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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
3 **Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup> 2016**  
4 **Meriden Town Hall**  
5

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

10 The meeting opened at 6pm  
11

12 **Road Agent:** Rich Collins updated the Selectboard on his department's work over the last two weeks. The  
13 dry winter has the crew still out brush cutting and working on projects as temperatures allow. Rich  
14 reviewed some paving options for 2016. Penniman Road and Thrasher Road are likely recipients of work  
15 this next year. In total, the Selectmen will have a maximum of \$200,000 to spend on pavement projects.  
16 The Selectmen approved the purchase of a used front plow for Truck #1 from Osgood Welding in  
17 Claremont NH. The existing plow for truck #1 is badly worn from previous winters.  
18

19 **Police:** Chief Roberts discussed the concept of a local drug paraphernalia ordinance that would allow the  
20 town to receive money from these types of fines. Any fine money now goes to the state. The Chief will  
21 draft an ordinance based on the City of Lebanon for Selectmen's review.  
22

23 Paul hopes to have officer William Heighes back on the active roster in February. Once cleared for duty  
24 Officer Heighes will have to complete two state certification programs before he can return to full duty.  
25

26 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed orders and correspondence. The board discussed the 2015 town  
27 report and the upcoming town meeting. Halleran noted that attorney Barry Schuster is assisting the two fire  
28 departments with a review of their formation documents. At issue is whether the departments are public or  
29 private entities. If they are public they qualify for Primex property liability insurance, if private they do not.  
30 Both departments are loosing their current provider and wish to change to Primex.  
31

32 **Budget Hearing:** The remainder of the meeting was spent working on the 2016 financial package for town  
33 meeting. The full finance committee was in attendance along with Moderator Paul Franklin. Members of  
34 the general public were represented by Penniman Road resident Richard Atkinson. In reviewing the  
35 operating budget, Halleran note that costs associated with employees, recycling, and ambulance service  
36 were the main drivers in the projected \$74,000 in new tax money that would be needed in 2016. A tax rate  
37 impact of \$.28 is anticipated if all articles are approved. Included in the package is a full slate of reserve  
38 funding request that have become customary at each town meeting. The Selectmen are hoping to create a  
39 stipend facility manager position to help with the planning and upkeep of all town buildings. This position  
40 would be modeled after the success of the Plainfield School with its facility manager position. Several  
41 town meetings are in need of enhanced capital and operational planning. In particular, the highway garage  
42 needs several system upgrades.  
43

44 Reacting to concern raised by some members of the Finance Committee, the Selectboard agreed to place an  
45 article on the warrant for the new backhoe purchase. The finance committee is generally in favor of the  
46 replacement. The 2015 town meeting granted the Selectmen the authority to expend, without further  
47 action, from the highway equipment fund. Historically new equipment purchases have been warrant articles  
48 at town meeting. The authority to expend does allow the Selectmen to take advantage of unique  
49 opportunities to buy used equipment that might come up during a budget year. The original intention was  
50 to discuss the backhoe purchase during the reserve funding article at town meeting. However, given the  
51 concern raised, a separate warrant article will be included.  
52

1 The budget hearing closed at 8:30pm. A second hearing will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Plainfield  
2 Library.

3  
4 **Other Business:** Halleran shared with the Selectmen the preliminary results of the town's financial audit.  
5 The town's financial position remains very strong, the unassigned fund balance grew by \$64,000 in 2015.

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7 The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

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9  
10 Submitted,

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12 Stephen Halleran

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14 Judy Belyea, Chair

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17 Ron Eberhardt

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20 Robert Taylor

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1                                   MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
2                                   Wednesday February 3rd 2016  
3                                   Plainfield Library  
4

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

9   The meeting opened at 6pm  
10

11  
12 **Police:** Chief Roberts reviewed the department's log for the last two weeks. Paul is trying to get the word  
13 out to our residents that there are several telephone scams that seem very convincing, but are just that  
14 scams. Most recently people claiming to work for the IRS have been calling, trying to extort money.  
15

16 The Chief expressed frustration for not having been included in the discussions about some of the  
17 employee benefit changes, including health insurance and wages that are taking place this year. The  
18 Selectboard agreed to meet with Paul at their next meeting to discuss his concerns.  
19

20 **Highway:** At the direction of the highway study group, the town is moving as quickly as possible to drill a  
21 new well to serve the highway garage. The existing shallow tiled well has not been used for drinking water  
22 in more than thirty years. Testing of the water has revealed that its quality is very bad and drilling a new  
23 well is indicated. The Selectmen hope to have the well drilled this month.  
24

25 **Town Office:** Halleran reported that the town report and warrant are basically complete. The town report  
26 goes to the printer on Monday. The Selectmen reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week.  
27

28 **Budget Hearing #2:** The remainder of the meeting was spent on the second budget hearing. Two members  
29 of the finance committee (Atwater and Sutherland) and three library trustees (Brown, Liston, Pensgen)  
30 were in attendance along with residents Dennis Girouard, Bonnie Allard, Clint Swift, Maria Guzman,  
31 Nancy Norwalk. . In reviewing the operating budget, Halleran note that costs associated with employees,  
32 recycling, and ambulance service were the main drivers in the projected \$74,000 in new tax money that  
33 would be needed in 2016. A tax rate impact of \$.28 is anticipated if all articles are approved. Focusing on  
34 the library budget, Maria Guzman asked the trustees to consider not changing the hours at the Plainfield  
35 Library so that the facility closes at 8:00pm rather than 9:00pm. She values this time and does not want to  
36 see it changed. Mark Pensgen noted that the change to 8:00pm is proposed because the department budget  
37 is up 10% and most libraries for small towns seem to close at 8:00pm. It was suggested that an amendment  
38 could be offered at town meeting to increase the library budget the necessary amount to keep the library  
39 open to 9pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.  
40

41 The Selectboard noted that there are several issues in play ( ex. workers compensation issue and if winter  
42 stays soft)within the town budget and that if possible, the hope is to be able to reduce the proposed  
43 operating budget further at town meeting.  
44

45  
46 Submitted,  
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48 Stephen Halleran  
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50 Judy Belyea, Chair

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53 Ron Eberhardt

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56 Robert Taylor

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
3 **Wednesday February 17th 2016**  
4 Meriden Town Hall

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

9 The meeting opened at 6pm

10  
11 The board reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the coming week. The 2016 town meeting  
12 warrant and budget forms were signed and will be posted tonight at the conclusion of the meeting.  
13

14 Selectman Eberhardt moved to enter a nonpublic session to discuss an employee compensation issue.  
15 Robert Taylor seconded the motion. A roll call vote followed: Taylor-yes, Eberhardt-yes, Belyea-yes.  
16

17 The board entered the session at 6:30pm, the session ended at 7:30pm.  
18

19 **Police Report:** Chief Roberts updated the Selectmen on the department's activity log over the last two  
20 weeks. The board approved light duty work for officer William Heighes. Bill has been cleared for light  
21 duty by his attending physician. He will work at the police station two mornings per week. The Selectmen  
22 hope that he will be cleared to return to full duty by the end of this month.  
23

24 Responding to continued concerns about target shooting on Porter Road the Selectmen directed Halleran to  
25 contact Attorney Schuster to determine how RSA 159 B impacts the town's ability to enforce the town's  
26 zoning ordinance in the cases of private shooting ranges.  
27

28 Given continued problems with police department vehicles, the Selectboard authorized the Chief to begin  
29 the process of obtaining the two new leased cruisers. The cars to be delivered as close to March 15<sup>th</sup> as  
30 possible. The Selectmen noted that when complete the department will, as it does now, have a total of three  
31 vehicles.  
32

33 **Town Office:** The Selectboard discussed the proposed settlement for the Brown property as offered by the  
34 Federal Government, \$31,000 toward back taxes of \$136,000. The Selectmen affirmed Town  
35 Administrator Halleran's decision to not sign off on the settlement at this time. Attorney Barry Schuster  
36 will be in communication with the IRS attorney handling the case. A hearing before a Federal Judge is  
37 likely in the coming months.  
38

39 The Plainfield Fire Department is looking at making changes to their organizational structure that will more  
40 clearly align the department as a municipal or public entity as viewed by current statutes governing fire  
41 departments.  
42

43 Halleran reported that the Lebanon Ambulance service has agreed to reduce the 2016 ambulance charges  
44 by approximately \$3,000. The 2016 invoice is based on the prior year's calls for service which saw a  
45 significant increase from 2014. The Selectboard expressed appreciation for this adjustment.  
46

47 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.  
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49 Submitted,  
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51 Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
3 **Wednesday March 2nd 2016**  
4 Meriden Town Hall  
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6 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea  
7 Robert Taylor  
8 Ron Eberhardt  
9

10 The meeting opened at 6pm  
11

12 **Highway Department:** The Selectmen met with Road Agent Richard Collins and local contractor Brad  
13 Atwater. Brad has been hired to assist the town in evaluating the existing shop building on the gravel pit  
14 annex property that has recently been donated to the town by Dr. Klinges. Highway has been cleaning up  
15 the lot and hopes to utilize the building for storage. Brad has inventoried the building components and is  
16 meeting with local subcontractors to get pricing on getting the structure weather tight. The town purchased  
17 a set of used commercial garage doors for the building some years ago, these will be installed in the coming  
18 weeks. The Selectmen thanked Richard and Brad for their continued work.  
19

20 Richard reported that the highway department has been trying out a John Deere backhoe. The crew likes  
21 the machine. Next on the list is a Case backhoe to be followed by a Caterpillar unit. Halleran noted that  
22 Townline also has a rental machine with low hours that they suggest the town take a close look at before  
23 making a decision to go new.  
24

25 Selectman Taylor will stop in at the highway garage to review the old backhoe with Richard. Rob will be  
26 handling the backhoe article at this year's town meeting.  
27

28 The contract for the new well at the Highway Garage has been awarded to Wragg Brothers of Ascutney  
29 Vt. Jay Wragg and his family lives here in Plainfield.  
30

31 **Police Report:** Halleran reported that the AED unit paid for with a grant from Mascoma Savings Bank has  
32 arrived and is being put into service.  
33

34 Chief Roberts was unavailable for the meeting as he was involved in an ongoing a police investigation.  
35

36 **Town Office:** The Selectmen went over the various articles for town meeting. Responding to a request  
37 from the finance committee the board reviewed the various reserve funds and established the following  
38 target amounts for each fund:  
39

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

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51

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

2

3 The March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

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6 Submitted,

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8 Stephen Halleran

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Judy Belyea, Chair

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Ron Eberhardt

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Robert Taylor

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3 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
4 **Wednesday April 6th 2016**  
5 **Meriden Town Hall**

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

10 The meeting opened at 6pm

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12 Correspondence was reviewed and orders for the week signed.  
13

14 **Highway:** Road Agent Collins reported that a tree has fallen on the gravel pit annex building that is  
15 currently being weatherized. The Selectboard have commissioned a baseline study of the building and its  
16 systems that is being handled by Atwater Construction. The goal of the project is to get the building  
17 weather tight and operational as highway department storage by May 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. The work has been  
18 progressing. Last Friday's wind storm resulted in a tree hitting the building and doing moderate damage to  
19 the roof. The tree has been removed and a temporary repair made. Permanent repairs will follow as part of  
20 the weatherization project.  
21

22 The Selectboard approved the crushing of 3,500 yards of gravel in the town pit for municipal use. The  
23 work should begin in the next two weeks.  
24

25 The Selectboard asked Halleran and Collins to bring final proposals for the backhoe to them at the April  
26 20<sup>th</sup> meeting along with a recommendation on which machine the town should purchase. The highway  
27 department has tried out Case, John Deere and Caterpillar Machines.  
28

29 **Fire:** Fire Chief Currier reviewed both departments' activities over the last month. The Fire Chief also  
30 asked for a key to the town's diesel pumps in the event its late at night at Fire needs access to fuel. Rich  
31 indicated that he is closing in on getting the old key system operational with the new pump and that the  
32 department should have fuel access very soon.  
33

34 **Police:** Chief Roberts reviewed the status of the new cruiser leases. The cars should be delivered later this  
35 week or early next. Paul hopes to be able to replace all the individual car equipment with new including the  
36 video camera system now in use. The Selectboard approved this approach however expressed some  
37 concern that the final lease payments come in at or under budget, not over.  
38

39 The Chief reviewed the Police activity log with the Selectboard, focusing on the more complex cases.  
40

41 **Town Office:** The Selectboard board opened the bids for the sale of the old roll off container formerly used  
42 at the town's recycling center. The box has been taking up space in the gravel pit for the ten years. The  
43 bid notices were posted around town and on the town's website. One bid was received that was from  
44 Selectboard member Judy Belyea who bid \$905.  
45

46 The Selectboard held a discussion with the Town Administrator, Police Chief and Road Agent on the  
47 pending implantation of the new health insurance cost share program. The start of the new program  
48 coincides with any annual pay increases. The current deduction amounts are based on the plan in place at  
49 this time. Employees will be meeting with the town's insurance provider on April 19<sup>th</sup> to review plan  
50 options for the group.  
51

52 The Selectboard reaffirmed the following policies on motions from Selectboard member Taylor which were  
53 seconded and voted in the affirmative:  
54

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

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

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor



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

3

4 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

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6 Submitted,

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9 Stephen Halleran

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Ron Eberhardt, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Robert Taylor

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

4

5 Submitted,

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8 Stephen Halleran

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Ron Eberhardt, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Robert Taylor

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

3

4

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

8

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

13

14 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

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18 Stephen Halleran

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Ron Eberhardt, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Robert Taylor

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

4

5 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

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7 Stephen Halleran

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Ron Eberhardt, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Robert Taylor

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

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4 The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

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8 Stephen Halleran

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Ron Eberhardt, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Robert Taylor

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **Wednesday July 20<sup>th</sup> 2016**  
3 **Plainfield Library**  
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5  
6 Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
7 Judy Belyea  
8 Robert Taylor  
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11 The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.  
12

13 **Highway Department:** Rich Collins reported that tree work for Thrasher Road is now complete. While  
14 the tree service was potentially dangerous, trees on Gleason and Old County were also removed.  
15

16 The Selectboard approved moving ahead with line striping now rather than in the fall.  
17

18 Rich noted that the town's grader continues to have mechanical problems. Replacing the grader with either  
19 a new or used one in the next year, needs in his view needs to be a real priority.  
20

21 **Police Chief:** The chief reviewed the activity log from the last two weeks with the Selectboard. Several  
22 domestic violence cases and one copper theft have taken up a lot of the department's investigative time.  
23

24 The chief noted that a recent river rescue continues to show need for a more central command on these  
25 types of calls. Lebanon, Hartford and Hanover are all involved in these calls. This can result in an  
26 overwhelming response to what are often simple problems. Last weeks call involved a man who was  
27 stranded on ledge at Sumner's Fall and simply wanted a life ring or some help getting to shore. More than  
28 50 people responded to the call.  
29

30 **Other Business:** The Selectboard asked for reaction from Road Agent Collins and Police Chief Roberts to  
31 the idea of modifying the TA's job descriptions so that the Town Administrator is responsible for the  
32 management of all town employees and departments. The Selectboard, by statute, is responsible for all  
33 town operations and delegates that work as they decide. Both Paul and Rich indicated no objection to the  
34 plan. Both agreed that the changes were in keeping with how the town is operating now. Paul asked that if  
35 there was some particular reason for the change it would be helpful to know that. Chairman Eberhardt  
36 indicated that the reality is the Selectboard meets twice a month for a few hours. The Town Administrator  
37 who reports directly to the Selectboard and is in the town office, is in a much better position to be charged  
38 with managing town operations on a daily basis.  
39

40 **Town Administrator Report:** The Selectboard reviewed a timber harvest for a 205 acre parcel on Ladieu  
41 Hill. Based on the size of the cut the board felt that a security bond for the Houser Lane bridge might be in  
42 order. Halleran will convey this information to the forester. Timber Agent Judy Belyea signed the intent to  
43 cut.  
44

45 The board was updated on the job description for the facility manager part time position. Judy Belyea, and  
46 Beth Bierwirth at PES have contributed to the description.  
47

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

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4 The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

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8 Stephen Halleran

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Ron Eberhardt, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Robert Taylor

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **Wednesday August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**  
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5  
6 Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
7 Judy Belyea  
8 Robert Taylor  
9

10 The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.  
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14 **Timber Harvest:** Forester Erhardt Frost met with the Selectboard to discuss the details of the upcoming  
15 harvest on Melvin Miller's 205 acres of land on Ladieu Road. At issue is the use of the Houser Lane  
16 bridge, which has had a lot of logging truck traffic in the last two summers. This bridge which is still in  
17 good shape is the only way to access that part of town with heavy trucks. The group determined that a  
18 bond for \$25,000 (1/3 of the deck replacement cost) would be issued to the town and that the logger and  
19 Road Agent would visit the site and look at the possibility for adding protective cribbing to the bridge to  
20 further reduce the likelihood that the bridge would be damaged.  
21

22 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Collins reported that the town's road grader is experiencing significant  
23 transmission noise which likely means a bearing is going bad. The Selectboard authorized Richard to  
24 investigate several used graders that are available. Drew Marrazzo from Townline Equipment has offered  
25 to assist the town with evaluating a used machine.  
26

27 The Selectmen approved a quote for road markings. The 2016 work will be the same as the 2015, Bonner  
28 Road, Methodist Hill Road and Willow Brook Road. Penniman Road will be added if funds are available.  
29

30 As directed by the Board of Selectmen, the highway department will make snow removal on the sidewalks  
31 in Plainfield Village more of a priority this next winter. The goal will be to clear the walks no later than the  
32 third day following a major storm.  
33

34 **Town Office:** Selectmen Taylor and Town Administrator Halleran will be participating next Tuesday in a  
35 meeting with Town Attorney and the two fire departments. At issue is a review of the organizational  
36 structure of the town departments as it pertains to state law. The study came out of a request by the two  
37 departments. At issues is insuring that the members of each department's are eligible for all the protections  
38 afforded by state law to municipal fire departments.  
39

40 Steve Halleran will be attending several upcoming Primex mini courses dealing with employment law. The  
41 one day courses run from late August through October.  
42

43 Town Facility Manager Brad Atwater met with the group to discuss his work over the last month. As  
44 expected, the job is turning out to be a split between planning work and actual repair and improvement  
45 work. Brad has open projects at the PTH, Plainfield Library and Meriden Library.  
46

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



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

2

3 The meeting adjourned at 8pm.

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5 Stephen Halleran

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Ron Eberhardt, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Robert Taylor



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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **Wednesday September 7th 2016**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4 Selectmen present: Judy Belyea  
5 Robert Taylor  
6

7 The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm. Chairman Eberhardt was away.  
8

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

26 **Police Department:** Town Administrator Steve Halleran reported that he has notified William Heighes that  
27 the town must rehire for his position. Waiting any longer for Bill's knee to fully recover is not an option.  
28 Bill's employment with the town ended on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Advertisements for a new officer ran in the  
29 Valley News with applications due in by September 12<sup>th</sup>. Steve and Paul hope to have three finalists for  
30 the Selectboard to interview at their late September meeting.  
31

32 Paul updated the group on the department's log.  
33

34 The noticed public hearing to accept the donation of a dozen firearms and associated items from the Neda  
35 Mashouff Trust was called to order. The current owners of the 393 Bean Road estate are moving back to  
36 California and do not wish to transport these guns back there. The Selectboard asked the Chief what his  
37 plans for the weapons would be. Paul indicated that other than removing some accessories from a couple of  
38 the assault rifles, the guns and accessories will be used for store credit with a an approved FFL business.  
39 The department will not be selling privately any of the weapons. The Selectboard voted to accept the  
40 donation.  
41

42 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed the status of the 2016 budget. The 2016 tax rate should be set in  
43 early October. The Selectboard were reminded that polling will be taking place at the PES gym next  
44 Tuesday for the state primary.  
45

46 Halleran reported on a human resources seminar he attended last Wednesday on employee evaluations. The  
47 Selectboard has established a goal as part of his last evaluation to improve the town office's skill level in  
48 employment law. Three more seminars are scheduled for October and November.  
49

50 The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm  
51

52 Steve Halleran

Judy Belyea

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56 Robert Taylor

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
3 **Wednesday September 21st 2016**  
4 **Meriden Town Hall**

5  
6 Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
7 Judy Belyea  
8 Robert Taylor  
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10 The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.

11  
12 Clint and Bonnie Swift met with the Selectboard to update the board on the fundraising work done by the  
13 friends of the Plainfield Library. The grand opening of the basement is set for Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup>.  
14 Chairman Eberhardt will be speaking at this event.  
15

16 **Police:** After meeting with Porter Road resident Anthony Swett, who is a certified police officer and a  
17 finalist for the open position, the Selectboard accepted the recommendation of Police Chief Roberts and  
18 Town Administrator Halleran that the town hire Mr. Swett to fill the vacant position in the Police  
19 Department. Selectmen Belyea did not vote on the recommendation as she is related to Tony. The hope is  
20 that the Tony will begin work around Columbus Day weekend.  
21

22 **Town Office:** The Selectboard approved the various forms required for the setting of the 2016 tax rate. The  
23 actual rate setting should take place in two weeks. A rate of \$28.15 up from \$27.25 is expected.  
24

25 The Selectboard voted to accept a private trustee fund to be known as the Stalker Veterans Flag Fund. A  
26 \$5,000 donation from the Stalker's will be placed into this fund. Going forward, the resulting interest from  
27 the accumulated principle will be available for the annual purchase of gravesite flags for Plainfield's  
28 veterans.  
29

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

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

36

37 The town's records are unclear as to whether previous boards of Selectmen had voted to accept these funds.  
38 This reaffirmation is indicated to make it clear that the funds have been accepted by the Board of  
39 Selectmen as permitted by the 1995 town meeting vote.  
40

41 **Highway Department:** The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the Highway Garage Study  
42 Committee's report. The full report can be viewed at [http://www.plainfieldnh.org/ptgsg\\_rpt.htm](http://www.plainfieldnh.org/ptgsg_rpt.htm)  
43 Essentially, it is the recommendation of this group that the town should continue to make long term  
44 improvements to the site and to make necessary repairs to the building, but at the same time begin the  
45 planning process for a new highway garage facility to be located at that site. No major upgrades or project  
46 should be done on the building. See report for more details.  
47  
48

49 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm. The next meeting is on Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Plainfield Library.  
50

51 Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor

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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
3 **Wednesday October 5th 2016**  
4 **Plainfield Library**  
5

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

10 The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.  
11

12 In keeping with the board's new meeting schedule, the first Selectboard meeting of each quarter is held at  
13 the Plainfield Library. Clint and Bonnie Swift along with Virginia Drye attended the meeting to learn about  
14 happenings in town government.  
15

16 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Collins reported that paving on the Thrasher Road is on schedule for  
17 tomorrow. The road base is ready. The Selectboard confirmed that the new pavement will be installed at a  
18 uniform width similar to the old. Likely 19'. The existing pavement averages about 18.5' but varies from  
19 17' at the bridge to over 22' at Route 12A.  
20

21 The final step on replacing the highway garage floor drain system will occur on Thursday with the  
22 excavation of the old tank and any contaminated soil. Bill Knight from the Highway Garage Study  
23 Committee, has been supervising this project. This final step is expected to cost \$8,000 or less.  
24

25 **Richard and Allison Colburn:** The Colburns met with the Selectboard at the town's request to discuss a  
26 land swap between their property and the town's gravel pit lot, annex so called. The existing building on  
27 the annex, constructed by a previous owner, is very close to the Colburn line and the town would be  
28 interested in creating more of a buffer around the building owned by the town. Swapping some of the  
29 Colburn's frontage land at this location in exchange for the Colburns receiving some additional back land  
30 to straighten out the side property line has been suggested. The Colburns were not opposed to this idea.  
31 Dick will develop a sketch that addresses both of these issues and if agreeable to both parties an  
32 annexation plan will be made up by a local surveyor. Both parcels of land are significantly large enough  
33 and have existing development on them in such a way that the land swap is a relatively minor project with  
34 few if any impacts.  
35

36 **Cemetery Trustees:** Margaret Drye and Brad Atwater met with the Selectboard to discuss the request  
37 made by Bev Widger to relocate the access ramp for the Plainfield Cemetery to the north. This move has  
38 been planned and discussed for many years as a necessary part of the opening of the new section of the  
39 Plainfield Cemetery, which is still some years away. Bev feels there are sight distance safety concerns with  
40 the old ramp that would be mitigated by the relocation. Given that there are plenty of unsold lots in the  
41 existing cemetery and that the Cemetery Department is facing something on the order of \$30,000 in  
42 maintenance costs (tree work all in cemeteries all over town and stonewall repair in Plainfield) the Trustees  
43 are recommending that the existing ramp be improved to address the safety concerns and the relocation of  
44 the ramp be deferred until more long range planning has been done about the planned configuration and  
45 final elevations for the new cemetery. Jeff Allbright has estimated that vehicular sight distances can be  
46 improved with an additional 55 yards of gravel. This will give cars a level approach onto the state road. In  
47 addition, some drainage maintenance work has been suggested for the ramp's culvert.. The Selectboard  
48 agreed with this approach.  
49

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

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor







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

3

4 The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

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7 Stephen Halleran

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Ron Eberhardt, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Robert Taylor

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **Wednesday November 16th 2016**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**  
4

5 Selectmen present:

6 Judy Belyea  
7 Robert Taylor  
8

9 The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.

10  
11 Town Administrator Halleran updated the Selectboard on the status of various projects in both the highway  
12 and police departments. Highway is finishing preparations for the upcoming winter. The Police  
13 Department is enjoying a return to full staffing levels.  
14

15 An updated on the various expenditures from reserve funds where the Board of Selectmen are agents to  
16 expend followed.  
17

18 The Selectboard reviewed and signed the 2016 equalization cover letter to DRA. The work on the project  
19 has been completed by town assessor George Hildum.  
20

21 **Finance Committee:** Members of the 2016 Finance Committee (Mike Sutherland, Brad Atwater, David  
22 Grobe, Sarah Gillens) met with the Selectboard to hear an update on the 2016 budget and to discuss broad  
23 concepts for 2017. The 2016 budget is at or under projections. At this time there are no concerns about  
24 over expending the approved budget. The 2017 town operating budget will be similar to past budgets.  
25 Moving the library director to a full time benefit position and changes to the types of health insurance plans  
26 that will be necessary, will be the main drivers in any change to the new town budget. The town has no new  
27 capital expenditures planned for 2017, but would like to focus on reserve funding in anticipation of projects  
28 and necessary purchases to come. Revenues are at or just above projections for the 2017. The group will  
29 next meet with the Selectboard on December 21<sup>st</sup>.  
30

31 A highway department study has been commissioned by the Selectboard as the first step in understanding  
32 the likely size requirements that would be necessary for any new highway facility. There are no immediate  
33 plans to replace the garage, but replacing the existing building at the current site in the next decade may  
34 well be the most cost effective approach to pursue.  
35

36 **Other business:** The Selectboard approved the concept of closing the Plainfield Town Hall from January  
37 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> each year. The approach will be tried this coming year. The propane furnace will be turned  
38 off and the water drained from the building. Heating the bathrooms all winter for far little use just doesn't  
39 seem to make economic sense and has led to past freeze ups.  
40

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42 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm  
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46 Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor  
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
2 **Tuesday December 6th 2016**  
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4  
5 Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
6 Judy Belyea  
7 Robert Taylor  
8

9 The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.

10  
11 **Human Services Director:** Stephanie Schell updated the Selectboard on her department's activities which  
12 as of late have been centered on helping Plainfield's residents in need to prepare for the coming winter.

13  
14 In addition, Stephanie has worked out a relationship with the Town of Cornish, which will begin to make  
15 financial contributions to the food pantry. The pantry serves that entire area in need, but primarily Plainfield  
16 and Cornish residents.

17  
18 Town Administrator Halleran took the opportunity, while Stephanie was in attendance, to open a public  
19 hearing on whether or not the Selectboard should accept a unanimous gift of \$5,000 to start the Schell  
20 Community Assistance Fund a private Trust Fund. Both the principle and interest earned to be available to  
21 help Plainfield residents who have financial need as determined by the town's Human Services Director.  
22 All accumulated funds will be by private donation. No one spoke against the idea and the Selectboard  
23 gladly accepted the donation, established the fund and directed the Town Administrator to forward the  
24 money and purpose document to the Trustees of Trust Funds. Stephanie Schell thanked the donor and the  
25 Selectboard, noting that she was honored that the fund will carry her name.

26  
27 **Fire Departments:** Members of both fire departments met with the Selectboard. This meeting was in  
28 follow up to Town Attorney's review of their departments and determination that neither satisfies the  
29 organization requirements to be deemed municipal departments. Both are legally organized as nonprofits  
30 which own and control their own assets. This being the case, a fire department committee was formed and  
31 has come back with the recommendation that both departments be merged into one municipal department  
32 and all assets and liabilities be conveyed to the town as necessary. Operationally, from a fire protection  
33 stand point, little will change. Organizationally this change is necessary to insure that both departments  
34 have the full protections that come with being municipal entities. Essentially, the fire department will be  
35 exactly like the police department or highway department. The fire chief will be appointed by the  
36 Selectboard and will report to the town administrator. The Selectboard voted to act on this request by  
37 authorizing the Town Administrator to pursue all necessary steps to prepare for the conversion of our two  
38 existing independent fire departments to become a municipal department. This conversion is expected to  
39 take a year or more, with some action in the form of an authorizing warrant article (s) likely at the 2017  
40 town meeting.

41  
42 **2017 Budget:** The remainder of the meeting was spent working on the 2017 budget draft for presentation to  
43 the Finance Committee on December 20<sup>th</sup>. During the discussion, increasing monies to the legal budget  
44 for the fire department issue and perhaps the replacement of the one remaining crown vic cruiser were  
45 items that were added to the 2017 budget proposal. The cruiser replacement would be a multi year lease,  
46

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

3

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5 The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

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8 Stephen Halleran

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Ron Eberhardt, Chair

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Judy Belyea

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Robert Taylor

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**draft**  
**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Monday December 19th 2016**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
Judy Belyea  
Robert Taylor

The Selectboard meeting opened at 6:00pm.

**Public Comment:** Resident Diane Rogers met with the Selectboard to request that the Selectmen place an article on the warrant that if approved would consolidate all of Plainfield's library function into one building, the Plainfield Library on Route 12A. See attached material provided by Diane. The Board agreed to review the provided materials and to discuss the request with the Library Trustees and Meriden Village/Meriden Library study committee created at last Town Meeting. The Selectboard also encouraged Diane to attend upcoming meetings of these two groups. The Selectboard will discuss the issue next at their January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Diane was made aware of the various key dates for the formation of the 2017 warrant. Any petitioned articles need to be received by February 7<sup>th</sup> 2017.

**Solar Taxation:** Halleran reported that Barrington Power, the company this is proposing a solar array for the Plainfield School grounds, has requested that the Selectboard consider the option of a negotiated payment in lieu of taxes as allowed by RSA 72. Halleran has indicated to them that the town will be in position to discuss this matter until after town meeting. An article concerned with the taxation of solar arrays is planned for the 2017 warrant. The outcome of that article will provide the Selectmen with much clearer direction on how the community wants to handle the taxation of large solar arrays. The current "residential scale" exemption as a \$50,000 ceiling, so array values over \$50,000 is taxable.

**Finance Committee:** The rest of the meeting was spent with the town's finance committee reviewing the 2017 budget. See attached. The committee will meet next on January 11<sup>th</sup> and will meet again with the Selectboard on January 18<sup>th</sup>. As proposed the dollars to be raised from taxation currently has an overall increase of \$51,742. While generally supportive of the budget, members of the Finance Committee expressed concern over the annual increases in the police department and library department. Halleran noted that the only way to make any meaningful change in the amount of money raised by property taxes is to either expand the town's grand list or reduce service in some area.

The Selectmen updated the Finance Committee on the request by the town's fire departments to become a single municipal department, rather than private entities. At this time the group is trying to come to agreement on an organizational structure and the timeline for such a change.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Judy Belyea

Robert Taylor