

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Thursday January 2nd, 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt
 Robert Taylor
 Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm

Public Comment: Dennis Girouard asked about the responses to the “blue card” and asked when the Board would be discussing the results. He was given an electronic copy of the results. Chairman Eberhardt indicated that the Board would be discussing the results on a future meeting agenda.

Suzanne Spencer, accompanied by a 6-8 supporters of her requested presented the Selectboard with a letter asking to consider Nancy Liston for the Stephen H. Taylor Award for the 2020 Town Meeting. The Board agreed to take this matter up, possible as soon as the end of the meeting, but asked anyone in attendance at that time to keep the results of any decision to themselves.

Vern Braswell, noted he disagrees with the notion that the town needs two libraries. Further, he feels that the town’s Facility Manager is too involved in town committees and has conflicts of interest.

Highway: Road Agent Collins reported that all of the town’s highway trucks are now back in service. Two breakdowns lead to a very slow response to the last storm. Rich was encouraged to seek out help from local contractors when breakdowns are going to significantly delay plowings.

Police Department: After updating the group on the department log. Chief Roberts and the Selectboard held a discussion about the department’s organizational structure and pay rates. Paul would like to promote one of his officers to Sargent. He was encouraged to put that proposal into a formal request including a proposed pay step for the promotion. Typically, town employees receive pay increases in April after town meeting.

Finance Committee/Solid Waste Group: In advance of a meeting in mid January with Jim Toher of Casella the group began to discuss various options for the town’s solid waste management program. The survey that was sent out had a 60% response rate and more than 80% wish to keep garbage collection and more than 90% wish to keep curbside recycling going. Options under consideration include the benefits of short or long term contracts, splitting the program into two facets recycling and garbage collection. There are other companies that could bid on garbage collection, it’s highly likely that only Casella can do the curbside recycling that we do now. There is an option for standardizing the recycling containers that would reduce the cost increase, but to take advantage of that, Casella wants a 5 year commitment. At the root of all this is that recycling markets are depressed and the town going forward will now be exposed to a recycling processing fee. Our now expired contract had no such fee. Sue Williams noted that Plainfield has had a recycling/trash collection program for decades and that, in her view, we should not eliminate any or all of the program based on short term market changes.

Facility Manager: The Selectmen and Brad Atwater held a discussion about the balance the town would like to see with the facility manager. The manager is tasked with the up keep of town buildings and planning for future capital projects including the Ready for 100 Initiative. Finding the balance between the planning portion of the job and the construction portion of the job is at issue. The board also discussed whether the position should be moved from a contracted service to a part time employment.

Other Business: Town Administrator Halleran updated the board on financial year end activities. The town’s audit begins on 1/14. Plainfield was the recipient of some very generous year end giving. One resident provided more than \$8,000 in donations, including \$7,500 for the Schell Community Fund.

The Selectboard discussed the Stephen H. Taylor Award. The period for nominations remains open any recipient will not be announced until the 2020 Town Meeting.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Thursday January 15nd , 2020
Plainfield Library

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt
 Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm

Public Comment: Several members of the public spoke in opposition to the plans to replace the Meriden Library. Both Holly Braswell and Vern Braswell felt the project has not been well planned and is an unnecessary expense. They both asked the Selectmen to consider not supporting the article.

Dennis Girouard questioned the rate that Atwater Construction charges for project work as part of the Facility Manager position. Halleran noted that it was his decision to treat the position as an independent contractor rather than an employee. Essentially, Atwater Construction is providing services to the town, some planning some repair work. Dennis asked the Selectboard to take a close look at this going forward.

Virginia Drye thanked the Highway Department for the work they are doing with the sidewalk in the Village. Mike Collins work with the snow blower has been, in her view, exceptional and very much appreciated.

Tim Toher Casella Waste: Building on earlier discussions Jim took the time to walk the Selectboard, Solid Waste Committee and Finance Committee through the pricing for any new contract. Essentially collection services have remained unchanged, but all town's will now be asked to participate in the recycling costs and risks. This adds \$30,000 to the contract. That number can be reduced by \$11,000 if recycling is "Toterized" but for Casella to do so will require a five year contract. Jim also discussed the end markets for some of the recycling and explained what Plainfield can do to improve the quality of its products. Mainly, rinse materials, keep plastic bags out of the stream, and reduce or eliminate glass.

Budget Hearing: The first of two budget hearings was held, the second will be February 5th. Town Administrator Halleran first took the group through the proposed warrant which contains 10 article. Bev Widger offered some clarification wording for the Meriden Library article. Turing to the budget Halleran pointed out areas of greatest change. The spending plan asks for \$90,000 more than the previous year. Most of this increase is tied to salaries and benefits, the recycling/garbage disposal costs and winter maintenance costs. The proposed budget and special warrant articles including the Meriden Library replacement would add \$.85 to the tax rate if all are approved. Bonnie Swift asked that at the February 5th hearing if a list of planned capital building expenditures could be made available.

Other Business: The Selectmen approved a promotion from Corporal to Sargent for Anthony Swett of the Police Department. The Board also abated \$44 in interest charges for the new owners of the Plainfield Store. As a result of confusion at the closing the new owners where

unaware that the tax was due. Payment in full of the tax was made immediately once they became aware of the oversight.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday February 5th , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt
 Robert Taylor
 Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm

Public Comment: As a point of information resident Diane Rogers indicated that she believes there is a Possum living under the Plainfield Town Hall.

Police: Chief Roberts and the Selectboard worked out the process to be followed for Paul to access the \$20,000 encumbered last year from the Police Budget. The money has been earmarked for new radios. Paul will bring proposals to the Town Administrator.

Highway Department: Road Agent Collins that the town's chipper may need replacement. The 1988 unit is not working at full power. A hydraulic pump problem is suspected. Previously, the town approved the purchase of a new chipper. Consensus could not be reached on a new unit and the project lapsed.

Fire Department: Chief Taylor updated the Selectmen on his department's calls over the last two weeks. Station coverage for Lebanon and Enfield and assisting in Enfield at a the Chase Auto Salvage fire were mentioned.

Solid Waste Group (SWG): Mark Morgan delivered the group's report to the Selectmen. The report will be in the Town Report and basically recommends continuing the existing program for another year while a detailed RFP can be developed. The SWG is willing to continue working on the project. The Selectmen accepted the recommendations voting to having the Town Administrator act upon them

Facility Manager: Brad Atwater took the assembled group through a spreadsheet that he has been using to prioritize necessary work on all seven town buildings. The spreadsheet represents his work toward developing a capital improvements plan for the town's buildings.

The hour being just after 7pm, the conference room being jammed full of interested residents Chairman Eberhardt opened the second and final budget hearing. The group began its review of all ten articles on the 2020 draft warrant.

Art1. Election of officers.

Art 2. Meriden Library Replacement: Public Comment received centered on concerns over process followed, mainly the decision to use Bensonwood a design build firm without a formal bid process. Some felt that two libraries are not necessary. Others felt that the project is warranted and at \$183,000 for a \$1,046,000 building represents a good deal for the town. Selectman Eberhardt noted while the process could always have been better, he will be supporting the article. Selectman Brann noted that he has listened to all sides and will be voting against the project. He shares concerns about process and whether or not the expenditure is necessary. Selectman Taylor moved that the Board recommend the appropriation, the motion was seconded and voted in the affirmative on a vote of 2-1.

Art 3. Operating Budget, no changes since the first budget hearing. Several expenditure questions were answered and the Selectboard approved recommending the appropriation on a vote of 3-0.

Art 4. Reserve Funding, no changes since the first budget hearing Several investment questions were asked and answered. The Selectboard approved recommending the appropriation on a vote of 3-0.

Art 5. All Veteran's Credit, the Selectboard approved recommending the appropriation on a vote of 3-0.

Art 6. KUA Study no change.

Art 7. Finance Committee no change.

Art 8. Accept town report, no change.

Art 9. Carbon Tax, by petition, no change.

Art 10. Any other business, no change.

The final budget hearing was closed.

Other Business: As recommended by the energy committee the Selectmen agreed to appoint the town's existing energy committee to serve as the Town's Electric Aggregation Committee. The next stop is for this group to develop a plan that will be presented at a future town meeting.

The Selectmen spent the rest of the meeting signing orders and reviewing correspondence. The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday February 19th , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt
 Robert Taylor
 Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm

Public Comment: Clint Swift asked if town ordinances/policies could be placed online. Halleran noted there is a binder at town office that has them all in it, but it would be very reasonable to link a combined PDF file showing ordinances to the website. The Selectmen directed Halleran to have this done.

Dennis Girouard questioned the process for using the ADA Fund for the Meriden Library project. As agents to expend the Board of Selectmen and town meeting have the authority to direct the funds usage for the purpose for which it was established.

William Knight, Trail Director provided a history of the town's trail system/Nordic facility that is operated from the PES parking lot. Bill asked the Selectmen for permission to use \$5,400 from the trail fund to purchase a new trail drag. The request was granted on a vote of 3 to 0. Selectmen Taylor noted that the entire program is all self funded through donations; virtually no public tax money has been used.

Police: Chief Roberts updated the Selectmen on police work the last two weeks. The department has continued to have trouble with patients from Mt Valley Treatment Center leaving the facility. The Selectmen asked Halleran to schedule the executive director of Mt. Valley for time at an upcoming Selectboard meeting.

Chief Roberts presented the Board with proposals for replacing four radios in the department. The Selectmen approved a \$20,000 encumbrance from last year's approved PD budget. The Selectboard accepted the work and voted 3 to 0 to authorize the \$20,007 purchase to upgrade the department's mobile and portable radios.

Highway Department: The new International truck has still not been delivered. The Selectmen are considering cancelling the order for the truck. Its not going to be available for this winter and nearly a year has been gone since it was ordered. Halleran will communicate this to Scott Reed of SG Reed Inc. The town has a long history of purchasing International Trucks. Mechanical performance and now this issue have the Board rethinking that position.

Town Office: The Selectmen began a discussion about town policies and procedures. A complete review of all town policies is being considered. It has been pointed out that the town's purchasing policy is more than 11 years old and is out of date with current practices. The town has never endorsed a formal bid procedure, instead electing to rely on the quotation and RFP process. This discussion expanded to include the process for developing policy and procedure. Halleran will speak with Town Attorney Barry Schuster.

Facility Manager: At Town Administrator Halleran's request the Selectmen held a discussion with Brad Atwater about the facility manager position. The town has had the position for three years and this is an opportunity to discuss the work that is being done. Brad noted that the job has broken down into two sections, brick and mortar repairs and maintenance and strategic planning. The town currently contracts with Atwater Construction for this work. At issue is how much of this work can the town afford or not afford to do? The idea of establishing a Facility Committee to work with the FM on projects and capital budgeting was discussed. The current budget for the FM work is about \$12,500/year. All agreed that the

position has value, the Selectboard is considering whether its better to contract for the work or to hire a part time employee to be the facility manager.

At this time, Selectman Taylor moved to go into nonpublic session to discuss contracts vs employee compensation for the Facility Manager. The motion was seconded and voted in the affirmative, Taylor yes, Eberhardt yes, Brann yes.

The Board entered nonpublic session at 8:40pm and returned to public session at 9:10pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday March 4th , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt
 Robert Taylor
 Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm

SG Reed: Scott Reed updated the Selectboard on the long awaited highway truck that was ordered last April. Scott apologized for the delay, noting that many other towns are in the same situation. A labor dispute at the factory and greater than expected commercial orders for vehicles has led to the delay. He is trying to get some additional warranties from International to compensate his town's for the long wait times.

Mt. Valley Treatment: Tim DiGiacoma, Everett Logan, and Carl Lovejoy met with the Selectboard to discuss the experience with a recent patient that resulted in multiple police calls over a two week period. They assured the town that this was not the "norm" for the facility and pledged to do enhanced training with their staff about assisting the police when asked to do so. The Selectmen thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Finance Committee: Chairman Sutherland shared with the Selectboard the Finance Committee's recommendation that the town take some action to either explain why its not participating in GASB #75 (actuary study of post retirement employee benefit liability, of which Plainfield likely has little or none) for the annual audit. Plainfield, like many town's, has not perform this study which costs about \$1,000/year and as a result has a qualified audit. The Selectboard determined that the best course of action was to hire a company to do the study. Halleran will see if the work can be included in the 2019 audit.

Highway Report: Plainfield roads are now posted for 6 tons. Road Agent Collins and his crew have been working on repairing muddy roads. March has been unseasonably warm this year. The Selectmen, on the recommendation of Town Administrator Halleran agreed to meet next Monday with the owner of Modern Protective Coatings to discuss options for preserving the steel under the Meriden Covered Bridge. This work could happen as early as April of this year.

Police Report: Chief Roberts discussed coverage plans for town and school meetings alone with Tuesday voting. The Plainfield School is in session that on voting day.

The Chief discussed conceptual plans for replacing the town's three cruisers in 2021.

Public Comment: Dennis Girouard asked for clarification on the difference between and bid and an RFP. Vernon Braswell apologized for distributing a pamphlet about the Meriden Library project that did not have his name on it. He indicated he has corrected this going forward.

Facility Manager: Brad Atwater asked for authorization to spend up to \$15,000 on weatherization projects for the Plainfield Library and the Plainfield Fire Station. 35% of the work will be paid for by Eversource. A private company will do the air sealing and insulation work. The project has a 12 year payback with a simple rate of return of 8%. The Selectboard did not

approve the work, preferring to defer action on the project until after a three person facility committee has been established to work with Brad. The charge of that committee was discussed. Brad indicated that utility funding for the project could be lost after 60 days.

Purchasing Policy: The Selectmen took no action on this issue, deciding to first consider the appointment of a policy committee who would first develop a policy for making policies.

Chairman Eberhardt at 9:00pm moved to enter nonpublic session for the purpose of addressing two complaints against town officials that could adversely effect their reputations. Taylor yes, Brann yes, Eberhardt yes.

The Selectmen came out of nonpublic session at 9:40pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41pm.

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday March 9th , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt
Robert Taylor
Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 3pm

The Selectmen met to set up the polling place for tomorrow's town meeting voting. At 3:45pm the Board met with Scott Roystan owner of Modern Protective Coatings to discuss his company's proposal to clean and paint with a Zinc based compound the structural steel under the Meriden Covered Bridge. This work needs to be done to preserve the steel. Scott noted that his company has been doing NHDOT work since 1969, his dad started the company. He is currently working on a project in Montpelier Vt and has a "soft" spot in his schedule for three weeks after that. He has proposed very aggressive pricing to the town to fill that slot before his summer work begins. He provided recent NHDOT bid results for bridge painting to back up his assertion that the pricing is below market.

The project would take three to four weeks. While considering this approach the Selectmen asked Road Agent Collins to remove a small section of the covered bridge decking to better assess the condition of the top flange of the steel. The Selectmen may authorize highway to replace the decking on the bridge at this same time. This would allow the top of the beams to be cleaned and painted as well.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Friday March 13th , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt
 Eric Brann
Others Present: Moderator Paul Franklin
 Police Chief Paul Roberts
 Facility Manager Brad Atwater

The emergency meeting opened at 2pm

As allowed by the emergency provisions of RSA 91-A, the Selectmen met with Moderator Paul Franklin to discuss the postponement of the Plainfield Town Meeting “Business Portion” scheduled for tomorrow morning. The United States has now declared a national emergency due to the COVID 19 pandemic, as a result gathers of large numbers of people are being discouraged. Both the Selectmen and Moderator have heard from members of the medical community who strongly advise postponing.

Having sought the counsel of key Plainfield officials, Moderator Paul Franklin, as allowed by RSA 40:4, postponed the March 14th business portion of town meeting until Saturday June 13th at 10:00am at the Plainfield School.

The rest of the meeting was spent on press releases and developing strategies to get the word. The meeting adjourned 3pm.

Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Eric Brann

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Thursday March 26th , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
Eric Brann
Rob Taylor

Others Present: Stephanie Schell-Zoom
Bonnie Swift-Zoom
Vern Braswell-Zoom
Holly Braswell-Zoom
Mike Sutherland-Zoom
Jeff Allbright-Zoom
Mike Sutherland-Zoom
Helen Koehler-Phone
Bev Widger-Zoom
Nancy Norwalk-Phone
Brad Atwater

The meeting opened at 6pm:
(Historical note: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Selectboard of Plainfield held its first ever meeting using video conferencing, in our case the Zoom platform.)

Robert Taylor was elected as Board Chairman

Public Comment: Bev Widger asked about the town's COVID 19 preparedness plans. Chairman Taylor indicated the Board will be discussing this later in the meeting. The Selectmen approved a lien release prepared by Town Counsel Barry Schuster concerning an abandoned trailer at the Meriden Trailer Park. The release is necessary to finalize the disposal plans. The town has no hopes of recoup the taxes owed from the owner who has died or the estate.

The Selectmen approved up to a \$100,000 expenditure on the Meriden Covered Bridge to clean and coat the steel understructure and to replace the existing wooden deck. Town Administrator Halleran was authorized to finalize the project details with Modern Protective Coatings of Hudson NH.

The Selectboard froze all employee pay rates until the town's budget is approved at the June 13th town meeting. The March 14th session was postponed due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Any approved changes for employee compensation typically go into effect on April 1st. Human Services Director Stephanie Schell joined the meeting to discuss with the Selectboard her efforts to communicate with Plainfield's senior and special needs populations during the Pandemic. The Selectboard offered their help. Plainfield has many residents and businesses that stand ready to assist anyone that needs help. Bev Widger encouraged the town to be as proactive as possible in making sure that all residents feel included. Stephanie noted that she is making about 80 calls per week.

Facility Manager Brad Atwater discussed some work he would like to do to sure up the foundation at the Plainfield Town Hall. Board members agreed to take a look at this planned work prior to next week's meeting. The Selectmen will visit two town buildings next week, the

Gravel Pit Annex and the Plainfield Town Hall. Next week's meeting at the Meriden Town Hall will start at 6:30pm.
The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.
Ron Eberhardt, Chair

Robert Taylor

Eric Brann

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday April 1st , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair
 Eric Brann
 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom

Others Present: Stephanie Schell-Zoom Bonnie Swift-Zoom
Mike Sutherland-Zoom Nancy Norwalk-Phone Aaron Gomo-Zoom
Bev Widger-Zoom Brad Atwater

The meeting opened at 5:30pm: As advertised, the Selectmen started the session by touring the Gravel Pit Annex building located at #67 Ferry Hill Road. This visit was part of the board's capital improvements planning for town buildings. The building is served by electricity and has been made weather tight and currently serves as highway department cold storage. There is lots of underutilized space in the upper level of two story 80x32 facility.

The Board moved on to the Plainfield Town Hall to view the settling issues that Facility Manager Brad Atwater would like to address. At the site the group was provided a packet of information on the town hall left by Nancy Norwalk.

6:30pm:

Chairman Taylor reconvened the meeting at the Meriden Town Hall. Emergency Management Director Jim McGarragher and Human Services Director Stephanie Schell both updated the Selectboard on efforts to reach all Plainfield's population as the town goes through the COVID 19 pandemic. Curbside food care packages are available at the Food Pantry. Town Administrator Halleran, Jim and Stephanie are each listening in daily to the state conference calls.

Halleran reported that the Meriden Covered bridge steel preservation project will likely begin next week. The covered bridge will likely be closed for one month.

The Selectmen approved the starting of the 2020 pick up assessing work. No interior inspections will be done until later in the year, but assessor Hildum will work in the office a few days the end of April doing the work that he is able. Things like outbuildings, lot splits, abatements. Once the pandemic has passed the necessary interior inspections will be scheduled.

The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Robert Taylor, Chair

Eric Brann

Ron Eberhardt

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday April 15th , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair-Zoom
 Eric Brann
 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom

Others Present: Stephanie Schell-Zoom Bonnie Swift-Zoom
Nancy Norwalk-Phone Bev Widger-Zoom James McCarragher –Zoom

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order:

Public Comment: None.

Stephanie Schell and James McCarragher updated the Selectboard on their efforts to assist Plainfield residents and EMS through the COVID 19 pandemic. Thankfully, so far our area of the state has not been hard hit by the disease. Stephanie is helping many of our residents who are staying close to home. Jim is working with EMS to make sure they have enough protective equipment (PPE).

Highway: Spring grader has started. Rich keeping the crew separated, some working in the shop some out on the roads. The Meriden Covered Bridge project is scheduled to begin on Monday.

Police: Chief Roberts outlined his efforts to keep the necessary policing happening in our town, but also to keep officers healthy and out of harms way. Social distancing is the norm. Paul continues to have concerns about making sure each cruiser is outfitted with PPE.

Town Office: Assessing work for 2020 begins next week. No interior inspections will be done, but new buildings will be measured and listed from the outside.

The Selectboard unanimously approved hiring HRXperienced a consulting business owned by Plainfield residents Bev Widger to perform an update of the town's employee policies and handbook. Bev will also assist with updating the town's wage and salary program.

The Selectmen, as part of the Ready for 100 initiative also approved energy improvements for the Plainfield Library and Plainfield Fire station. The work involves spending up to \$15,000 35% of the work will be paid for by Eversource. A private company will do the air sealing and insulation work. The project has a 12 year payback with a simple rate of return of 8%.

In approving this work the Selectmen pressed for establishing the Building Committee to work with Brad on capital improvements planning for all eight town buildings. The Selectmen hope of have a group named by June 3rd.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Robert Taylor, Chair

Eric Brann

Ron Eberhardt

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday May 6th , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair-Zoom
Eric Brann
Ron Eberhardt-Zoom

Others Present: Stephanie Schell-Zoom Bonnie Swift-Zoom
Nancy Norwalk-Phone Bev Widger-Zoom James McCarragher –Zoom
Mike Sutherland-Zoom, Dan Cantlin-Zoom, Jen Lenz-Zoom, Tracy Wallace-Zoom.
Aaron Gomo-Zoom

The meeting was opened at 6pm by Chairman Taylor

Public Comment: none

COVID 19: Stephanie Schell and James McCarragher updated the Selectboard on their efforts to assist Plainfield residents and EMS through the COVID 19 pandemic. Thankfully, so far our area of the state has not been hard hit by the disease. Stephanie is helping many of our residents who are staying close to home. Jim is working with EMS to make sure they have enough protective equipment (PPE).

Dan Cantlin updated the Selectboard on recreation department plans for the summer. Essentially, due to COVID 19 all team sports are cancelled, the fishing derby is cancelled and the 4th of July parade in its traditional sense is cancelled. There was some talk of doing an alternative to the parade on the McNamara Dairy horse race track, but at the moment even that seems unlikely. Dan will continue to talk with the Mac's to understand more fully what there idea is and whether or not its possible.

Town Meeting: Moderator Paul Franklin will be in at the May 20th meeting to discuss plans for town meeting. Halleran was asked to include the Finance Committee membership in on this session as well.

Human Relations Project: Consultant Bev Widger updated the Selectboard on her work to update the town's employee policies. She hopes to have a draft ready in the next few weeks.

Highway: Covered Bridge project is 75% complete. Spring road grading is delayed due to a mechanical failure with the grader. The machine should be repaired in the next two weeks.

Building Facilities Committee: There were no volunteers for this project. Each Selectboard member will, at the next meeting, bring forward two names for consideration by the full board.

Town Administrator: Halleran updated the Board on several ongoing projects and the status of town office services in the new COVID 19 world. The Selectmen discussed additional pay for town employees during the pandemic. First responders will be paid through federal funds. The Selectboard felt that other town employees should have additional compensation as well. Halleran was asked to make this an agenda item for next meeting.

Other Business: The Selectboard voted to direct Town Assessor George Hildum to remove the entire value of the Margaret Gibson building for tax year 2020. The home was destroyed by fire after April 1st and is a total loss.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Robert Taylor, Chair

Eric Brann

Ron Eberhardt

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday May 20th , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair-Zoom
Eric Brann
Ron Eberhardt-Zoom

Others Present: Stephanie Schell-Zoom Bonnie Swift-Zoom
Nancy Norwalk-Phone Bev Widger-Zoom James McCarragher –Zoom
Mike Sutherland-Zoom, Dan Cantlin-Zoom, Judy Ptak-Zoom, Plainfield Finance Committee-Zoom. Aaron Gomo-Zoom

The meeting was opened at 6pm by Chairman Taylor

Public Comment: Bonnie Swift offered a correction to the minutes concerning the Finance Committee being included in the May 20th meeting.

COVID 19: Stephanie Schell and James McCarragher updated the Selectboard on their efforts to assist Plainfield residents and EMS through the COVID 19 pandemic. Stephanie noted the food pantry has provided 800 meals last month. Jim is working with EMS to make sure they have enough protective equipment (PPE). He is available to pick up some PPE if needed.

Highway Department: Road Agent Collins reported that the covered bridge is now open, the grader is repaired. Ditching and grading will continue for the next several weeks. The department plans to switch to the summer work schedule on June 1st. Chairman Taylor noted that before the four day work week begins he would like to see spring grading completed.

Town Meeting: Moderator Paul Franklin met with the Selectmen to discuss options for the postponed town meeting. All agreed a conventional meeting on 6/13 is not possible. Town's continue to wait for guidance from the Governor's Office. Plainfield prefers to use a default budget, an option that might not be allowed. The Selectmen decided to press hard for the default option to avoid the need to convene a large crowd this summer. Rob Taylor moved to postpone the 6/13 session to 7/11 pending more details on possible formats and procedures. The motion was seconded and voted in the affirmative.

A motion to, due to COVID 19, cancel the 4th of July parade and festivities was made, seconded and vote in the affirmative.

Building Facilities Committee: Selectmen Brann requested that this item on the agenda be pushed out to the June 3rd meeting. Eric is speaking with two residents about accepting appointments to the committee.

Hazardous Duty Pay: The Selectmen approved a plan to provide hazardous duty pay to Plainfield town employees not covered by the first responders program. Stipends will be modeled after the first responders program and will vary depending on a positions exposure to the public. The plan was unanimously supported by the Board of Selectmen.

Other Business: Facility Manager Brad Atwater updated the Board on two energy efficiency projects underway, one is for the Plainfield Library, the other the Plainfield Fire Station. Brad

noted the contribution of the Plainfield Fire Association to cover some of the cost of making the fire station more energy efficient.

Brad was authorized to do the necessary cribbing work at the Plainfield Town Hall to stabilize the building which is showing some signs of settling in the middle.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Robert Taylor, Chair

Eric Brann

Ron Eberhardt

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday June 3rd , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair-Zoom
Eric Brann
Ron Eberhardt-Zoom

Others Present: Stephanie Schell-Zoom Bonnie Swift-Zoom
Nancy Norwalk-Phone Bev Widger-Zoom Mike Sutherland-Zoom, Dan Cantlin-Zoom, Vern
Braswell-Zoom , Virginia Drye-Zoom

The meeting was opened at 6pm by Chairman Taylor

Public Comment: Bonnie Swift inquired as to whether or not the Fire Department would still be doing a fund raiser on the 4th of July. Perhaps a drive thru “lunch?” Chairman Taylor indicated he was unaware of any such plans but would check with the Fire Chief.

Dan Cantlin joined the meeting for a discussion about Spirit Day. It was decided that even though the event looks doubtful at this time, no final decision would be made until later in the summer.

COVID 19: Stephanie Schell updated the Selectboard on her efforts to assist Plainfield residents through the COVID 19 pandemic. Stephanie continues to reach out to all of Plainfield’s special needs populations.

Suzanne Spencer asked the Selectmen to consider establishing rules for the town owned land adjacent to the Meriden Covered Bridge. Specifically a no alcohol policy. Chief Roberts noted that it had been a busy week at this location at that there had been some conflict between residents and nonresidents over conduct. The Selectmen asked Halleran to work on this noting that all town property is intended to be family friendly and poor behavior has no place.

Virginia Drye thanked the Selectboard for keeping the Service Memorial in good order and holding the annual wreath laying.

Bev Widger: Bev updated the Selectmen on her project, as a paid consultant, to update the Town’s Employee policies. Bev hopes to have a draft in the next two weeks.

Police: Chief Roberts gave his report. The Chief noted an up tick in alcohol related incidents around town as well as domestic violence. Paul encouraged the Selectmen to establish times of usage and standards of conduct for the town owned property adjacent to the covered bridge.

Paul has begun to investigate police cruiser options for 2021.

Highway: Highway Department is now spending their days working on grading, ditching and culvert flushing. This will be their main objectives for the rest of the summer.

The new highway truck, ordered in April of 2019 has finally come in and will be placed in service within the next few weeks.

While still very early, Highway has begun to treat roads for dust control.

Town Office: Tax bills are out and payments are coming in. Halleran noted that Assessor George Hildum has processed all abatements for 2020.

At this time the Selectboard meeting was “Zoom bombed” meaning a large group of attendees joined the meeting, many from other countries and began disrupting the meeting. The session was closed and a new meeting via Zoom established. To the extent that was possible this new meeting ID was sent out via e-mail to everyone who had been participating.

Town office (continued): The Selectmen agreed on three names for the newly formed building committee to work with Brad Atwater the town’s Facility Manager. Halleran will be contacting those individuals.

The meeting ended with a brief discussion about the process for any signs to be located on town property. All agreed, regardless of intent, that the Selectmen should grant approval for the signs before they go up. Recently a high school senior posted on several town properties signs thanking first responders. The signs were intended as a positive message. Some however felt that the signs could also be interpreted as the town not being in support of other social causes. All agreed that these matters have become very complex. The Selectmen also supported that efforts of this young person to thank all of our first responders for their service to community.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Robert Taylor, Chair

Eric Brann

Ron Eberhardt

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday June 17th , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair-Zoom
Eric Brann
Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
Paul Robert
Richard Collins

Others Present: Stephanie Schell-Zoom Bonnie Swift-Zoom
Bev Widger-Zoom, Vern Braswell-Zoom , James McCarragher-Zoom, Helen Koehler-Zoom
Moderator Paul Franklin-Zoom, Eric Sorenson-Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Taylor at 6pm.

Public Comment: Bonnie Swift offered two changes to the minutes, correcting omissions. Both were accepted.

Eric Sorenson asked about how the town could ensure safety for all at any upcoming town meeting. The Selectboard concluded that absolute safety was not possible, but that holding a meeting using currently recommended social distancing practices is possible.

Police: Chief Roberts reviewed his case load for the last two weeks. Paul noted that once the state of emergency is lifted, part time officer Roland Daniels will be held to 30 hours per week or less. The Selectboard has not yet approved a hiring process for the 3rd full time officer.

COVID 19: James McCarragher and Stephanie Schell updated the Selectboard on their efforts to assist Plainfield residents and EMS through the COVID 19 pandemic. Stephanie noted the recent drive thru senior lunch provided more than 100 meals to seniors.

Highway: Richard Collins, Road Agent reported that spring grading has now been completed and roads have been treated for dust control. The new truck, 2019 town meeting, has arrived and will soon be placed in service. Lettering and the addition of a radio remain to be done.

The rope swing has been removed from town property near the covered bridge.

Gravel crushing will begin in the town gravel pit next week.

At Rich Collins suggestion the Selectboard will look into logging some of the town land adjacent to the active gravel pit. The first step will be a site visit to the area that Rich would like to have logged. Selectman Brann suggested including the town's Stage Road land might be worth considering. The property is a mess with broken pines and such.

The Selectmen held a discussion about road name signs. The Selectmen voted to begin a transition to NHDOT compliant street signs. Halleran will work on having two or three made up. While the wooden signs are wonderful, the Selectboard feels that for out of town visitors and first responders need properly sized and reflective road names signs to effectively navigate in the dark.

The Selectboard approved a sign for posting near the Meriden Covered Bridge which outlines the rules for use of the adjacent town property:

- From 9:00pm to 7:00am each day the property is closed.
- No alcohol, tobacco, or vaping products are allowed on the property.
- Glass drink or food containers are not allowed on the property
- No trash is to be left behind.

The Plainfield Police routinely patrol this property. Users, be aware the use of surveillance cameras is highly likely.

Town Meeting: Moderator Franklin joined the group to discuss options for holding the postponed town meeting. The group determined that an outside meeting, under a tent, was the most viable option of those available. The Governor has not yet allowed for any other method of establishing the annual appropriation for this one year (default budget for example). There may be an opportunity to hold a meeting at Smith's Auction Gallery. The weekend of July 11th is open for them and they will soon have an outdoor auction set up in place for the summer months. This option will be further pursued. All agreed that we need to get this behind us on July 11th.

Town Office: Halleran reported, from Tax Collector Michell Marsh that as of Tuesday the town had received 25% of the tax warrant for first property tax billing. This same time last year 24% had been received.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00pm.

Robert Taylor, Chair

Eric Brann

Ron Eberhardt

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday July 1st , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair-Zoom
Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
Richard Collins

Others Present: Stephanie Schell-Zoom Bonnie Swift-Zoom
Bev Widger-Zoom, Vern Braswell-Zoom ,Eric Sorenson-Zoom
William McGonigle, Bonnie Scott

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Taylor at 6pm. Taylor noted that Selectman Brann was unavailable for this meeting.

Public Comment: Bonnie Swift encouraged the Selectboard to continue to look for ways to reduce the tax burden for year 2020. She expressed support for the work done thus far.

Bill McGonigle and Bonnie Scott of BF Computing explained to the Selectboard their efforts to earn a CARES Act grant to bring broad band internet service to 100% of Plainfield. They would achieve this goal using the Space X satellite service that is currently being unveiled. The asked for a letter from the Selectboard in support of the grant. No municipal funds are requested. The Selectboard agreed willing to support any application that enhances internet options for Plainfield residents.

COVID 19 Update: Stephanie Schell indicated that over 2000 meals have been distributed in Plainfield and Cornish. She continues to work each day to insure that no Plainfield residents are left behind during the pandemic.

Highway: Road Agent Collins indicated that gravel crushing is moving forward in the town gravel pit. Road side mowing is occurring as well and Rich is working to get Plainfield road signs straightened and replaced as needed.

Halleran and Collins reported on some land grading that has occurred at the end of Bean Road. The work has encroached into the town's right of way and will have to be corrected. Currently the road side ditch has been filled and some granite posts have been installed too close to the travelled portion of the road. The owner is out of country right now, but more on this issue will be forthcoming,

Signs, detailing the rules of how the property is to be used are now ready to be posted at the town land near the Meriden Covered Bridge.

The town road sign project is still in the development phase.

Police: Steve Halleran reported that all seems quiet in the department. Traffic enforcement during summer months takes a lot of the department's time and effort.

Town Meeting Preparations: The group discussed the logistics of the town meeting day, highway will be assisting with the set up. Stephanie Schell reviewed her plans for a sanitization station and to make sure that folks socially distance during the event. There are no plans to offer any award presentations at this town meeting, those will be done at another time.

Resident Vern Braswell made it clear he is not in favor of an in person town meeting. While he understands why the meeting is being held, he does not agree with given the COVID pandemic. Selectmen Eberhardt and Taylor both voiced disappointment that the Governor has not answered the town's request to be allowed to use a default budget, resulting in the need to hold a town meeting of some kind.

Turning to the details of the warrant. The Selectmen like the Trustees agree that the Meriden Library article will be amended to zero dollars and that in their view and the view of the Trustees the project will not take place in 2020. This is not the year to debate the merits of new proposals, the Selectmen are just achieve the statutory requirements for having held a town meeting.

Town Administrator Halleran is proposing a reduction of \$43,000 from the overall operating budget bringing the total increase down from 3.8% to 2.0%. Savings to come from Police, Highway, and the cancellation of Spirit Day. This led to a brief discussion about Spirit Day, a motion was made seconded and voted in the affirmative that due to the COVID 19 pandemic to cancel Spirit Day 2020. The Selectmen supported these changes. Chairman Taylor noted that he does not favor the elimination of employee raises for 2020. At the end of this discussion the Board instructed Halleran to establish a budget that would allow for employee raises going forward, not retroactive. Selectmen Brann will be consulted before any final decisions are made.

The group agreed that reserve funds will not be reduced. All indications continue to point to a reduced Plainfield tax rate in 2020. Mike Sutherland and Eric Sorenson encouraged the Selectmen to keep the revenue side of the equation in mind as well.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Robert Taylor, Chair

Ron Eberhardt

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday July 15th, 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair-Zoom
 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
 Eric Brann

Others Present: Stephanie Schell-Zoom Bonnie Swift-Zoom
Vern Braswell-Zoom, Mike Sutherland-Zoom

The meeting opened at 6pm

Public Comment:

Frank Perotti asked the Selectboard to review the town's leash law. He feels it may not be current or might benefit from some modification. The Selectboard agreed to discuss the matter with Chief Roberts and review the ordinance.

Bonnie Swift and Vern Brashwell both thanked the Selectboard and all those involved in the recent town meeting at Smith's Auction Gallery. Both felt that town had done a good job of minimizing COVID risk to attendees and staff.

George Ann and Dana Whitney: The owner's of Landmark Property Maintenance met with the Selectboard to update them on their plans for their #361 Route 12A property. The property received zoning approval in October of 2018, but has not yet successfully completed the Site Plan Review process. George Ann explained that they are now hiring a new engineering firm and hope to be back to the Planning Board in early October. All earth work on the site has stopped and the only activity on the site is storage of several trucks used seasonally for their business. The existing Zoning approval expires in October of this year. Zoning Administrator Halleran has not begun enforcement action on Landmark, instead allowing them to have until the zoning approvals expire to complete their land use process. Halleran acknowledged that the storage of vehicles, without full zoning and planning approvals in place is a technical violation of the town's zoning ordinance and must be corrected by completing the site plan review process or eventual removal of the vehicles. Amy and Paul Franklin again stressed that they do not agree with the town's approach in this case.

Stephanie Schell: Stephanie thanks all those that worked on town meeting. She updated the Board on her efforts to keep Plainfield's population safe from COVID 19. She will be holding a second "drive thru" senior lunch next Thursday at the Christ Community Church.

Fire Chief: Bill Taylor reported to the Selectboard on fire department activities over the last month. One truck has been in for repairs to the windshield wipers. The department is participating in a planned drill for a propane facility in Hartland. The Chief provided the board with a department training schedule for the next few months.

Highway Department: Rich Collins reported that gravel crushing is done for the year. The department has spent the last couple of weeks working on ditching and culvert replacements. The Selectmen reviewed and approved a new street sign design for Plainfield roads. The first phase of the program will be to install the new signs on town roads that intersect state highways.

Police Department: Chief Roberts began discussions with the board about the 2021 replacement of the three police cruisers. The Chief would like to use this as an opportunity to update some of the electronics that are in each car.

He provided the board a summary of the major incidents the department has been involved with over the last two weeks.

Town Office: The Selectmen signed paperwork that is filed with the State detailing actions at the now completed town meeting.

Halleran reported that the town has just been named in a lawsuit connected with an arrest made by the Police Department several years ago. The town's insurance company, NH Primex, will be handling the town's defense of the case.

After much discussion the Selectboard voted 2 to 1 (Taylor, Eberhardt in favor Brann opposed) to provide a 2.5% COLA to town employees effective for wages earned after 8/1. In voting against the motion Selectman Brann noted he just feels this is not the year to increase base wages and all town employees have received some addition pay due to COVID. In voting in favor Taylor and Eberhardt cited a tight labor market and the need for the town to remain competitive with other municipalities that are offering COLA's this year. The pay increase will not be retroactive to April 1st.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Robert Taylor, Chair

Eric Brann

Ron Eberhardt

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday August 5th, 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair
 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
 Eric Brann

Others Present: Stephanie Schell-Zoom Bonnie & Clint Swift-Zoom
Vern Braswell-Zoom, Mike Sutherland-Zoom, Bev Widger-Zoom, Nancy Norwalk-Zoom, Gordon
Bradstreet-Zoom, Marc Morgain-Zoom, Richard Atkinson-Zoom, Hillary Sundell-Zoom, Sue Williams-
Zoom

The meeting opened at 6pm

Public Comment: Gordon Bradstreet encouraged the Selectmen to take an active role in bringing
additional broadband internet service to Plainfield. The Selectboard shared with Mr. Bradstreet their efforts
to date.

COVID 19: Human Services Director Stephanie Schell updated the Selectmen on her work. The 2nd drive
thru senior lunch provided 115 meals. PPE for the fall elections is coming from the state next week. Both
Plainfield School and Kimball Union are preparing to open in a few weeks. Stephanie feels that face
coverings will play a key role in the success of these two events.

Mask Ordinance discussion: Chairman Rob Taylor queried his board on their appetite for a proposed
mandatory face covering ordinance in Plainfield? Rob has drafted the now adopted Enfield ordinance and
making it the Plainfield draft is proposed. The other two Selectmen supported the idea of a public hearing
on a draft. Halleran was instructed to set up a hearing for 8/19, using the Enfield ordinance as a starting
point.

Solid Waste Group: Marc Morgan, Richard Atkinson, Hillary Sundell and Sue Williams met with the
Selectboard to go over their initial work on an RFP for curbside trash and recycling. The draft is purposely
wide open and is intended to give all those making a proposal a blank slate to offer their own program. The
town's current extended arrangement with Casella goes through 6/30 of 2021.

Department Reports: Police, actively working with Stephanie and both schools on their reopening plans.
Highway ditching, grading, and now clean up from the recent tropical storm. Halleran shared a written
record provided the contractor outlining the work done on the Meriden Covered Bridge. Town Office,
election preparations for both Sept and October. The town operating budget has 43% remaining with 40%
of the year let.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Robert Taylor, Chair

Eric Brann

Ron Eberhardt

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday August 19th, 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair-Zoom
 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
 Eric Brann

The meeting opened at 6pm

Public Comment: Clint Swift asked if the town felt that Kimball Union was well prepared for the coming school year given COVID 19 pandemic. Chairman Taylor indicated he felt that the private school has done a good job getting ready for the new school year. They have approximately 330 students returning and most of them will be on campus for in person learning.

COVID Update: Human Services Director Stephanie Schell updated the group on various ongoing efforts designed to bring some normalcy back to the live of Plainfield residents. A senior luncheon at Thom's Tavern is planned.

Emergency Management Director Jim McCarragher has picked up the state provided PPE for the upcoming elections.

Highway: Road Agent Collins reported on several highway maintenance projects that have been ongoing. Ditching, culvert flushing, and grading have been the main focus of highway work this summer.

A rope swing that had been attracting sizeable groups of people to the north end of River Road has been removed and should eliminate the ongoing parking problem.

The Selectboard reviewed the proofs of the new road signs. The first batch of new signs should be installed by November.

Police: Chief Roberts asked the Selectboard to, given COVID 19, consider developing protocols for reducing the number of first responders at minor accidents or sporting events at KUA where medical staff is already on site. The Selectmen agreed to discuss the matter with Fire Chief Taylor as well as the leadership of Cornish Rescue.

Town Office: The refuse collection RFP will be circulated to vendors in October so that a decision can be made during the upcoming budget season.

Mask Ordinance Hearing: About 27 members of the public joined via Zoom Chairman Taylor opened the hearing explaining why he felt this was the correct thing to do to keep residents safe. Ron Eberhardt noted that wearing masks has been proven to reduce the spread of COVID 19. The issue is about caring for one and another. Selectman Brann agreed and noted that he did not wish to see the ordinance become a political statement.

Public comment was generally in support of the ordinance, several small tweaks were suggested . Things like lowering the age to wear a mask from 10 to 5, making it clear what is and what is not a mask, requiring masks on recreational trails. At least one speaker felt the ordinance was not necessary and that the state has provided adequate guidance on this issue.

Chief Roberts asked that if the police are to be used as the enforcers of the ordinance that the RSA citation authoring the ordinance and any penalty be included. This topic resulted in a long discussion about whether enforcement should be by the Police Department or the Health Department.

It was determined that legal guidance on this issue would be necessary, so further action on the ordinance was delayed.

The Selectboard entered executive session to discuss an employee matter at 9:00pm (Moved by Eberhardt, seconded by Brann, voted in the affirmative 3 to 0.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:40pm, the meeting was recessed until Wednesday August 26th at 6pm at which time the work on the mask ordinance will be continued.

Stephen Halleran

Wednesday August 26th at 6pm.

Chairman Robert Taylor opened the recessed meeting and explained that in the last week the proposed face covering ordinance (20-01) has had three RSA citations added and has been reviewed by Town Counsel Barry Schuster. Fellow Selectmen Eberhardt and Brann voiced support for the changes. Several members of the public supported the ordinance, one member of the public questioned the details of the ordinance as it relates to young children. There being no further discussion Selectman Eberhardt moved to adopt the revised ordinance. The motion was seconded by Selectman Brann and voted in the affirmative on a 3 to 0 vote.

The Selectboard agreed to hold a dog leash law discussion at the Wednesday September 2nd meeting. See July 15th minutes for background.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.

Robert Taylor, Chair

Eric Brann

Ron Eberhardt

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday September 2nd, 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair
 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
 Eric Brann

Others Present: Bonnie & Clint Swift-Zoom, Vern Braswell-Zoom, Mike Sutherland-Zoom, Bev Widger-Zoom, Nancy Norwalk-Zoom, Frank Periotti-Zoom, Andrea Keen-Zoom, Rosemary Mills-Zoom.

The meeting opened at 6pm

Chairman Taylor was running late from his work, Halleran opened the meeting on his behalf going through the standard Zoom platform procedures. Public comment was deferred until later in the meeting.

Recreation Director: Dan Cantlin explained that after conferring with other towns he would like to offer a very limited, skills and drills, based program for Plainfield youths. No game against other towns would be played. The Selectmen supported this plan asking for two things: one, masks be worn and two that town counsel reviews the liability waiver.

Chairman Taylor arrived at this point, chairing the remainder of the meeting.

Road Agent Collins: Fall grading, winter sand collection, and some tree work are all on going. The Selectmen asked Richard to place barrels and cones on Bonner Road again this year as a traffic calming device for school opening.

Public Comment: Mike Sutherland encouraged the Selectmen to continue to work on improving telecommunication capabilities at MTH, noting that sound and video feeds are often broken and hard to follow.

Police Chief Roberts: Drug take back day will be 10/24. At the chief's request the Selectboard approved \$2,300 for the purchase of a replacement radar unit. The unit to be replaced is more than a decade old and getting parts is difficult.

Town Administrator: The Selectboard established plans for setting up the polling place Friday at 11am at the PES gymnasium.

Halleran reported that the town's budget period as 33% of its time remaining, the town's unexpended budget stands at 36%

The town's draft employee handbook has been reviewed by legal now and the next step will be for consultant Bev Widger to meet with the Selectmen, in nonpublic session, to discuss some of the personnel issues related to the draft. Once this meeting has occurred, likely 9/16 the draft document will be made public and reviewed with all town employees.

Leash Law Discussion: See July 15th minutes for background. Chief Roberts explained that the town's current leash law dates by to a town vote in 1980 that essentially directs the town to enforce state law as it pertains to dogs. Practically speaking dogs must be under the control of the

owner, but not necessarily leashed. Tickets are rare, but the department does spend a lot of time on educating dog owners. There is no tolerance for dogs that are aggressive and threatening to people who are on either public roads or public trails. Members of the public in attendance offered support for this type of approach. The Selectboard thanked the Chief for his explanations and indicated that no change in policy was warranted.

The Selectboard voted to seal the minutes of the 8/19 executive session.

The meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Steve Halleran

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday September 16th, 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair
 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
 Eric Brann

Others Present: Stephanie Schell-Zoom Bonnie & Clint Swift-Zoom
Vern Braswell-Zoom, Bev Widger-Zoom, Nancy Norwalk-Zoom, Eric Sorenson-Zoom

The meeting opened at 6pm

Public Comment: None

COVID 19: Human Services Director Stephanie Schell provided her update on Plainfield's continued efforts to suppress the COVID 19 pandemic here in Plainfield. Public education, the mask ordinance are all having, in her view, positive outcomes. Plainfield will be sponsoring a drive thru flu shot clinic on October 10th. Making sure that don't contract both the flu and COVID at the same time is critical going into flu season.

As part of Plainfield's interactions with the State and Federal Government Selectboard member Eric Brann moved that Town Administrator Stephen Halleran on behalf of the Town of Plainfield be designated to sign all documents related to the CARES ACT. This authority is granted to allow the town to quickly react to opportunities for funding. The motion was seconded by member Eberhardt and voted in the affirmative by all three Selectboard members.

POLICE: Chief Roberts reviewed the department's activity log and discussed with the board the possibility of adding on a trial basis an administrative assistant to assist with office duties in the police department. The Selectmen agreed to a 10 hour per week trial for the remainder of this year with the condition that the board receives data that it can share with the finance committee on how the position is working. One thought being that using two part time positions, the assistant and the 30 hour per week patrol officer might save the town the benefit costs of the third full time police officer, that position is currently open.

TOWN OFFICE: Halleran updated the Selectboard on ongoing projects. Property assessment work for 2020 is nearly complete, the new tax rate should be set in about one month.

The group had a follow discussion on how the NH primary election went. Stephanie Schell pointed out all the good work that was done to make the voting safe and comfortable for all in this difficult year. Town Clerk Michelle Marsh and all the election officials were called out for their extraordinary efforts. Selectman Eric Brann started a discussion about the town acquiring a separate enclosed trailer to house all the necessary voting materials in one unit. This trailer would act much like the town's emergency response trailer. Right now too much effort is necessary to load and unload personal vehicles and carry the necessary items upstairs to storage at MTH. Both Selectman Eberhardt and Taylor agreed. The board directed Halleran to investigate a trailer purchase. The cost is expected to be \$1,500 to \$2,500.

At this time the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss with Consultant Bev Widger her work on various personnel issues including the new but yet to be released employee

handbook and various compensation issues. Selectman Eberhardt made the motion and on a roll call vote the board entered executive session at 7:30pm.

The Board returned from executive session at 8:50pm and immediately voted to adjourn the meeting

Minutes submitted by

Stephen Halleran, TA

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday October 8th, 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair Zoom
Ron Eberhardt-Zoom

Others Present via Zoom: Stephanie Schell Bonnie & Clint Swift,
Vern Braswell, Nancy Norwalk ,Eric Sorenson, Oliva Franko, Bruce Elder, Elizabeth Underhill,
Mike Sutherland, Shannon Decker

Others Present at the Town Offices: Stephen Halleran, Paul Roberts, Richard Collins

Public Comment: None offered, Bonnie Swift asked for second opportunity to offer comment at the end of the meeting. Chairman Taylor Agreed.

COVID 19: Stephanie Schell Updated the Selectboard on her work. The food pantry and senior lunches has provided over 3,270 meals. Stephanie thanked both the town's convenience stores for their help with senior drive thru lunches. PPE for workers is getting hard to find again, but Plainfield has solid supplies right now. This Saturday is the free flue shot clinic at the Plainfield School. It too will be using a drive thru model.

After hearing from Stephanie and members of the PTA, and their Police Chief the Selectboard approved draft guidelines that will allow socially distanced Halloween activities to take place. This approval could change should the town's experience with COVID 19 take a turn for the worst.

Highway: Road Agent Collins reported that fall grading is now complete, the first round of street signs will be picked up tomorrow and installation will begin next week. Turning to capital budgeting the Road Agent noted that the loader remains the next piece of equipment in the fleet that needs to be replaced. He also asked that the Selectmen consider a new chipper. Selectman Taylor asked Richard to get a proposal to have the loader sent back to Case to be refurbished.

Police: The Police Department now has an office assistant working 10 hours per week. Paul is closely tracking the benefits and cost of this trial program. Turning to the Police Department's upcoming capital needs: A new round of police cruisers are scheduled for 2021, the department desperately needs more large item storage and the acquisition of body cameras needs to be considered.

Town Office: The 2020 tax rate should be established in about one month. The current budget is performing as predicted. As long as November is typical and winter does not come very early, the town should finish the year either on or just under budget. The RFP for curbside collection of trash and recycling should be mailed out later this month. Proposals are due back in early December. 2021 budget proposals are due in just before Thanksgiving. The KUA study group will hold its first meeting on November 2nd.

End of Meeting Public Comment: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Stephen Halleran

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday October 21st, 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair Zoom
Ron Eberhardt-Zoom

Others Present via Zoom: Stephanie Schell Bonnie & Clint Swift,
Vern and Holly Braswell, Nancy Norwalk ,Eric Sorenson, Jodi Perkins, Nicholas Cohen, Jenifer Lenz, Dan Falcone, Evan Oxanham, Lee Oxanham, Steve Ladd

Others Present at the Town Offices: Eric Brann Selectman, Stephen Halleran, Brad Atwater

Public Comment: Dan Falcone asked about the possibility of his vocal group about 12 singers using the Plainfield Town Hall to practice this winter on Mondays for a couple of hours. The hall is typically empty all winter. They would pay all costs and realize there is no running water. After discussing the matter and taking counsel from other town officials the Selectboard granted the request subject to a legal waiver being developed.

Vern Braswell shared a reading of excerpts from a letter to the Selectboard dated 9/30. Mr. Braswell does not agree with the efforts being undertaken to move forward with the Meriden Library and he asked that his displeasure with the process be part of the record. The Selectboard noted that the Meriden Library Building Committee was established by the Library Trustees and that group is working under the authority of the Library Trustees. In the end, any decision to expand the Meriden Library will be decided at a town meeting by the voters of Plainfield.

Capital Improvements Discussion: Brad Atwater walked the group through his work to address replacing the heat source at the town offices. This issue is ranked highest on our building priority list. The town office has an oil fired boiler is 25 years old and is located in the attic of the building requiring the oil to be pumped up to it. The entire unit needs to be replaced. In very round numbers an oil replacement is \$10,000, a propane replacement (eliminates the oil pump) is \$13,000 and a heat pump conversion that would offer both heating and cooling is \$50,000. A wide ranging discussion followed, many supported the idea of heat pumps as part of Plainfield's Ready For One Hundred initiative. Some felt that the \$50,000 number might be significantly reduced. Facility Manager Brad Atwater cautioned that while there may be some additional rebates and incentives the work he has done strongly suggests that heat pumps will cost between \$40,000 and \$60,000, so a large cost gap is always likely. Choosing heat pumps maybe a values decision not purely driven by current day economics. The group asked Brad to continue to refine the numbers. Its not clear that heat pumps can be afforded, but the group in attendance was not yet ready to reject them based solely on cost.

Tax Rate: The 2020 tax rate is expected to be around \$25.50 down from \$26. School Districts have been granted the authority to hold surplus funds (Governor's order #38) to be used only for COVID 19 issues. Our School Board has elected to do this and therefore the amount of money returned this year is less than was originally anticipated. Town Administrator Halleran was authorized to establish with the NH DRA a tax rate that does not expend or expand the town's Fund Balance other than for rounding purposes. The town's Fund Balance stands at \$950,000 and in light of the School Board's retention of \$400,000 the \$950,000 was deemed to be adequate in this very odd pandemic year.

2nd Public Comment: Nancy Norwalk asked that the Selectmen consider establishing a handicap parking spot at the PTH and adding a railing to the ADA access ramp at the Meriden Town Hall.

Executive Session: At this time the Selectboard voted to go into executive session to discuss with Consultant Bev Widger her work on various personnel issues including the new but yet to be released employee handbook and various compensation issues. Selectman Eberhardt made the motion and on a roll call vote the board entered executive session at 8:25pm.

The Board returned from executive session at 9:15pm and immediately voted to adjourn the meeting

Minutes submitted by

Stephen Halleran, TA

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday November 4th , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair Zoom
 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
 Eric Brann-Zoom

Others Present via Zoom: Stephanie Schell, Bonnie & Clint Swift,
Vern and Holly Braswell, Nancy Norwalk ,Eric Sorenson, Betsy Underhill,
Mike Sutherland, Brad Atwater

Others Present at the Town Offices: Stephen Halleran,

Chairman Taylor opened the meeting at 6pm.

Public comment: Bonnie Swift asked about process for Finance Committee appointments, she was informed by the Chair that it is done by the Moderator.

Resident Betsy Underhill followed up on the letter she had sent to the Selectboard, endorsed by about thirty residents who are asking the town recreation department to provide a basketball experience for 5th-8th graders, that program has been cancelled at the school. The Selectmen indicated that they are communicating with the town's recreation director about the possibilities, but that all indoor activities involving groups of people are of course a concern. .

Highway Department: Richard Collins updated the Selectboard on his efforts to get the highway department ready for winter. Winter sand hauling is nearly complete and the department is working daily on getting full winter plow gear on each vehicle.

The Selectboard approved, on a unanimous vote, purchasing a small enclosed trailer to store all of the town's election related equipment. This will free up the highway department's emergency response trailer to be used solely for that purpose.

COVID 19: Stephanie Schell reported on the Halloween efforts for kids in town, the night went well and she feels that kids were given a great experience that was safe in a pandemic year.

Stephanie remains very concerned about increased numbers of COVID cases in the Upper Valley over that last few weeks. She stressed vigilance.

Town Election: The Selectboard offered their public thanks to Town Clerk Michelle Marsh, Moderator Paul Franklin and all the other election officials that made Tuesday's polling go so well in such a difficult year. Many folks contributed to the success of the day. The extraordinary work done by Michelle in preparing for the day was particularly note worthy.

Employee Handbook: Consultant Bev Widger reported that the first draft of the employee handbook is now ready for employees to review. Steve will provide access to the document, the Selectmen could adopt the book as early as their next meeting.

Finance Committee: The Selectboard held a brief discussion with the Finance Committee members in attendance (Mike and Eric) about the current year budget, future budget year plans, the new tax rate \$25.40 down from \$26) and the possibility of moving to a lease verses purchase

model for highway heavy equipment. This discussion will be repeated in two weeks when more members of the Finance Committee can attend.

Bonnie Swift asked about removing the adverse opinion on the town's audit. To accomplish this the town needs to hire a consultant to perform an analysis of any post retirement health insurance liabilities for the town. Most small town's and NH school districts including PES accept the adverse opinion. The Selectboard previously voted to address this omission, Halleran will get proposals for the necessary work.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Steve Halleran, TA

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday November 18th , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair Zoom
 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
 Eric Brann-Zoom
 Brad Atwater, MTH
 Paul Roberts, MTH
 Richard Collins, MTH
 Steve Halleran, MTH

Others Present via Zoom: Stephanie Schell, Bonnie & Clint Swift,
Dan Cantlin, Nancy Norwalk ,Eric Sorenson, Emily Boynton,
Mike Sutherland, Marc Morgan, Megan Butts, John Yacavonne, Bev Widger

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Highway: Rich reported that the new election trailer is now at the highway garage and will be set up soon. Some touch up grading and winter sand hauling is underway. All truck and equipment are now ready for winter.

RPC: Interim Executive Director of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Megan Butts and town representative John Yacavonne met briefly with the Selectboard to review the role of the RPC and to generally make their services available to the town. Plainfield is a member in good standing.

Recreation: Dan Cantlin reported that with the school's gym now off limits all recreation basketball programs will be cancelled and there will be no way to even try to expand the program to include older kids. Stephanie Schell strongly supports the notion of cancelling all indoor sports. The group brainstormed about other outdoor activities that might be possible. Nordic skiing and ice skating came immediately to mind.

Fire: Chief Taylor met with the group to discuss his plans to replace the air pack system at the Plainfield Station with the same technology available at the Meriden station. The Plainfield equipment will expire in 2021 and by standardizing the two systems access to the equipment will be universal and will allow the town to own and maintain fewer units. The purchase will be about \$40,000 and will come from a combination of the current budget and the fire equipment reserve fund. The proposal was well supported by those in attendance.

Chief Taylor also acknowledged the efforts of Ryan Teffner and Will Foreman, both who have invested significant time and personal expense to enhance their own fire fighter training certifications.

Human Services: Stephanie Schell reported on her constant efforts to keep Plainfield's residents safe during COVID. She remains very concerned that not all residents and visitors are taking the COVID 19 pandemic seriously enough. Social distancing, masks and hand washing are a must for everyone. Information coming from Concord is that the next month is going to be very difficult with cases spiking all over the state.

Facility Management: Brad Atwater reported back on his life cycle cost analysis comparing essentially fossil fuel vs heat pump heating of the town offices. Brad's work suggests that to use heat pumps to condition the air at town hall will cost about \$800/year over the 20 year life of the units (capital and operating costs included). In Brad's mind that is the value decision that has to be made. His analysis assumes current pricing for the life of the equipment. Evan Oxenham reported that the Energy Committee is 100% in support of the conversion to heat pumps. Halleran noted that a final decision has to be made as part of the current budget work, sometime in mid January.

Public Comment: Bonnie Swift requested that whenever possible the agenda contain more specifics about what will be taking place at the meeting, particularly under the public comment section which is very broad.

Police Department: Chief Roberts reported on his budgeting efforts, particularly with the cruiser fleet replacements for 2021. He is considering hybrid cars and a more phased replacement schedule.

The Police Department has been stepping up enforcement efforts with the mask ordinance.

Employee Handbook: Consultant Bev Widger is working through all of the comments received on the draft and will make some changes. She asked for clarification of how to handle Holiday pay when an employee has to work on the holiday. It was determined by the Board of Selectmen that hourly employees having to work a paid holiday will be paid double time and half for the hours worked.

Employees have asked to have any sick time paid out to start at 10 or 15 years of service rather than the 20 years that is proposed. Bev is looking at the economic impact of this.

Bev hopes to be ready for the next meeting to have the handbook adopted.

Audit Discussion: Town Administrator Halleran reported that the necessary actuary study to determine any post employment potential liability (GASB 34) will add \$3,500 to the cost of the audit and must be done every two years to stay current. The resulting number does not materially change the town's fund balance which is fairly stated in the audit. Most NH town's have decided to explain the reason for the adverse opinion rather than to spend the money necessary to bring the audit into technical compliance. The Selectboard will consult the town's Finance Committee on this issue. The town audit costs \$14,000/year now.

Trails Discussion: Chairman Taylor reported on a Plainfield trails use discussion that he moderated last Monday. Concerns over excessive use and limited parking were voiced. Improved signage will be the first strategy used to address these concerns.

Zoning Enforcement: Landmark Property Management has, due to COVID, been granted a six month extension to their previous zoning approval to compete the conditions of their approval. The requested one year. A site plan review before the Planning Board is next for their project.

The Methodist Hill landowner who has a person living in a camper on their land has assured the town office that the site will be cleaned up and the camper no longer lived in by the last day of this month.

2021 Budget: Town Administrator Halleran reported that work on the 2021 budget draft 01 is ongoing and the Selectboard will have a first cut to review at their next meeting.

The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Stephen Halleran

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday December 2nd , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair Zoom
 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
 Eric Brann-Zoom
 Brad Atwater, Zoom
 Paul Roberts, Zoom
 Steve Halleran, MTH

Others Present via Zoom: Bonnie & Clint Swift,
Nancy Norwalk ,Eric Sorenson, Shannon Decker
Bev Widger

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Public Comment: None

Police Chief Roberts: Chief Roberts provided the COVID 19 update as part of the police report. Plainfield cases remain low; however Paul noted that the state data does tend to lag and that the need for vigilance is high. The impact of the Thanksgiving Holiday is not yet known.

Policing activities and calls for service have remained manageable for current staffing levels. Paul has continued to refine his budget requests.

Highway: Town Administrator Halleran reported that final fall grading and installation of a second round of new street signs is underway. Highway is ready for winter weather. If conditions remain favorable Rich plans to have the crew back on roads cutting brush next week.

Town Office: Property taxes are due Friday, as of today 80% of the warrant has already been collected. The town office remains hopeful that if trips to the office remain low (election and tax time behind us) keeping the office open to the public will be possible even as the state goes through this latest increase in COVID cases.

Employee Handbook: After hearing a final update from consultant Bev Widger, the Selectmen voted 3-0 to approve draft 03 of the new employee handbook. All employees have had an opportunity to comment on the drafts and to offer suggestions. Where possible the suggestions have been included. The book will also now refer to the Police Department's operations manual. The book will be distributed to town employees in the coming days. The next phase of this project will be to look at the town's employee compensation schedule.

2020 Budget: Finance Committee Chairman Mike Sutherland reported back on three issues. The Finance Committee remains supportive of having the necessary actuary study completed so that the town's adverse opinion on the audit will be removed. Halleran note that the plan is to have the work done for the 2020 audit, cost is \$3,500 every two years. It was noted that the essential financial statements in the audit are accurate and fairly stated; many small towns have elected to just accept the adverse opinion, see the March 4th 2020 minutes.

The Finance Committee encourages the Selectmen to take close look at leasing some of the highway equipment. Leasing allows you to only purchase the portion of the vehicle you are using and might allow quicker turnover of vehicles saving on repair costs.

The Finance Committee remains cautious about converting the Meriden Town Hall to heat pumps. The cost is \$63,000 and over the life of the project the heat pumps cost an extra \$1,000 a year to have over fossil fuels. However, it does not take a very significant change in fuel pricing to change that scenario. Also, the heat pumps are in keeping with the town's Ready for 100 vote.

The Selectboard provided Town Administrator Halleran direction on developing the 2021 budget. The Town Administrator was asked to bring forward several scenarios that might be put in place depending on how the COVID 19 pandemic progresses. The Selectmen would prefer to make any cuts to operating budget items rather than capital planning but conceded that nothing is off the table at this early stage. The Selectboard will be meeting with the full finance committee, the library trustees and the library building committee on December 16th.

Public Comment: Bonnie Swift offered the she feels the Employee manual project was extremely well done and she thanked the Selectmen, town staff and Bev Widger for their work.

Clint Swift offered that the work the Selectmen and Town Administrator had done on the Meriden Covered bridge back in the spring was in his view also an example of a very well done project. He too thanked the board and staff for getting this project done.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Stephen Halleran

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday December 16th , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair Zoom
 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
 Eric Brann-Zoom
 Steve Halleran, MTH

Others Present via Zoom: Meriden Library Trustees, Meriden Library Building Committee, Finance Committee, Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Brashwell, Vicki and Kevin Romos Glew, Amy Lappin, Terry Donaghue, Helen Koehler, Fern Wilder, Paul Franklin

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Public Comment: Terry Donoghue questioned the beaver trapping at Underhill Road. Town Administrator Halleran responded that there are no plans to do any more trapping at that location; a beaver deceiver device will be used instead. The town with the assistance of the Conservation Commission is attempting to use these devices to avoid having to kill beavers and to reduce the amount of highway department work that is necessary to keep the culverts flowing.

Library Discussion: Trustee Jen Lenz updated the entire group on the work of the Meriden Library Building Committee. The group now favors the use of a Geo Barn structure for the replacement. Architect Jay Barrett has been hired to help complete the design work on the project which is expected to cost in the area of \$1.1million dollars. Private pledges and funds in hand total about \$926,000. Finance Committee members expressed concern about the pandemic and the impact it may have on financial matters in 2021. Members of the public spoke both in favor and against the project. Those against stating concerns about the economy and town's economic well being and the fact the town has one new modern library now. Others felt the community has spoken on that issue and supports having two libraries one in each major village. Still others felt it was important to let the community decide the matter. The Library Trustees hope to have a proposal for the 2021 warrant by January 20th.

Town Meeting: Moderator Paul Franklin led a discussion with the Selectmen about the 2021 town and school meetings. It was generally agreed that preparation for March meetings must continue. However, it is also very likely that both business meetings will be delayed until an outdoor venue is possible. Paul is interested in exploring holding both business meetings on the same day.

Town Budget: Steve Halleran walked the group through the operating budget which has an \$83,000 increase driven by a \$36,000 increase in refuse collection. State revenue uncertainty with the pandemic is also a major concern. The group discussed ways to reduce the increase. Freezing wages, not hiring for any open position, and deferring pavement work were all briefly discussed. Halleran stressed that the budget is a work in progress and that as year end approaches there will be more clarity on what is needed for 2021.

The Selectmen will meet next on December 30th to discuss year end matters.

Public Comment: Clint and Bonnie Swift asked if the town office could provide a simple accounting of funds spent on human services and also an accounting of donations received. The Swifts want to insure that donated money is kept available for human service needs going

forward and do not sunset at year end. Halleran will work with Stephanie Schell to provide this information in the coming days. He assured the Swifts that to the extent NH law will allow the town to retain funds from one year to the next all donated money is earmarked for the purpose it was intended. The Schell Community Fund was discussed as the best way to insure monies are available from year to year. It is a public trust fund and can be retained from year to year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Stephen Halleran

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday December 30th , 2020
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair Zoom
 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
 Eric Brann-Zoom
 Steve Halleran, MTH

Others Present via Zoom: Finance Committee, Bonnie and Clint Swift, Nancy Norwalk, James Cragin, Brad Atwater

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Public Comment: None

Town Administrator Halleran noted that Eric White had been invited to this meeting to discuss his Methodist Hill property where a person has been living since July in a camper. Mr. White had indicated that the person would be gone by 12/1 (Zoning Ordinance only allows a max of 90 days) but as of last week that had not happened. Recent Police department checks indicated that the camper may now be empty. Mr. White did not show up at this meeting.

COVID 19: Stephanie Schell updated the Selectboard on efforts to have all of Plainfield's first responders vaccinated against COVID. Halleran expressed concern that public works employees are not eligible for the first round of vaccinations. The necessity of winter plowing is a significant concern for all small towns. Stephanie Schell indicated that this could be changing very soon and highway maybe shot eligible within a week or two at most. Stephanie reviewed the process for vaccination. Those that qualify must register on a state website and once approved they may to either Lebanon or Claremont to receive their shot. She and several fire department members have already received the vaccine as first responders.

2020 Year End Budget Discussion: After a full discussion of the merits the Selectboard approved the following slate of encumbrances from the 2020 budget:

1-3401-020	Donations to the welfare department not used	\$2,540
1-4195-785	Cemetery Wall restorations	\$2,567
1-4312-742	Loader door	\$2,200
1-4230-250	Fire Airpacks	\$19,400
1-4150-250	Computer	\$7,000

1-4210-711 Police Cruiser replacement package contribution \$40,000

This item was approved on a vote of 2-1. The funds will not be spent prior to town meeting and a full discussion with the town's legislative body on how the funds will be used.

The town will be turning back about \$75,000 in money not spent from the approved 2020 appropriation.

The Selectboard reviewed and affirmed the decision to remove \$141,700 from the town's reserve funds where the Selectboard are agents to expend. See attached roster of expenditures.

The Selectboard entered nonpublic session on a unanimous roll call vote to discuss a police matter (Brann, Taylor, Eberhardt all yes on Brann's motion). The session began at 7:25pm
The session ended at 7:40pm

The meeting adjourned at 7:44pm

Stephen Halleran