

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **January 7th 2009**
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 **Lost Cloud Forestry-Shaun Hathaway:** Mr. Hathaway met with the Selectboard to further discuss the
12 intent to cut form for the Kimberly property. See December 17th minutes for background. Responding to
13 the Selectboard's letter on this matter Mr. Hathaway noted that he routinely overestimates the amount of
14 wood to be cut so that he does not have to file supplemental forms at a later date. He noted that the tax is
15 based on the actual report of wood cut not the intent. Concerning the July date of signing for the logger and
16 the owner and his December date of submission to the town, this is customary for how he lines up his jobs.
17 His feeling is that the NH DRA supports his position on both issues and that he has submitted a properly
18 completed form for the town to act upon. However, based on several conversations he has had with town
19 counsel, he is willing to amend the intent so that the estimates are closer to what is actually possible to be
20 harvested on an eight acre cut such as this one. He noted clearly, that he does this under protest and as a
21 means of moving his project forward. Mr. Hathaway also, as agreed, received a statement from the town
22 expressing regret for an abrupt discontinuance of a phone conversation with him by the town's timber tax
23 agent.

24
25 He noted that he has an outstanding request to receive copies of other Intents to Cut filed with the town.

26
27 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens and the board held a final year end discussion about the police
28 department's 2008 budget and the proposal for 2009. The Chief feels that while extremely tight he can
29 work with the 2009 budget as proposed.

30
31 The Chief updated the board on several accidents and emergency response calls within the community over
32 the last two weeks.

33
34 The Selectboard continued its discussions about last month's ice storm and the difficulties that poor
35 information from PSNH created.

36
37 While the Chief was still at the meeting Halleran raised the issue of this Sunday's planned KUA/Meriden
38 Forum. The Chief and the full Selectboard plans to attend and listen to KUA's presentation about some of
39 its long-term strategic planning for their campus.

40
41 **Highway Department:** As Ken Stocker was busy with an ice event in progress, Halleran updated the board
42 on the department's activities over the last couple of weeks. The town has received several communications
43 from Plainfield Village residents about the cutbacks on the sidewalk maintenance. As planned the
44 Highway Department will, as time allows, be doing this work over the course of the winter. Ken had hoped
45 to clear the walks for the Christmas/New Year's holiday, but this was not possible, resulting in the calls.

46
47 Halleran noted that he and Road Agent Ken Stocker have continued to position the town for receipt of any
48 hazard mitigation and/or federal stimulus funds that become available in 2009 for the Willow Brook Road.
49 The town is also pursuing reimbursement funds for the December ice storm to cover the cost of debris
50 clearing from roadways.

51
52 **2009 Budget:** Halleran reported that the 2008 audit begins next week. Preliminary numbers suggest that
53 despite last winter's high fuel prices for 2008 that the town completed the fiscal cycle well within the
54 approved appropriation. As currently planned the 2009 budget and special warrant articles include no new

1 funding from property taxes. Salaries and wages have been frozen for all employees and no new programs
2 have been added for 2009.

3
4 The board's next meeting will include one of two budget hearings and will also include strong attendance
5 by Sullivan Counties elected and administrative team. This gathering has purposely been set up to provide
6 town residents and the finance committee the opportunity to meet directly with county officials.

7
8 **Other business:** The board completed the meeting by signing orders, reviewing correspondence and
9 approving the December 17th minutes.

10
11 Submitted,

12
13 Stephen Halleran

14 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

15
16 Judy A. Belyea

17
18 Thomas P. Williams Jr

19
20
21

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **January 21st 2009**
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 **Highway Department:** Acting on the recommendation of Road Agent Ken Stocker and the pledge
12 by the Plainfield School Board of \$5,000 to \$6,000 the Selectboard approved the highway
13 department's purchase of a snow bucket for the town's loader to be used in plowing the new school
14 parking lot. Halleran will continue discussions with the school about how much time and materials
15 are required to keep the parking lot safe. Road Agent Stocker feels strongly that the school district
16 should cover the entire cash cost of the bucket, \$10,400.
17

18 Ken reported that using the town's disciplinary policy, he is the process of notifying one of crew
19 about poor job performance. If the employee's conduct does not improve he may face loss of
20 employment.
21

22 **Town Office:** Halleran reviewed with the Selectboard the outcome of the town's financial audit.
23 The town completed its financial cycle within the approved appropriation and overall the town's
24 financial health remains very strong. As expected, the town's available fund balance dropped this year
25 as a result of the purchase of land on School Street.
26

27 The Selectboard reviewed the draft town warrant. There are only two money articles on the warrant
28 this year, the budget and the funding of reserves. The town has received one petitioned warrant
29 article which seeks to have the Selectboard remove from all assessing records existing photographs.
30 The Supervisors of the checklist has certified the petition as properly done. The Selectboard opposes
31 this article on the grounds that it makes the town's existing assessing system less transparent. In the
32 board's view the photos provide an important basis for making initial comparisons between
33 properties.
34

35 **Town Report:** The Selectboard approved the cover of the 2008 report. Halleran indicated that the
36 document should be ready to go to the printer by February 6th. The report should be mailed to residents by
37 February 26th in anticipation of the March 6th school board meeting.
38

39 **Sullivan County Discussion:** The Selectboard and Finance Committee welcomed Raymond Gagnon, Sue
40 Gottling, Jeff Barrette, Greg Chanis, Charolotte Houde Quimby and Craven Morefunds, all from the
41 Sullivan County Government to the meeting. The group was invited to discuss the financial condition of
42 Sullivan County with Plainfield officials. Jeff Barrette explained that one of the primary responsibilities of
43 the county is to provide nursing home facilities for our residents who have modest or no means of paying.
44 As a result of some over estimating of Federal reimbursements, the county thinking it had a surplus was
45 actually operating with a growing deficit for nearly three years. As a result a \$2.5m deficit must now be
46 made up. This will be a multi year effort and should result in the county returning to solvency in the next
47 two budget cycles. The company hired to run the nursing home has now been replaced with a county
48 administrator. The Selectboard and Finance Committee encouraged the elected representatives to do all
49 that they could to reduce spending noting the efforts of both the town and the school during these tight
50 economic times.
51

52 **Budget Hearing:** The 2008 budget hearing was opened at 7:25pm, Halleran walked the group through the
53 proposal which includes no new programs, no wage increases and, as directed, is designed to result in no

1 increase in town property taxes this year. Discretionary items, like sidewalk maintenance, have been
2 eliminated and Highway is doing what it can to reduce the use of road salt and sand. Large-scale road
3 reconstruction projects have been scaled back and nearly all departments have delayed equipment
4 purchases. The Selectboard is proposing fully funding the various reserve funds. This to insure that the
5 financial health of the town remains strong in the long-term. In general, the finance committee
6 membership supported achieving savings by reducing some of the town's winter maintenance.
7 Falling motor vehicle revenues and very few residential building projects has compounded this year's
8 budget work. The hearing opened at 8:00pm and closed at 9:00pm.
9

10 The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

11 Submitted,

12 Stephen Halleran

13
14 Robert W. Taylor, Chair

15
16 Judy A. Belyea

17
18 Thomas P. Williams Jr
19
20
21
22

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **February 4th 2009**
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 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Stocker and the Selectboard determined that with the new one
12 ton truck now operating as intended, it is time to consider selling the existing one ton truck, a 1999
13 Ford F550. The replacement GMC 5500 had been experiencing an electrical malfunction leaving the
14 highway department dependent on the older truck. Halleran will advertise the vehicle for bid. Ken
15 noted that if, given the economic times, the truck does not bring any significant amount of money,
16 his recommendation is that the department retain the truck for the remainder of the year. The board
17 will open the bids at their February 18th meeting.
18

19 **Bill McGonigle:** Resident Bill McGonigle met with the Selectboard to request that an article be
20 placed on the warrant creating an expendable trust fund to be solely funded through private
21 donations. The purpose of the fund is for municipal projects that would be nice to have, but do not
22 necessarily warrant the use of tax dollars. Part of the article would be the creation of a committee to
23 oversee the fund and make recommendations to future town meetings on projects requesting
24 funding. The board agreed to, subject to DRA review, place the article on the warrant.
25

26 The Selectboard completed their review of the annual report, warrant and budget. There being no
27 newly requested expenditures and no public present; the board determined that holding the posted
28 second budget hearing was not necessary.
29

30 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens acknowledged the work done by the Highway Department to
31 open up intersections. The volume of snow this winter has made it difficult for drivers using both
32 town and state roads to obtain good lines of sight when entering and leaving roadways. At least one
33 serious accident occurred on state roads in town due to the high snow banks. In this case, the town
34 highway department cleared the hazard to insure that additional accidents did not occur.
35

36 **Town Office:** Halleran reported that he has completed the necessary paperwork to obtain federal
37 reimbursement for the December ice storm. The town is seeking about \$16,000 in highway, police
38 and administrative related costs from the storm.
39

40 The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.
41

42 Submitted,
43

44 Stephen Halleran

Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams Jr

45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **February 18th 2009**
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 **Town Clerk:** Ruth Wheeler met with the Selectboard to discuss her plans to utilize the “one check
12 system” for motor vehicle registrations. Used in conjunction with a check scanner, this will allow
13 residents to use a single check payable to the Town of Plainfield when paying for car registrations.
14 The state will, on a daily basis, remove their share of the money from the town’s checking account.
15 The check scanner will give the town the quickest information on the status of the received checks.
16 A check with insufficient funds to the town will result in the state rescinding the issued registration.
17 The new approach will save the clerk’s office the expense in time and mileage of having to make
18 twice weekly trips to the bank to deposit state funds. The Selectboard did not object to the proposal
19 as long as Treasurer Fred Sweet is comfortable with the change. Ruth will work closely with Fred on
20 the transition. Ruth noted that this is the first step toward moving forward with accepting credit and
21 debit card transaction for clerk work.
22

23 The Selectboard signed the 2009 budget and warrant sheets for the 2009 Town Meeting.
24

25 **Truck Bids:** The bids for the 1999 Ford 550, plow and sander were opened. Two bids were
26 received, one for \$2,332 and one for \$7,500. Road Agent Stocker recommended that the board
27 reject both bids, feeling that at a minimum the truck should bring \$8,500. For the Selectboard, given
28 the age and past repair expenses, the floor for keeping the vehicle was closer to \$6,000. Therefore,
29 the Selectboard, after determining that the bid process was fair and given that part of the
30 presentation at last year’s annual meeting was that the new truck was to be a replacement and not an
31 addition, voted to accept the bid of \$7,500. Halleran will finalize the sale with the successful bidder.
32

33 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Stocker updated the Selectboard on the pending snowstorm.
34 The crew will begin plowing operations at 3:00am tomorrow morning. Ken expects that the new
35 snow scoop will be used for the first time at the School Parking lot.
36

37 Ken and the crew are completing some of their winter-planned projects. By example both of the
38 passage doors at the highway garage have been changed out. The new doors will be more energy
39 efficient.
40

41 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens asked for Selectboard support in requesting the state not close
42 the Claremont District Court. If the court is consolidated with Newport, Gordon feels that a second
43 officer would have to be brought in to provide town coverage when the duty officer was required to
44 travel to Newport for hearings and cases. Under the current system, the duty officer simply goes to
45 Claremont and continues to act as the duty officer for any calls for service that come up. The
46 Selectboard will forward a letter to the Governor in support of not closing the Claremont District
47 court.
48

49 **Other Business:** The Selectboard determined that the town’s health insurance is available for any
50 employee that works at least 20 hours per week. However, if less than full time the part-time
51 employee will be responsible for paying in advance, 100% of the monthly premiums.

1 Halleran reported that the Sullivan County Superior Court has granted a motion to dismiss the
2 Zoning Board suit brought forward by residents over the Townline Equipment expansion. This
3 ruling still leaves the PB case, but does simplify the issues before the court.

4
5 Halleran will be working with Morrill Construction in developing the town's second grant application
6 for Hazard Mitigation Funds. This latest grant application will be filed in March.

7
8 The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

9
10
11 Submitted,

12
13 Stephen Halleran

Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams Jr

14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

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

2 **March 4th 2009**

3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8 The meeting opened at 6:00pm

9
10 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Ken Stocker reviewed, with the Selectboard, winter
11 maintenance expenses to date this year as compared to last winter. The 2009 winter has not been
12 nearly as severe, consequently sand and salt usage is down by about 20% from the 2008 winter.

13
14 Ken reported that the new snow scoop has made a tremendous difference in the time and equipment
15 it takes to clear the school parking lot. The Selectboard, while acknowledging the expense, noted
16 that the piece of equipment will be around for many years and will save the community many times
17 its cost in either hired contractors or highway department equipment time and labor.

18
19 The 1999 one ton truck sale is now complete.

20
21 Halleran reported that the town would receive about \$15,000 in federal reimbursements for the
22 December ice storm. Most of the reimbursement is for keeping roadways open during the storm and
23 tree and debris clean up after the storm.

24
25 The town has now submitted a second Hazard Mitigation Grant proposal for Willow Brook Road.
26 The application seeks about \$490,000 in assistance for hazard mitigation measures in conjunction
27 with the continuing Brook Road reconstruction. The town hopes to hear from the state within a few
28 months.

29
30 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens thanked the board for their letter of support, written to
31 Governor Lynch asking that the governor not relocate the Sullivan County District Court from
32 Claremont to Newport.

33
34 As part of the town meeting preparation, the Selectboard discussed with Gordon Article 9 of the
35 warrant. Specifically, if in his view, including photographs on the assessing cards (since 2003) has
36 added to any crime in Plainfield. Gordon indicated that he did not feel this was the case and that in
37 his view there is no correlation between the photos and crime rates in town. Halleran noted that his
38 research of town report data confirms this as well.

39
40 **Town Office:** The Selectboard spent the remainder of the meeting preparing for the March 10th, 14th
41 annual meeting. Articles to be presented were divided up and key points for each presentation
42 were discussed.

43 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

44 Submitted,

45
46 Stephen Halleran

Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams Jr

52

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

2 **March 18th 2009**

3 **Plainfield Library, 1088 Route 12A**

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8
9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm. As part of the ongoing outreach program the meeting was held at
10 the Plainfield Library.

11
12 Selectwoman Judy Belyea was elected Chair of the Board for the coming year.

13
14 The Selectboard toured the basement area of the library building with Library Director Nancy
15 Norwalk. Pending final fund raising and fine-tuning with the contractors, the Trustees hope to start
16 the process of finishing the basement this summer. The finished basement will include a junior
17 room, a historical research area and a conference room that will be able to handle up to 50 people.

18
19 **Highway Department:** At the request of Road Agent Stocker, who wishes to have some gravel
20 crushing done in the next month or so in the town pit, the Selectboard will meet at the gravel pit with
21 Ken and resident Scott MacLeay on Friday morning at 7:00am. The purpose of the session will be
22 do discuss overall pit management strategies and to determine how best to handle the large amount
23 of unusable overburden material that is present over the vane of gravel that is being used.

24
25 Roadwork is continuing with muddy gravel roads. Additional gravel is being added as temperatures
26 allow. The long range forecast indicates that this will be the '09 mud season. While more snow is
27 likely, its unlikely that temperatures will become cold enough to form additional frost in the roads.

28
29 The department continues to experience minor problems with the new GMC 5500 truck. The vehicle
30 is back at a dealership for the second time. It should be back in service later this week. All work is
31 covered by warranty.

32
33 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens updated the board on the department's plans to acquire the new
34 police cruiser in the next few days. The old cruiser continues to experience electronic problems and
35 Gordon is anxious to get it out of service. The new car will include a slightly different decal
36 arrangement that will meet the latest requirements for cruiser markings. The wider decals are
37 designed to be more visible in low light situations.

38
39 **Plainfield Library Trustees:** Taking advantage of the Selectboard's meeting, the Trustees raised the
40 following issues with the board. 1) Is it possible for the library to sell Lebanon Landfill Coupons?
41 The library currently sells Plainfield Trash Stickers. The Selectboard approved this change. 2) Is it
42 possible for employees working for more than one department to receive enhanced information
43 about the allocations of their pay between the various departments (town office, library, election).
44 Halleran will look into this and provide the requested information. Halleran is aware that Ruth
45 Wheeler was working on this issue with Diane Rogers a couple of weeks ago.

46
47 **Town Office:** Halleran reported on the recent meeting of the town's safety committee. The group is
48 now working on an outside lighting up grade for the Meriden Town Hall.

49
50 The Meriden Library Trustees will meet with the Selectboard on April 15th to discuss Judy Hallam's
51 concern about ADA compliance with the Meriden Library building. Judy will be invited to the
52 meeting as well.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38

The Selectboard held a brief discussion recapping the results of the town meeting and establishing priorities for the New Year. In general, the Selectboard feels that this is a year to first complete existing projects and catching up on road maintenance work before starting any new projects.

The meeting was recessed until 7:00am Friday March 20th at the town's gravel pit.

Friday 3/20/09 7:00am

The Selectmen met with Road Agent Stocker and local contractor Scott MacLeay to discuss some pit maintenance strategies. A layer of overburden needs to be removed the pit to reach the valued sand and gravel below. Scott feels that with about one week of dozer time he can move around enough material to have a pile of overburden for the town to sell and to create the necessary access to the valued materials. The Selectboard committed to keeping all excavation activities on the original pit property, and not begin using the recently added land until the existing pit is exhausted.

The Selectboard met briefly with Ken Stocker to continue discussions about the summer of 2009 work. The Selectboard feels that this summer work should focus exclusively on replacing culverts, grading, ditching and roadside chipping along gravel roads in town. The Selectboard would like, by summer's end, to see as many roads as possible receive this treatment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00am. The Board's next scheduled meeting is April 1st at 6pm at the Meriden Town Hall.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor

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

2 **April 1st 2009**

3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8
9
10 **Highway Department:** The Selectboard and Ken reviewed the cost versus benefits of using the
11 50/50 manufactured sand salt mixture rather than just straight road salt. Salt purchases were down
12 from 575 tons the previous year to about 350 tons this winter. Salt cost \$64/ton and the
13 manufacture sand cost about \$10/ton. The town purchased about 400 tons of the sand. The
14 Selectboard noted that there is also a clean up cost with the sand that has not yet been incurred. Ken
15 recommends using the sand salt mixture again next year. The board deferred a final decision on the
16 issue until the 2009 winter salt per ton charge is known.
17

18
19 At the direction of the Selectboard, Halleran will solicit quotes for both crushing and screening 5,000
20 yards of sand in the gravel pit this spring. Screening the gravel might be a way to save some money
21 over the cost of a full scale crushing operation.
22

23
24 The Selectboard approved the hiring of a full time employee for the highway department. The new
25 person will fill a vacancy that has been open for the last three months. Once the job has been posted
26 and applications received Ken and the Selectboard will review them.
27

28
29 The Selectboard stressed to Ken their desire to see the highway department focus its efforts this
30 summer on brush cutting, ditching and grading along the town's various gravel roads.
31

32
33 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens reported that the new cruiser is now in service. Gordon shared
34 some photos of illegal dumping of computer monitors on River Road. The monitors will be picked
35 up and taken to a recycling center.
36

37
38 The Selectboard expressed disappointment over the closing of the Meriden and Plainfield stores.
39

40
41 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed and approved a mailing to go out to all property owners
42 with responsible stewardship forestland in the current use program. Periodically the town is required
43 to ask landowners for updated forestry plans. This year's update will be the first in more than ten
44 years.
45

46
47 The Selectboard will meet, at their next meeting, with the Meriden Library Trustees to discuss barrier
48 free access options to this town building.
49

50 Halleran reported that Des and Shirley Hudson are considering placing a conservation easement on
51 some or all of their 500 acres of land located off Beauty Hill Road. The Selectboard felt that an
52 easement on this land would compliment the town's master plan and natural resource inventory goals

1 and objectives. Consequently, the Selectboard and Conservation Commission are both in favor of an
2 easement on this property.

3

4 The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

5

6 Submitted,

7

8 Stephen Halleran

9

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

10

Thomas P. Williams Jr

11

12

Robert W. Taylor

13

14

15

16

17

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

3 **April 15th 2009**

4 **Meriden Town Hall**

5 Selectmen present:

6 Robert Taylor, Chair

7 Judith Belyea

8 Thomas Williams Jr.

9
10
11 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Ken Stocker reviewed the applications received for the open
12 highway department position. Out of about a dozen applications there were two that the group felt
13 should receive additional review. Ken will work on this in the coming days. The board may also
14 want to repost the position to see if an experienced full-time grader operator can be hired.

15
16 **Gravel Crushing/Screening:** The Selectboard reviewed two proposals for crushing or screening
17 gravel in the town pit. L&B Rock Crushing \$3.20/yard for gravel, \$2.00/yard for screening.
18 McCullough Custom Crushing \$2.90 /yard for crushing, \$2.25 yard for screening. The Board
19 determined that McCullough would be hired to crush 5,000 yards of gravel at \$2.90/yard. The
20 Selectboard continues to feel that hiring someone on a regular basis to perform maintenance
21 activities within the pit, will return for more in added benefits than the cost of the work.

22
23 Ken reported that spring grading and ice storm clean up work has started and will be continuing until
24 completed. Ken acknowledged that the gravel roads are rough and potholed. The crew will work
25 from east to west across the town.

26
27 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens reported that he has cleaned up the computer monitors dumped
28 over the bank on River Road. He will take the units to Evergreen Recycling for proper disposal.

29
30 Both cruisers will soon have the new higher visibility graphics installed.

31
32 **Meriden Library Trustees:** Responding to a letter received from resident Judy Hallam asking for an
33 update on plans for barrier free access to the Meriden Library, the Selectboard met with the library
34 trustees and Judy Hallam to discuss the issue. Judy noted that she understands that Plainfield has a
35 fully accessible library and that even once accessible, getting around in the Meriden Library for a
36 person with a wheelchair will be a challenge. She is not advocating any particular outcome, but is
37 interested in knowing more about the long-term plans for the building. She noted that she initially
38 brought the issue up a decade ago, but a lot has changed in the library administration since that time.
39 She pointed out that a barrier free access for the building would make entry into the structure easier
40 for a lot of patrons, not just those confined to wheelchairs. The Trustees and building committee
41 member Kevin O'Reilly shared with the group some of the work that was done about ten years ago
42 on this issue. If not part of a major renovation, the use of an external to the building enclosed lift to
43 allow access to the basement and main floor levels of the building is a preferred possibility over a
44 covered ramp. For the Trustees, the biggest challenge is to determine the future of the existing
45 building. If the building is not going to be renovated, then a lift might be a good choice. On the
46 other hand if an expansion of the building is in the foreseeable future, then replacing the current
47 elevated building structure with a new energy efficient single story building at ground level might
48 make a lot of sense. The Selectboard will touch base with the Trustees prior to next year's budgeting.
49 An initial reserve contribution toward the cost of a lift might be appropriate depending on the time
50 line for any major renovations. Judy thanked the group for their work on this issue.

51

1 **Town Office:** The Selectmen reviewed the list of properties to be deeded to the town by the tax
2 collector for nonpayment of taxes. This list is very similar to previous years and in nearly all cases
3 mortgage companies will make the necessary payment. The one exception might be the abandoned
4 home at 766 Willow Brook Road. There is no mortgage holder and the town has not heard from the
5 out of town owner since they purchased the property.
6

7 The board reviewed a letter from resident Joe Della Badia expressing interest in filling one of the
8 vacancies on the Conservation Commission. The Selectboard agreed to the appointment feeling that
9 Joe would make an excellent addition to the Commission. Joe was, some years ago, involved in
10 helping to conserve a piece of land on Farnum Road.
11

12 The Select board's April 15th meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.
13

14 Submitted,
15

16 Stephen Halleran
17

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

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

2 **May 6th 2009**

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. The April 15th minutes were approved as amended. The Selectboard
10 reviewed correspondence, signed orders and approved building permits.

11
12
13 **Highway Department:** Ken reported that Scott MacLeay has moved his bulldozer into the gravel pit and
14 will begin the planned maintenance activities in the next couple of days. Part of this year's work is to close
15 a back section of the pit, open up a new area for gravel excavation, and begin a general clean up of the pit.
16 As currently planned, the town will move back to the lower River Road entrance of the pit within the next
17 two or three years to begin a new lift of excavation that will move from east to west across the current pit
18 floor dropping the grade another four or five feet.

19
20
21 Based on discussions with Ken Stocker, the position of grader operator will be advertised. Ken has not
22 hired for the open truck driver position and the Selectboard feels that if a seasoned grader operator can be
23 located, such a person would be a valuable addition to the crew. The board appreciates the work done by
24 our current grader operators, and would hope that being able to add an experienced operator would be of
25 long-term benefit to them as well. In the past, the town's wage schedule has not been sufficient to hire
26 experienced grader operators away from commercial contractors, but with the down turn in the economy,
27 this may have changed.

28
29
30 **Police Department:** Chief Gillens reported that there has been a confirmed case of rabies in Meriden
31 Village. The residents involved have been notified and are seeking medical advise on how to proceed. The
32 infected animal did not bite anyone or have direct contact with anyone.

33
34
35 Reacting to a concern from Chief Gillens about unauthorized parking on Main Street during athletic events,
36 the Selectboard directed Halleran to send a letter to KUA asking that they post a parking attendant during
37 events to insure that all parking is done in the Art Center lot as required by the approved site plan for the
38 athletic fields.

39
40
41 Both cruisers now have the upgraded decal package designed to enhance the car's visibility during low
42 light and emergency response situations.

43
44
45 Halleran and Gillens updated the Selectboard on the town's preparation for any work related to the H1N1
46 virus. There are no plans to open the town's EOC (Emergency Operations Center) or POD (Point of
47 Distribution Center), however, a letter has been sent to the Cornish Selectboard encouraging them to review
48 the plan that covers both Plainfield and Cornish in the event that this fall opening a flu shot clinic at the
49 town's POD site (Plainfield School) is requested by the state. If this occurs, a plan exists where both
50 Plainfield and Cornish work cooperatively to process both communities' residents at the POD site.

51
52 **Town Office:** The Cornish Store has asked to be allowed to sell Plainfield Trash Stickers. The Selectboard
53 agreed to this, but only for the time that Plainfield's two stores are closed.

54
55 Assessor George Hildum is now working in town to value improvements for 2009.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20

The Selectboard reviewed and approved recommended abatements for 2008. Avitar Associates as part of the 2008 update contract completed this work. George Hilbum has reviewed the recommendations as well.

The Selectboard signed a grant request which if approved will fund a base radio for the town's EOC. The radio will be located in the Police Department and will replace a portable radio that is now used for this purpose.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **May 20th 2009**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8
9 The Selectboard opened their meeting with a site visit to the town's gravel pit on Ferry Hill Road. Road
10 Agent Ken Stocker and local contractor Scott MacLeay walked the board around the pit explaining the
11 reclamation and overburden management work that Scott has been doing, as well as reporting to the board
12 on the results of their test pits concerning the next phase of the gravel pit utilization. Scott has cleared
13 enough overburden off the active pit face to provide access to gravel for the next three to four years. In
14 addition, he is planning to move a pile of overburden material down to the pit floor where it can easily be
15 made available to residents for sale. Periodically, the town sells this fill material which otherwise is in the
16 way of pit operations. By moving the pile, the town will have improved access to the area of the pit that
17 has proven to have the best road sand. The Selectboard approved the work to date and the remainder of the
18 planned 2009 work.

19
20 Gravel crushing is also now underway in the pit and should be completed in about two weeks. This year's
21 project involves crushing 5,000 yards of material.

22
23 Ken and the Selectboard reviewed the applications for a grader operator. None of the applicants have the
24 grading qualifications that the board was hoping to find. The Board agreed to Ken moving forward with
25 interviews with three of the applicants from both the grader and truck driver search. However, the position
26 offered will be as a truck driver/operator.

27
28 **Freeman Road:** The Selectboard moved onto Freeman Road to view the condition of the existing
29 pavement. Based on this visit, Ken will obtain estimates for doing some work to the road. The Selectboard
30 remained committed to having the crew spend much of the summer performing maintenance on gravel
31 roads, but did not rule out some pavement work on Freeman.

32
33 The group returned to the Meriden Town Hall.

34
35 **Police:** Chief Gillens reported on an attempted burglary on Stage Road. The department is investigating
36 this developing issue, however, it appears that there was forced entry into the house. Likely due to the
37 owner's dogs, the thieves left before taking anything.

38
39 Chief Gillens reported that Kimball Union did a much better job with parking, at the bottom of the hill,
40 over the alumni weekend. The requested parking attendants were in place, this minimized parking issues
41 on Main Street.

42
43 The Police Department will soon be issuing summons for unregistered dogs. This annual issue continues to
44 take up a lot of time and energy. The chief noted that with the increase in rabies, making sure all dogs are
45 properly vaccinated and registered is important.

46
47 **Town Office:** Halleran reported that the assessing work for first tax billing is nearly complete. George
48 Hildum has just one or two days remaining. The bills should be mailed prior to June 1st, and will be due
49 on July 1st.

50
51 While the overall tax lien for 2008 was less than that for 2007 the tax collector did take, by deed, the
52 abandoned house at #766 Willow Brook Road. The Selectboard voted to accept the deed and to turn the
53 matter over to town council for review. The board plans as soon as possible to have the building taken
54 down and to sell the lot to the highest bidder.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17

Concerned with the amount of junk cars that are visible around town, the Selectboard will be issuing letters to residents that are not in compliance with the applicable state law, giving them an opportunity to gain compliance before pursuing enforcement action later in the summer.

The Selectboard reviewed orders and correspondence, approved the May 6th minutes and signed orders. The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor

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

2 **June 3rd 2009**

3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4 Selectmen present:

5 Robert Taylor, Chair

6 Judith Belyea

7 Thomas Williams Jr.

8 The meeting opened at 6:00pm. Correspondence was reviewed and orders approved.

9
10 **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Gravel Pit,** On the recommendation of Scott Macleay, who has
11 been doing some maintenance work in the pit, the Selectboard has decided to make available for
12 \$2.00/yard, approximately 8,000 yards of overburden material from the town pit. The material will
13 be sold only for a limited time and as directed by the Selectboard.

14 **Freeman Road:** Ken reviewed some estimates for Freeman Road. The Selectboard has
15 asked Ken to price some options for providing some relief from the very rough pavement at the
16 south end of the road. The Board had hoped to do a full road project at this site in 2009. However,
17 this may not be possible. If affordable, a limited project this summer might provide some relief. The
18 board will continue to review the information provided by Ken. Paving alone is \$64,000. Ken
19 estimates that the entire project would cost between \$75,000 and \$80,000.

20 **1985 Lawn Tractor bids.** Halleran reported that a notice was printed in the Valley News
21 and posted on the town website. Townline Equipment has provided a book value for the tractor,
22 which is between \$300 and \$700. One bid was received. The bid was from Ken Stocker for \$210.
23 The board accepted the bid. If the town, in the future, goes back to town employees mowing the
24 cemeteries this tractor is not the technology that would be used to do the work today.

25 Ken will begin work the ditching, culvert replacement and tree trimming work on gravel
26 roads next week. This work is a priority set by the Selectboard. Dodge Road is the first on the list to
27 be followed by Hayward or Kenyon and Old County Road.

28
29 **POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Gillens noted that the high winds over the weekend downed
30 several trees and resulted in some limited power outages around town. The fire department and
31 highway department handled these incidents.

32 Gordon noted that the streetlights in Plainfield Village seem to have a shorter bulb life than
33 the older units. PSNH has been good about repairing or replacing them.

34 Responding to a concern by a Harriman Road resident, Gordon will place the speed trailer
35 up on the roadway for a day next week.

36
37 **TOWN OFFICE:** Halleran reported that the first half tax bills were mailed on time. George
38 Hildum finished the assessing work and Tax Collector Ruth Wheeler was able to mail bills on
39 Wednesday of last week.

40 Halleran has started work on the 2009 program for dealing with junk cars and debris around
41 town. As part of this work Steve has communicated with Jim Taylor Planning and Zoning
42 Administrator for Enfield. Jim has a lot of experience with this type of work.

43
44 The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

45
46 Submitted,
47 Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **June 16th 2009**
3 **Plainfield 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 **Dodge Road:** The Selectmen toured the Dodge Road project that is being completed by the
12 Highway Department. The Selectmen have instructed the highway department to spend the majority
13 of this construction season trimming the roadsides, replacing culverts, ditching, and grading all the
14 various gravel roads in town.

15
16 The Selectboard felt very good about the work that is being done to Dodge and asked Ken to
17 continue with the same approach on the other gravel roads.

18
19 The board moved to the Plainfield Town Hall

20
21 **Gravel Pit Maintenance/Overburden Sales:** Halleran reported that to date, the town has spent
22 about \$11,000 on gravel pit maintenance and the sale of the overburden material has netted about
23 \$10,000 worth of revenue. The sale runs through Friday and will then be shut down for the summer.
24 It is expected that the sale of material will pay for the maintenance work. This work included
25 exposing gravel for crushing, sand for winter use, reclamation of the of the south west corner of the
26 pit and general grading and reshaping of several embankments.

27
28 The Selectboard will place a wreath and observe a moment of silence at the Service Memorial on July
29 4th at 10:30am. Halleran will post an invitation for the public to attend this event.

30
31 The Solid Waste Committee will hold the 4th annual Clean Up Day on Saturday June 20th at the
32 Highway Garage from 8:00am to 2:00pm. This event provides a very low cost opportunity for
33 residents to disposal of large bulky items. The day also includes a swap section and electronic
34 recycling.

35
36 The board reviewed the 2009 budget. With 52% of the year remaining the town has 60% of its
37 appropriation remaining. Halleran noted that revenues particularly from the state of New Hampshire
38 remain a concern.

39
40 The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

41
42 Submitted,
43 Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor

44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52

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

2 **July 1st 2009**

3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4 Selectmen present:

5 Judy Belyea, Chair
6 Thomas Williams Jr.
7 Robert Taylor

8
9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

10
11 **Daniels Road:** Byron Breese and Mherdad Didehbani met with the Selectboard to discuss options for
12 traffic control in the area of Daniels Road and Route 12A. It is their view that often cars coming down
13 Daniels Road and cars turning from Route 12A onto Daniels road, are traveling at excessive speed. They
14 both noted that Plainfield Village is fortunate to now be populated with young children and that keeping the
15 kids safe is a constant concern. The Selectmen reviewed with them some of the restrictions that are placed
16 on speed limits by the state of New Hampshire for both state highways and town roads. It's typically a
17 surprise to residents that the town cannot easily change the default speed limit of 35 mph that is established
18 by the state for all town roads. The Selectmen also discussed some of the strategies that the town has used
19 in the past. At a minimum the roadway will receive some additional police presence, signage and perhaps
20 some brush cutting to improve visibility.

21
22 **School Street:** School facility manager Bill Knight met with the Selectboard to request that the board
23 consider overlaying School Street in the near future as a means of avoiding a very expensive road
24 reconstruction project there in future years. Coincidentally, the board discussed a study provided by former
25 DOT engineer and Plainfield resident Jeff Albright that concludes that periodic resurfacing, as opposed to
26 infrequent full scale road projects are the most cost efficient way to maintain paved roads.

27
28 Bill noted that some of the asphalt is likely the responsibility of the school to pay for, however, in his view
29 the most important thing is to begin discussions about overlaying the road before significant damage is
30 done to the existing pavement. Selectboard member Taylor noted that as part of this work he would like to
31 see the first 100' or so of the access road to the new parking lot paved. The existing intersection is a
32 maintenance problem caused by all the starting and stopping that occurs there. The town has had good
33 success as eliminating these problems by paving intersections.

34
35 **Overburden Sales:** Cornish Contractor Kyle Witty stopped in to settle with the town for the material he
36 hauled as part of the overburden sales. Kyle took 1,407 yards at \$2.00. Halleran noted that pavement has
37 been received from Plainfield Construction and Bruce Plummer.

38
39 **Service Memorial Wreath:** Halleran noted that the laying of the wreath at the service memorial is all set
40 for Saturday morning at 10:00am. Lebanon Floral is providing the wreath and Robert Porthouse will play
41 the bagpipes as part of the event.

42
43 The Selectboard completed the meeting by reviewing correspondence, approving orders and minutes.

44
45 The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

46 Submitted,
47 Stephen Halleran

48 Judy A. Belyea, Chair

49
50 Thomas P. Williams Jr

51
52 Robert W. Taylor

53
54

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **July 15th 2009**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4 Selectmen present:

5 Judy Belyea, Chair
6 Thomas Williams Jr.
7 Robert Taylor

8
9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

10
11 **Highway Department:** The Selectboard held a detailed discussion with Road Agent Stocker about
12 how best to utilize, for 2009, the \$105,000 in Highway Block Grant funding allocated to Plainfield.
13 Projects under consideration include applying the wearing course to the first section of Willow Brook
14 Road, work on Freeman Road, and overlaying of School Street. Quotes for School Street are due in
15 on Tuesday. The town's portion of this project is to repave the 564' from Bonner to the circle area.
16 Road Agent Stocker advocated strongly for the wearing coat on Willow Brook Road noting that this
17 is needed to protect the significant investment made into the roadway. The board read an e-mail
18 from Freeman Road resident Nancy Liston urging the board to do something with Freeman Road a
19 request that she has been making for several years, including a street wide petition turned over to the
20 Selectboard in 2007. No final decisions were reached, however one likely scenario is to place the
21 wearing course on Brook Road, overlay School Street and encumber the remaining funds for
22 Freeman Road with the hope of starting drainage work on the roadway this fall. The town continues
23 to wait for a decision on a second hazard mitigation grant for Brook Road. The first grant award was
24 for nearly \$300,000.

25
26 The Selectboard noted that continuing with the gravel road projects started earlier this summer
27 remains a high priority. Dodge Road has been completed. Kenyon, Spencer are nearly complete
28 and Center of Town Road is next on the list.

29
30 Ken will have the crew do some enhanced trimming on Daniels Road in effort to provide an
31 improved line of sight from the east down into the village. See July 1st minutes.

32
33 **Congressman Paul Hodes:** Assistant Leigh Marthe met with the board to discuss local issues and
34 to see where Congressman Hodes might be able to help the community. The town office was
35 encouraged to pass her name and contact information on to any residents that are having problems
36 interfacing with the Federal Government.

37
38 **Police Department:** Referring to the above roadwork discussion, the Selectboard asked Gordon to
39 utilize the speed trailer to gather some traffic numbers for Freeman Road.

40
41 Gordon reported that he has continued to work on addressing speed and traffic concerns for
42 Harriman Road. Traffic count numbers are low, however, he is working toward educating the
43 residents that they and their guests vehicle speeds do at times have negative impacts on neighbors.

44
45 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed a report from Barry Schuster on the former Hart property,
46 766 Willow Brook Road. Barry feels that the Tax Collector has properly deeded the property and
47 that the town is free to sell the property as outlined in RSA 80. The Board directed Halleran to move
48 forward with a sale of the property.

49
50 Pending the receipt of one additional quotation, the Selectboard approved replacing the single walled
51 fuel oil tank in the basement of the Plainfield Town Hall with a double walled unit. The tank is more
52 than twenty years old, sits on a poor foundation and often goes unseen for months at a time.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15

2009 Tax Rate: Appraiser George Hildum has now completed the 2009 fieldwork. Pending some card updates the town should be ready for an early September rate setting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Submitted,
Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor

1 draft
2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
3 **July 15th 2009**
4 **Meriden Town Hall**

5 Selectmen present:

6 Judy Belyea, Chair
7 Thomas Williams Jr.
8 Robert Taylor
9

10 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

11
12 Halleran reported that in an effort to continue last year's popular traveling Selectmen's meeting series
13 will meet on August 19th at Townline Equipment.
14

15 **Highway Department**

16
17 **Freeman Road:** Ledge Drive residents Robert Sullivan and Halton Grindle met with the
18 Selectboard to discuss reconstruction plans for Freeman Road. Referring to last meetings minutes the
19 Selectboard continued their discussions about how to proceed. A reconstruction of the road will
20 likely cost about \$75,000 and will take two months to complete. Simply overlaying the roadway will
21 cost \$18,750 and will not address many of the drainage problems that exist. Road Agent Stocker has
22 proposed reclaiming the existing pavement now, returning the road to gravel and allowing the
23 Highway Department to work on drainage as time allows. The roadway would then be repaved in
24 2010. Robert Sullivan felt this was a reasonable approach, however, he felt strongly that the
25 pavement must be replaced. The Selectboard authorized Ken to move forward with removing the
26 existing pavement from Freeman Road.
27

28 **Mill Village Road:** Martin Favor and Micheal Blumenauer met briefly with the Selectboard to
29 express their frustrations about the lack of advanced communication with them concerning the
30 clearing of brush and small trees along the town's right of way for Mill Village Road. Additionally,
31 they felt as though at least one member of the highway crew was rude to them and very
32 confrontational when they as the property owners questioned the crew about the work. Eventually,
33 Selectman Taylor met with them to attempt to mediate the problem. Steve Halleran and Ken
34 Stocker were both away on vacations and Assistant Road Agent Collins was on another job site.
35 The Selectboard apologized for the miscommunication and assured them that the issue of highway
36 employees confronting residents would be addressed.
37

38 **Police Department**

39
40 **Joe Haas:** Gilmanton Resident and Ed and Elaine Brown supporter Joe Haas met with the
41 Selectboard to request that the board engage the Federal Government in a debate about the validity
42 of the federal government's action in New Hampshire. Mr. Haas noted that he might be required to
43 make citizen arrests on federal authorities attempting to take over the Brown's property. The
44 Selectmen will forward Mr. Haas research to town counsel for review.
45

46 Chief Gillens updated the Selectmen on department activities. The annual chore of issuing citations
47 for unregistered dogs is wrapping up. This year 13 owners will be receiving summons. We have a
48 total of 649 dogs in town and all but 17 are now registered. Gordon pointed out that with the
49 increase in rabies it is particularly important that animals be protected from contracting the disease.
50

51 **Terry McNamara and Kim Smith** met with the Selectboard to discuss their recent purchase of the
52 Meriden Deli-mart. The two hope to reopen the business in September and to this end discussed

1 necessary town permits. Realizing that they have missed the 2008 abatement deadline, but also that
2 the building is in poor shape questioned whether or not the Selectboard could assist in addressing the
3 tax liability for the property. The Selectboard instructed Halleran to look into this with assessor
4 George Hildum. Under NH law there is little that the board can do for the taxes that have not been
5 paid, however there still is time to insure that the 2009 assessment accurately reflects the property as
6 it stood on April 1st.

7
8 **Other Business:** Reacting to a recent inquiry from the Conservation Commission the Selectmen will
9 continue efforts to work out any final details with property owners Brad and Laurie Atwater on the
10 installation of a kiosk at the Route 12A trailhead for the Home Hill Trail. The public trail was
11 established as part of the Simon subdivision and is an encumbrance on the land in question. The
12 Selectmen will meet at the site following the Townline visit next meeting.

13
14 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

15
16 Submitted,

17
18 Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor

19
20
21
22
23
24