

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday January 8th 2014**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
6 Thomas Williams
7 Robert Taylor
8
9

10 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.
11

12 **Homeland Security Grant Hearing:** The Selectboard opened the hearing to accept \$4,530 dollars from
13 the State of New Hampshire to purchase emergency response traffic management equipment. Halleran
14 explained that during the heavy rains of July 2nd 2013 the town's ability to properly barricade washed out
15 roads and damaged areas was quickly overwhelmed. There just were not enough barricades and signs. This
16 grant would fund 50% of a trailer and equipment to increase this capability. Resident Bill Knight spoke in
17 favor of accepting the grant. The hearing was closed and the Selectboard voted to accept the grant, signing
18 the necessary paperwork to formalize this acceptance.
19

20 **Highway Department:** The Selectboard reviewed with Road Agent Richard Collins his department's two
21 proposals for the 2014 town meeting. Rich has recommended that the town replace the 1973 Ford road side
22 mowing tractor with a 2002 New Holland unit from Owen's Leasing. Rich feels that this tractor provides
23 an excellent value to the town and can be used in other applications such as powering a sweeper for spring
24 clean up, a leaf blower for fall ditch line clean out and perhaps a loading attachment with a bucket and
25 forks for general work around town. Leasing the tractor for a limited period of time each summer just for
26 mowing has also been looked at, but Rich feels that given the relative low cost of this tractor and its long
27 expected life an outright purchase of the unit should be made. The unit will cost the town \$52,000
28 including the trade of the old tractor.
29

30 Road Agent Collins has also has requested that the town be asked to replace one of the existing large truck
31 dumptruck bodies with a body that includes a built in sander. The unit purchased in 2012 has been so
32 successful that Rich and his crew feel a second is warranted. These units allow the truck to hold nearly
33 twice as much sand for sanding, reducing the number of trips back to the shop for more sand. Likewise,
34 during times when a useable dumptruck is needed for mud repair or tree work it is not necessary to take out
35 and put back the sanders on a daily basis.
36

37 The Selectboard will include both items for purchase into the plan that will be going to the finance
38 committee for discussion at next week's budget hearing.
39

40 **Police:** Chief Roberts reviewed the details of a theft case that has lead to an arrest and may solve not only a
41 case at McNamara's Dairy, but also one at Ann's Country Store. An individual that seems connected to
42 both of these issues as well as perhaps some mail theft on River Road was arrested last Sunday. The
43 investigation is going and will include federal postal inspectors.
44

45 **Fire:** Fire Chief Currier attended this meeting and now hopes to attend one Selectboard meeting a month to
46 update the Selectmen on department happenings. The MVFD has recently purchased a cab and chassis
47 from reserve funds that will be outfitted with an existing utility body to replace the department's old utility
48 truck that was starting to have mechanically problems.

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Bill Knight School Facility Manager: Bill attended the meeting to discuss directly with the Selectboard the town's response to the December fire alarm activation at the Elementary School that resulted from a failed electrical outlet. There was no fire at the school, there was however a smell of burning plastic wire insulation. The students and staff and EMS providers all acted reasonably and ensured the safety of all that were in the building. As facility manager, Mr. Knight and the school's hired electrician arrived at the school within minutes of being notified of the problem and the issues was corrected at that time and the electrical system inspected. Mr. Knight feels that the Police Department's response to the call focused too much on blame and whether a crime had been committed and not enough on public service. Since the incident, the school has had inspection by the NH Fire Marshall's office as well as the state electrical inspector and while due to the age of the school there are several minor issues that need to be addressed there is no eminent danger and the school is safe. Chief Roberts noted that he felt the department's response was reasonable at the incident and that the safety of the students and staff were his main concern. He did call the State Fire Marshall and notify them of the incident and he did take custody of the damaged outlet as evidence to assist the state in its investigation. The Selectboard focused on the positive outcomes from this event with all in attendance at this meeting agreeing that working cooperatively at these types of calls has been and will continue to be the norm in Plainfield.

Town Administrator: The Selectboard reviewed materials from Ms. Lesser and then drafted and signed a letter to her indicated that the town did not support her proposed amendment to the existing Conservation Easement on her property that would reduce public access to the property.

The rest of the meeting was spent finalizing the 2014 budget draft that will be presented at next week's hearing. The town operating budget is up 2.6% from 2013.

The town's financial audit begins tomorrow.

The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday January 15th 2014
Meriden Town Hall

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Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
 Thomas Williams
 Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Police Department: Chief Roberts and the Selectboard reviewed the details of some technology improvements that the Police Department is working on. One of these changes is to switch the town's phone service from TDS to Comcast. This has the ability to save the town several thousand dollars a year and to enhance the Police Department's ability to use its reporting software. The current DSL service used by the Police does not have a great enough data upload speed to effectively use the reporting software.

The Chief noted that he continues to make adjustments to patrol schedules in an effort to have a car out on patrol during all hours of the day and night.

Highway Department: Town Administrator Steve Halleran reported that the weekend snow and ice events are taking an early toll on the department's winter maintenance budget. Typically, these stormy periods level out over the course of the entire winter so that this time there is no plan to need to increase the proposed 2014 budget.

Town Office: The 2013 town audit is now fully underway and should be completed later in the week. The 2013 year is being closed out and packed away.

Budget Hearing: The town's finance committee attended this hearing along with Moderator Paul Franklin. Penniman Road resident Richard Atkinson was the sole member of the general public in attendance. Town Administrator Halleran reviewed the proposal as follows: This year's operating budget has a proposed increase of 2.6% and is designed to replicate the current level of service with basically no new programs or features. We have budgeted a 2.0% increase in wages, with 1.7% being allocated for cost of living increases and the other .4% to go toward providing merit raises. No new positions or programs are being proposed. Something like \$42,000 of the increase can be found in two line items. One, the highway where the cost of employee benefits, road salt, diesel fuel and other hard good supplies has necessitated a need for a \$32,000 increase to the operating budget. As you would expect, the highway department is nearly 40% of the town's entire operating budget and in general labor related costs are nearly 50% of the town's entire operating budget. Like most organizations, our employees are critical to whom we are and most of our full time benefited employees can be found in the highway department.

Also Two, the fire department line item, where each department shows an increase of \$4,500 which will go toward offering a stipend to the fire chief to cover some of the extensive amount of time and effort that is required to perform the duties of the position. This request came from the fire departments and was fully supported by the Finance Committee and the Selectboard.

The remaining significant increases in the operating budget, are scattered throughout and include \$5,000 in the town office again, an area where salaries and related benefits are the main drivers.

1 The Selectboard is again planning to fund the various reserve funds, the success that the town has
2 had as a community of leveling out the impact of capital asset replacements with these funds is
3 well documented.

4
5 Two highway department purchases from reserve funds are proposed. One is the replacement of
6 our 1973 Ford Tractor that performs roadside mowing. A 2002 New Holland Tractor is being
7 discussed as an alternative to purchasing or leasing a new machine. This project is expected to
8 cost about \$55,000. Two, is the replacement of one the town dump truck bodies with a body that
9 includes a built in sander unit. The town purchased one of these bodies as part of a truck
10 replacement in 2012. This new body has been so successful that the highway department feels a
11 second unit is warranted. These bodies allow the truck to carry more sand/salt than a drop in
12 sander and with a lower center of gravity make the truck much more stable in icy conditions.

13
14 The Library Trustees have proposed an air conditioning project for the Plainfield Library. At
15 this time the details of this proposal are not fully known, but the Selectboard is expecting that the
16 trustees will have additional information about the project available at the February 5th hearing.
17 Preliminary cost estimates indicate that the system would cost about \$16,000.

18
19 If the proposed budget and all warrant articles are approved the town portion of the tax rate of
20 \$5.12 would increase by \$.24 to \$5.36.

21
22 The budget hearing was closed at 8:30pm.

23
24 **Other Business:** The Selectmen completed their meeting by reviewing correspondence and
25 signing orders for the week.

26
27 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

28
29 Stephen Halleran

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32 Thomas P. Williams

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34 Robert W. Taylor

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37 Judy A. Belyea
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday February 5th 2014**
3 **Plainfield Library**

4
5 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
6 Thomas Williams
7 Robert Taylor
8

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

10 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Collins updated the Selectmen on the winter maintenance
11 efforts by the highway department. Sand and salt usage is up significantly this winter. While there
12 have only been a few large storms, there has been many smaller events which can cost nearly as
13 much as a large snow storm to clean up. Currently, the area of biggest concern for the department
14 is mechanical problems with Truck #1 and Truck #5. Truck #1 may need new fuel injectors and
15 truck #5 may need a new head gasket. Both repairs could be very expensive. Rich will have more
16 information for the Selectboard in the next couple of days.

17 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts reviewed the police department's case log for the last week,
18 which has included a lot of traffic accidents on Route 12A and Route 120. The Town is working
19 on a draft contract with WaveComm for the repeater service. PVFD officer Mark Horne has been
20 working on the contract details. The cost will be \$3,000/year for the rental of two repeaters that
21 will serve the Police, Fire and Highway Departments. All agree that the system has improved
22 EMS communications.

23 **Homeland Security Grant hearing:** The public hearing on the acceptance of two homeland
24 security grants was opened. The first grant will fund improvements to the phone system in the
25 police department for the emergency operations center. The second will fund a machine that will
26 create ID badges for town and school employees. The two grants total about \$1,800. There being
27 no one wishing to speak on the grants, the hearing was closed. The Selectboard voted to accept
28 both grants.

29 **Budget Hearing:** The town's second budget hearing was opened at 7pm. The only change since
30 the first hearing, was that the Library Trustees have withdrawn the request for an air conditioning
31 unit for the Plainfield Library. This change reduces the amount of money to be raised from taxes
32 by \$16,600 to \$44,000 or an additional \$.17 on the town tax rate. The Finance Committee
33 reported that they support the town budget and the two planned purchases, one for the roadside
34 mower the second the dumpbody replacement for one of the heavy trucks. The annual
35 contributions to the reserve funds are also supported. Ron Eberhardt and Mark Horne attended the
36 hearing.

37
38 The budget hearing was closed at 7:30pm. Margaret Drye was thanked for her attendance at the
39 hearing. The snowy weather likely made it difficult for others to attend.

40
41 The Selectboard meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

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43 Stephen Halleran

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45 Thomas P. Williams

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48 Robert W. Taylor

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51 Judy A. Belyea

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
3 **Wednesday February 19th 2014**
4 **Meriden Town Hall**
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7 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
8 Thomas Williams
9 Robert Taylor
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11
12 The meeting opened at 6:00pm. The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and approved orders
13 for the coming week.
14

15 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts reported that the department has gotten a confession from an
16 individual responsible for breaking into Ann's Country Store late last year. This person will likely
17 face at least two years in jail for the robbery.
18

19 The heavy snows from the past week have resulted in a lot of accident calls for the department.
20 The paperwork for these will take a few days to catch up.
21

22 **Town Office:** The Selectboard signed the 2014 Town Meeting warrant and budget sheets. The
23 town report is now fully available online and the hard copy books will be mailed to residents next
24 week. The warrant will be posted at both town halls and the Plainfield School, the place of voting.
25

26 Resident Jim Sheehan met with the Selectboard to discuss the property he owns on Batchelder
27 Hill Road. See attached for background. The Sheehan's purchased this property in 2005/6,
28 removed the house from the land in 2009 and have been working with the town every since to
29 preserve the right to build a replacement house on the property. Plainfield does not allow the
30 building of new houses on class VI highways; however with town consultation the rights to
31 modify or replace in kind existing homes can be obtained. Jim was issued a building permit for a
32 new house and has been renewing it each year. He had expected that the new house would be
33 built by now for one of his kids. Admittedly, that has not happened as quickly as he had hoped.
34 He is confident that a decision to either build on or sell the property will be made within the next
35 five years. The Selectboard agreed that Jim has followed the town's direction on this matter.
36 However, the town did not anticipate the time lag from demolition to new construction would be
37 as long as it as been. Using the model that was developed by the Selectboard in 1987 when the
38 class VI road policy was adopted the board determined that the Sheehan's can continue to renew
39 the permit for another five years and the permit can be transferred to a new owner one time. The
40 Selectboard will revisit this issue with the Sheehans in 2019. The board hopes that an additional
41 extension is not needed at that time. The various building permits that were issued in 1987 for
42 class VI roads were all used or allowed to expire by the mid 1990's.
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44 The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.
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46 Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday March 5th 2014**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

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5 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
6 Thomas Williams
7 Robert Taylor

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9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm. The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and approved orders
10 for the coming week.

11
12 The Selectboard met with Dave LaMontagne, Service Manager for Crown Uniforms, to discuss
13 highway uniform options for increased visibility. The town's contract is up with Crown and the
14 Selectboard wants to take advantage of this opportunity to make some changes. Dave left with the
15 Selectmen three options for hi visibility shirts that the town might want to consider. Steve
16 Halleran will show the options to the highway crew. The Selectboard feels that the olive green
17 uniforms the crew now wears are not generally visible enough and need to be upgraded.

18
19 **Fire Department:** Chief Currier met with the Selectboard, reviewing the department's activities
20 over the last month. A celebration of life for former Fire Chief Peter Berry will be hosted by the
21 PVFD on Saturday May 3rd.

22
23 The Chief reported that Meriden Fire has taken possession of its new utility truck and will be
24 selling the old unit.

25
26 **Police Department:** Paul Roberts discussed with the Selectboard the department's activity log
27 for the last two weeks. Motor vehicle related issues have dominated the department's work load.

28
29 Paul has been notified by the state that the town may proceed with the purchase of a trailer and
30 emergency response signs and cones. The grant that will fund 50% of the purchase has been
31 approved.

32
33 **Town Office:** The Selectboard approved the rate cap agreement for the town's liability insurance
34 with Primex. The agreement insures that the town's insurance rates will not rise more than 7%
35 over the next two years. The town agrees not to change insurance providers for the next two
36 years.

37
38 The select board approved the town's participation in two household waste collection days in
39 2014. The first day will be Saturday May 17th the second Saturday September 20th.

40
41 The Selectboard spent the rest of the meeting preparing for the upcoming town meeting.

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43 The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

44
45 Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday March 19th 2014**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
6 Judy Belyea
7 Ron Eberhardt
8

9 The meeting opened at 6:00pm. The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and approved orders
10 for the coming week.
11

12 Selectpersons Rob Taylor and Judy Belyea welcomed newly elected member Ron Eberhardt to
13 the board. Ron who lives on Thrasher Road is looking forward to this new experience. As is
14 customary at the first meeting after town meeting, the Selectboard member who has only a single
15 year left on their term is elected Chairman for the next year. Robert Taylor will serve as
16 Chairman for the coming year.
17

18 **Highway Report:** Road Agent Collins and the Selectboard reviewed the actions from town
19 meeting that impact the highway department. The Selectboard determined that the 1977 Ford
20 Tractor will be traded toward the New Holland tractor. Owen's has offered \$3,000 for the unit,
21 which is two wheel drive and desperately needs engine work.
22

23 Concerning the truck body replacement, Rich explained that he doesn't see a lot of difference
24 between the various truck bodies in the fleet, but that his goal is to get the two new built in sander
25 bodies on the town's newest two dump trucks. Therefore, trading in the newest body saves the
26 need for an intermediate swap. There is seven years difference between the newest and oldest
27 bodies. This being he case, the Selectboard directed Richard to trade the oldest dump body in the
28 fleet toward the new body. Rich will use highway department forces to switch the newest body to
29 the oldest truck, this intermediate step will save \$1,700 in charges. Osgood Welding will give the
30 town \$2,500 for the 11 year old body as opposed to \$4,000 for the four year old body. Original
31 cost on the four year old body as a blank unit was \$11,000. As desired, once all this is complete
32 the town's two oldest dump trucks will have the conventional dump bodies and the two newest
33 dump trucks will have bodies with the built in sanders installed on them.
34

35 The town now has two generator quotes in hand for the highway garage. A propane back up
36 generator for the garage will cost between \$7,000 to \$10,000 depending on options selected and
37 final location for the unit. All at the meeting agreed that this project is a priority for the 2014
38 year, hopefully before next winter season.
39

40 **Police Department:** Chief Roberts reviewed the activity log for the last two weeks. He also took
41 some time to review Police Department policies and procedures with new Selectman Eberhardt.
42

43 Paul hopes to move forward with the ID badge project for the town staff and school staff in the
44 next couple of weeks. The ID maker is being funded from a Homeland Security grant.
45

46 **Other Business:** Resident Billy Woods met with the Selectboard to discuss directly with the
47 board his efforts to catch up on his back taxes. Bill is still in technical compliance with the 2012
48 agreement that he entered with the Selectboard,, however he has not made much progress on
49 cleaning up some of the oldest back taxes. It was stressed to Bill the importance of keeping
50 current with the agreement.
51

1 **Bill Knight:** Bill met with the Selectmen to discuss the options for formalizing the ski trail
2 maintenance as part of town operations. The independent group intends to continue to act as a
3 self funded entity. Unfortunately, the Upper Valley Trails Alliance now wants 15% of all
4 donations to the maintenance. If maintenance money could be donated directly to the Town to
5 offset grooming costs 100% of the donated amount would go toward this work. The Town
6 already owns one groomer and a second groomer fund raising campaign is being considered. The
7 Selectmen will discuss this issue with Recreation Director Dan Cantlin, NH Primex, and town
8 attorney Barry Schuster in the coming weeks.
9

10 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed and approved the various forms that must be submitted
11 to the state outlining the results of town meeting. Focusing on spring assessing work will be the
12 next major project for the Town Office.
13

14 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.
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16 Stephen Halleran
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18 Robert Taylor, Chair
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21 Judy Belyea
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24 Ron Eberhardt
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Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed and approved cost of living increases for the town's employees. The new wage schedule is in accordance with the 2011 wage and salary schedule adopted by the Selectboard and is in keeping with the budget as approved at the 2014 town meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

1 getting a flow easement across the Fadden land (216/21). While willing to discuss this approach,
2 the Selectboard would prefer not to cut the new pavement on Brook Road and asked Rich to
3 encourage the gravel pit owner to find a solution to the problem that utilized existing drainage
4 culverts under Brook Road.

5
6 The Selectboard thanked Richard for all of his efforts during the now past winter. The Board
7 acknowledged that this was a particularly difficult winter that required a lot of extra effort from
8 the Road Agent and his crew.

9
10 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed and approved the first batch of abatement
11 recommendations for 2013. Seven abatements resulted from the revaluation. Four were denied,
12 one has resulted in a reduced assessment and two have not yet been acted upon.

13
14 2014 Appraisal update work will begin at the end of this month with Town Assessor George
15 Hildum.

16
17 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

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19 Stephen Halleran

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21 Robert Taylor, Chair

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24 Judy Belyea

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27 Ron Eberhardt

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
3 **Wednesday May 7th 2014**
4 **Meriden Town Hall**
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6 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
7 Judy Belyea
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11 The meeting opened at 6pm
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13 **Human Services Director Stephanie Schell:** Stephanie reported that the very hard winter
14 resulted in lots of need for fuel assistance. The town spent nearly \$4,000 keeping people warm
15 this winter.
16

17 The Plainfield food pantry is now plugged into the NH Food Bank program. Fifteen families
18 come to the food pantry on a regular basis.
19

20 Senior Socials continue to be very well attended. The last one had more than seventy participants.
21

22 **David Cahill:** The Sunapee Police Chief met with the Selectboard to discuss his candidacy for
23 Sullivan County Sheriff. He has been with Sunapee for 12 years and is looking for new
24 challenge. He has fully supported the work in the county by Sheriff Prozzo.
25

26 **Police Report:** Chief Roberts reviewed the activity log from the last two months.
27

28 Paul has had some trouble with car #3 which is a 2009 Crown Victoria. The manifold gasket
29 required replacement; the repair cost about \$1,000 including replacing a several broken exhaust
30 manifold bolts.
31

32 **Highway:** Spring grading is about 1/3 complete. Gravel crushing is underway. This year
33 department is adding some additional stone to material to be crushed. The goal is to improve the
34 quality of the gravel so that it is closer to meeting the state NH Dot specification for gravel.
35 Retired NH DOT Engineer Jeff Allbright is helping with this project.
36

37 **Town Office:** The town's NH DRA required 2013 Assessment Review is now complete and the
38 town's assessing practices have been certified by state. The town is required to go through this
39 process every five years, typically in the same year as a revaluation is performed.
40

41 The Selectmen instructed Halleran to conduct a review of all in- ground pools in town to make
42 sure that all are fenced as required by the Zoning Ordinance. This comes after a missing horse
43 was found dead in a pool on Whitney Road that was not fenced.
44

1 The Selectmen approved moving forward with a trash/recycling totter trial program on Center of
2 Town Road.

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4 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

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8 Stephen Halleran

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Robert Taylor, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Ron Eberhardt

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
3 **Wednesday May 21st 2014**
4 **Meriden Town Hall**

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6 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
7 Judy Belyea
8 Ron Eberhardt
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12 The meeting opened at 6pm
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15 Cornish Resident Dave Monette stopped in to the meeting to ask the Selectboard to do anything it
16 could to help him with his efforts to save the beavers on Route 12A in what is commonly called
17 the Puckerpod swamp. As was reported in the Valley News, the state has recently removed a
18 section of their dam to elevate potential flooding of Route 12A. Dave feels that a compromise
19 could be found to protect the roadway, but still allow the beavers to maintain the existing wetland
20 habitat.
21

22 **Highway Department:** After reviewing the two proposals received for the highway department's
23 weekly uniform service, the board determined that Unifirst would be used as the vendor going
24 forward. Their pricing was more competitive and they seemed to be more interested in
25 customizing uniforms to different weather conditions and times of the year.
26

27 After looking at a proposal from Pike Industries for paving work and studying traffic count data
28 from the town's speed trailer, the Selectboard determined that \$125,000 would be spent on River
29 Road, starting at the north end working south for approximately two miles. The remainder of the
30 road will likely be done in 2015.
31

32 The Selectmen also ear marked up to \$30,000 for work on Penniman Road to improve the uphill
33 section just to the south of the Penniman swamp flat.
34

35 Work on Croydon Turnpike, ditching and tree trimming, were also placed on the priority list for
36 this summer. This work order was developed after the mud season of 2013 when the road was
37 particularly bad during the various spring thaws. Recent logging on land adjacent to the roadway
38 has opened the lower section of the road up, allowing it to dry out more quickly.
39

40 The Selectboard hopes that the former Klinges Property on Ferry Hill Road can be cleaned up this
41 summer as well. The property is leased to own by the town and could provide valuable dry
42 storage for town equipment.
43

44 Gravel crushing is now complete for 2014. By adding about 75 loads of gravel stone to the
45 crushing process, the Selectboard hopes to have an improved product to use on town roadways
46 over the next year.
47

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49 **Plainfield/Meriden Fire:** Chief Currier updated the Selectboard on the fire department's
50 activities over the last month. The service for long time fire Chief Peter Berry went well, Frank
51 thanked the Police Department for all their assistance.

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The group discussed the emergency response trailer that is being partially funded through a Homeland Security Grant. It was decided that the trailer would be dedicated to EMS responses work. This being case, the smaller of the two trailers will be selected. The trailer will contain highway barricades, road cones, detour signs, road closed signs etc. A police cruiser, highway truck or fire utility truck can move the trailer around. All that is required is a 2” ball. The trailer should be operational in the next couple of months.

Police Department: Chief Roberts went over the activity log for the last two weeks. He discussed with the Selectboard, the department’s plans for the upcoming KUA graduation. KUA will be paying for an extra police officer to assist with traffic and keeping road ways open.

Paul noted that he has continued to have problems with car #3. While the overall town budget is on target, Paul feels that the \$2,500 or more that he has spent on the car has put his budget into a slight deficit situation for this time of the year.

Town Office: The Selectboard approved the Center of Town Road toter pilot program. The test will run from June 1st to September 1st. Residents will be notified of the program in the next couple of days. The results of this test will be used to determine whether or not to implement a town wide toter program.

The Selectboard will set a wreath at the Service Memorial tomorrow at 1:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
3 **Tuesday June 17th 2014**
4 **Meriden Town Hall**

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6 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
7 Judy Belyea
8 Ron Eberhardt
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10
11 The meeting opened at 6pm

12
13 **Employee Evaluations:** The Selectboard spent the first hour of the meeting working on
14 employee evaluations. The Board next met individually with the Road Agent, Police Chief and
15 Town Administrator. Each was given their evaluation with priorities and goals for the new year.
16

17 **Highway:** Richard reported on Truck #5 which needs substantial work on its motor. SG Reed
18 Trucks has estimated the work at \$4,200 to \$7,800 depending on how much additional work the
19 town wants to do to freshen the motor since it will be all apart. Given the amount of work that is
20 need and the cost, the Selectboard asked Rich to obtain another estimate for the work before
21 moving forward with the repair.
22

23 Gallagher's tree service will be assisting the highway crew to remove a very tall dead pine on
24 Camp Road. At the same time, Gallagher will clean up the broken Ash tree on Main Street that
25 hangs over the sidewalk between town hall and the Congregational Church.
26

27 **Police:** The Police Department has responded to two car accidents involving juveniles in the past
28 week. Speed, lack of experience and paying attention were all factors in the accidents that could
29 have easily been avoided.
30

31 The department arrested another individual for stealing from McNamara Dairy. Both milk and
32 cash were taken and recovered.
33

34 **Town Office:** Tax receipts are coming in, the town will, without borrowing, complete its
35 financial obligation to the school district by June 30th.
36

37 Assessor George Hildum will be done early next month completing the 2014 assessing work.
38

39 Halleran reported that Road Agent Richard Collins was the sole bidder for the utility body. The
40 bid was for \$250 and was accepted.
41

42 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.
43

44 Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
3 **Tuesday July 1st 2014**
4 **Plainfield Library**
5

6 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
7 Judy Belyea
8 Ron Eberhardt
9

10 Others in attendance: Dennis Girouard
11 Jim Gray
12 Nancy Norwalk
13
14

15 The meeting opened at 6pm.

16
17 The Selectboard complimented Library Director Nancy Norwalk on the new meeting space and
18 the projector that is available in the room. Nancy wrote a grant that funded the projector purchase.
19

20 **Kimball Union Discussion:** CFO Jim Gray discussed with the Selectboard, concerns that the
21 school has about traffic speed on Chellis Road coming into the campus. The school would like to
22 extend the existing sidewalk on the south side of Chellis Road down to Densmore dormitory. This
23 work would be done at the school's expense and would not encroach into the existing traveled
24 way for Chellis Road. Basically, the sidewalk would just be an extension of the walk put in by the
25 school a few years back. KUA maintains all the sidewalks on the campus. In addition to the
26 sidewalk, the school would like to explore installing a speed table on Chellis Road in the vicinity
27 of Densmore Dormitory. This to slow traffic down as it approaches the campus. The Selectboard
28 did not object to the sidewalk idea, but felt that other traffic calming options should be explored
29 first before making a formal request for a speed table. Pole mounted digital speed readouts and
30 perhaps a crosswalk were less impact options that were mentioned during the discussion.
31

32 Chairman Taylor motioned that Kimball Union be allowed to, at their expense, extend the
33 sidewalk along Chellis Road to Densmore Dormitory. This work is to be done with the review
34 and approval of the town's Road Agent and Consulting Engineer. The travelled way for Chellis
35 Road is not be affected by the new sidewalk. The motion was supported and unanimously
36 approved by the Board.
37

38 **Police Department:** Steve Halleran updated the board on the police department's activity over
39 the last week. Paul has been working closely with Abi Marsh and Elizabeth McNamara on the
40 upcoming plans for the annual 4th of July parade.
41

42 Sunday August 24th will be Spirit Day, Recreation Director Dan Cantlin is again this year
43 working on this project.
44

45 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Collins has requested a second quote for the motor repair to
46 Truck #5. That quote is due in the office anytime and should allow Richard to make a decision on
47 moving forward with the truck repair.
48

49 Richard has started some work on organizing the highway garage grounds. The road grader, when
50 not in use, is now being stored inside the equipment shed.
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Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the final 2013 Financial worksheets that have to be submitted to the NH Department of Revenue. These sheets are prepared by the town's auditing firm. The 2013 full audit will be posted up on the town's website.

At 50% of the year gone, the town's operating budget has 56% remaining. Given the winter of 2014 the Selectboard felt that overall the budget was on target with their projections.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

1 **Spirit Day:** This annual event is August 24th this year and Dan Cantlin is well into the planning
2 for the event. The Fire Chief and Police Chief signed the necessary permit application for the
3 fireworks show.

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5 The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

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7 Stephen Halleran

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Judy Belyea

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Ron Eberhardt

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday August 20th 2014
Meriden Town Hall

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Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
 Judy Belyea
 Ron Eberhardt

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The Board met briefly at 5:30pm with Town Counsel Barry Schuster to discuss the US Marshall's sale of the Edward and Elaine Brown property on Center of Town Road. An auction held last Friday resulted in no bids for either the Plainfield or Lebanon property. Since that time, the town has heard from three separate individuals expressing interest in the Plainfield property. Attorney Schuster has a conference call scheduled with the US Marshall's service for Wednesday of next week. The Selectboard directed Barry to encourage the US Marshall's office to sell the property as quickly as possible so that the town may receive the more than \$190,000 in fees and taxes that it is owed. This property alone represents more than 45% of the outstanding taxes in the entire town.

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The public meeting opened at 6pm. Correspondence was reviewed and orders for the week signed.

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Porter Road resident Marc Morgan met with the Selectboard to discuss a neighbor on Porter Road who regularly shoots hundreds of rounds on his property. Marc called the police during last Sunday's shooting spree. Marc has no objection to the neighbor shooting on his own property, he does feel that there has to be some measure of reasonableness and that the back stop must be safe. Porter Road Lyndon Brown accompanied Marc to the meeting, confirming that he too called the police. In his case he was concerned that a verbal exchange between Marc and the neighbor was getting heated and would benefit from police mediation.

Chief Roberts confirmed that the neighbor is not doing anything outside the law. Paul will check with the neighbor to make sure that the back stop is safe and that the shooters are aware that there is a wetland area beyond his property that has some recreational use on it. Marc and Lyndon were encouraged to communicate directly with the neighbor away from the shooting times, to see if some basic understanding of how the target shooting is conducted, and can be worked out.

Police: Chief Roberts updated the Selectboard on various cases being handled by the Police Department. As is usual, during the warm weather, months the department has been busy with a variety of complaints about noise, parties and the like.

The town's 4th Spirit Day Celebration will be this Sunday starting at 5pm, ending at dark with a fireworks show.

Highway: Paving on River Road is now complete. Shoulder work will begin next week. Richard and the crew have been replacing a number of worn out culverts around town. This work along with road side ditching and mowing will continue for the next month.

Town Office: Following up with previously approved work for the Energy Committee, the Selectboard held a brief public hearing accepting a grant of \$10,000 for work on restoring the exiting windows at the town offices. Town Administrator Halleran was appointed the grant

1 administrator for the project on behalf of the town. The Selectboard acknowledge the work of the
2 energy committee and in particular, Nancy Mogielnicki for earning this grant.

3
4 The Selectmen approved a follow up letter to be mailed to Center of Town Road residents
5 thanking them for the toter pilot program and asking them to now let the town know they feel
6 about the use of the toters.

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8 The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

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12 Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

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16 Judy Belyea

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19 Ron Eberhardt

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday September 3rd 2014
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
 Judy Belyea
 Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Dennis Girouard met briefly with the Selectboard to offer that he does not feel the unified Board of Library Trustees is working out very well. He feels that neither library has benefited from this relationship and that the board is not treating employees very well.

Highway Department: Rich Collins reported that the shoulder work on River Road is about half done. Road marking work should be done early this month and will include River Road. Rich recommended and the Selectboard agreed to delay the work on Penniman Road until next summer. Rich feels that it's too late in the summer to start what might turn out to be an extensive project. The crew will patch and repair the road and will plan to start the project early next year.

Clean up work on the gravel pit annex property will begin in about two weeks. This work has been on hold for a couple of years but is now ready to move forward.

Ditching work on Croydon Turnpike is ongoing.

Fire Chief Frank Currier: Chief Currier reported that the town has access to a new dry hydrant that has been installed, as part of a pond renovation, on Houser Lane.

In follow up to a discussion with KUA about Chellis Road, the Chief informed the Selectboard that as a general rule he is not in favor of the use of speed tables anywhere in town. The "bumps" do not suite a water loaded fire truck very well.

Totter Test Program: The Selectboard met with Jim Toher and Todd Gammel of Casella Waste to discuss the totter test program being done on Center of Town Road. Sue Williams attended the meeting as well. Sue noted that while at first skeptical in her household the totters proved to me very useful and she and her family liked them. While not all the results are in at the moment 60% of the comments received on the program have been favorable. 20% of the residents on the test road decided not to participate in the program. Final statistics on the program will be available soon. The Selectboard indicated that the test program has had enough favorable response to warrant continuing the investigation.

Police Chief: Chief Roberts reviewed the department log over the last two weeks. Paul noted that he is hoping to replace the town's oldest police cruiser with a new one this next town meeting. Currently the town has two years remaining on the lease of the two cruisers purchased in 2012.

Selectman Taylor noted to the other Selectboard members that he had made a mistake in assisting an interested party who wanted to view the Edward and Elaine Brown property and for that he apologized. The US Marshall's service has been notified of the incident. The Selectboard held a brief discussion about board procedure with regard to special requests of board members from

1 residents or members of the public. It was unanimously agreed that one Selectman has no
2 authority and therefore cannot grant concessions or relief to anyone without the approval of at
3 least a second board member.

4

5 **Town Office:** Halleran noted that the first meeting with the architect for the Meriden Library
6 ADA access issues is tomorrow. Banwell has been hired for this work and this first meeting will
7 include himself the Architect and Library Director Mary King.

8

9 The school committee studying whether or not leaving the AREA agreement with Lebanon might
10 be considered, is now meeting. Halleran is sitting on that committee which meets next on
11 September 11th.

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13 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

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17 Stephen Halleran

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Robert Taylor, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Ron Eberhardt

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3 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
4 **Wednesday September 17th 2014**
5 **Meriden Town Hall**
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7 Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
8 Judy Belyea
9 Ron Eberhardt
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11 The meeting opened at 6:00pm
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13 The Selectboard met with Frank Beliveau of Innovative Surface Solutions to discuss a
14 magnesium chloride program for treating gravel roads. Mr. Beliveau has spent some time with
15 Road Agent Collins. The company provides the necessary application equipment to town's at no
16 charge in exchange for a three year commitment to purchase the chemicals from them.
17 Magnesium Chloride is not as corrosive as sodium or calcium but does provide the same binding
18 characteristics that holds gravel roads together. Dust is reduced, but most importantly erosion is
19 reduced during heavy rain events. For Plainfield, a summer program of salting the gravel roads
20 would cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000 dollars per year. Mr. Beliveau will prepare a complete
21 proposal for the town's consideration during the upcoming budget season.
22

23 Energy Committee Member Allan Ferguson met with the Selectmen to obtain a letter of support
24 for the solar farm proposal to serve the elementary school and water district. At the moment, the
25 thinking is that about one acre of panels located in the field adjacent to the school would be
26 sufficient to provide enough power to offset the school and water district's annual usage. There is
27 still much preliminary work to be done, but a possible funding source has a grant deadline of this
28 Friday. The Selectboard made it clear that they support alternative power and are willing to
29 support the grant effort, but have not taken a position on the use of the school district field for
30 solar panels. The School Board is holding a public hearing on this issue later in the month.
31

32 **Highway:** Road striping was completed earlier today. Work continues on Croydon Turnpike.
33 Winter sand is being hauled on wet days. The clean up of the gravel pit annex property has
34 started.
35

36 **Police:** Paul reviewed the department log for the last two weeks. One of his officers was injured
37 while assisting Windsor Police with a mutual aide call. The officer was taken to the hospital for
38 evaluation and was able to return to work the next day.
39

40 The Selectboard was sorry to learn of the recent passing of longtime resident Reney Dessert. Mr.
41 Dessert died at his home on Mill Road.
42

43 **Town Office:** The Selectboard signed the necessary paperwork to enter into an agreement with
44 the State of New Hampshire for \$10,000 in cost over run reimbursement that goes back to the
45 two large culvert replacements on Willow Brook Road. Unexpected ledge required \$13,000 in
46 cost to remove. At that time the town applied for reimbursement. While it has taken years to be

1 approved, with help from the State, the request has finally been approved by FEMA and the town
2 should receive a reimbursement before year end.

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4 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

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7 Stephen Halleran

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Robert Taylor, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Ron Eberhardt

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday October 1st 2014
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
 Judy Belyea
 Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Human Service Director: Stephanie Schell updated the Selectboard on her work with Plainfield residents. She has flu clinics and a foot care clinic coming up in October. The food pantry continues to serve a lot of our needy residents and seems to be a success. Stephanie is working on several very complex cases. She continues to really enjoy the work. The monthly senior socials remain a cornerstone of Plainfield's human service programs.

Mike O'Leary: Representing the energy committee, Mike reported on the work evaluating the highway garage roof for solar panels. The roof which is thirty years old now would likely need to be replaced and the trusses modified to safely hold the panels and resulting snow accumulations.

Fire Chief's Report: Chief Currier reviewed with the Selectboard the Fire Department's response to the fire at 261 Ladiou Road. The large log cabin home was very remote and fully engulfed by flames by the time the fire was called in. Thankfully no fire fighters were hurt and the department was successful in containing the fire to the home, it did not spread into the adjacent woods. September was a very dry month and fire danger is high.

Police Chief's Report: Paul noted that on the 261 Ladiou Fire that he is working with the Fire Marshall's office and the insurance adjuster on a full investigation of the incident. The fire has been labeled suspicious. The complete destruction of the building will make determining an exact cause difficult.

Sullivan County Delegation: Members of the Sullivan County Delegation updated the Selectboard on the county's business. Again this year there will be basically no increase in the county tax. Much of the credit for this goes to the management team that has contained and even reduced the county's health insurance costs for its 300 employees. The new bio mass heating plant is working better than projected and should be operational for the next thirty years. The county completed a purchase of some 300 acres of land that connects to other county owned parcels and includes some of the water line that serves the county complex. The land which has been heavily logged by previous owners is open to the public for its use.

Highway Report: Richard Collins and Jason Lemere have now completed the UNH sponsored grader operation course. Both employees indicated that the sessions were very helpful. Road work is continuing on Croydon Turnpike to date more than 2,500 yards of material has been removed from the ditches along both sides of the roadway. Grading, ditching, hauling of winter sand and the clean up of the gravel pit annex property is the work plan between now and snow.

Town Office: The Selectboard held a brief hearing on a \$15,000 donation from the Bryne Foundation. The money is earmarked for the purchase of a snow groomer to be owned by the town and used by the trails group. The hearing was closed, no members of the public were in attendance. The Selectboard voted to accept the funds and to use the monies to purchase the trail

1 groomer as specified by the trails group. No tax dollars will be used for this purchase and to date
2 no tax dollars have been used for the trail maintenance.

3

4 The 2014 tax rate should be set in the next couple of weeks.

5

6 The current year budget is right on track with Selectboard projections and with all major projects
7 now done with for the year.

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9 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

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14 Stephen Halleran

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Robert Taylor, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Ron Eberhardt

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday October 15th 2014
Meriden Town Hall

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Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
 Judy Belyea
 Ron Eberhardt

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The meeting opened at 6:00pm

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Highway Report: Road Agent Collins updated the Selectboard on the status of various projects. The gravel pit annexed property clean up is now fully underway. Rich hopes to have the existing building on the land weather tight by winter. Truck #1 is in need of about \$3,000 worth of injectors, Rich and the crew feels they can do the mechanical work saving the town the cost of the labor. The new truck body from Osgood will be ready late next week. Rich will be switching two bodies on our existing dump trucks, so that the new body lands on a truck that will be with us for another ten years or so. Our oldest truck body will be traded in as part of the deal for the new body.

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Ditching work on Croydon Turnpike is nearly done. 3100 yards of material has been excavated from the ditch lines along the road. The new deep ditches are designed to help dry the road out more quickly in the spring reducing the annual mud season.

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Road Agent Collins concurred with the Selectboard in that at such time the metal roof on the highway garage is going to be replaced, the town should have an engineering review of the trusses to determine what would be necessary to bring them up to current building code standards. Snow load requirements have changed significantly since 1982.

Police Chief's Report: To date, no cause of the 261 Ladieu Hill Road fire has been determined. Several areas tested negative for fire accelerants.

Looking at broad concepts for the 2015 the budget Selectboard indicated to Paul that they would prefer to have him budget additional maintenance monies for the oldest cruiser as opposed to trading that car for a new one in 2015. The town has one year remaining on its existing lease and the Selectboard would prefer not to be making two lease payments at the same time.

Town Office: The new tax rate has been established for 2014. The rate was left unchanged at \$27.50, the same as the 2013 rate. In setting the new rate, the Selectboard made the management decision to raise an additional \$50,000 in tax dollars to go toward unassigned fund balance. The Selectboard have used this long range tax rate, smoothing approach in the past to be able to prevent significant swings in the tax rate from year to year. Some years you must use surplus in other years you build surplus. The town's 2013 audited unassigned fund balance is \$534,511. The

1 recommended range for a town our size is \$355,000 to \$710,000.

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4 The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

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9 Stephen Halleran

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Robert Taylor, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Ron Eberhardt

1 affecting the town's tax rate.

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4 The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

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9 Stephen Halleran

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Robert Taylor, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Ron Eberhardt

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday November 19th 2014
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
 Judy Belyea
 Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Residents Clint Swift and Bonnie Allard met with the Selectboard to see if the Board would support an article at the 2015 town meeting to return to two separate library boards of trustees. They feel the combined board is not working, particularly for the Plainfield Library and that a return to the previous system is warranted. The Selectboard plans to meet with the library trustees to discuss this and other library management issues in early December.

Stephanie Schell met with the Selectboard to discuss two ongoing cases, one on Stage Road and one on Route 120. This work was done in nonpublic session. For the Route 120 case a legal opinion for Attorney Barry Schuster will be sought..

Highway: Road Agent Collins met with the Selectmen to report that the backhoe has experienced a major structural failure. The digging boom has broken away from the machine. The part alone is nearly \$13,000 if purchase new. The Selectboard consulted with the Finance Committee and determined that the first step would be trying to locate a used boom or a new boom at a reduced price. Once this search is completed the board will make a final decision on how to proceed. Halleran will contact Matt and Drew Marrazzo at Townline Equipment. This type of failure is quite rare.

Finance Committee: The Selectmen met with the Finance Committee to review the status of the current budget. The group discussed things that have gone well, like installing a new generator at the highway garage as well as things that have not gone well, like the current backhoe failure. With six weeks to go the town has \$196,000 left on its approved appropriation. This should be adequate to complete the year, however, it will be extremely tight if snow and cold weather settles in before Thanksgiving.

Looking to 2015 there was general support doing a three year trial on treating the gravel roads in summer with magnesium chloride and treating the salt in the winter with a similar material. The costs of the materials would be about \$15,000 per year, however the salt savings could easily be \$10,000 per year and the summer treatment of the gravel roads could save an entire grading cycle.

The Finance Committee was in support of establishing a reserve fund for the highway garage facility; the building will likely need roof work, some structure repairs and maybe new siding in the coming years.

1 The Selectmen will meet next with the finance committee in mid December.

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3 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

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5 Stephen Halleran

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Robert Taylor, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Ron Eberhardt

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday December 3rd 2014
Meriden Town Hall

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Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
 Judy Belyea
 Ron Eberhardt

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The meeting opened at 6:00pm

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In follow up to last meeting, the Selectmen opened the meeting by thanking all five library trustees for attending the meeting to update the Selectboard on the progress that the unified library board has been making. About a dozen residents attended the meeting. Chairman Robert Taylor noted that Dennis Girouard and Clint Swift have both asked the Selectmen to look into how the new board is performing. Each supports the idea of returning to two separate boards of trustees. Nancy Liston noted that she is interested in learning the reasons why going back to two boards would be beneficial. Clint and Dennis both responded that they felt separate boards would have more time to devote to the specific operations of each building. The sense is that each library serves a very different clientele and needs to cater to them in different ways. The Board of Trustees was unanimous in its feeling that the unified board is a positive thing for the library system and that the board is working well together. The automation system that is now in place, new policies for the libraries, a strategic plan that is now being worked on and updating of the collection were pointed to as signs of the good work that is being done. Clint Swift noted that the failure of the board to make a claim against the architect for the Plainfield addition basement egress issue is an example of where one board has not served the town well. Clint is also concerned that if the two libraries are standardized and not customized for each village that private donation to each library will be reduced over time as patrons become less supportive. Suzanne Spencer voiced that in her view the governing system for the library is correct and that if some are not happy with the work that the board is doing the town holds elections each year for library trustees.

Clinton Swift presented the Seletboard with a petition signed by 70 residents supporting an article on the 2015 warrant to return to two separate boards. Clint acknowledged that this was not a petition for an article, but rather a request that the Selectboard develop an article and place it on the warrant.

After all that wished to speak had the Selectmen discussed what they had heard and determined that the board was unwilling to sponsor such an article on the warrant to return to two boards. This information will be conveyed to Clint Swift so that the supporters have plenty of time to petition such an article if they wish.

Highway Department: After working closely with Drew and Matthew Marrazzo at Townline Equipment the Selectboard approved a purchase an after market new steel boom for the backhoe at a cost of \$5,100. Townline Equipment offered to reduced the cost of a new boom from \$13,000 to \$11,000 explaining that their business model does not allow them to sell after market parts that they can't control the quality of. The Selectmen appreciated the effort that Townline put forward in trying to locate the part, but felt that in this case given the age of the backhoe the risk of the after market part was warranted.

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Police: Chief Roberts reviewed the departments log over the last two weeks. Paul is requesting that the Selectboard consider the purchase of accident reconstruction software for the police department. The software costs \$3,000 and requires about \$800/year in maintenance. The program allows the police to download information from any vehicles “black box” to help determine the cause of an accident.

2015 Budget: The Selectboard spend the rest of the meeting working on the 2015 budget. The board received a request from Bev Widger to add additional funds to the town hall fund contribution, the Parrish Stage Set has a 100 year anniversary coming up and the Plainfield Town Hall will need some interior work like painting.

The operating budget is up some 3.4% including the new magnesium chloride program for the highway department. Add in some additional reserve funding (PTH and Highway roof) deduct reasonable revenue projections and right out of the gate town operations are looking at an additional \$83,000 from taxes or about 6%. The Selectboard meets with the Finance Committee next meeting to go over the first cut of the new budget.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt

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MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday December 17 2014
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
 Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Public Comment: Shelley Andrews, 967 Stage Road, spoke to the Selectboard about the highway department pushing snow up against her stockade fence along Spencer Road. She is aware that a previous owner of the property installed the fence in the town's road right of way with the understanding that the snow would be removed by the then property owner. Shelley does not feel this agreement pertains to her situation and that if damage to the fence continues she may pursue legal recourse against the town. She also noted that her last visit to the Selectboard meeting in her view was misrepresented in the minutes. She did not expect the town to clean up her basement, but she is disappointed in the town outreach after the heavy rains of two summers ago.

Dennis Girourard met with the Selectmen for a few minutes to ask that the board keep an open mind about returning to two library boards. A petitioned article to go back to that system will be coming. Likewise, Dennis asked that the Selectmen urge the library trustees to pursue a claim against the architect for the library addition egress issues. The Selectboard asked Steve Halleran to draft a letter on this subject to the Trustees.

Clint Swift/Bonnie Allard: They too encouraged the Selectboard to consider changing its position on the unified board. They feel that the more the Selectmen learn about how poorly the system is currently working, the more likely it is that a change back to two boards will be supported.

2015 Budget/Finance Committee Meeting: Bill Knight met with the Selectmen and was appointed as Plainfield Trail Coordinator to work under the Recreation Department. Director. Bill will be heading up all town efforts on trail creation and maintenance, including the work with the cross country ski groomers. To date, all the work done has been funded by private donations. No tax dollars have been used and moving this operation from outside the town arena to within the recreation department, is not intended to change that. This move will simply make it clear that the trail work done on public lands in our town will come under the Selectboard and their designees.

Dan Lapan, Rangi Keen, David Grobe and Bradford Atwater met with the Selectboard to review the 2014 budget and the 2015 spending plan.

The operating budget is propped at 3.4% increase over the 2014 approved. The group focused its efforts on the large capital items including plans for the highway garage roof. The Finance Committee feels that the roof should be the main priority and should be repaired or replaced as soon as possible. Options for funding the work were discussed and could include using some of the town's unassigned fund balance. The magnitude of the work is expected to be around \$55,000. Steve Halleran will ask Mike O'Leary to attend the early January meeting to discuss the needed work in more detail.

1 The Finance Committee needs more information on the need to replace the town's chipper before
2 they are able to support this expenditure from the reserve fund.

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4 Maria Guzman asked if the Town Administrator's hours could be reduced to two or three days
5 per week to help cover the cost of some of these other issues. She feels that town's like Cornish
6 get along quite well without full time administrative help. The Selectboard noted that all full time
7 positions for the town are reviewed annually. The Board is not in support of reducing any full
8 time employee hours at this time.

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10 The Selectboard and Finance Committee discussed the various reserve fund proposals. Two
11 changes were made to the current proposal. One thousand dollars was added to the police
12 equipment fund and one thousand dollars was added to the town hall repair fund over the 2014
13 approved amounts.

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15 The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

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18 Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Ron Eberhardt

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