite early to help with
27 parking and traffic.

28
29 **Energy Policy:** The Selectboard started discussions on the development of an energy conservation
30 policy. The board will be asking all departments to step up efforts to conserve energy. Currently, two
31 lighting upgrade projects are underway that will improve efficiency, all town buildings have been
32 equipped with setback thermostats and the Selectboard will likely close the Plainfield Town Hall
33 January 1st to April 1st. This will save the town about \$3,000 in fuel savings. Currently, the front of
34 the building is heated all winter to keep two bathrooms from freezing.

35
36 **Representative Mathew Houde:** Representative Houde stopped into the meeting to discuss plans
37 for the upcoming heating season. All agreed that both state and local resources are going to be
38 heavily taxed trying to meet the heating cost needs of our low and fixed income residents. Mat will, in
39 the coming days, contact Al Grindle the town's health/welfare officer.

40
41 At the request of the Selectboard, Mat provided a brief overview of the Sullivan County budget
42 situation. He noted that while the county budget will certainly increase there is dedicated group
43 meeting weekly to insure that the increase is kept to a minimum. The cost of operating the county
44 nursing home facility continues to be a real challenge.

45
46 **2008 Assessment Update:** Avitar Associates is in the process of finalizing the new update. Town
47 Assessor George Hildbum is going through a detailed review of the new assessments with Avitar.
48 After submitting a report to the board of Selectmen, Avitar will release the new values to taxpayers in
49 about a month. Values are expected to have on average risen about 20% since 2003.

50
51 **2008 Budget:** Selectmen Belyea requested that a report be available at the next meeting that will
52 project costs for the second half of the year. Given the rising operating costs and the very hard

1 winter that was experienced last year, Judy wants to make sure that sufficient funds are available to
2 complete the year. At this time with 48% of the year completed the town has 46% of its operating
3 budget remaining. Halleian noted that the most discretionary projects have been put on hold until
4 the end of the fiscal year.

5
6 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens reviewed with the board, his plans to increase local fines from
7 \$3.00 per parking violation to \$20. All agreed that this change is long over due. Gordon also asked
8 that the Selectboard draft a inclusive no parking ordinance that lists sign locations. This adopted
9 policy is necessary to properly defend a ticket in court.

10
11 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

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13 Submitted,

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15 Stephen Halleran
16 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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18 Judy A. Belyea

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20 Thomas P. Williams Jr.
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

2 July 16th 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8

9 The meeting opened at 6:30pm

10

11 **Highway Department:** Ken Stocker reported that Morrill Construction has started the Brook
12 Road project. The highway crew is working on the Colby Hill Road project. For both projects, tree
13 cutting and culvert replacements will be the first order of business.

14

15 Ken expects that gravel crushing will begin during the second week of August. Both road projects as
16 well as the school parking lot expansion will require crushed gravel.

17

18 **Kimball Union Academy:** Head of School Mike Schafer, Jim Gran CFO, and David Aguiar Facility
19 Director met with the Selectboard to conceptually go over some plans for the campus/Main Street
20 area. All the plans remain soft at this time, but as things become more defined, the school will seek
21 site plan approvals from the Planning Board. Projects include relocating several buildings at the
22 bottom of the hill and the creation of a new parking lot in the area of Main Street and Route 120.
23 The school has been granted a one-year extension of the post office lease. Locating a new post
24 office near the Main Street Route 120 intersection is also under consideration. The Selectboard
25 encouraged Mike and his team to work with the Planning Board and the entire Meriden Village
26 Community on these issues.

27

28 **Police Department:** The Selectboard reviewed and subsequently adopted a new No Parking
29 Ordinance. See attached. The ordinance does not significantly alter the no parking areas around
30 town. It is necessary to support any tickets that are issued by the Police Department. As a result of
31 the ordinance fines will increase from \$3.00 to \$20.00 for a parking violations.

32

33 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed the status of the operating budget. The extremely harsh
34 winter of '07/08 and the ever-rising fuel costs, have resulted in the highway budget being about
35 \$30,000 short over the projected amount necessary to complete the year. As a result the town will
36 not fill for a part-time employee position that is open, no additional equipment will be rented and any
37 purchases that can be deferred will be. Halleran noted that implementing a similar policy, budget
38 wide, should insure that the town is able to complete the fiscal year without over expending its
39 appropriation. By example, highway may be over, but solid waste and legal may be under expended.
40 Selectwoman Belyea noted that each department is expected to operate within its approved budget.

41

42 The Selectboard reviewed and adopted a new purchasing policy. The old policy has not been
43 upgraded since 1991 and this project is in keeping with the recommendations of the town's auditing
44 firm Plodzick and Sanderson. See attached.

45

46

1 The Selectboard will continue its discussions about a fuel conservation policy at the board's next
2 meeting.

3
4 Submitted,
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6 Stephen Halleran
7 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams Jr.

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

2 August 6th 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8
9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm

10
11 **Gravel Pit:** The Board opened the meeting in the town's gravel pit where Road Agent Stocker
12 shared with the Board his management approach for the pit. Ownership of a municipal gravel pit
13 represents an extraordinary value to the town, saving the cost of purchasing all the necessary natural
14 material to maintain nearly seventy miles of gravel roads. Ken does not anticipate any need to move
15 onto the new pit land for many years. The existing gravel pit has several more lifts that can be taken
16 off bringing the overall level of the property down to the elevation of "lower river road." Ken
17 showed the board where he plans to have this year's gravel crushed. The pile will be built in the
18 middle of the pit for ease of access and measurement. Ken has located both a good vein of gravel
19 and some excellent areas of winter sand. There is also a significant amount of over burden material
20 that must periodically be pushed out of the way. Some of the overburden will be used to close
21 sections of the pit, but some could also be sold. The material is too fine for winter sand and is not
22 stony enough to be used as gravel.

23
24 **River Road:** The Selectmen visited the riverbank repair near the Moynihan residence (449 River
25 Road). The wet summer has continued to keep the Connecticut River flowing very high. The
26 repaired bank has continued to slumped and will require additional fill on the top. The Board
27 directed Halleran to communicate with the Moynihans about leaving the filled area undisturbed until
28 the seed has a chance to catch. The Moynihans have been helpful about trying to establish young
29 trees on the new bank, however, Road Agent Stocker feels that it would be best to let the bank
30 become vegetated before trees or any river access paths are established.

31
32 **Willow Brook Road:** The Selectboard completed their site visits with a stop at the Willow Brook
33 phase I site. The board continues to be favorably impressed with the work of Morrill Construction.
34 The wet summer has made the working conditions difficult, but Morrill seems to be doing excellent
35 work and has take significant steps to mitigate environmental damage from the heavy rains.

36
37 Some of the town's blasted ledge stockpile has been used to stabilize a slide area just south of the
38 covered bridge. The ledge came from the construction of Baynes Road and in this case, has saved
39 the town thousands of dollars.

40
41 **Meriden Town Hall:** Margaret Gibson and her son Pennington Gibson met with the Selectboard to
42 ask that as part of the Colby Hill Road project, the outflow from the culvert that drains near their
43 barn be redirected to minimize erosion in the field. The Selectmen agreed to have Ken take a look at
44 this issue; however, the board remembered from previous work in this area, that existing ledge on the
45 east side of the roadway dictated where the culvert in question was located.

46
47 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens met with the Selectboard to update them on the department's
48 work over the last three weeks. Traffic calming and increased patrols, have been the priorities this
49 summer. Gordon noted that as economic times get tougher, that increased crime can be expected.
50 Already we have experienced several thefts from garages and vehicles. Gordon believes that a highly
51 visible police presence is the best deterrent.

52 The Board encouraged Gordon to share with the community some of the traffic data that he has

1 been gathering from the “speed trailer.”

2
3 Fire Chief Frank Currier joined Police Chief Gillens in asking for an update on the Berwick house
4 removal. Halleran noted that he is in regular contact with the owner and that removing the house
5 this summer is still planned. The EPA and DES reporting requirements for all activities on the site
6 have slowed the removal project. The owner is now accepting bids for the work, which includes
7 asbestos removal.

8
9 **Town Office:** The Board will meet with Avitar Associates to become better informed about the
10 results of the update. This meeting will likely take place on August 20th and in any case will occur
11 before notices of value are mailed to taxpayers.

12
13 The Board approved a letter to Shawn Wilder addressing a concern that he had over a visit to his
14 property by Avitar Associates. The visit was part of the assessing update.

15
16 The board signed a new adopted No Parking and Purchasing Policies. Both went into affect after last
17 meeting.

18
19 The Selectboard approved Town Administrator Halleran participating in the “Upper Valley
20 Leadership Program”. The once a month Oct to May sessions are designed to provide an enhanced
21 level of knowledge and networking opportunities for Upper Valley organizations. The program is
22 part of the larger Leadership New Hampshire program.

23
24 The August 6th meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

25
26 Submitted,

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28 Stephen Halleran
29 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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31 Judy A. Belyea

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33 Thomas P. Williams Jr.
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

2 August 20th 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8
9 The meeting opened at 5:45pm

10
11
12 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Stocker updated the board on the three projects that are
13 ongoing at this time: 1) Gravel Crushing is about two thirds completed, 2) Willow Brook Road
14 phase 1 will be paved this Friday, 3) Colby Hill is continuing and will be receiving under drain and
15 other ditch line improvements next week. Cross culvert replacements are now complete.

16
17 Ken Stocker asked that the Selectboard work with the School Board to determine the cost
18 allocations for plowing of the new expanded parking lot. Ken estimates that the plowing time will be
19 an additional hour and may require the acquisition of a snow bucket/scoop for the town's loader.

20
21 **2008 Assessment Update:** The Selectboard met with Gary Roberge, Loren Martin, from Avitar to
22 discuss the ongoing update project. Town Assessor George Hilbum and DRA appraiser Craig
23 Nichols also set in on the meeting.

24
25 Avitar's analysis shows that since 2003 property values have appreciated on average about 26%. The
26 study qualified 43 sales in the last year, which cover a wide spectrum of Plainfield property types.
27 Final review work is now being completed. Notices of values will be sent to taxpayers on or about
28 September 1st. Hearings will be held the week of September 15th with the final product delivered to
29 the town no later than October 1st.

30
31 All the data will be available for taxpayer review online for thirty days. The data will allow for
32 viewing measurements, land values, photos etc. In addition, taxpayers can conduct queries to find
33 comparably assessed properties. Taxpayers are encouraged to participate in the hearing process with
34 Avitar.

35
36 Town Assessing George Hildum noted that he is pleased with the work done by Avitar and feels that
37 their analysis is complete and thorough. Craig Nichols will be attending the hearings and monitoring
38 them on behalf of DRA.

39
40 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens reported that thanks to the efforts of officer Paul Roberts, the
41 department has been able to obtain a grant to outfit both cruiser with no "car 54" technology that
42 has become a safety stand for state police cruisers. Many of the cars emergency features will operate
43 on voice commands.

44
45 The board discussed the new crosswalk that has been installed at the intersection of School Street
46 and Bonner Road. The town was not consulted on this modification to a public road, School Street.
47 The Selectboard asked Chief Gillens to review the crossing and make recommendations. It is not
48 clear that the crossing would have been approved in the current configuration if the necessary
49 permission had been requested. At the very least, in the future the board will want to consider
50 location modifications to the crossing as repainting becomes necessary.

51
52 The emergency generator for the Meriden Town Hall should be installed in the next two weeks. The

1 concrete work is now complete and the propane tanks are on order.

2

3 Halleran reported that the town has been asked to participate in Region #4 pandemic planning
4 exercise which will involve operating a flu shot clinic out of the town's POD (Plainfield Elementary
5 School) in late October or early November.

6

7

8 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

9

10 Submitted,

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12 Stephen Halleran

13 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams Jr.

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

2 September 3rd 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8
9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm

10
11 Orders for the week were reviewed and approved. The August 20th minutes were approved as
12 amended.

13
14 **Election Day:** Selectboard members discussed and divided up the Selectboard responsibilities for
15 this all day session. Polls will open at 8:00am and close at 7:00pm. All three Selectboard members
16 will participate during some portion of the day.

17
18 **Assessment Update:** The notice of value letters has been mailed to taxpayers. Avitar will man a
19 phone line in town hall starting at 8:00am Monday September 8th to schedule taxpayer appointments.
20 Halleran reported that so far taxpayer reactions to the new valuations have been very reasonable.
21 The new update brings property values to market value as of 4/1/08. Previous values were set as of
22 4/1/03.

23
24 **School Facility Committee:** Carin Reynolds, William Knight, Mike Higgins and Allan Ferguson
25 met with the Selectboard to discuss two issues. The first is the new crosswalk that was installed on
26 School Street at the intersection of Bonner Road. In this case the group acknowledged that the
27 crosswalk should have received Selectboard approval. Chief Gillens noted that while he does not see
28 the current configuration as a major problem, he does feel that reconfiguring the crosswalk could
29 enhance safety for the crossing the next time painting is required. He recommends at the next
30 painting moving the crossing further in on School Street and making the crossing angle ninety
31 degree to the roadway. Selectboard Taylor indicated that he would like, as time and funding permits,
32 to see the shoulders for Bonner Road enlarged to provide pedestrians and cyclist with more of an
33 opportunity to be further away from cars.

34
35 The second issue for discussion was the cost sharing of a "snow scoop" to assist the highway
36 department with clearing the new parking lot for the school. Various designs are available. Costs,
37 depending on features, seem to run between \$5,000 and \$15,000. The highway department has
38 always plowed the school lot. However, with this latest parking lot expansion Road Agent Stocker is
39 concerned, that the time needed to open the lot will be significant and that the scoop would be of
40 great help. During a storm event the Highway Department is responsible for the opening of 70 miles
41 of roadway and having the parking lot ready for the school day to start. The committee
42 acknowledged that this purchase is part of caring for the new parking lot. While no firm decisions
43 were reached it was agreed that these discussions would be continued into the coming budget season.

44
45 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens met with the Selectboard and asked that the board give some
46 consideration to retaining the police cruiser scheduled for replacement this year. Because of the
47 UNH Car 54 program the department has a complete set of equipment to outfit the new 2009
48 cruiser. Keeping the vehicle would insure that personal vehicles would not be needed to do town
49 business. The turn in vehicle for these cars is usually less than \$3,000. The Selectboard agreed to
50 consider this during the 2009 budget process.

51
52 **Other Business:** The Selectboard accepted an invitation to visit the Aidron Duckworth Museum as

1 part of their next meeting.

2

3 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

4

5 Submitted,

6

7 Stephen Halleran

8 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

9

10

11 Judy A. Belyea

12

13

14

15

Thomas P. Williams Jr.

16

17

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19

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

2 September 17th2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8
9 The meeting opened at 5:45pm

10
11 **Road Projects:** The Selectboard toured the Colby Hill Road project site. The road is nearly ready
12 for pavement. The board felt that the highway department work looked good. Surface drainage
13 ways have been re-established, new under drain installed and the road base built up. Resident Kit
14 Creeger questioned the elevation of the road, noting that it has been built up a significant amount.
15 Road Agent Stocker indicated that the extra height was required to improve the overall profile of the
16 road and that all existing driveways and curb cuts will be blended into the new elevation.

17
18 The Selectboard took a moment to view the work by Morrill Construction on Willow Brook Road.
19 There has been some erosion near the installed curbing. This problem stems from the guardrail
20 subcontractor not locating the rail as planned by Morrill. Morrill Construction has assured the town
21 that they will make the necessary corrections to insure that the work holds up over time.

22
23 **Duckworth Museum:** At the request of Grace Hardy, the Selectboard visited the Duckworth
24 Museum. The board was given a tour of the facility and enjoyed viewing the art on display. Over
25 cake and coffee the Selectmen discussed with Grace and several museum trustees some of the
26 challenges faced by nonprofit organizations. In the case of the Duckworth Museum the facility is
27 always looking for ways to both connect with and serve the community.

28
29 **Other Business:** The Selectmen returned to the town office, met with Police Chief Gillens and
30 reviewed and signed orders for the week. The Police Department has been relatively quiet over the
31 last two weeks.

32
33 Halleran reported that he continues to feel confident that the former Berwick building will be
34 demolished prior to winter. The asbestos removal bids are now out GeoInsight the owner's
35 consultant is holding a pre-bid site walk next week.

36
37 The board discussed fall road markings. The board expressed an interest in reducing the cost of this
38 annual expense to save some funds in the highway department. At the same time, all agreed that the
39 commuting roads and roads near the school should be done as a safety measure.

40
41 The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

42 Submitted,

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44 Stephen Halleran

45 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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48 Judy A. Belyea

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51 Thomas P. Williams Jr.

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

1 October 1st 2008
2 Meriden Town Hall
3 Selectmen present:
4 Robert Taylor, Chair
5 Judith Belyea
6 Thomas Williams Jr.

7
8 The meeting opened at 6:00pm
9

10 The Selectboard continues to be concerned about the overall state of the operating budget. At 23%
11 of the year left a total of 25% of the budget remains. However, the highway department is
12 significantly deeper into their budget than is normal for this time of the year. Last winter's storms
13 and the escalating cost of diesel fuel has put expenditures ahead of projections. All departments have
14 been asked to contain spending to just operational needs at this time.
15

16 **Plainfield Highway:** Paving on Colby Hill is planned for Friday. The slump area on River Road
17 near the Moynihan residence has been stabilized a second time.
18

19 The town will be upgrading the lights at the Highway Garage using the SMART program through the
20 NH Electric Cooperative. The new lighting will provide better working conditions inside the
21 building, the outside lights will be dark sky complaint and the new system will use less energy. The
22 calculated payback period on the project is 3.5 years.
23

24 **Plainfield Police:** Chief Gillens reported that the thefts on Freeman Road have been solved. The
25 criminals turned out to be a group of minors from Lebanon. The youths will likely be charged as
26 adults. Gordon recognized the efforts of Paul Roberts and Tony Swett on this case.
27

28 Gordon is going to have a company that maintains the radar trailer certify the radar units in both
29 cruisers. This will save time and money over having to take the units to Concord.
30

31 **Town Office:** The Selectboard signed the necessary paperwork for the setting of the 2008 tax rate.
32 The new rate will be established on the now completed assessment update valuations. The current
33 tax rate is \$25.75, with no increase in assessments the rate would have risen to \$27. Using the new
34 valuations a tax rate of approximately \$22 is anticipated.
35

36 The town will be participating in a pandemic flu planning exercise on November 19th. As part of the
37 exercise the town will open its POD at the elementary school and operate a flu shot clinic. The
38 training is being organized out of the region #4 office lead by the City of Lebanon. The town of
39 Hanover will also be participating in the exercise by opening their POD well. Chief Gillens, School
40 Principal Ellen Langsner, School Nurse Karen Heaton and Steve Halleran met with Ashley Connolly
41 of Mascoma Health Initiative and Fallon Reed of the State Office Emergency Management to begin
42 the initially planning work for the exercise.
43
44
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46

1 **Other Business:** The Selectmen asked that the town office remind residents that all houses need to
2 have their street address numbers posted so that they are visible from the road.

3
4 Addressing a question by Zoning Administrator Halleran, the Selectboard reviewed the written
5 record of the Planning Board's decision on the KUA athletic field. The board unanimously felt that
6 the decision and record indicates that there will be two days of each week that the field lights will not
7 be used. KUA may select the second day, that that day will be entirely field light usage free.

8
9 The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

10 Submitted,

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12 Stephen Halleran

13 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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16 Judy A. Belyea

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Thomas P. Williams Jr.

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

October 15th 2008

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judith Belyea

Thomas Williams Jr.

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

The Board started the meeting with residents of Baynes Road. A block party is planned for November 1st and the organizers would like to have a bond fire in the center of the cul de sac at the end of the road. The fire will be permitted by the MVFD, however, since the land is town owned permission from the Selectboard is required. The board was happy to grant permission asking only that the debris be cleaned up and if necessary the grass replanted next spring. Halleran will notify Chief Gillens and Road Agent Stocker of this approved event.

The Selectboard performed a final review of the worksheets and reports required for the setting of the 2008 tax rate scheduled for this Friday at 9:00am. The rate is expected to be set at or near \$22/\$1,000.

The board discussed the upcoming winter season. To save money the highway department will be asked to clear the sidewalks in Plainfield Village. The board acknowledged that, due to plowing responsibilities the work would likely not be done as quickly as was the case with a private contractor. However, the board felt that this was one place that a cash cost to the town could be reduced. The highway crew will do the work post storms in the middle of the day as time and conditions allow.

Outreach Program: Continuing with their stated goal of reaching out to Plainfield's business and institutional community, the Selectboard left the Meriden Town Hall to go do a previously arranged site visit to North Country Door. Owner Nate Cass gave the board a tour of the facility explaining the purpose of the various machines on the factory floor. Currently, the business is operating with about 16 full time employees; this is a reduced staff but reflects the difficult time in the building trades industry. North Country Door's main product is cabinet fronts and drawer boxes. The Board thanked Nate for his time. The Selectboard will continue to do all that it can to insure a favorable business climate in the town.

Police Department: Returning to the Meriden Town Hall, the Selectboard met with Chief Gillens. The Chief reported that the radar trailer is now back in service and that both cruiser units have now been certified.

Despite having arrested the individuals involved with the Freeman Road home robberies, the Police Department has continued with extra patrols during both daylight and nighttime hours as a deterrent to thieves.

The meeting was recessed until 9:00am on Friday morning for the establishment of the 2008 tax rate.

Friday Morning October 17th 2008 at 9:00am: The Selectboard met with DRA Auditor Jamie Dow. School Board member Carin Reynolds and Beth Bierwirth from the School were also in attendance. After reviewing the various reports filed with the state, the 2008 rate was established at

1 \$22/1000 of taxable property (town \$3.80, country \$2.55, local school 13.40, state school \$2.25).
2 Once math checked by the state team the new rate will be forwarded to the tax collector for the fall
3 billing.

4
5 The meeting adjourned at 10:00am.

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7 Submitted,

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9 Stephen Halleran
10 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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13 Judy A. Belyea

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16 Thomas P. Williams Jr.
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

2 November 5th 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm

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11 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Stocker reported that he is leaning toward a Gravelly power
12 head unit that will accept a snow blower, sweeper and mower for the sidewalk clearing in Plainfield
13 Village. The highway department will also do the snow clearing at town buildings this winter; this too
14 will result in cash savings to the town over previous years.

15

16 The highway crew has been focused on replacing damaged road culverts, final grading and preparing
17 plows and sanders for the upcoming winter season. Ken is committed to having the crew start brush
18 cutting along town roads as soon as the winter preparations are complete.

19

20 The Selectboard reviewed a letter from the Conservation Commission expressing support for the use
21 of Best Management practices by the highway department. Ken noted that on all job sites erosion
22 control measures are taken. The Conservation Commission would like to see the annual roadside
23 mowing include measures to prevent the spreading of invasive species. The Selectboard supported
24 the efforts of the highway department to minimize environmental impacts of roadwork and further
25 welcomed the Conservation Commissions offer to help with best management practices.

26

27 **George Koehler:** Mr. Koehler shared with the board his mathematical analysis of the 2008 update.
28 He feels that his review demonstrates that some properties increased in value more than others
29 thereby shifting the tax burden around town. He feels that if the average increase was 22% that all
30 properties should have increased 22% to be fair. The Selectboard noted that all properties are now
31 assessed at market value as of April 1st 2008. The board acknowledged that some classes of
32 properties did increase more than others and that some even decreased depending on market forces
33 over the last five years. The Selectboard accepted a copy of his work for their files and will discuss
34 his findings with Avitar Associates.

35

36 **Police:** Chief Gillens reported in a modest fashion on his second trip to Washington to accept on
37 behalf of his department another award for the work they did on the Ed and Elaine Brown case last
38 year. While pleased to have the department recognized, the Chief is happy to simply move on to
39 new business.

40

41 The department is working on the 2009 budget; Gordon has gotten some preliminary estimates for
42 the cruiser replacement. He does not anticipate any significant increases for 2009.

43

44 Halleran reported that activity around the former Berwick Building should increase in the next two
45 weeks. Asbestos removal should start next week, followed by removal of the structure later in
46 November.

47

48 **Town Office:** The board reviewed the 2009 budget schedule. The first meeting with the finance
49 committee will be November 19th. At this time there are new capital expenditure planned, just the
50 replacement of one of the two police cruisers. The single largest financial decision facing the town in
51 2009 will be the second phase of the Brook Road. Halleran and Stocker are meeting with Jason
52 Morrill of Morrill Construction to obtain some budgetary figures for completing the project in 2009.

1 Halleran hopes to be able to be successful in writing a second hazardous mitigation grant for culvert
2 upsizing in phase II.

3

4 The board reviewed a new option in the town office for viewing the town tax maps using Google
5 Earth. A file conversion allows lot and building lines to be project onto the aerial photos found on
6 Google. This tool should be especially helpful to the Planning Board in its review of subdivision and
7 site plan review applications. It is also possible to download data from hand held GPS units and
8 project those points onto the photos as well.

9

10 The town is now involved in effort to updates its Emergency Management Plan. The first meeting
11 was October 28th and the second meeting is November 18th.

12

13 The town will also be participating on November 19th in POD training exercise that will use a winter
14 flu clinic as the catalyst for conducting an inoculation exercise at the Plainfield Elementary School.

15

16 The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

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18 Submitted,

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20 Stephen Halleran

21 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

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24 Judy A. Belyea

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Thomas P. Williams Jr.

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

2 November 19th 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8

9 The meeting opened at 6:30pm

10 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Stocker reported that the department has completed its
11 preparation work for the coming winter. Ken and Steve will meet tomorrow morning with Jason
12 Morrill to begin the process of developing cost estimates for completing the rest of the brook road
13 project.

14

15 The long awaited highway garage lighting upgrade is scheduled to begin tomorrow as well.

16

17 **Police Department:** Gordon and Steve Halleran reported on the just completed Pandemic Planning
18 exercise that the town participated in with other regional #4 communities. As part of the mock drill,
19 the town opened both its emergency operations center (EOC) and its point of distribution center
20 (POD) for an inoculation drill that provided the added benefit of real world flu shot clinic.

21 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and, signed orders. The November 5th
22 meeting minutes were approved as presented. The Selectboard reviewed fuel and insurance bids. As
23 a result, Irving Oil was awarded the town's diesel fuel business for the next year and Simple Energy
24 was selected as the town's fuel oil provider. Turning to the insurance bids the town will remain with
25 the NHMA for health insurance in 2009 and Primex for Workers Compensation.

26 **Finance Committee:** The Selectboard held their first meeting with the town's finance committee.
27 The meeting opened with a brief discussion about the 2008 budget and the assessment update that
28 was just completed. The group next discussed the need to insure that the new budget reflects the
29 worsening US economy and resulting difficult times that some residents are facing. Discretionary
30 projects will be put on hold, capital expenditures kept to a minimum. The Selectmen are specifically
31 looking for the guidance of the committee with how to proceed with the Willow Brook Road. In
32 particular, the timing of phase II. The group will also try to put some pressure on the Sullivan
33 County Delegation to get their financial house in order. Halleran will ask the Commissioners to
34 attend a meeting in January.

35

36 The Plainfield Library Trustees and Library Director Norwalk met with the group to have some
37 roundtable discussion about the Plainfield Library's desire to expand a few open hours and to
38 complete the work on the basement section of the library. The capital piece of that project would be
39 funded through private donations.

40

41 The Selectboard will meet with the Finance Committee next on December 17th.

42

43 The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

44

45 Submitted,

46

47 Stephen Halleran

48 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

49

50 Judy A. Belyea

51

52

Thomas P. Williams Jr.

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

1 December 3rd 2008
2 Meriden Town Hall
3 Selectmen present:
4 Robert Taylor, Chair
5 Judith Belyea
6 Thomas Williams Jr.

7
8 The meeting opened at 6:00pm
9

10 **Margaret and Rob Drye** met with the board on three issues. 1) Asking that the Selectboard support
11 a request to have the Scenic Byway signs recently posted on state road Route 12A relocated to
12 existing "Adopt a Highway" sign posts already in place. The board agreed to support this effort. 2)
13 Understanding that, to save money, rather than using an outside contractor town forces are going to
14 clear the Plainfield Village sidewalks after major snowstorms they hope that the sidewalks can be
15 kept clear during minor storms as well. The Selectboard noted that while sidewalk work cannot be
16 done until all state plowing operations are completed for a given storm, as time allows the Highway
17 Department will clear the walkways. 3) Robert Drye noted the PVWD would be once again asking
18 the Town Tax Collector to file water liens on behalf of the district. The NH DRA has indicated to
19 the water district that NH law allows the collector do this. Given the independent nature of the
20 water district the town has been reluctant to become involved in this issue.

21
22 **2009 Budget:** The Selectboard's stated goal is to enter town meeting with a zero percent increase
23 over the current year appropriation. The board acknowledged that to accomplish this goal will
24 require cut backs in level of service. In addition, no employee wage increases for any positions are
25 planed and all discretionary projects remain on hold through 2009. Despite all this, the board is
26 committed to making sure that the proposed budget is a responsible package that accurately reflects
27 the cost of providing the services planned for next year.

28
29 **Highway Department:** The Selectmen held a budget workshop session with Road Agent Stocker,
30 going through the highway budget line by line. As a result of these discussions an additional \$10,000
31 was removed from the proposed budget.

32
33 **John Woodward-Poor** of the Meriden Fire Department met with the Selectboard to encourage the
34 Selectmen to begin to do some long range planning with the two fire departments. At issue is how
35 the departments can continue to meet all of their statutory requirements on a purely volunteer basis.
36 This issue is particularly relevant as the department is having a lot of difficulty finding a member to
37 assume the Chief's responsibilities. The largest obstacle is the amount of time and effort that the
38 chief must put into satisfying administrative duties and state requirements.

39
40 **Police Department:** The Board continued their budget work with Chief Gillens. His department's
41 proposed budget is down \$2,000 from the current year. Like other departments Gordon has
42 deferred any equipment additions for at least a year.

43
44 Halleran and Gillens reported that the former Berwick Building has been removed and final clean up
45 is now underway.

46
47 **Town Office:** Halleran noted that slumping revenues would make meeting the zero tax increase
48 budget a very difficult task to accomplish. Total proposed expenditures are already down from the
49 current year, however revenue projections are also way down for the coming year.

50
51 The Selectboard completed its work on a response to the Conservation Commission's request that
52 best management practices be implemented on all town road projects. See attached.

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The Selectboard will be attending the School Board meeting on December 16th. At the meeting the following topics, among others, will be discussed: posting of trails, safe routes to school program, a snow bucket for the school parking lot.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran
Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams Jr

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

2 December 17th 2008

3 Meriden Town Hall

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm

10

11 Timber Tax Agent Judy Belyea recommended not approving an Intent to Cut form filed by Lost
12 Cloud Forest Management for the Kimberly property on Dodge Road. The form has several
13 different dates going back to July and even March of 2008, and the estimates of wood to be cut are
14 not possible on only eight acres of land. Halleran noted that he has spoken with the landowners and
15 they are planning to do a timber harvest. The board felt that a current up to date form with at least
16 possible estimates of wood to be cut should be filed with the town before any action would be taken.

17

18 **Ice Storm:** Chief Gillens reported to the Selectboard that, finally, the PSNH customers in Plainfield
19 Village have power. To the best of the Chief's knowledge, everyone in town has power restored
20 now. The ice storm that hit last Friday left about 1/3 of the town without electric service for six
21 days. As a historical note, statewide PSNH had more than 300,000 customers without power. The
22 1998 ice storm resulted in 50,000 without power.

23

24 National Grid and New Hampshire Coop customers were back in service in 7 hours and 36 hours
25 respectively. The town opened an emergency shelter at Singing Hills. Police Chief Gillens praised all
26 of the efforts of Plainfield's first responders for assisting with this difficult storm. The single largest
27 frustration was in getting reliable information from PSNH. A canvas of the town was conducted last
28 evening to make sure that all PSNH customers in town were safe and accounted for. Many of these
29 residents have been living through the storm without a primary heat source and telephones.

30

31 Gordon indicated that the emergency service providers are planning to get together to discuss what
32 worked well and what did not work well during this major event. Gordon noted that in most cases
33 neighbors helping neighbors was the most valued and most often used resource.

34

35 **School Board Follow Up:** The Selectboard discussed the outcome of the meeting with the school
36 board. The school has agreed to contribute up to \$6,000 toward the cost of a snow scoop for use by
37 the highway department in plowing the new parking lot. Finance Committee member Scott MacLeay
38 voiced strong support for purchasing a snow bucket with movable wings and bottom. Scott noted
39 that such a piece of equipment would be far more valuable to the highway department than just a
40 fixed position large bucket.

41

42 **Finance Committee:** The Selectboard held their second meeting with the Finance Committee.
43 While not entirely there yet, the Selectboard remains committed to an operating budget and special
44 warrant article package that continues no new monies from taxation. The Finance Committee
45 acknowledged these efforts, noting that the school is trying to accomplish the same thing.

46

47 The group reviewed a budgetary estimate for completing Brook Road. Morrill Construction has
48 estimated the cost would be \$1.5m to \$1.8m to complete. The finance committee was not
49 comfortable with the town borrowing as much as \$1.3m for this work, and recommended that the
50 Selectboard work on a least cost option recognizing that the useful life of the reduced project would
51 be less. Removing the existing paving, using town forces to replaced the worst of the culverts,
52 adding some gravel and drainage to the worst areas, would likely cost in the neighborhood of

1 \$700,000 of which perhaps half might come from FEMA hazard mitigation monies. It was
2 acknowledged, that if these changes are made, Freeman Road reconstruction could possibly be
3 delayed as a result, and it could require two more years to complete even a reduced Brook Road
4 project.

5

6 The group will meet next on January 21st when members of the county delegation will be in available
7 to answer questions about county finances.

8

9 This being the last meeting of the year, the Selectboard directed Halleran to work with the town's
10 auditing firm to establish contingencies from any remaining 2008 legal and road maintenance funds
11 for 2009. Of particular concern is the continuing abutter lawsuit over the approved building
12 expansion at Townline Equipment and the ongoing struggle to repair the Willow Brook Road.

13

14

15 Submitted,

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17 Stephen Halleran

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Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams Jr

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