

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday January 2nd 2019**  
**Plainfield Library**

Selectmen present:     Judy Belyea, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

**Public Comment:** Bonnie Swift, referring to the draft warrant posted on the web, asked if the proposed article for the library replacement could read similarly to the one used for the Plainfield library expansion in 2001. That article had more detail in it about funding sources. The Selectboard asked Bonnie to forward to Steve Halleran any proposed change.

**Helen Koehler and Fern Wilder:** Helen asked that the Selectmen not support the article for the replacement of the Meriden Library. Both feel that the construction of a new library is not a necessity and given the high taxes in Plainfield should not be supported by the Selectboard. The Selectboard has not yet taken an official position on the article, but the board has supported the work done by the library building committee to date that has resulted in the article.

Those in attendance for public comment felt that more efforts need to be taken to get members of the community educated about issues facing the town and how they relate to the library proposal. Brad Atwater noted that he is interested in using an outside consultant to assist the town with a process to learn more about residents wants and desires for the town in the future, similar to what was done back in the 1990s. Nancy Norwalk noted that she thought the similar effort done back in the 1990's was done by Vital Communities. Halleran noted that the annual report which is mailed to all homes in late February is designed to provide all the information needed to be ready for town and school meetings.

**Town Office:** Town Administrator Halleran updated the board on the upcoming employee safety committee meeting. This session will be at the Police Department.

The Selectboard approved entering a contract with the City of Lebanon for ambulance coverage through 2020.

The rest of the meeting was spent discussing the budget and draft warrant. The Selectboard approved placing an article on the warrant to adopt a tax exemption for the deaf. This was in response to a request by a resident.

The town's first budget hearing will be January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Meriden Town Hall. Prior to that at 6:30pm the Selectmen will hold a hearing on the proposed borrowing of up to \$500,000 for the Meriden Library replacement.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday January 16th 2019**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:     Judy Belyea, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Ron Eberhardt

The Selectboard met in nonpublic session from 6:00pm to 6:15pm to discuss a personnel matter in the Police Department.

The public meeting opened at 6:15pm

**Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed several of the town's financial policies (purchasing, and cash management) no changes were made and the policies were accepted for 2019.

The Selectboard signed the Lebanon ambulance contract.

**Highway Department:** Rich Collins discussed with the Selectboard several equipment failures which have slowed plowing operations down this year. The town is still down one of its large plow trucks and with a big storm forecast for Sunday Rich is looking to rent a plow truck. It could take two weeks to get the repair made.

RSA 33 Hearing possible loan of more than \$100,000 for the replacement of the Meriden Library. The hearing was opened at 6:30pm. Selectman Ron Eberhardt asked that all in attendance make an effort to be civil and respectful of one and another. Ron shared some quotes from various public e-mails that used inflammatory language and were accusatory in tone. Everyone has an opinion on the matter and well thought out arguments exists for why or why not the project should proceed. Civil debate is a cornerstone of government.

Stephen Halleran offered the following explanation of the draft warrant article. As currently envisioned the replacement of the Meriden Library will cost \$975,000 resulting in the need for a loan of no more than \$487,500. A 15 year note at 2.5% would result in a payment of about \$39,000 and would result in \$105,000 worth of interest charges.

Town Facility Manager Brad Atwater summarized his work on the project, reviewing with the group some of features of the proposed facility. The new building will be slightly larger than the existing, fully ADA compliant and will be a building that is highly energy efficient and is in keeping with the goals of the Ready for 100 Initiative adopted at last town meeting.

The hearing was opened for public comment:

**Diane Rogers** questioned if the building had received a full code review. Atwater responded yes.

**Helen Koehler** noted that she feels the project is not necessary, particularly the meeting room.

**Dennis Girouard** noted that the private funding brochure was misleading.

Upon an inquiry from Diane Rogers all three Selectmen noted their individual support for the project.

**Vicki Romas-Glew** noted that she felt the meeting room is needed.

**Chris Dye** discussed the long history of having two libraries one in each village and while Meriden Village residents have contributed to the PRML expansion, it is now time for Plainfield Village Residents to support this project.

**Joe Crate** agreed with the position of Chris Dye. The Plainfield Library would not have been support in Meriden Village if it were thought it would result in no library in Meriden Village

**Judy Ptak** noted that the town can't be expected to pay for two libraries.

**Evan Oxenham** supported the work done to make the new building energy efficient.

**Lee Oxenham** expressed support for the project and noted that our high dependence on property taxes makes these decisions very difficult.

**Sue Williams** explained that while she loves libraries she can't support a project that costs nearly one million dollars.

**Ralph Patalano** questioned how the new meeting space would compare to the town office meeting room. Atwater noted it was a slightly different shape and larger.

**Mike Higgins** Expressed his support for the costing work, he felt that while all buildings are expensive, the per square foot on the new building was very reasonable in today's market.

**Clint Swift** expressed the desire to see Plainfield act as one town and felt that a single library might help that process along.

Discussion continued centered on the notion that we have an excellent library system in our town and while many support the idea of replacing the Meriden Library, many also feel that in a town with a high tax rate a new second library is just not something they can afford.

The hearing was closed at 7:50 pm.

A short break followed.

At 8:05pm the town's budget hearing was opened, see attached. Town Administrator Steve Halleran reviewed the proposed budget and the warrant articles for the upcoming town meeting. As currently configured the town's complete proposal will result in raising \$5,000 less than the previous year or a tax rate reduction of about \$.02. The Selectmen, Road Agent, Police Chief and Town Administrator all answered questions about the proposed budget. Richard discussed his plowing schedule, Chief Roberts discussed his staffing model for the Police Department, Town Administrator Halleran answered questions on the overall operating budget as it relates to services provided.

The fire department merger is scheduled to be completed by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The second article of the 2019 town meeting will, if approved, settle the fire departments outstanding debt to be funded by the use of \$135,000 of the town's undesignated fund balance.

Members of the public asked the Selectmen to continue to be open to ideas that reduce the town's tax rate. While many in the town can afford their property taxes, many cannot easily pay the taxes. Plainfield is a small rural town, but has a high tax rate as compared to other NH municipalities.

A second budget hearing is scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Plainfield Library.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday January 16th 2019**  
**Meriden Town Hall**  
**Nonpublic Session**

Selectmen present:     Judy Belyea, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Ron Eberhardt

The Selectboard met in nonpublic session from 6:00pm to 6:15pm to discuss a personnel matter in the Police Department. During the session the Selectboard met with Police Chief Paul Roberts and were updated on the Chief's decision to terminate the employment of one of his part time officers.

The Selectmen came out of nonpublic session at 6:15pm, returning to their public meeting.

Stephen Halleran

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday February 6th 2019**  
**Plainfield Library**

Selectmen present:     Judy Belyea, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6pm.

**Police Department:** Chief Roberts reviewed and updated some information from the last meeting with the Selectboard and public present. Paul's research suggested that many town's the size of Plainfield have larger police department's than ours. Each of these departments uses their own strategy for providing 24 hour coverage for their residents.

**Town Administrator:** Steve Halleran had the Selectboard sign several documents related to the now completed financial audit and reporting requirements to the state of NH Department of Revenue.

Next, as has become customary over the last ten years the Selectboard repeated the budgetary hearings held at the Meriden Town Hall (January 16<sup>th</sup>) here in Plainfield Village.

RSA 33 Hearing (2<sup>nd</sup>) possible loan of more than \$100,000 for the replacement of the Meriden Library. The hearing was opened at 6:30pm. Stephen Halleran offered the following explanation of the draft warrant article. As currently envisioned the replacement of the Meriden Library will cost \$975,000 resulting in the need for a loan of no more than \$487,500. A 15 year note at 2.5% would result in a payment of about \$39,000 and would result in \$105,000 worth of interest charges.

Town Facility Manager Brad Atwater summarized his work on the project, reviewing with the group some of features of the proposed facility. The new building will be slightly larger than the existing, fully ADA compliant and will be a building that is highly energy efficient and is in keeping with the goals of the Ready for 100 Initiative adopted at last town meeting.

Stephen Halleran shared with the group a letter to the Selectboard from the Meriden Library Foundation. The letter outlined the groups fund raising results to date and pledged to continue its work. At this time foundation has met its initial goal for raising the private money for the project.

The hearing was opened for public comment. As was expressed at the first hearing there were many who spoke on both sides of this issue. Those in favor of the project generally noted the social value that a library brings to each village and that the Plainfield project was done with approximately 50% public and 50% private funding and that the public funding source being taxes for the entire town. The Meriden project now proposed is following that same model and some 15 years later costs a similar amount of money when adjusted for time.

Those opposed to the project expressed concerns about rising taxes and the need to cut spending. These folks feel strongly that the town has one fully accessible library and that keeping the Meriden Library, as currently configured, is sufficient. A second new library in our town is a

want, not a necessity. These folks expressed concern about other town and school projects that will have to be done in the next decade and feel strongly that those projects should have priority.

The hearing was closed at 8:00pm. A short break followed.

At 8:05pm the town's budget hearing was opened. Town Administrator Steve Halleran reviewed the proposed budget and the warrant articles for the upcoming town meeting. As currently configured the town's complete proposal will result in raising \$5,000 less than the previous year or a tax rate reduction of about \$.02. The budget is unchanged from the hearing on the 16<sup>th</sup>. As part of the brief presentation the 2019 warrant was reviewed as well.

Possible changes to the town's solid waste management plan were discussed. Eliminating the municipal funded garbage and recycling collection would remove about \$150,000 from the tax rolls, but would result in resident making their own waste disposal plans. It was noted that the recycling done at the Lebanon Landfill is handled much more locally than the Zero Sort material.

The hearing was closed at 8:30pm,.

Town Moderator Paul Franklin, as was done at the school budget hearing, spoke to the group about trying to combine both town and school meetings into a single day as a way of boosting attendance. Paul is working with Town Clerk Michelle Marsh and the Secretary of State's office to work out some logistical issues, but hopes to continue these discussions at this year's school and town meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm all those in attendance were urged to travel carefully. A cold rain had begun to fall and was coating all surfaces with ice.

The Selectboard meets next on February 20<sup>th</sup> in Meriden Village.

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday February 20th 2019**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:     Judy Belyea, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6pm.

The Selectmen signed the official warrant and certificate of posting with Town Clerk Michelle Marsh.

**Public Comment:** Clint Swift accompanied by Bonnie Allard and Nancy Norwalk addressed the Selectboard on three issues: One, Mr. Swift questioned the connection between the Selectboard and the Library Trustees. On this point he was informed that the Select Board respects the boundaries established by state law between elected boards. The Selectmen do not get involved in the management of the library. Selectman Eberhardt pointed out that at times the friends seem to feel as though they are equals to the Trustees. The friends group is ancillary to the Trustees and is not able to demand anything. As envisioned, the friends are intended to work on projects and goals as requested by the Trustees.

Second, Mr. Swift wanted to know what the master plan was for the library, noting he has heard discussion about moving town hall to the Plainfield Library. On this point he was directed to the Library Trustees. Town Administrator Halleran made it clear that any discussion about moving the town office into the Plainfield Library basement was his idea entirely and is not a matter on which any town board, including the Board of Selectmen has taken a position on. Halleran noted that while just a concept, it is an idea that would allow the town to close the Meriden Town Hall and would move the seat of town government to Plainfield village.

Third, Mr. Swift asked about the idea of broadening the friends group's mission to include all of Plainfield Village. The Selectmen noted that they felt this was a good idea and one that had merit. If the friends group in Plainfield is not feeling appreciated by the Library Trustees then why not change their mission and use the energy to assist other projects?

Selectwoman Judy Belyea noted that she supports the idea of two libraries in town. Without the Meriden Library residents in East Plainfield would have more than a 20 mile round trip to visit a town library.

Finally, in completing his remarks Mr. Swift pointed out that on January 16<sup>th</sup> while he and Bonnie were in attendance, the Selectmen started their meeting with a nonpublic session. While the purpose, an employee matter, was legitimate. The process followed to get into the session was not as outline in RSA 91. The Selectboard agreed with this assessment, noting that while not an excuse, the meeting had a full agenda including a budget hearing and the Board was trying to cover a lot of ground in a short period of time.

**Fire Department Creation:** Thomas Robb, Bruce Elder and Fire Chief William Taylor met with the Selecoard assisted by Town Counsel Barry Schuster to complete the transfer of property from both private fire companies to the Town of Plainfield, effectively creating a municipal fire department for the Town of Plainfield. Land, buildings, trucks, equipment were all conveyed to the town has outlined in the transfer documents. Both fire associations will continue to exist and

to assist the town with the operation and financing of the new department. The final step in the project will be the appointment of Fire Chief and the acceptance of the roster of firefighters. Both of these tasks will be completed on March 20<sup>th</sup>, one year past the vote to create the department.

**Other Business:** The Selectmen completed their meeting by signing orders, reading correspondence and completing the signing of warrants and budgets to be posted around town in advance of annual meeting.

The Selectmen offered their thanks to Mike Sutherland for once again this year getting the town's annual report posted on the town's webpage.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor



**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday March 6th 2019**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair  
Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm.

The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and signed orders and building permits.

The period for filing tax abatements has closed, 16 requests were received. These have been forwarded to Avitar for review.

The Board spent the meeting discussing the upcoming annual meeting. Board members were provided their meeting books with notes for the articles that each would be presenting.

The meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair

Robert Taylor

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday March 20th 2019**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Selectman Eberhardt and Taylor welcomed newly elected Selectman Eric Brann to the board.

Rob Taylor moved to appoint Ron Eberhardt as Chairman for the New Year. The motion was seconded and voted in the affirmative.

At this time, with many of his firefighters in attendance, William Taylor was sworn in as the town's first municipal fire chief. The group gave Bill a round of applause.

**Public Comments:** Rosemary Mills and Grace Hardy asked that the Selectmen do all that they can to bring the town together after what was at times a very difficult town meeting. Both urged Eric Brann to be open to new ideas. Selectman Brann assured them that he comes to this job with no agenda. He wishes to learn and to contribute to the town government. He asked them not to make any assumptions about him.

Jean Kennedy expressed her frustrations about the town meeting, noting she did not agree with the attempt to fund the library project from current year taxes.

Stephen Beaupre noted that there was no malice in the motion; it was done as an alternative way to fund the library, one that avoided interest payments and would allow the project to move forward. Steve also urged the Board of Selectmen to look to ways to reduce any divide between the two villages.

Bonnie Swift urged the Selectboard to continue to look for all means possible to engage those with contrary view points in a way that results in consensus building not further division.

**Highway:** Road Agent Richard Collins reviewed the work done for the last week. NH's fifth season, Mud, is now fully underway. As cold morning temperatures allow, highway is adding gravel and stone to the worst areas.

The Board will take up the purchase of the new highway department truck at their next meeting. The truck won't be available until late in the summer, early fall.

**Police:** Chief Roberts reported that he has been cleared to return to work, light duty. He has a conference early next week, but hopes to be back in the office by the end of next week. Working on the dispatch project will be one of his first priorities.

**Town Office:** The Selectboard signed the necessary paperwork to certify to the state action taken at the 2019 town meeting.

Halleran noted that all town buildings will be inspected tomorrow by the town's insurance carrier.

The Selectmen will start their April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting with a tour of the Highway Garage.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday April 3rd 2019**  
**Plainfield Library**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 5:30pm with a site visit.

The Selectmen, toured the Highway Garage facility. During the visit the Selectboard made it clear to Town Administrator Halleran and Road Agent Collins that getting rid of general debris and scrap items stored outside the facility along with the planned improvements to the employee lounge inside are priorities for this spring. The Selectboard will return to the site in one month and hope to see significant progress.

**Plainfield Library- Business Meeting**

Public Comment: Dennis Girouard expressed his opinion that the town must do more to encourage resident involvement; he suggested either a town news letter or purchasing a subscription for all residents to the Plainfacts. The Selectmen noted that the town publishes an annual report every year, maintains a website, and a Facebook page that now has weekly updates from the town office. Selectman Brann asked Dennis to provide an example of what he would like to see the town do.

Mr. Girouard also objects to the Town Administrator playing an active role in the replacement of the Meriden library, whether it be signing documents or seeking project support. Chairman Eberhardt noted that the Selectboard supports the replacement of the Meriden Library and it is the job of the Town Administrator to carry out the positions of the Selectboard.

Nancy Norwalk asked a few questions about the upcoming season at the Plainfield Town Hall. She was informed that the hall is now open and being rented as requested.

**Highway Department:** The Selectboard and Rich Collins began their review of truck options for the highway department approved replacement. Selectman Taylor will ask Jim Taylor to provide copies of Enfield's replacement proposals for a similar truck. The Board will take this issue up again on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Police Department:** Chief Roberts is back on full time duty from a shoulder injury. He has just returned and so is catching up with his officers. Paul noted that the possibility of changing from Hanover Dispatch to Claremont is unlikely before Claremont hires its new City Manager.

**Town Office:** Halleran questioned whether the Selectboard finds it valuable to be participating in the building permit issuance process. Currently, the inspector reviews permit applications, recommends them for approval or not, the Selectboard then reviews and signs them, effectively approving them. The Selectboard felt the process does have value in keeping them in touch with projects around town. The board elected not to make any changes in the process.

The Board discussed the 2019 budget. The winter season has been more expensive for highway than anticipated. The department has spent an additional \$20,000 on repairs, winter salt, and over

time than was budgeted. As a result, Halleran recommends that the Selectmen set aside \$20,000 from the Highway Block Grant to cover these expenses. The effect will be to reduce the summer maintenance budget by \$20,000.

Halleran also noted that Town Counsel will be starting enforcement action against BART Industries to get the owner of the warehouse to operate within the approved hours. To date efforts to modify the warehouse approval have not been success.

Selectman Eberhardt asked that the board revisit the idea of holding more meetings in Plainfield. Halleran asked for time to discuss the concept with the town office staff. The Board will take up the issue at their next meeting.

The town's energy committee would like to establish a Town Committee to focus on the Ready for 100 project. The Selectboard will appoint this committee which will be made up of people recommended by the Energy Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday April 17th 2019**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

**Highway Report:** After completing its review of various truck proposals the Selectboard, on the recommendation of Road Agent Collins, voted to purchase the International CV515 with a live body and plow and wing from SG Reed of Claremont NH.

Selectman Eric Brann will work with Road Agent Collins to find a suitable replacement Road Agent truck. The truck donated by TransCanada some years ago now needs body work and the Selectmen feel strongly that spending time repairing it is not time well spent.

The Selectmen reviewed paving quotes, developing a list of questions for Rich get answered. The hope is to be able to pave the approaches to the new bridges, Daniels Road, the paved section of Hell Hollow and maybe even some of Mill Village Road this summer.

The Selectmen reviewed the cost of renting a small excavator for a month or two this summer. The Board did not object to using Road Agent Collin's excavators on an as needed basis, but for road project work or the busiest time of the construction season the board would prefer to rent a machine for a block of time. A JD 75 G would cost about \$3,800/month with a 170 hour per month limit. Halleran and Collins will review the summer work schedule and will likely reserve the JD machine for at least one month and perhaps two.

**Police:** Chief Roberts noted that the department has been working hard to slow traffic down in both villages. Spring time means more pedestrians out and typically with warmer weather drivers seem to go faster.

Chief Roberts requested and the Selectboard approved the use of \$1,800 from the Police Equipment Fund to purchase three new laptop computer mounts, one for each cruiser. A motion was made to do so, seconded and voted in the affirmative.

**Town Office:** Halleran noted that Town Clerk Michelle Marsh is moving forward with changes in the office to allow the acceptance of credit and debit cards. The town office was voted the authority to accept credit cards at the 2008 town meeting, article 10.

Spring appraisal work begins April 25<sup>th</sup>, town assessor George Hildum will be in town for three days doing field work and two or more days doing office data entry work.

Following up on a suggestion a last meeting by Ron Eberhardt, the Selectmen voted to; beginning in June, change their meeting schedule as follows: They will no longer meet at the Plainfield Library the first meeting of each quarter. Instead beginning June

1<sup>st</sup> the first Wednesday meeting of each month will be held at the Meriden Town Hall and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month meeting will be held at the Plainfield Library.

**Public Comment:** Dennis Girouard reported back to the board with his thoughts on more public outreach. He feels it needs to be a monthly newspaper, not done by the town, with reporters. Selectman Taylor shared with Dennis the Lebanon Times concept, done by a private company on a quarterly basis. Ron Eberhardt noted that Norwich uses the same company; he too agrees that it should not be owned or operated by the town.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday May 2nd 2019**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:      Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
                                 Rob Taylor  
                                 Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 5:15pm with a second site visit.

The Selectmen, toured the Highway Garage facility. Road Agent Collins showed them the crew's efforts to organize and clean up the grounds after a long winter. The fire escape for the highway lounge has been delivered and will be installed this spring. The Selectmen thanked Richard for his efforts and encouraged him to continue to recycle scrap materials that are on the grounds and to get as many of the departments assets under cover as is possible.

**Business Meeting Meriden Town Hall**

**Public Comment:** Chairman Eberhardt opened a discussion between River Road farmers and business owners and Douglas King of the NHDOT. At issue is the Route 12A slide in to the Connecticut River just north of River Road. The discussion was an opportunity for everyone to learn more about the state's plans and any likely road closure during repairs. Mr. King noted that plans are still being developed; he will attend the next Selectboard meeting as well. Those in attendance strongly urged the NHDOT to look at ways to keep Route 12A open during the several weeks that the repair is likely to occur. If it must be closed, a local detour on Old County Road would be far less disruptive to their farms and businesses than an advertised detour that utilizes other state and federal roads. The group thanked Mr. King for attending this informational session and asked him to convey their concerns to the highest levels at the NHDOT.

Dennis Girouard asked the Selectboard to continue to work on ways to push information out to residents. The Selectboard will look into sending an informational card out with the Spring tax bills.

**Highway Department:** While still too early for spring grading, highway is working on improving the roughest of the roads. The very cool wet spring is hampering the drying process for the gravel roads. Shoulders and ditches remain soft and water filled.

The new truck has been ordered.

Selectman Brann made a motion to provide a boot allowance to the highway crew of up to \$200/person to purchase work boots. He feels strongly that, like the uniform program, the town should provide the necessary equipment for the crew members to do their job on a daily basis. The motion was seconded and voted in the affirmative. Halleran and Collins will work out the details and bring back a firm proposal for board consideration.

**Police Department:** Chief Roberts explained that the department has been involved in an effort to extract a car from the class VI section of the Bean Road. The vehicle did significant damage to the road and the owner has agreed to pay for repairs to the road. The highway department loader was used to extract the car from the mud.



**Town office:** The Selectboard reviewed a couple of assessing issues that have come up this spring. George Hildum is in town now working on updates.

The group that will be assisting the Selectmen with a review of our waste management plans will be meeting with the Selectmen at next meeting. Any changes to the program that are significant would likely involve a vote of some kind at next town meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> 2019**  
**Plainfield Elementary School**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6:00pm with a presentation from the NHDOT.

**NHDOT:** The department has taken a close look at the Route 12A slide and based on the public input received, the plan is now to complete the repair with one lane of Route 12A open. The design and permitting should be completed in 90 days and the repair itself should take another 90 days. The goal is to have the project complete by cold weather. Those in attendance thanked the NHDOT for listening to the concerns expressed at the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Highway:** Richard presenting the board with three quotes for a new Road Agent truck. The Selectboard has determined that the donated truck used by the Road Agent is no longer fit for service and needs to be replaced. One additional bid was requested, Grappone Ford as the state bid for F250s.

**Police:** Chief Roberts noted that in response to an inquiry by resident Dennis Girouard he has obtained a quote for replacing all of the town's mobile ratios with higher output units. The cost exceeds \$60,000.

The Police Department has welcomed recently graduated part time officer Nevin Niboli to the department. Nevin has already begun covering some shifts.

**Solid Waste Study Group:** The Selectmen held a kick off meeting with Wayne Tucker, Marc Morgan, Susan Williams, Hillary Sundell and Richard Atkinson who have been charged with helping the Selectmen take a close look at our current solid waste management plan. The goal is to have a proposal for presentation at the 2020 town meeting. The town's current curbside collection program contract expires this year. The group requested as much data as possible on the current program. Of particular concern was recycling volume and program participation rates. The group will meet next with the Selectboard on June 19th.

The Selectboard the details of a new program to offer a \$200/year allowance to the highway department employees for safety shoes. As long as the shoe satisfies the OSHA safety shoe standards the town will reimburse the employee up to \$200/year for a pair of work boots.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup> 2019**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

**Public Comment:** Resident Dennis Girouard shared with the Selectboard a concept for a mailing to ask for resident input on how best the town can deliver information to them. The Selectboard will discuss the idea at an upcoming meeting.

**Highway:** The Camp and Houser Lane bridges approaches have now been paved. Final seeding and mulching will now follow. Daniels Road is scheduled to receive a pavement overall in the next month.

The Selectmen authorized the withdrawal of up to \$38,000 from the town's Highway Equipment Fund to purchase a F350 truck for the Road Agent's use. The truck will be equipped with a commercial grade plow and will be available to assist as needed with all highway department functions.

**Police:** Chief Roberts updated the Selectboard on the department's activities over the last week. Things have been fairly quiet the past two weeks.

**Building Inspector:** David Lersch met with the Board and discussed making changes to the town's building permit process. The changes are designed to streamline the process for residents and to provide enhanced access to permit records. As part of these changes David requested that the Selectmen consider no longer approving the permits. This will eliminate the need for applicants to wait up to two weeks to get started. The Selectboard agreed to this change provided that all permits are reviewed by at least two town officials (Zoning Administrator and Building Inspector) and that the Selectboard is kept aware on at least a weekly basis of all permits issued.

**Facility Manager:** Brad Atwater requested the use of up to \$8,000 from town library and facility funds to upgrade air sealing and lighting at the Plainfield Library. The Selectboard approved this funding request subject to the Library Trustee approval of the projects.

Pursuant to RSA 91-A at 8:45pm Chairman Eberhardt moved to enter nonpublic session for the purpose of discussing a matter that might affect an individual's reputation. Rob Taylor seconded and Rob Taylor, Eric Brann and Ron Eberhardt all voted in the affirmative. The Selectmen returned from the nonpublic session at 9:10pm and the meeting was adjourned

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2019**  
**Plainfield Library**

Selectmen present:      Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
                                 Rob Taylor  
                                 Eric Brann

**5:00pm Hell Hollow and Mill Village:** As advertised, the Selectmen met with landowners abutting this summer's two road projects. Hell Hollow, the paved portion will be completely reconstructed from Stage Road to Kenyon Road. Road Agent Collins shared his work plans for the project. Pavement width will be kept the same, drainage ways established on both sides of the road. At this time it does not appear that there will be any culvert replacements. Next the board moved to Mill Village to view a pavement resurfacing project. Here to pavement width will be maintained, drainage improved and an overly applied to the existing pavement. This road way is only 16' wide, but given the extremely low volume of traffic and the close proximity of homes the Selectboard feels that its appropriate to keep the pavement the same width. Residents at both sites thanked the Selectboard for taking the time to meet with them.

**Plainfield Library**

At the request of Chief Roberts pursuant to RSA 91-A at 6:30pm Chairman Eberhardt moved to enter nonpublic session for the purpose of discussing a Police Department employee related matter. Rob Taylor seconded and Rob Taylor, Eric Brann and Ron Eberhardt all voted in the affirmative. The Selectmen returned from the nonpublic session at 7:00pm and the meeting moved forward.

Resident Mike Williams met with the Selectboard to discuss his property taxes which are in arrears. Mr. Williams had an agreement with the Selectmen to make monthly payments. He has not made those pavements in recent months. The Selectboard agreed to a reduction in the monthly payment, but emphasized the need for him to keep current on the agreed monthly payments.

The Selectboard met with the Solid Waste Group (Mark Morgan, Richard Atkinson, Hillary Sundell and Sue Williams) to discuss initial results from the trash/recycling participation count. Preliminary results show that participation has dropped below 70% for both trash and recycling. The group is planning to do a community survey. Halleran was asked to forward to the group all the data he has on the town's current solid waste management plan. The SWG will now begin to work independently on coming up with recommendations for the 2020 town meeting.

In a related matter Selectman Taylor moved to increase the cost of a landfill coupon from \$10 to \$11 effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. In a new change Lebanon landfill cards will now be available at some Lebanon stores where they will cost \$11 each. In Hanover the cards are sold for \$15. The motion was seconded and voted in the affirmative on a 2-1 vote. Selectman Brann voted against the increase.

The Selectmen reviewed the abatement results from Avitar Associates. 17 abatements were filed, 10 were denied, 7 granted. The total amount of the refunds issues was \$3,300.

The Selectmen voted to keep the minutes of the June 5<sup>th</sup> executive session sealed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Tuesday July 2nd 2019**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

**Black Hill Road:** The Selectmen met on Black Hill Road in the vicinity of #100 to discuss with neighbors drainage changes to the road way. Road Agent Collins is trying to improve the overall performance of the existing system so that run off gets to Hanchett Brook more efficiently. Neighbors are concerned that the town work will adversely impact their property. All the planned work is within the town's right of way. The Selectmen directed Road Agent Collins to move forward with the work that has been started to date. In response to correspondence received from Haken Tell, hard copy attached to minutes at MTH, a civil engineer will be consulted before any additional work is started.

**Meriden Town Hall**

**Highway:** Road Agent Collins updated the Selectboard on projects that Highway is working on, seeding and sloping on the bridges has been started and will be done next week. Grading is ongoing.

The Selectmen discussed replacing Plainfield wooden road name signs to the standard reflective green sign that meets NHDOT standards. Halleran was asked to get some samples that would make the sign somewhat unique. The addition of the town logo is one possibility.

**Facilities:** Brad Atwater is replacing the siding on the north side of the highway garage. Work on the employee lunch room will be next.

**Fire:** Chief Taylor updated the board on fire department issues. The department has recently had all of its hose pressure tested, 11,000 of hose was tested, 10,000 passed. Chief Talyor provided the Selectmen an updated department roster. Four new fire fighters have been added.

**Town Office:** The Selectmen signed the audit representation letter for the now completed town audit. The Board signed orders and reviewed correspondence.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday July 17, 2019**  
**Plainfield Library**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

**Public Comment:** In follow up to the board's July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Haken Tell #100 Black Hill Road expressed continued concerns about both the process that was followed and drainage work that was done to the road along his property. He remains concerned that the new work will not take large volumes of water efficiently. Selectman Brann indicated that he feels Highway did a good job with the ditch line improvements and that the town is planning to have an engineering review his concern and the work that has been done, making recommendations on further work.

Amy Franklin met with the Selectboard to check on the status of enforcement action against BART industries for noncompliance with both the Zoning Board and Planning Board decisions. Chairman Eberhardt asked Zoning Administrator Halleran to update the group. A cease and desist order has been served, giving the owner 20 days to correct noted deficiencies. At the end of that time period if the business is not in compliance a court order to shut down the facility will be requested.

Amy feels that the town should take a very hard look at the zoning ordinance which encourages business uses on stage highways over town roads.

**Highway:** Road Agent Collins reported that all work is now complete on both last summer bridge projects. Shoulders, seeding, mulch etc. The projects are now done. The highway crew will begin the Hell Hollow project next week. Halleran noted that several abutters in the area have expressed a desire for some of the material that will be excavated from the site. Rich will coordinate with the property owners.

Rich has posted Old County and Beauty Hill with a 6 ton weight limit. This action was taken to insure that large construction vehicles hauling rock to the Route 12A washout do not use these local roads. It is not expected that this will happen, but the posting makes it clear that it should not.

**Police:** Chief Roberts informed the Selectboard that Sgt Foss has tendered his resignation effective August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Selectboard determined that prior to filling this vacancy they wished to take a look at some other options for police department staffing and coverage.

The Selectmen spent time discussing several of the town's pay policies, in the end it was determined that no changes to those policies would be made now, however the Board will conduct a comprehensive review of employee policies this fall prior to working on the 2020 budget.

**Other:** The Selectboard continued its review of a questionnaire that resident Dennis Girouard has proposed to encourage resident participation in local government. Chairman Eberhardt will forward the changes to Mr. Girouard who will continue working on the project.

**Town Office:** Halleran directed the Board to several items in their packets. Governor Sununu has scheduled a meeting on Friday for local officials who wish to attend to learn about the current budget battle in Concord.

The town's newly updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, funded through a state grant, has been sent by our consultant to the State of New Hampshire for final approval. Next will be the Emergency Management Plan which needs updating in 2020.

The Selectboard reviewed the draft budgeting and town report/warrant schedule for 2020. The proposed plan calls for the warrant to be posted on February 19<sup>th</sup> of 2020.

Based on received proposals, the Selectboard directed Halleran on a 2 to 1 vote to hire Horizons Engineering to review the drainage for Black Hill Road in the area of #100. Selectman Taylor voted against this. He expressed disappointment in the process the town has followed on this project and feels at this time an engineering review is too late. Town Administrator Halleran took responsibility for the process that has been followed.

At 9:00pm Chairman Eberhardt moved that the town enter a nonpublic session for the purpose of an employment issue. The motion was seconded. Brann yes, Taylor yes, Eberhardt yes.

The Selectboard returned from nonpublic session at 9:30pm. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann



**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday August 7th, 2019**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm

**Highway Department:** Richard Collins reported that Highway is about 2/3 done preparing the base for Hell Hollow Rd. New pavement should be in place by late summer.

From last week's orders to be paid the Selectboard noted that employees are taking advantage of the new boot allowance program. The board was pleased to see safety shoes for each employee.

Halleran reported that Horizons Engineering has done its field review on the Black Hill drainage issue, including meeting with abutters. A report is due back in the next week or so.

**Public Comment:** Tyler Lewis the new Head of School at Kimball Union attended the meeting to meet the Selectboard. Mr. Lewis shared with the board some of his educational background and plans for his early work at Kimball Union. The Selectboard welcomed him to town and encouraged him to participate in town events. All agreed that the relationship between Kimball Union and the Town of Plainfield has always been strong and will continue to be so in the future.

Nancy Norwalk and Sally Rub met with the Selectboard to update the group on their efforts to add a permanent ground sign to the Plainfield Town Hall. The sign will be used to announce events at the venue. They are working with Jane Stephenson, the NHDOT and Facility Manager Brad Atwater on the details. The Selectboard reviewed a conceptual design of the new sign and approved an expenditure (2-1 vote) of up to \$3,500 for a new sign.

**Police:** Chief Roberts reviewed some salary data from area Police Departments. The Selectmen determined that prior to hiring a full time benefited position finding certified part time officers would be tried using a higher wage. On a unanimous vote the wage range for part time officers was raised from \$20-\$22 to \$25-\$28/hour. Adds looking for part time officers will be posted in the next few days. Right now the department has a vacant full time slot and two vacant part time slots.

**Town Office:** Town Administrator Halleran updated the board on activities in the town office. The Selectboard signed several documents for Spirit Day.

At 8:20pm Chairman Eberhardt moved to go into nonpublic session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters in the Police Department. The vote was Taylor yes, Brann yes, Eberhardt yes.

The Board returned from nonpublic session at 9:45pm, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted,

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday August 21st, 2019**  
**Plainfield Library**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

The Selectmen met with Road Agent Collins to view progress on Hell Hollow Road. The road will be ready for pavement in about two weeks.

The meeting opened at 6pm

**Public Comments:** Dennis Girouard asked if town appointed committees can take significant actions without Selectboard approval. He was told that committees have no spending authority and typically report back to the Selectboard before taking any action. Dennis also asked about town employee retirement. He was directed to the NH Retirement system website.

Stephen Beaupre urged the Selectboard to not support proposed increases to speed limits on NH Route 120. The Selectmen determined that they would hold a hearing on the state's proposal in early September.

**Police:** Chief Roberts updated the Selectmen on several ongoing issues with the department. The town has received two part time police officer applications. Chief Roberts is currently reviewing them. The Selectboard approved trying to hire for the open full time position as well.

Chief Roberts had a brief discussion with the Selectboard about his desire to finish his career here in Plainfield. Part of that process might involve an employment contract. He apologized for comments he made after the last meeting that somehow resulted in the impression by some that Town Administrator Halleran had been given a long term employment contract. No full time employees have contracts at this time. The Selectboard is looking at various strategies for retaining valued employees, but at this time no final decisions have been made or contracts offered.

**Town Office:** Steve Halleran updated the Selectboard on several ongoing projects out of the town office. Bids are being solicited for annual generator maintenance. The town now has four generators, all of which were being maintained by different vendors.

Halleran pointed out the fine work done by Recreation Director Dan Cantlin to prepare for this Sunday's Spirit Day.

He also shared with the board some of the history surrounding the now discontinued Mill Village bridge that remains in place. The office has received an inquiry about having the bridge become a pedestrian way from Mill Village to Center of Town Road.

Each Selectmen was given a detailed budget report to take home and review. The Board was also provided copies of Plainfield's employee handbook for their review.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday September 4th, 2019**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:     Rob Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm

**Highway:** Fall grading has begun; road marking will be put down right after paving is completed later this month. Several culvert replacements are planned for the next couple of weeks along with the completion of road side mowing.

**Police:** Chief Roberts presented Kyle Dawson of Sunapee NH to the Board as a candidate for the open part time officer position. Mr. Dawson is a member of the National Guard and is a NH certified part time police officer. He is able to start work in about three weeks.

**Town Office:** The office is now ready to begin accepting credit cards later this month. The Selectboard was encouraged to examine a voting booth option that is on display at town hall. Existing booths are more than thirty years old and replacing one or more sets per year is under consideration.

Rob Taylor, due to his work with Enfield, will need to step down as our RPC representative. He has meeting for his work on the same night the RPC meets.

**NHDOT:** Rob Taylor opened the board's public hearing on a proposal by the NHDOT to "normalize" speed limits on NH Route 120. Bill Lambert of the NHDOT was in attendance to discuss the project. The project was focused on NH Route 120 from Claremont to Lebanon the department did speed studies and looked at the various posted limits with an eye toward insuring that speed limit variations were in keeping with current traffic engineering standards. As a result several speed limit changes are proposed including some increasing of speed limits from 5 to 10 mph. All those in attendance, many from Plainfield, some from Lebanon, some from Hanover spoke against any proposal to increase limits. In particular residents of East Plainfield shared their experiences of living right next to this commuting road. These folks asked the NHDOT to look for ways to bring speeds down along Route 120. Some also asked for measures to make the roadway more bike friendly. The hearing was closed. The Selectboard asked Town Administrator Halleran to draft a letter thanking the NHDOT for its work, but asking that they reconsider any plans to increase speed limits.

**Solid Waste Committee:** This group met with the Selectboard to update them on their work to date. Plans for a town wide survey similar to the one done twenty years ago are underway. The committee's goal is to have recommendations to the Selectboard by December 1<sup>st</sup>. The group

wants to use a variety of methods to obtain as much information as possible from Plainfield residents on how they feel about the program.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday September 18th, 2019**  
**Plainfield Library**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt  
                              Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm

**Public Comment:** Peter and Emily Twarog and Ratchel Stoddard attended the meeting to voice concerns about the severity of recent ditching on Chellis Road in the area of the large maples at the top of the hill. Road Agent Collins agreed that the work was more than necessary and he has instructed the operator to make some remediation efforts. Rich pledged to work with the neighbors to address their concerns.

Virginia Drye reported a streetlight out on Route 12A near her home. Chief Roberts will forward the pole number to the town office so a repair request can be generated.

**Highway:** Road Agent Collins updated the Selectboard on his department's work. As suggested by Jeff Allbright the Bonner Road construction barrels placed to slow traffic will be replaced this next week with road cones on the center line. The goal is to change up the view of the road that drivers are presented with to hopefully slow traffic.

Facility Manager Brad Atwater and Road Agent Collins hope to have the employee lounge completed by Thanksgiving. This is later than had been planned, but both are confident the work can be done in the new time frame.

**Facilities:** Brad and Steve Halleran reviewed several capital planning projects that are underway for various town buildings. Both MTH and PTH potentially need foundation work.

**Police:** Chief Roberts reviewed several more employment applications. He is doing initial background work on three of them and will have an additional update forthcoming. The Police Department has tried to be highly visible during the opening of both PES and Kimball Union for their respective new school years.

**Town Office:** The Selectmen completed their work on a communication survey to be included in the next tax billing. The survey requests resident input on how best to reach them with town government news.

The Selectmen signed necessary paperwork for the 2019 tax rate setting. All indications continue to support a lower rate for 2019. There are still some missing pieces; however, DRA hopes to begin setting town tax rates in early October. Plainfield is ready to establish its rate.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm

The Selectmen voted to adopt the newly updated Plainfield Hazard Mitigation Plan. An adopted plan is a federal requirement to be eligible for FEMA money. The Selectboard thanked the committee that worked on the project and consult Jane Hubbard for their efforts in completing this update.

**Public Comments:** Resident Holly Braswell asked for assistance from the Selectmen in having an outside light on the Plainfield Village storage facility adjusted so that it does not shine directly at her home. In addition she asked if the police department could increase efforts to slow traffic on Route 12A.

**Highway Department:** Richard Collins reported that the new Road Agent truck is now in service. The Ford 350 replaces the donated 2006 Sierra given to the town three years ago by TransCanada. The purchase was approved by the Board of Selectmen earlier in the year.

Paving has been pushed back twice on Hell Hollow and Mill Village. October 11<sup>th</sup> is the new target date. Road side mowing is nearly complete and the highway department is hauling winter sand on wet days.

Based on conversations he has had with highway department personnel Selectman Brann asked that the town office investigate getting internet service extended to the highway department. Halleran will look into cost options.

**Police:** At the request of Chief Roberts, Selectman Taylor moved to go into executive session at 6:22pm to discuss the hiring of new police officer. The motion was seconded. Yes-Brann, Yes-Eberhardt, Yes-Brann. The Selectmen came out of executive session at 6:36pm

**Meriden Library Building Committee:** Members of the committee updated the Selectmen on this project. At this time the group plans to bring back before the town a project nearly identical to the one that was supported by a majority of those in attendance at the meeting, but fell short of the necessary 2/3 vote for borrowing. At this time, funds committed to the replacement project total \$746,000. The building committee hopes to be able to bring forward an article that does not involve long term borrowing. Clint Swift, Helen Koehler and Dennis Girouard continue to question the process the committee is following particularly as it pertains to the future location and feel that the Library Trustees should be more involved. Jeanne Woodward Poor noted that she is the Trustee on the Building Committee and reports to the Trustees on the group's activities. Helen Koehler and Dennis Girouard expressed displeasure with the role Steve Halleran has played in the process. The Selectboard made it clear that the Town Administrator carries out their direction and at this time the established record shows the Selectboard to be in support of the replacement of the Meriden Library.

**Town Office:** Plainfield will be forwarding \$811,000 to support county government this year. Last year's number was \$756,000. The tax rate has not yet been set, but should be established in the next week to ten days.



Member Brann moved to enter for a second time executive session to discuss pending litigation at 8:15pm. The motion was seconded. Yes-Brann, Yes-Eberhardt, Yes-Brann. The Selectmen came out of executive session at 8:36pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday October 16th , 2019**  
**Plainfield Library**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm

**Public Comment:** Clint Swift asked that the minutes of 10/2 be amended to show his main concern with the library project is the process that is being followed, particularly as it relates to location. He favors a much closer look at the School Street land. Helen Koehler reported to the Selectboard on her visit to the Meriden Library Building Committee meeting. She feels their public comment period was not long enough. Dennis Girouard echoed Clint Swifts concerns about the School Street location for the new Meriden Library. Mr. Girouard also asked about the town's employee pay rate system in particularly he was interested in pay rates for our Police officers. Virginia Drye thanked the Selectboard for the streetlight repair. Holly Brashwell indicated that the storage facility outside light has been modified and is better as viewed from her hours.

**Police Chief Report:** The Chief has had no luck yet finding a new full time officer, the search continues. The department is operating short handed; consequently calls for service have taken a toll on patrol time. New part time officer Kyle Dawson has helped a great deal my taking three or four shifts per week.

The Selectboard, as part of the annual capital improvements plan update, asked the Police Chief about capital needs for the department. A storage facility and a upgrades to computer software topped the Chief's list.

**Highway Report:** Road Agent Collins updated the board; all three paving projects are now done. Shoulder work will follow.

Capital planning, Road Agent Collins requested a new dump body for truck #1. Estimates for the body range from \$6,500 to \$10,000. He is still evaluating the options. Halleran asked for time to evaluate the highway department budget to see if this unanticipated expense can be included in this years expenditure or will need to be budgeted for in 2020. The town's loader is scheduled for replacement in 2022 or 23. The machine currently has 11,000 hours on the meter. Road Agent Collins felt no change her was necessary.

**Library Trustee Appointment:** The Selectboard had four declared candidates. Dennis Girouard, Emily Sands, Rosemary Mills, Bonnie Swift. Feeling that bringing new faces into the library management continues to be the best way to get over some of the past issues the Board voted unanimously to appoint Whitaker Road resident Rosemary Mills to serve as a Library Trustee until March town meeting.

**2019 Tax Rate:** The Selectboard authorized a tax rate of \$26 for 2019. The 2018 tax rate was \$26.90. The reduced rate is due to reduced need for property tax dollars to support the local school district. In establishing the rate the Selectboard elected to raise \$110,000 in fund balance for future tax rate smoothing as recommended by Town Administrator Halleran.

**Other Business:** The Selectboard voted to seal the nonpublic session minutes of 10/2. The Board reviewed orders and correspondence.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday November 6th, 2019**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
                              Rob Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm

**Public Comment:** None

**Highway:** Rich updated the Selectboard on the finish work on Daniels, Hell Hollow and Mill Village Road.

The Selectmen expressed disappointment that the new Highway Truck from S.G. Read has not come in yet and will not be available for the start of winter. Road Agent Collins was asked to look into other options. No money has yet been transferred to Read.

The Selectmen approved a single sign, proposed by KUA, to replace the town road name sign and stop sign with a single sign that will also include information about visitor parking for the campus. KUA will be responsible for the sign and its maintenance and it must meet traffic manual standards and if necessary, get NHDOT approval. Main Street to the top of the hill is a State Highway.

**Fire:** Chief Taylor updated the board on his department's budget and gave an overview of recent fire calls. The wind storm of last weekend stretched their resources pretty thin with seven calls in one night.

Chief Taylor is working on his new budget. He indicated that there are several significant expenditures that have not yet hit his 2019 budget which is significantly under spent at this time. Increasing the fire department's capital reserve fund is a top priority for 2020.

**Police:** Chief Roberts is moving forward with a plan to hire new part time officer Kyle Dawson to the full time position that is open. Kyle will have to attend the full time officer academy in April of 2020. The Selectmen supported this approach. The town has been unable to hire a full time certified police officer.

Chief Roberts would like to encumber some of his unexpended budget for radio (portable and mobile) replacement. The Police Budget is under spent due to Paul having been out on medical leave earlier in the year. The board agreed with this approach as long as the town's overall budget remains in good shape.

**Finance Committee:** As is customary with the first meeting with this group, the Selectmen shared with the group details about the recent tax rate setting the new rate is \$26.00 down \$.90/\$1,000, the status of the current budget, 18% of the budget year left with 23% of the budget left and general plans for 2020. Adjustments to the town's solid waste management plan and a second vote to replace the Meriden Library are expected to be the key issues for 2020. Members of the Meriden Library Building Committee attended the season to answer any questions. The group also reviewed the draft warrant which contains an article to adopt the "All Veterans" tax credit. There was strong support from all in attendance for additional capital planning for town buildings.

**Town Office:** KUA Study Committee begins its first meeting in mid November.

**Delinquent Taxpayers:** Halleran was instructed to meet with two taxpayers who are more than three years in arrears and make it clear that monthly payments for taxes are necessary to avoid the town beginning the process of taking their property for unpaid taxes.

**Boston Post Cane:** The Selectmen instructed Stephen Halleran to contact Elizabeth Backofen about receiving the Boston Post Cane as Plainfield's oldest citizen. The Selectmen will establish a time to visit her and present the cane.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday November 20th, 2019**  
**Plainfield Library**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt, Chair  
                              Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm

**Public Comment:** None

**Road Agent Report:** The early onset of winter has kept busy sanding and salting roads. Rich still has no expected data of delivery for the new International mid sized truck.

**Police Report:** The Selectboard approved Chief Roberts nomination to move Kyle Dawson from part time to full time employee, filling an open slot. The Chief does hope to add a part time administrative assistant to the department for 2020.

Chief Roberts reviewed the activity log for the last week.

**Facility Report:** Facility Manager Atwater is now fully engaged on the highway department employee lounge project. Brad is also working on estimates for converting the Meriden Town Hall to heat pumps for heating and cooling needs.

**Town office:** The Selectboard signed two tax payment agreements with residents who are in arrears. If the agreements are not honored the owners are aware that the town will begin the process for taking ownership of the two properties.

The Selectmen agreed to, at the request of Barrington Power, enter into negotiations to renegotiate the current PILOT arrangement for the solar array located on school property.

The Board reviewed and answered some budgeting questions for Town Administrator Halleran. Dennis Girouard encouraged the Selectboard to do more comprehensive capital planning for the town. He is concerned that the Police Department does not have adequate funding.

The Selectmen will present the Boston Post Cane to Elizabeth "Libby" Backofen on Monday November 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am at the Backofen residence William Gage Road.

The Board reviewed some names provided by Helen Koehler for possible Conservation Commission appointments.

The meeting was recessed at 8:15pm until Monday morning at 10:30am for the Boston Post Cane presentation.

**Monday 10:30am**

Selectmen Ron Eberhardt and Eric Brann accompanied by Steve Halleran, Tony Swett, Michelle Marsh, and Stanley Dole met at the town office and journey over snow covered roads to the home of Elizabeth "Libby" Backofen to present the Boston Post Cane. Born on 4/22/1924 Libby is the oldest resident of Plainfield, being 11 days older than Hazel McNamara. The presentation went well with Libby sharing some of her early memories of having moved to Plainfield with her late husband Walter. She described restoring the cape home she still lives in on several hundred acres of land adorned with fruit trees and fields. Libby also shared with the group some of her opinions on politics, Plainfield and its many residents.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday December 4th, 2019**  
**Meriden Town Hall**

Selectmen present:     Robert Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm

**Public Comment:** Bonnie Swift asked the Selectboard to consider having a railing installed along the ADA access for the Meriden Town Hall.

**County Commissioners:** Members of the County Delegation and Administration team met with the Selectboard to update them on the county's plans to renovate the nursing home facility in Unity. The 35 million dollar project, if approved, will be completed in 2023 and will be paid for with a loan. The Commissioners feel confident that new Federal Medicaid reimbursement money will pay for the bulk of the project. Plainfield is roughly 6% of the county tax, paying \$800,000 per year as our share of Country services. If Federal money does not pay for the loan, Plainfield's share would be \$78,000/year or about \$.25 on the tax rate.

**Facility Manger:** Brad Atwater reviewed the status of several projects he is working on. Most notably is the highway garage break room project and soliciting proposals for heat pumps for the town offices.

The Selectboard spent the rest of the meeting discussing the 2020 budget. In order to allow all three members to be present, the Selectboard will meet next on Friday Morning December 13<sup>th</sup> to workshop the budget proposal prepared by Town Administrator Halleran.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann



**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**Wednesday December 18th, 2019**  
**Plainfield Library**

Selectmen present:     Ron Eberhardt  
                              Robert Taylor  
                              Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm

**Highway:** Road Agent Collins updated the Board about highway winter maintenance over the last two weeks. Multiple snow and ice events have required lots of man hours and material costs for November and December have been high. Rich is placing the plow on truck one, the old one is eleven years old and is broken in several places. The new plow will cost \$3,500.

**Police:** Chief Roberts requested that certified police officer and resident Roland Daniels be added to the department as a part time officer. Mr. Daniels is retiring but has expressed an interest in help the Plainfield police department beginning in the spring. The request was granted.

Chief Roberts reviewed some year end purchases he would like to make totaling \$47,000. In the end the Selectboard approved up to \$25,000 in purchases with an emphasis on improving the department's radios. The Police budget is significantly under spent this year, Paul was out on medical leave for one quarter of the year. The approval to make the purchases is contingent on the overall all town budget having sufficient funds remaining at year end.

Chairman Eberhardt made a motion at 6:40pm to go into executive session for a personnel matter. The motion was seconded and voted in the affirmative. Taylor yes, Brann, yes, Eberhardt yes.

The Board returned to the public meeting at 7:05pm.

**Solid Waste Committee:** Members of the committee presented their initial findings to the Selectboard and Finance Committee: 86% of the more than 50% who responded to the town survey support continuing curbside collection of garbage, 96% support continuing the curbside recycling. This being the case the committee will likely be recommending that the Selectboard continue the program with some modification designed to contain costs.

**Finance Committee:** Much of the remainder of the meeting was spent working with the Finance Committee on the budget. Judy Ptak, Clint Swift, Bonnie Swift and Dennis Girouard continued to express concerns about the process being followed for this project. Bonnie Swift asked that the project file be amended to include a clear one page summary of costs and revenues. Members of the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen asked about various funding possibilities, current taxes, fund balance, borrowing. The overall town spend plan excluding the new library stands would require \$74,000 in new tax money to be raised adding \$.25 to the town tax rate.

**Other Business:** Following up on various projects completed this year the Selectmen approved the Town Administrator's recommendation that a total of \$102,461 be requested from the Trustees of Trust Funds from which the Selectmen have authority to expend. See attached.

The Selectboard's next meeting will be Thursday January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm Meriden Town Hall.

On the recommendation of the Town Administrator, Moderator, Finance Committee and public in attendance the Selectmen voted unanimously to purchase new polling booths for town voting and to use the current 2019 budget for a funding source rather than a separate warrant article at the 2020 town meeting. The cost of new booths will be \$4,500.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann