

1 **Plainfield Board of Selectmen**  
2 **Weekly Notes**

3  
4 **February 15th 2022**

5  
6 **BOS Commitments this week: Wednesday February 16th 2022 MTH 6pm**

7  
8 6:00pm Minute approval/Public comment  
9 Department reports  
10 Sign the 2022 warrant  
11 Finalize Franklin Building Permit Decision  
12 Purchasing policy discussion  
13 Town Meeting presentations  
14 9:30pm Adjourn

15  
16 Join Zoom Meeting  
17 <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89728247875>

18  
19  
20 Meeting ID: 897 2824 7875  
21  
22

1 **draft**  
2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
3 **Wednesday February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022**  
4 **Meriden Town Hall**

5  
6 Selectmen present:

7 Eric Brann Chair  
8 Ron Eberhardt  
9 Amy Lappin  
10 Steve Halleran , TA  
11 Richard Collins RA  
12 Stephanie Schell HS-Z  
13

14 Z designates Zoom Participant

15  
16 **Others via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Nancy Norwalk,  
17 Eric Sorenson, FC, Mark Hardy FC, Mike Sutherland FC, Paul Franklin, Holly and Vern  
18 Braswell, Virginia Drye, Erin Darrow  
19

20 Chairman Brann opened the meeting at 6pm. The minutes of the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were  
21 approved.  
22

23 **Public Comment:** None  
24

25 **Stephanie Schell:** Health Officer Schell was pleased with the progress Plainfield is making on  
26 containing COVID 19. Case numbers have dropped and vaccination rates are up. At this time  
27 Stephanie has withdrawn her request for a mask mandate, but continues to believe that the use of  
28 masks should be strongly encouraged throughout town.  
29

30 **Road Agent Collins:** Rich has three proposals each for the new dump truck and the new loader.  
31 The Selectboard will review them, at this time the International Truck and the Case Loader have  
32 the lowest competitive offer. The Selectboard has approved replacing each of these pieces of  
33 equipment this year. Rich cautioned it could be two years before we see the new truck.  
34

35 **American Recovery Funds:** Town Administrator Halleran reported that the final rules issued by  
36 the US Treasury Department indicate that any town that receives less than \$10,000,000 may  
37 consider the funds revenue loss and use them for any valid governmental purpose. Plainfield will  
38 reserve \$250,000. The Selectboard will hold a public hearing and discussion at a future meeting  
39 on how the funds should be utilized.  
40

41 **River Road:** Engineer Erin Darrow updated the Board on her work to get River Road repaired.  
42 The NH DES is completing its review of the wetland application. Erin has started the application  
43 process for funding through the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Work  
44 estimates are in the range of \$600,000 to \$800,000 dollars. If funding can be locked in Erin feels  
45 the work can and should be done this coming summer.  
46

47 **Franklin Building Permit:** The Franklin's are asking for a "reasonable exception" as allowed by  
48 RSA 674:41 to obtain a building permit for a new house on land whose access is a class VI  
49 highway (Farm Road). The lot does have frontage on Stage Road, but that the cost of using that  
50 frontage is prohibitive and warrants the exception. Board members discussed the Planning Board  
51 comments on the proposal, reviewed the existing ordinance and the Franklin application. Member

1 Brann moved to deny the permit citing the need to use as much as 2,000' of the Farm Road a  
2 class VI highway as not qualifying as a "reasonable exception." The motion was seconded.  
3 During discussion all Board members felt that the application had some merit, the lot does have  
4 road frontage on Stage Road. However, there was general agreement from all three members that  
5 the use and alteration of that much class VI road was unreasonable. The motion to deny was  
6 approved on a vote of 3 to 0. The Selectboard remain open to a petition to upgrade the road to a  
7 town maintained road. Since the ordinance was adopted this method has been used multiple times  
8 to make otherwise unbuildable lots, buildable. Zoning Administrator Halleran noted that should  
9 the Franklin's appeal to the ZBA, he will not participate in that hearing; he is an abutter to the  
10 Town Farm.

11  
12 At this point Paul Franklin joined the Zoom meeting and was informed of the board's decision.  
13 Mr. Franklin expressed frustration at having missed the board discussion.

14  
15 **2022 Warrant:** The Selectboard reviewed and finalized the warrant, voting unanimously to  
16 recommend each of the money articles (Budget, reserves, truck and loader). The Selectboard also  
17 added their endorsement to the Community Power plan article 8. The business portion of Town  
18 Meeting will be Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 1pm and will follow the School District Meeting  
19 which starts at 9am on that same day.

20  
21 **Budget Hearing:** Chairman Brann opened the hearing. Town Administrator Halleran explained  
22 that there were no substantive changes since the first hearing. The town's audited fund balance  
23 stands at \$1,075,000, making it likely that the Select board will again this year use fund balance  
24 over \$1,000,000 to reduce taxes. This has the potential to reduce the anticipated tax rate increase  
25 of \$.35 by \$.24.

26  
27 The rest of the hearing was spent discussing reserve funding with the Finance Committee. While  
28 there was general acknowledgement that the current system has worked some members think it  
29 might be better to use current dollars to pay off a loan package for new equipment. In this way  
30 those getting the benefit of the equipment would also be paying the bills.

31  
32 The Finance Committee also encouraged the Selectboard to meet periodically with the School  
33 Board as a way to improve capital planning.

34  
35 The hearing was closed at 7:45pm.

36  
37 The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.  
38  
39