

## **SELECTBOARD REPORT -2016**

As always, we thank our dedicated professional staff and the many volunteers who, through their time and effort, make Plainfield the special place that it is. Here is an update of some of our 2016 work. Please visit the Town website at [www.plainfieldnh.org](http://www.plainfieldnh.org) for complete minutes of 2016 Selectboard meetings.

\* 2016 paving projects were Penniman Road and Thrasher Road. Road Agent Collins and his crew ditched, sloped, trimmed brush and improved drainage on both roads. We were again fortunate to have the assistance of retired NH civil engineer Jeff Albright for those projects.

\* We again thank the Highway Garage Study Group for their work. They completed an extensive report in August, 2016. The full report can be viewed at [http://plainfieldnh.org/ptgsg\\_rpt.htm](http://plainfieldnh.org/ptgsg_rpt.htm). A new well has been drilled, providing potable water for the crew, the septic tank has been pumped, improvements have been made to the fueling station, and the floor drain system has been improved. We will have some decisions to make in the not too distant future regarding improving or replacing this building. A first step has been the hiring of Municipal Resources Inc. from Meredith, NH to perform an evaluation of the highway department work responsibilities and equipment needs as it relates to sizing of a new highway garage facility.

\* After 18 months, Officer William Heighes has been unable to return to work, due to continued disability. We were fortunate to hire an experienced officer, resident Tony Swett. Officer Swett began his employment after Columbus Day weekend, so our department is now operating at full strength again.

\* In response to requests by a number of residents, the Selectboard has begun holding the first meeting of each quarter in the meeting room of the Phillip Read Memorial Library. Some Plainfield Village residents have requested that we hold alternate meetings in PRML and in the Town Hall. We will discuss that possibility.

\* The Police Department has leased two new vehicles, delivered last spring. We are looking at options for a third, as the Crown Victoria cruiser is in need of replacement.

\* Town Attorney Barry Schuster has appealed the Federal Government's offer of a \$31,000 settlement toward the \$136,000 back taxes owed on the Brown property. We are still awaiting their response.

\* The building and property adjacent to our gravel pit on River Road has been donated to the town by the owner, Dr. Klings. Road Agent Collins and Brad Atwater have been working on the building, fixing the roof, installing garage doors and cleaning it out. This building will provide us with much needed storage area for our highway department.

\* The NH Board of Emergency Services has completed the 911 GPS mapping for the town. Plainfield was one of the last towns in NH to be completed. This mapping will result in faster response times for 911 emergency calls.

\* After a study of other NH towns with Town Administrators, and discussions with our Police Chief and Road Agent, the Selectboard has changed our Town Administrator's job

description so that the Administrator has direct supervision of the Police Chief and the Road Agent. All agreed that since the Administrator has much more day to day contact and communication with them than the Selectboard does, this additional responsibility for the Town Administrator made sense. This does not change or reduce the statutory powers and responsibilities of the Selectboard.

\* Resident Brad Atwater has been hired for the part time position of Facilities Manager. The position will involve planning work and making repairs and improvements to town facilities. We expect that this position will save the town money, in that staying on top of and anticipating needs will be more cost effective in the long run.

\* The Plainfield and Meriden Fire Departments, with the support of the Selectboard, have begun exploring the possibility of becoming municipal entities. This process is legally complex, and will move forward over the course of the next year. We expect that there may be a warrant article for this at the 2018 town meeting.

\* In response to discussion at the 2016 town meeting, the Meriden Village Study Group has been meeting under the chairmanship of Dewey Jones. They are considering how the community may wish to see the village evolve over the next few years.

\* The Selectboard approved the closing of the Plainfield Town Hall from January 1 through April 1 each year. The furnace will be turned off and the plumbing will be drained. This seems to make economic sense.

We invite you to join us at one of our meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Contact one of us or call the Town Office at 469-3201 if you wish to express an opinion or present an idea. There are many opportunities for Plainfield citizens to become involved, and your participation makes for a more vibrant community. Here is hoping for a good 2017 for Plainfield!

See you at Town Meeting,  
*Ron Eberhardt, Rob Taylor, Judy Belyea*

