

1 **MINUTES OF THE PLAINFIELD'S SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday January 6th 2021**
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4

5 **Selectmen present:** **Rob Taylor, Chair Zoom**
6 **Ron Eberhardt-Zoom**
7 **Eric Brann-Zoom**
8 **Steve Halleran, MTH**
9

10 **Others Present Zoom:** Police Chief Paul Roberts Zoom /Anthony Swett - MTH
11

12 The meeting opened at 5pm.
13

14 After opening the meeting Chairman Taylor moved to move into nonpublic session to discuss a
15 personnel matter in the Police Department. The motion was seconded and voted in the affirmative
16 on a roll call vote (Brann, Eberhardt, Taylor all yes).
17

18 The nonpublic session began at 5:15pm.
19

20 The board came out of the nonpublic session at 5:50pm.
21

22 The Selectboard appointed Anthony Swett to serve as "officer in charge" of the Plainfield Police
23 Department effectively immediately.
24

25 The Selectboard will take up the matter of the Police Department at their January 20th meeting.
26

27 The meeting adjourned at 5:51pm.
28
29

30 Stephen Halleran
31

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday January 6th , 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair Zoom
6 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
7 Eric Brann-Zoom
8 Steve Halleran, MTH
9

10 **Others Present via Zoom:** Finance Committee, Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern
11 Braswell, Helen Koehler, Jen Lenz, Shannon Decker,
12

13 The meeting opened at 6pm.
14

15 **Public Comment:** Finance Committee member Eric Sorenson asked the Selectboard about the
16 possibility of a warrant article that would require any unspent appropriation be returned to the
17 taxpayers at the next tax rate setting. The Selectboard explained that NH law provides the
18 Selectboard certain duties and powers that relate to how the town's finances are managed. Fund
19 balance retention or use at tax rate setting is one of those duties reserved for the elected
20 Selectboard.
21

22 **COVID Update:** Stephanie Schell explained how the state's vaccination program is working. It
23 will be several months before all residents have access. She has provided the town office with a
24 state prepared document to assist with how to handle an employee positive COVID test.
25

26 **Heat Pumps Meriden Town Hall:** The Selectboard continued their discussion about whether or
27 not to replace the town's oil fired burner with heat pump technology. Town facility manager Brad
28 Atwater has prepared a variety of documents showing the cost vs benefits of the various heating
29 options. He has solicited quotations and worked with various engineers to properly size the
30 necessary equipment for the building. If done, the heat pumps would be paid for over five years
31 using a utility sponsored interest free loan program. The entire project will cost more than
32 \$50,000. A propane conversation is more like \$13,000. After a full discussion with ample
33 opportunity for all to weigh in, Selectman Ron Eberhardt made the following motion: To replace
34 the town hall's existing oil fired burner with heat pump technology and to utilize the Liberty
35 Utility funding program to spread the estimated \$52,000 over the next five budget cycles. The
36 work will not commence until the 2021 town budget has been approved by the town's legislative
37 body. The motion was seconded and voted in the affirmative on a roll call vote (3 yes 0 no). In
38 making his motion Selectman Eberhardt noted the "Ready for 100" vote at town meeting and the
39 importance of addressing climate change.
40

41 **2021 Town Budget:** The Selectmen's first budget hearing will be January 20th, the draft budget is
42 posted on the town's website. Steve Halleran indicated that at this time he cannot recommend
43 any further deductions in the budget. Halleran did acknowledge that it is likely that several
44 numbers will change between now and town meeting. At the moment the new budget carries an
45 increase of 2.8%. A legislative solution to allow for town's to hold later town meetings is in the
46 works, so while Plainfield remains on the typical March town meeting schedule, a March town
47 meeting is unlikely.
48

1 **Other Business:** On the recommendation of the Town Administrator the Selectmen voted to
2 abate a current use penalty for Shawn and Kimberly Dixon. The Dixon's have provided new
3 information that would allow their property to remain in current use. This being the case the
4 penalty is not necessary.

5

6

7 The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

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9

10

11 Stephen Halleran

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday January 20th , 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4
5 Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair MTH
6 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
7 Eric Brann-MTH
8 Steve Halleran, MTH
9

10 **Others Present via Zoom:** Stephen Beaupre, Eric Sorenson, Mike Sutherland, Evan and Lee
11 Oxenham, Virginia Drye, Margaret Drye, Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Braswell, Jen
12 Lenz, Shannon Decker, Betsy Underhill, Mark Hardy, Nancy Norwalk, Mary King.
13

14
15 Chairman Taylor opened the meeting at 6pm.
16

17 **Police:** Sargent Anthony “Tony” Swett was sworn in as Interim Police Chief for the Town of
18 Plainfield. Tony will serve in this role for at least 90 days at which time he and the Selectboard
19 will meet to evaluate the experience.
20

21 **Public Comment:** Evan Oxenham from the town’s energy committee asked the Selectboard to
22 show, through the town’s facility manager, opposition to legislation requested by EverSource
23 Utility that, if approved, would make electric aggregation more difficult for towns. Margaret and
24 Virginia Drye felt such a statement of opposition was premature since the bill had not yet been
25 heard. Selectman Eberhardt, who is also on the energy committee, indicated he has reviewed the
26 proposed legislation and agrees with Evan’s position that it will not be helpful town efforts to
27 move toward alternative fuel types. Selectman Bran opposes anything that could result in higher
28 energy prices for Plainfield residents. After much discussion, Selectmen Eberhardt moved that the
29 town’s facility manager be instructed to convey the town’s opposition to this legislation. The
30 motion was seconded and voted in the affirmative on a vote of 3-0.
31

32 **Human Services:** Stephanie Schell reviewed her efforts to help Plainfield’s over 65 population
33 get positioned for the COVID 19 vaccinations. This group is in tier 1B and it is expected it will
34 take several months to complete all of the 1Bs in the state of New Hampshire.
35

36 **Town Office:** The Selectboard conducted their annual review of town financial policies,
37 affirming the existing purchasing, fund balance, and cash management policies. It was noted that
38 the purchasing policy is overdue for a rework and needs to be addressed in 2021.
39

40 **Town Budget Hearing:** Selectman Rob Taylor opened the town’s first budget hearing at 7pm.
41 Town Administrator Halleran reviewed the budget that has been developed by the Selectmen’s
42 office in consultation with department heads and the town’s finance committee. A survey of areas
43 towns for municipal expenses per resident yields an average number of \$880/resident, Plainfield
44 spends \$645/resident. While there still remains some revenue unknowns the town’s operating
45 budget shows an increase of 2.8% or an increase of \$67,802. The planned reserve fund
46 contributions are unchanged from last year. The Meriden Library replacement is on the warrant,
47 but has a zero 2021 tax impact as they entire project is now slated to be paid for with a
48 combination of existing reserve funds and private donations. Revenues are projected to be down
49 in 2021 resulting in a net increase to dollars from taxation (budget, other warrant articles, less
50 revenue projections) of 6% or \$98,002. The budget will be finalized after the February 3rd
51 meeting. Halleran was asked by members of the finance committee to take a close look at a

1 couple of accounts to see if modest savings could be found, one in the Police Department, one in
2 the Town Office both centered on IT expenses. Establishing a capital reserve accounts for natural
3 disasters was suggested.

4

5 Based on the hearing and the ongoing town audit, updated budget numbers will be posted up on
6 the town's website in the next week.

7

8 The hearing was closed at 8:00pm

9

10 The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm after Selectboard members finished reading
11 correspondence and signing orders.

12

13

14 Stephen Halleran

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday February 3rd , 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair -Zoom
6 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
7 Eric Brann-Zoom
8 Steve Halleran, MTH
9

10 **Others Present via Zoom:** Evan Oxenham, Betsy Underhill, Clint and Bonnie Swift, Eric
11 Sorenson, Jeanne Woodward Poor, Jen Lenz, Marc Morgan, Richard Atkinson, Mark Hardy,
12 Mary King, Nancy Norwalk, Patricia Hall, Brad Atwater, Holly and Vern Braswell , Paul
13 Franklin, William Taylor
14

15 Chairman Taylor opened the meeting at 6pm.
16

17 **Public Comment:** None
18

19 **Town Meeting:** Moderator Paul Franklin met with the Selectmen to discuss options for the 2021
20 town meeting scheduling. There was general support for holding town and school officer ballot
21 elections on March 9th. Both business meetings will need to be pushed out to a safer time.
22 Saturday June 5th is under consideration as a possibility for holding both meetings outside on the
23 grounds of PES. The Selectmen fully supported this approach.
24

25 **Meriden Village Water District:** Operator Bill Taylor met with the Selectmen to discuss the
26 district's plans to replace the water main on Main Street from Bonner Road down to the Bump
27 residence at #133 Main Street. The project will take a couple of months next summer and will
28 require tearing up a good portion of Main Street. The contractor will patch the pavement and the
29 district will, if directed to do so, provide funding to the town to repave the section the following
30 year. The repaving is estimated to cost \$13,000 to \$15,000. The Selectmen did not object to the
31 proposal and indicated that repaving both lanes would be required. Chairman Taylor suggested a
32 neighborhood meeting to discuss the project before work begins.
33

34 **COVID 19:** Human Services Director Stephanie Schell reported on her efforts to assist Plainfield
35 residents with scheduling vaccine shots. While cases are dropping she stressed the need to stay
36 vigilant. It is hoped that vaccine will be widely available to all that want it by mid summer.
37

38 **Budget Hearing #2** The town's second budget hearing was opened at 7:05pm. Halleran noted
39 that as a result of the first hearing the dollars from taxation have been reduced by \$15,000 and the
40 expected tax impact of town spending is now \$0.27 down from \$0.33 on the current tax rate of
41 \$25.40.
42

43 The Selectmen turned their attention to the four warrant articles with money attached to formally
44 state their required recommendation to the voters.
45

46 On Article 5 the petitioned article to fund VNA at \$8,500 as opposed to \$4,500 recommended by
47 staff the Board voted 3-0 to not recommend passage. In making this decision the board referred to
48 a letter from Clint Swift advocating to them for this approach. The Selectmen also noted that they
49 support funding for the VNA, but at the level recommended by staff.
50

51 Article 4, reserve funding, the Selectmen voted 3-0 to recommend this article.

1 Article 3, town operating budget, the Selectmen voted 3-0 to recommend this article.
2 Article 2, Meriden library replacement the Selectmen voted 2-0 with 1 abstention to recommend
3 this article. In abstaining on this vote, Selectman Brann explained he respects the fund raising
4 work and all of the planning that has gone into this project. He struggles with the need for the
5 replacement, the lack of a library purchasing policy and is concerned about the possibility of
6 future taxpayer funded requests. Once the town's legislative body makes a decision on the
7 project, as a Selectboard member he will work to the best of his ability to carry out the decision
8 that comes from town meeting. He most interested in easing any tension that exists between the
9 town's two main villages.

10
11 The town's second budget hearing was closed.

12
13 There being no other business the Selectboard adjourned their session. The Zoom meeting was
14 left open for the Finance Committee which continued its work on finalizing their annual report.

15
16
17 Stephen Halleran
18 8:00pm

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday February 17th , 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair MTH
6 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
7 Eric Brann-Zoom
8 Steve Halleran, MTH
9 Tony Swett, MTH
10 Richard Collins, Zoom
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12 **Others Present via Zoom:** Mike Sutherland, Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Braswell,
13 Nancy Norwalk
14

15
16 The meeting was called to order at 6pm.
17

18 **Police:** Interim Chief Tony Swett updated the Selectboard on progress with the police
19 department. Anthony Casale has, with Selectboard approval, been hired to join the department.
20 He will be filling one of two vacant full time slots. His first day is February 28th.
21

22 Tony is pulling together new proposals for replacing the town's police cruisers.
23

24 **Highway:** The department's focus has been entirely on winter maintenance these last two weeks.
25 The last storm, Tuesday 2/16, was snow, sleet and rain was a particular challenge.
26

27 Looking toward spring, the town will soon have all the replacement road signs in stock ready for
28 installation as weather conditions will allow. About 1/3 of the town is done now.
29

30 **Public Comment:** Clint Swift encouraged the Selectmen to look closely at lease versus purchase
31 options for the new police cruisers.
32

33 **Town Office:** Town Administrator Halleran reviewed with the Selectmen plans for the June 5th
34 town meeting. Tents and chairs have been reserved.
35

36 The office is now transitioning away from the budget season and town report work. Working out
37 the detail of the new trash and recycling contract, continuing with the human resources update
38 and several pending Planning and Zoning cases are up next.
39

40 The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm
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43 Stephen Halleran
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday March 3rd , 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present: Rob Taylor, Chair -Zoom
6 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
7 Eric Brann-Zoom
8 Steve Halleran, MTH
9

10 **Others Present via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Braswell, Nancy Norwalk,
11 Amy Lappin, Suzanne Spencer, Paul Franklin, Interim Chief Tony Swett
12
13

14 The meeting, via Zoom, was called to order at 6pm.
15

16 **Police Report:** Interim Chief Anthony Swett updated the Selectboard on various police activities.
17 Anthony Casale has now joined the department and once he completes our local training period
18 he will be covering 40 hours of shifts per week.
19

20 Chief Swett indicated that the computer upgrade in the Police Department is nearly complete. He
21 has been working with the town's IT consultant on this project.
22

23 The Selectboard agreed to a proposal by Tasco to install a variety of required cameras in the
24 police department, both inside and outside the building. The camera system is being generously
25 donated by the company to the town.
26

27 **Public Comment:** Resident Suzanne Spencer met with the Selectboard to encourage their
28 consideration of Grace Hardy to receive a Stephen Taylor Award for community service. The
29 Board agreed to consider this request and acknowledged all the good work that many residents
30 including Grace do to add to Plainfield's overall sense of community.
31

32 **Moderator Paul Franklin:** Set up for town and school elections will be Monday afternoon at
33 3pm. Paul is supportive of as efficient a set up as can be accomplished with the necessary safety
34 protocols.
35

36 The group discussed the time tables for swearing in new officers. Typically that is done for the
37 town at the end of the deliberative session. In the year the voting will be on in March but the
38 deliberative session is not until June. State guidance on this issue has conflicting information,
39 town counsel Barry Schuster will be consulted. The goal is to swear in all newly elected officers
40 as soon after the vote as possible.
41

42 **Town Administrator's Report:** Steve Halleran discussed with the Selectboard an ongoing issue
43 with the turnaround at the end of Andrew's Lane. The turnaround was built in 1998 as part of a
44 privately funded road upgrade for Andrews Lane so that the Morin family could build a home
45 there. The new owner's (Jennifer Morin) questions whether the work that was done and the deed
46 that was provided both describe the same location. Attorney Barry Schuster is reviewing the
47 project file.
48
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1 **Town Emergency Operations Center Upgrade:** The town is the likely recipient of some NH
2 Department of Safety grant monies to upgrade the town's EOC generator and conference room.
3 Specifically, in conjunction with the heat pump project and Cares Act the Selectboard voted, to
4 accepted the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented in the amount
5 of \$26,471.00 to purchase and install telecommunication equipment and a generator in the
6 community's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Furthermore, the Board acknowledges that
7 the total cost of this project will be \$52,942.00, in which the town will be responsible for a 50%
8 match (\$26,471.00) the funding source for that will be CARES Act money.
9

10 Due to the ongoing State of Emergency due to COVID 19, the Selectboard, which is not holding
11 in person meetings, voted to authorize Town Administrator Stephen Halleran to sign documents
12 relative to this project on behalf of the Selectboard and Town of Plainfield.
13

14 The roll call vote to accept the grant and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign on behalf of
15 the town was 3 in favor 0 opposed.
16

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18 The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.
19
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21 Stephen Halleran
22 Town Administrator
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday March 17th , 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

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5 Selectmen present: Eric Brann, Chair -Zoom
6 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
7 Amy Lappin-Zoom
8 Steve Halleran, MTH
9 Tony Swett Interim PC
10 Stephanie Schell HS

11
12
13 **Others Present via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Braswell, Nancy Norwalk,
14 Jennifer Morin, William Winand.

15
16
17 The meeting opened at 6pm. Select board member Eric Brann was made Chairman for the year.

18
19 **Police:** Interim Police Chief Tony reviewed several projects with the Selectboard. He continues
20 to reorganize the department going through old case files. Tony wants to purge the evidence room
21 of any material from old cases. This will take court approval and he must demonstrate that the
22 evidence was for cases now resolved. The office security system is being replaced as well.

23
24 **Human Services:** Stephanie updated the Selectboard on both state and local COVID measures.
25 At the state level about 23% of the state is now vaccinated against COVID. Locally, Stephanie
26 continues to assist and advocate for increase vaccinations here in town. Both KUA and PES
27 educations should be able to receive shots in the next two weeks.

28
29 **Andrews Lane:** William Winand and Jennifer Morin met with the Select board to discuss
30 concerns they have with the delineation of the town turnaround at the end of Andrew's Lane. The
31 turnaround was constructed by Jennifer's father Ray Morin in the late 1990's to obtain a building
32 permit for new home on what was then a class VI road property. The Selectboard will view the
33 site on Wednesday March 24th at 5pm.

34
35 **Capital Improvements Plan Update:** Finance Committee member Eric Sorenson reviewed with
36 the board the work he has been involved with to update the town's existing capital improvements
37 plan. Mike Sutherland and Steve Halleran assisted with the work, but Eric was the architect of the
38 new spreadsheet which is far more comprehensive. Three key schedules will be included in the
39 annual report each year providing enhanced data to voters on upcoming large capital asset
40 purchases. All three members of the Selectboard and members of the public thanked Eric for this
41 work. Involving the School District in this program is the next obvious step.
42

1 **Town Office:** Stephen Halleran reported that with 77% of the budget year remaining the town
2 has 79% of the requested appropriation left. This puts the town on or slightly better than our ten
3 year average for this same time period.

4

5 Assessor George Hildum is in town tomorrow to begin the 2021 assessing work.

6

7 The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

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10 Stephen Halleran

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday March 24th , 2021
Andrew's Lane

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Selectboard: Eric Brann Chairman
Ron Eberhardt
Amy Lappin

Others Present: Stephen Halleran, TA
Richard Collins, RA
Jennifer Morin
William Winand
Jesse Zabski
Roland Daniels PPD

Chairman Brann called the meeting to order at 5pm.

He explained the Selectboard was in attendance to understand Jennifer and Williams concerns about the existing turnaround at the end of Andrew's Lane. Raymond Morin did a project in the late 1990s to extend the class V road so that he could obtain a building permit for a home. As part of that work he was required to deed a turnaround area to the town. Jennifer Morin, Ray's Daughter and her husband William Winand wish to have a better understanding of where that 60'x60' deeded square is located so that they can install a solid wall fence along their property lines. The existing turnaround is not using all of the 60'x60' area.

All agreed that the language in the deed from Morin to the Town of Plainfield could have been more detailed. The group went through several interpretations of the deed. In the end it was determined that a subset of this group would return to the site after snow melt and stake out a 60'x60' square that includes the existing turnaround. Survey quality GPS coordinates for these locations can then be established and put into a recorded agreement that will clarify the existing deed. These coordinates will also be used to update the town's tax map and to insure that our assessing records are accurate.

The Winands will also put up a line showing where they would like to establish a fence, Rich Collins can then determine if the proposed location will encroach upon necessary road maintenance.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40pm

Stephen Halleran

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday April 7th , 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present: Eric Brann, Chair -Zoom
6 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
7 Amy Lappin-Zoom
8 Steve Halleran, MTH
9 Bill Taylor-Zoom
10 Stephanie Schell-Zoom
11 Richard Collins-Zoom
12

13
14 **Others Present via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Braswell, Nancy Norwalk,
15 Paul Franklin, Aaron Gomo, Amy Gomo, Jesse Zabski, Bill and Donna Heath-Zoom/phone.
16

17 The meeting opened at 6pm.
18

19 Chairman Brann opened the session citing governor's emergency order number 12.
20

21 **Road Agent Collins:** Richard updated the Selectboard on early spring activities. Mud season is
22 winding down. The crew is starting some tree trimming and culvert work. There is a culvert
23 replacement scheduled for Croydon Turnpike tomorrow. A small pipe has failed and the road is
24 sinking down.
25

26 Engineer Erin Darrow is working on an emergency authorization from the NHDES to allow the
27 town to repair the river bank slump near Pierce Road. Road Agent Collins hopes to get this work
28 done by early July.
29

30 **Fire Chief Taylor:** The very high danger of brush fires was the main issue discussed with Fire
31 Chief Taylor. Snowmelt is over and we have several weeks before green up. Plainfield Fire,
32 along with several other area towns assisted Cornish with a 9 acre brush fire earlier in the week.
33

34 **Stephanie Schell:** COVID vaccinations continue to move along at a much improved rate
35 throughout the State of NH. All this is very good news. Some programs at the state level are
36 starting to wind down, however the state of emergency order remains in place. It is Stephanie
37 Schell's recommendation that the town hall in Plainfield not be opened this summer and that we
38 have no 4th of July parade again this year.
39

40 **Town Farm Road discussion:** Aaron and Amy Gomo and Paul Franklin joined the meeting to
41 discuss the various options for qualifying for a building permit for land accessed by a class VI
42 road. Paul Franklin owns 174 acres access from the class VI portion of Farm Road and he is
43 offering that land for sale. Plainfield has, since 1987, had an ordinance that prohibits issuing
44 building permits on class VI roads. Upgrading the road from unmaintained to maintained
45 highway is the most common approach that has been used in these cases. The Town Farm road
46 upgrade would require something like 1,000 feet of new road. Appealing a denied building permit
47 to the Zoning Board and or asking the Selectmen to revisit the ordinance are also choices that are
48 available. Since 1987 there has been no new permits for new homes that are to be located on
49 class VI roads. Many towns' take a different approach allowing applicants to assume all liability
50 for living on a class VI road.
51

1 The Gomo's and Franklin's will discuss their options and get back to the Selectmen at their next
2 meeting.

3

4 **Town Administrator:** One quarter of the year now gone both revenue and expense projections
5 seem to be on track. The River Road repair is still a large unknown and may require the Select
6 board to adjust the amount of paving that can be done this summer.

7

8 2021 Assessing work begins the end of this month. Town Assessor George Hildum will be in
9 town for three days getting assessments ready for 2021 first tax billing.

10

11 The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

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13

14 Stephen Halleran

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday April 21st , 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4 Selectmen present: Eric Brann, Chair -MTH
5 Ron Eberhardt-Zoom
6 Amy Lappin-Zoom
7 Steve Halleran, MTH
8 Stephanie Schell-Zoom
9 Tony Swett-MTH

10
11 **Others Present via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Braswell, Nancy Norwalk,
12 Paul Franklin, Aaron Gomo

13
14 The meeting opened at 5pm.

15
16 5:05pm Chairman Brann moved to go into nonpublic session to discuss a personnel matter related
17 to the Police Department. A roll call vote was held, Lappin Yes, Eberhardt Yes, Brann Yes

18
19 5:55pm The Selectboard came out of nonpublic session announcing that Interim Police Chief
20 Tony Swett will now be the permanent Police Chief for the Town of Plainfield. All in attendance
21 congratulated Chief Swett on this promotion.

22
23 Public Comment: None

24
25 **COVID Update:** Stephanie Schell thanked the Selectboard for keeping the local mask ordinance
26 in place. She feels it was too soon for the Governor to drop the state mandate. She encouraged the
27 Selectmen to keep the ordinance in place until the emergency order for COVID is lifted.

28
29 **Police Chief:** Chief Swett updated the Selectboard on his department's efforts to return to full
30 staffing. Tony complimented the early work of new hire Anthony Casale, who seems to fitting
31 into the Plainfield community very well.

32
33 **Farm Road:** The Selectmen indicated that they are open to having a discussion with the Planning
34 Board and the Conservation Commission about the class VI road ordinance, which prohibits
35 development on land accessed by these unmaintained roads. That will take some time, leaving the
36 current ordinance in place. An applicant who is denied a permit may appeal to the Zoning Board.
37 The Selectmen continue to be willing to consider an upgrade of the road to a maintained status,
38 but all of those costs are the responsibility of the applicant. This is the most common approach
39 that has been used when development on a class VI road is proposed.

40
41 **Town Administrator:** Stephen Halleran provided a brief updated on efforts to get emergency
42 approval from the NHDES for a repair to River Road. A site meeting is planned for next week
43 with the NHDES. Governor's Council Member Joe Kenney has agreed to attend the meeting.
44 The NHDES is unsure as to whether or not the project should be granted emergency status.

45
46 Town Assessor George Hildum will be in town for the next three days updating assessing records.
47 This work is done each year at this time as part of the town's annual work flow.

48
49 The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

50
51 Stephen Halleran

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

2 **Wednesday May 5th , 2021**

3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4 Selectmen present: Eric Brann, Chair -MTH
5 Ron Eberhardt-MTH
6 Amy Lappin-MTH
7
8 Steve Halleran, MTH
9 Stephanie Schell-Zoom
10 Tony Swett-MTH

11
12 **Others Present via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Braswell, Nancy Norwalk,
13 Lee Oxham, Jim McClammer, Adrienne Cedeno, Bev Widger, Holly McGovern, Jay Rendahl,
14 Judy Ptak, Mike Sutherland, Shannon Decker, Terri Crane, Jen Lenz, Beth Houde, Jeanne
15 Woodward Poor, Rosemary Mills

16
17 The meeting opened at 5pm with a site visit to Andrews Lane. The Selectboard met with abutting
18 landowners to the town's turnaround. A neighborhood dispute has led one neighbor to install a
19 stockade fence directly adjacent to the turnaround area. That neighbor feels the turnaround is in
20 the wrong location. The Selectboard does not agree with this assertion, but is willing to have the
21 highway department make a small alteration to the turnaround on this low volume dead end road
22 that will allow the fence to stay. Both neighbors agreed to the change and feel that fence may help
23 with the ongoing dispute.

24
25 **Highway Department:** Rich Collins updated the board on his department's work which has
26 focused over the last two weeks on ditching, tree trimming and equipment repair.

27
28 **Meriden Town Hall 5:30pm**

29
30 The Selectboard moved to go into executive session with consultant Bev Widger to discuss
31 employee compensation. The motion was made by Chairman Brann, seconded by Eberhardt and
32 voted unanimously on a roll call.

33
34 The group came out of executive session at 6:05

35
36 **Public Comment:** Jim McClammer from the River's Commission and Lee Oxenham both
37 offered comments favoring moving the River Road in the areas of the slump rather than fixing it
38 in place. Lee stressed that she views this as a climate change issue.

39
40 **Human Services:** Stephanie Schell expressed disappointment in the Governor's decision to allow
41 the state mask mandate and gathering restrictions to expire. She encouraged the Selectboard to
42 keep Plainfield's mask ordinance in place and to keep the Plainfield Town Hall closed for a while
43 longer. Likewise, the 4th of July parade and related festivities will not take place again this year.
44 The Selectboard agreed with Stephanie's conservative approach. The board did make a minor
45 revision to the mask ordinance which essentially allows small group outdoor business activities to
46 occur without masks. All other parts of the ordinance remain in place and outdoor use of masks is
47 encouraged.

48
49 **Police Department:** Chief Swett continues to update the police department procedures and
50 reorganize the space to suit his management style.

51

1 The department has stepped up early morning and evening patrols around town. Warmer weather
2 and longer days always increases the need for more patrols.

3
4 **Library Trustees:** The Library Trustees met with the Selectboard to update the Selectboard on
5 the Meriden Library replacement project. The group was shown the latest designs for the Geo
6 Barn structure. Despite increases in material costs the group has no plans to ask for any additional
7 tax money. If approved on June 5th, the project will not start until funds to cover its cost are in the
8 custody of the town. The Town Office will issue checks for the project only after approval by
9 designated members of the building committee and the library trustees.

10
11 The Trustees asked permission and were granted permission to offer the Meriden Library
12 Building for sale subject to approval on June 5th. The group would like see if there is anyone who
13 wishes to repurpose the building, thus saving the cost of hazardous material removal and
14 demolition.

15
16 The Selectmen moved into a second executive session as moved by Ron Eberhardt for the
17 purpose of discussing the possible hiring of a police officer, seconded by Amy Lappin. The roll
18 call vote was unanimous.

19
20 The session started at 8:10pm and ended at 8:20pm.

21
22 The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

23
24
25 Stephen Halleran
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27
28

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday May 19th , 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present: Eric Brann, Chair -MTH
6 Ron Eberhardt-MTH
7 Amy Lappin-MTH
8
9 Steve Halleran, MTH
10 Stephanie Schell-Zoom
11
12
13

14 The meeting opened at 6pm.

15
16 Chairman Brann explained the emergency order #12 allowing "Zoom" style meetings.
17

18 **Public Comment:** Vern Braswell asked if the demo for the library would occur before all the
19 money was in the bank. The answer was that removal or sale would not start before the project is
20 fully green lighted. Vern asked who has the authority to sell a town building? In this case town
21 meeting has the authority to authorize the sale. Vern asked would the project have land use
22 review? He was told it would go to the Planning Board for Site Plan Review.
23

24 Holly Braswell presented the Selectmen with an idea that she would like to do for Plainfield
25 Village. She would like to place hanging baskets of flowers on the utility poles. The Selectboard
26 supported this idea. Steve Halleran will work with Holly to try and get approval for the baskets
27 from Eversource Utility.
28

29 Richard Atkinson asked if the Solid Waste Group could hold a weekly contest that would have
30 two trash stickers as the weekly prize. The Selectboard agreed.
31

32 Clint Swift asked Richard if the solid waste group could do even more to educate Plainfield
33 residents about the new Lebanon composting program. Steve Halleran and Richard indicated that
34 they would continue to promote the new program.
35

36 **Stephanie Schell:** State guidelines continue to loosen as COVID cases continue to drop in New
37 Hampshire. Stephanie would prefer the state to go slower with its relaxation of restrictions. She
38 encouraged the Selectboard to keep the majority of the mask ordinance in place.
39

40 **Dan Cantlin:** Dan would like to hold the annual fishing derby this year. The event was cancelled
41 last year due to COVID 19. Dan has checked with Stephanie and she is okay with the idea as long
42 as safety protocols are in place. The Selectboard supported the idea of holding a derby.
43

44 **Mike Sutherland:** Mike reviewed with the Selectboard the history of the town's website. He has
45 been the town's webmaster for 16 years now and while he will continue to work on the project he
46 feels its time for the town to develop a relationship with a website design company. The demands
47 on the website will continue to grow and be more complex. The Selectmen graciously thanked
48 Mike for his many years of service. Steve Halleran and Mike Sutherland will work out a
49 transition plan over the next few months.
50

1 **Mask Ordinance Discussion:** The board discussed additional changes to the town's mask
2 ordinance. The CDC has recently changed its recommendation that most Americans should wear
3 masks. Board members discussed the reasons the ordinance was adopted and the fact that most
4 business in town have supported having the ordinance. A lot more is known now about COVID
5 19 and its transmission and vaccines are widely available for those that want one. The town using
6 its regulatory authority to mandate masks may not be necessary any longer.

7
8 Chairman Brann moved to rescind the ordinance at this time. Member Eberhardt seconded.
9 Discussion followed and from that came this statement.

10
11 The best way to protect all members of our community from Covid-19 is to have as many people
12 as possible receive the vaccination.

13
14 If for any reason a person chooses to remain unvaccinated, we ask him/her to wear a mask when
15 indoors when they are with people who are not in their household.

16
17 We are well aware that this is difficult or impossible to enforce, but we believe that this is best
18 practice. It is important to consider the well being of all of our citizens, including those who are
19 most vulnerable.

20
21 We recognize and support the fact that private businesses may choose to require masks for
22 customers.

23
24 The schools in town continue to require mask wearing, and masks should be worn at our June 5
25 school and town meeting.

26
27 The roll call vote on the motion to rescind was approved on a vote of 3 to 0.

28
29 At 8:30pm The Selectmen moved on a roll call vote of 3 to 0 to go into executive session to
30 discuss a personnel matter related to compensation.

31
32 The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

33
34
35 Stephen Halleran
36
37

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday June 2nd , 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present: Eric Brann, Chair -MTH
6 Ron Eberhardt-MTH
7 Amy Lappin-MTH
8
9 Steve Halleran, MTH
10 Anthony Swett-MTH
11 Richard Collins-MTH
12 Bill Taylor-Zoom
13 Stephanie Schell-Zoom
14

15
16 **Others Present via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Braswell, Nancy Norwalk,
17 James McCarragher, Mike Sutherland
18
19

20 Chairman Brann opened the meeting at 6:01pm, noting the requirements of emergency order #12.
21 A brief discussion followed about the NHMA's guidance that town board's should be prepared to
22 return to in person meetings after June 11th. The town of Plainfield has no plans to stop using
23 telecommunication tools like Zoom to offer public access to meetings. Board members will meet
24 in person.
25

26 **Public Comments:** Vern Braswell asked if it would be possible to reconsider the 4th of July
27 parade. After a full discussion and input from Health Officer Stephanie Schell the Selectboard
28 decided this would not be possible for 2021.
29

30 Stephenie Schell thanked Holly Braswell for the planters in Plainfield Village. The town was able
31 to obtain permission for the planters to be mounted on utility poles, Holly has moved quickly
32 forward with the project.
33

34 Mike Sutherland noted that he will have proposals to the Selectboard in a couple of weeks to a
35 month.
36

37 Jim McCarragher asked if use of the two fire stations for EMT training was now possible. The
38 buildings have been closed. On the positive recommendation of the Fire Chief the Selectmen
39 granted the request to open the fire stations for uses as deemed appropriate by the Fire Chief. No
40 indoor meals as of yet.
41

42 **Highway:** Rich reported he and the highway crew are working on getting the gravel pit set for
43 summer gravel crushing which is to start in mid June.
44

45 The highway crew will help with school and town meeting set up on Friday morning.
46

47 **Police:** Chief Swett plans to bring his new hire in to the June 16th board meeting. Rob Depietro,
48 who lives on Whitaker Road and is currently working for the Hanover PD will begin work for
49 Plainfield on June 21st.
50

51 The new police cruisers will be ordered next week after town meeting.

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Town Office: The heat pump work at the town offices begins on June 14th. The office is also going to receive a phone upgrade in early July. The existing phone system is out dated and is no longer working properly.

Town Meeting: The Selectboard spent the rest of the meeting preparing for the 2021 town meeting which due to COVID 19 is being held Saturday June 5th.

Bonnie Swift asked about the town's unassigned fund balance and its use for River Road. At this time there are no plans to use fund balance for River Road. Should the roadway collapse and the necessary riverbank repair become larger, changing the road location would be the most likely solution. Any solution will mostly likely be paid for using a combination of state highway improvement monies (annual block grant allocation) and by Plainfield taxpayers through the highway department budget/highway reserve fund monies and/or a warrant article at a town meeting. Right now the most likely scenario is a repair of the riverbank and moving the road over to the east about 10' all within the existing road right of way. That cost is roughly estimated to be about \$150,000.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Stephen Halleran

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday June 16th , 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4
5 Selectmen present:

6 Ron Eberhardt-MTH

7 Amy Lappin-MTH

8
9 Steve Halleran, MTH

10 Anthony Swett-MTH

11 Richard Collins-MTH

12 Bill Taylor-MTH

13 Stephanie Schell-Zoom

14
15
16 **Others Present via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Braswell, Nancy Norwalk,
17 Bev Widger, Mike Sutherland, Margaret Drye.

18
19
20 The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Ron Eberhardt who explained that Chairman Brann
21 is away for this meeting.

22
23 **Public Comment:** Margret Drye asked the Selectboard to reconsider the 4th of July parade.
24 Bonnie Swift asked that the June 2nd minutes be clarified with respect to how the River Road
25 repair will be funded.

26
27 **Highway Department:** Gravel crushing is now complete, highway has several culvert
28 replacement projects planned for the next month.

29
30 **Meriden Village Water District:** Operator Bill Taylor explained that the Main Street waterline
31 project will begin right after the 4th of July. The project is expected to take a month and will
32 impact Main Street traffic for most of that time. The water district will be transferring to the own
33 enough money to repair road. That paving will take place in 2022.

34
35 **Police Department:** The Selectboard swore in new Plainfield police office Robert Depietro. Mr.
36 Depietro lives in town and has most recently been a police officer for Hanover NH.

37
38 **Stephanie Schell:** The state of New Hampshire is starting to shut down some of its COVID 19
39 support infrastructure. The state of emergency has expired we are now operating under a public
40 health incident order. Stephanie remains very concerned about children and COVID 19.

41
42 **Plainfield Town Hall:** At the request of Plainfield Village residents the Selectboard decided to
43 authorize the reopening of the Plainfield Town Hall. Any uses in the building will need approval
44 by the Selectboard. Events for children are unlikely to be approved as children under 12 do not
45 have access to a COVID vaccine.

46
47 **Plainfield 4th of July Parade:** The Selectboard declined to reconsider their decision not to hold a
48 4th of July parade. The parade will be back in 2022.

49
50 **HR Consultant Bev Widger:** Bev provided a public presentation of her work on the town's
51 employee pay rates. She has canvassed area towns and other sources and has made a

1 recommendation to the Selectboard that the town eliminate the standard step and track grid
2 system in favor of a system with a min and max pay for each position. All employees must be
3 within the range for their grade, but changes from one year to the next will depend on merit.
4 Each employee will have an evaluation each year.

5
6 Concerning compensation, she is recommending some modest changes to the pay rates, but noted
7 that the town's current rates were generally very close to the "market rate" that her study
8 determined.

9
10 At the end of her presentation, having met with Bev in nonpublic session on this work the
11 Selectboard voted to adopt her recommendations and proposed pay ranges.

12
13 **Mike Sutherland:** Mike updated the board on the project to have an outside company take over
14 the town's website, moving from his design to a new site with additional features. Civic Plus and
15 MunicipalOne are the two finalists. Mike and Steve Halleran will be meeting with both companies
16 to determine which is the best fit for Plainfield's situation.

17
18 **Other Business:** The Select board signed the documents certifying the outcomes of town
19 meeting. The forms will be forwarded to the NH DRA for inclusion in the town's 2021 tax rate
20 file.

21
22 Ron Eberhardt moved to seal the executive session minutes from the following dates:
23 January 6th, April 21st, May 5th and May 19th. The motion was seconded and voted in the
24 affirmative.

25
26 The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

27
28
29
30 Stephen Halleran
31

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday July 7th , 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present:

6 Eric Brann-MTH
7 Ron Eberhardt-MTH
8 Amy Lappin-MTH
9
10 Steve Halleran, MTH
11 Anthony Swett-MTH
12 Richard Collins-MTH
13 Stephanie Schell-Zoom
14

15
16 **Others via Zoom unless otherwise noted:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Braswell,
17 Nancy Norwalk, Bev Widger, Mike Sutherland-MTH, Rangi Keen, Cindy Marx-Wood, Dylan
18 Wood, Cindy Patch, Keith Patch, Gavin Patch, Brian East, Beth Houde, Evan Oxenham-MTH,
19 Lee Oxenham
20

21
22 The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairman Eric Brann
23

24 **Public Comment: Mike Sutherland** reported back to the Selectboard about the process he and
25 Steve Halleran have followed with respect to finding a website design company. After developing
26 a list of three finalists, Mike and Steve interviewed two companies, Civic Plus and Municipal
27 One. It is their recommendation that the town use MunicipalOne to design and develop the new
28 town website. The cost of the project will be \$6,000 with about \$2,000 per year in ongoing
29 maintenance and support. The Selectboard supported this recommendation and thanked Mike
30 again for all of his hard work. Responding to a question from Bonnie Swift, Steve Halleran
31 responded that daily updates to the website will continue to be handled by the town office.
32

33 **Evan Oxenham:** In his role as co-chair of the Energy Committee Evan Oxenham made a
34 presentation to the board about the town joining the NH Community Power Coalition. Hanover
35 and Lebanon have joined. Membership for Plainfield would, in Evan's view, be a huge step
36 toward Plainfield meeting its Ready for 100 goals. The Selectboard decided that they would hold
37 a hearing on the proposal later in the summer. As a first step, a legal review will be completed by
38 town counsel. See RSA 53:E.
39

40 **Cindy Patch/Cindy Marx Wood:** The two came to the meeting with their families to discuss an
41 ongoing issue between them with respect to the Patch's son riding a motocross "dirt bike" on his
42 family' property. The riding as led to several calls to the Plainfield Police Department. The town
43 does not have a noise ordinance and is hesitant to use section 4.8 of the Zoning Ordinance to
44 regulate ATV use on private property. Cindy Patch indicated that she and Cindy Marx Wood
45 have discussed the matter and have come to an agreement on when Gavin will ride his
46 motorcycle. Brian East was present just to say that for him the dirt bike, while new to the
47 neighborhood, does not cause any significant problem for him and his family. The Selectboard
48 appreciated the neighbors working out an arrangement and encouraged them to continue the
49 dialogue and respect for one and another.
50

1 **Clint Swift:** Clint asked that the Selectboard return to using a more formal process for review and
2 acceptance of their minutes. The Selectboard agreed that now that they have returned to in person
3 meetings returning to the more typical process with minutes is a good idea. State law requires
4 minutes be kept, but there is no requirement that a board subsequently approve them.

5
6 **Bev Widger:** The Plainfield Historical Society would like to donate a piano they have to the
7 Plainfield Town Hall, replacing the less or the two that are in the town hall currently. The
8 Selectboard agreed to this, but asked that the delivery of the new piano and the removal of the
9 lesser one be done at the same time. Bev noted that the Annie Duncan piano at the town hall is
10 the most historically important of the three and will of course remain in the town hall.

11
12 **Department Reports:** Road Agent Collins (after Oxenham before Patch in real time) reported on
13 storm clean up from last Wednesday's micro burst event. The north western corner of town was
14 hit hard; it will be several more days of cleaning up downed trees. Roadside mowing is
15 progressing and Rich has been making some needed repairs to the town's dump trucks.

16
17 Police Chief Swett indicated to the Selectboard that the new police cruisers have been ordered
18 and should be delivered to the town in mid to late fall. Both the Police Department and the Town
19 Office has had a new phone system installed. Much of the equipment that was replaced was
20 outdated and had not been working properly.

21
22 The Police Department will return to a full slate of officers next week. New officer Rob Depietro
23 will have completed the ride along program and will begin filling shifts alone next week. For the
24 first time in nearly two years the department will be at full strength.

25
26 Health Officer Stephanie Schell reported that she was disappointed to see that less than 50% of
27 Plainfield's residents have been vaccinated. State reporting shows Plainfield at 47% of eligible
28 residents. Stephanie urged continued vigilance stressing that COVID and its variants can still be
29 very harmful particularly to our young children and seniors.

30
31 Town Administrator: The Selectboard discussed and on the recommendation of Town
32 Administrator Steve Halleran voted to have the town apply for and accept Federal American
33 Recovery Act funding. Plainfield's allocation is \$251,000, if not claimed the money does not
34 return to the Federal Government, but rather is available for other cities and town's to claim.

35
36 The Selectboard reviewed and approved employee pay rates for 2021. Performance reviews have
37 been completed and the wage schedule as recommended by Consultant Bev Widger has been
38 adopted and is reflected in the new rates.

39
40 Resident Bonnie Swift responding to the ATV discussion earlier in the meeting noted that she

1 would find this type of noise to be irritating and would hope that the town zoning ordinance
2 would in fact protect abutters from this type of nuisance.

3

4 The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

5

6

7 Submitted by Stephen Halleran

8

9

10 Approved,

11

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13 Eric Brann, Chair

14

15

16 Ron Eberhardt

17

18

19 Amy Lappin

20

21

22

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday July 21st , 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present:

6 Eric Brann-MTH
7 Ron Eberhardt-MTH
8 Amy Lappin-MTH
9
10 Steve Halleran, MTH
11 Anthony Swett-MTH
12
13

14 **Others via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Braswell,
15

16 The meeting was called to order at 6pm. The July 7th minutes were approved as amended.
17

18 **Public Comment:** Clint and Bonnie Swift asked that the Selectboard meeting agendas contain
19 more information about topics to be discussed. Their feeling is that too many issues are coming
20 up under public comment.
21

22 Vern Braswell restated his concerns that selling the Meriden Library for \$1 to a Selectboard
23 member seems inappropriate. Selectboard member Amy Lappin responded that she and her
24 husband Thom have filed a letter of interest in acquiring the Meriden Library which would be
25 moved across the street. No formal arrangement has been reached and if there are others out there
26 that want the building they should have it. The Lappin's have a project going forward that the
27 building could be used for and it seemed a shame to see it demolished. The building was
28 advertised for sale and to date only one serious inquiry has been received.
29

30 **Police Department:** Chief Swett updated the board on changes to the patrol schedule. The
31 department is now fully staffed and the team is making efforts to be out on patrol at all hours of
32 the day.
33

34 The Selectboard determined they would hold a hearing on the Energy Committee's request that
35 the town join the newly formed NH Power Coalition on Wednesday August 18th at 7pm.
36

37 **Town Administrator:** Steve Halleran reported that last year's "Hazard Pay for First Responder"
38 program has been audited by the state and the use of the funds found to be in compliance with the
39 federal guidelines. That program has now been closed out.
40

41 The town has now, at the direction of the Selectboard, applied for American Recovery Funds. The
42 town is expected to receive \$251,000 over the next two budget cycles.
43

44 The River Road wetland permit will be submitted to the NHDES by August 1st.
45

46 The next phase of the heat pump project at Meriden Town Hall will start in early August. Duct
47 work is complete and the pumps are next.
48

1 Town Assessor George Hildum will be in town the rest of this week.

2

3

4 The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

5

6

7 Submitted by Stephen Halleran

8

9

10 Approved,

11

12

13 Eric Brann, Chair

14

15

16 Ron Eberhardt

17

18

19 Amy Lappin

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22

1
2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
3 **Wednesday August 4th**
4 **Meriden Town Hall**
5

6 Selectmen present:

7 Eric Brann-MTH
8 Ron Eberhardt-MTH
9

10 Steve Halleran, MTH
11 Anthony Swett-MTH
12 Richard Collins-MTH
13 Brad Atwater- MTH
14

15
16 **Others:** Henry Aldrich, Sue Liebowitz, Roberta Stormann, Marc Morgan

17 **Others via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Braswell, Lois Kenyon
18

19 The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chairman Brann
20

21 The July 7th meeting minutes were approved as written.
22

23 **Public Comments:** None.
24

25 **Department Head Reports:**
26

27 **Human Services Director:** Stephanie Schell offered updated Plainfield COVID vaccination
28 numbers. 69% of eligible residents have had one shot, 65% are fully vaccinated. While better
29 than previously reported numbers, Stephanie feels that Plainfield should be much higher, more
30 like 80%. She asked and received permission to organize a COVID 19 vaccination clinic at this
31 year's Spirit Day. Vern Braswell question whether Spirit Day should be cancelled. As an outdoor
32 Plainfield only event, spread out over a field Stephanie feels right now it can go forward.
33

34 Stephanie asked the Selectboard to help at the senior lunch on September 23rd.
35

36 **Road Agent:** Road Agent Rich Collins went over scaled back paving plans for this summer. He
37 would like to Chellis Road and Westgate Road from the top of the hills by the condominiums to
38 the bridge over the Blow-me-down brook. He is obtaining a second set of prices from BlakTop.
39 Resident Bonnie Swift asked the Road Agent to take a look at road on the far side of the bridge;
40 she feels that hill is in worse condition. No final paving decisions were made.
41

42 **Police Chief:** Anthony Swett updated the board on his department's activities over the last two
43 weeks. Chief Swett has been working with the school administration to update the emergency
44 action plan for the school.
45

46 **Facility Manager:** Brad Atwater indicated that the heat pump project is nearly operational, the
47 conference room upgrade is occurring next week, and the ramp at the Plainfield town hall has
48 been repaired.
49

50 **Lebanon Landfill:** Landfill Manager Marc Morgan met the group to discuss the new permitting
51 process that will be effective on September 1st. Starting on that day all users with the landfill

1 have to either have a commercial account or be registered with the city. Registration can be done
2 with our town clerk or by the use of a website and will have little or no cost. The new process will
3 assist the city in tracking who is using the facility and is the precursor to a pay at the landfill
4 system. Marc made it clear that registration would be simple and easy, but also that it is required
5 to use the facility starting September 1st. Marc also explained some of the other clarification in
6 the new solid waste contract. There are no major changes but several clarifications designed to
7 give participating communities a better idea of how landfill closing costs will be covered. The
8 Selectboard approved the contract and thanked Marc Morgan for coming to the meeting.
9

10 **Town Administrator:** The town is expecting to receive its first of two federal stimulus payments
11 in the next few days. Public hearing will be held to discuss how the money will be used. The
12 second payment will come in 2022.
13

14 The town is working with Avitar Associates on the preliminary plans for the 2022 assessing
15 update.
16

17 Moderator Paul Franklin will be seating the new Finance Committee in the next week or so.
18

19 The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.
20

21 Submitted by Stephen Halleran
22

23
24 Approved,
25

26
27 Eric Brann, Chair
28

29
30 Ron Eberhardt
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday August 18th**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present:

6 Eric Brann-MTH
7 Ron Eberhardt-MTH
8 Amy Lappin-MTH
9

10 Steve Halleran, MTH
11 Anthony Swett-MTH
12 Richard Collins-MTH
13 Evan Oxenham
14

15 **Others via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Braswell, Nancy Norwalk, Julia
16 Griffin-Town of Hanover, Lee Oxenham, Eric Sorenson, Bev Widger, Claire Potter, Jen Lenz,
17 Steve Ladd
18

19 The minutes of August 4th were approved as amended.
20

21 **Public Comment:** Eric Sorenson asked why paving work has been scaled back for 2021.
22 Chairman Brann informed him it was due to the pending repair on River Road which will use up
23 a lot of available funds.
24

25 **Highway Department:** Rich Collins provided the Selectboard updated numbers on paving. Both
26 Pike and Blaktop have provided proposals. The numbers from both vendors are similar; BlakTop
27 cannot do any work this year, but could do the work in 2022. The Selectboard approved paving
28 Chellis Road in Meriden and a portion of Westgate Rd in Plainfield Village. Following up on an
29 inquiry from last meeting, Road Agent Collins now plans to extend the Westgate Road paving
30 over the bridge and up to the top of the hill near #119 Westgate Road. This plan allows both
31 villages to get some new pavement and allows half the available road repair monies to go toward
32 the River Road repair.
33

34 Rich reported he is having some trouble with the automatic transmission in truck #3. That truck is
35 now down at SG Reed for service.
36

37 Town Administrator Halleran thanked Road Agent Collins and the entire highway crew for their
38 recent work here at the Meriden Town Hall. The department has done all the site work necessary
39 to support the heat pump and new generator projects as well as improving drainage on the east
40 side of town hall.
41

42 **Human Services Director:** Stephanie Schell updated the board on NH and Plainfield's ongoing
43 experience with the Delta variant of the COVID virus. Cases are on the rise; thankfully Plainfield
44 has not experienced any deaths as a result of our 67 total cases. Stephanie asked the Selectboard
45 to be thinking about ways to encourage mask wearing. The Selectboard was not inclined at this
46 time to reinstate the town wide mask ordinance. However, the board will encourage the use of
47 masks indoors and will continue to monitor the need for a mask ordinance.
48

49 **Police Chief:** Chief Swett indicated that one of his officers will be participating and fundraising
50 for the CHaD battle of the badges softball game.
51

1 Chief Swett indicated that all area towns are working together to try and solve recent catalytic
2 converter thefts in the area.

3
4 The Police Department is working on a proposal for body cameras for the 2022 or 2023 budget
5 season.

6
7 **NH Power Coalition Public Hearing:** Chairman Brann opened the public hearing. Energy
8 Committee co chairs Evan Oxenham and Steve Ladd explained that the Energy Committee is
9 recommending to the Board of Selectmen that they join this newly formed group that will be
10 working to bring both lower cost and greener power options for its members. Town Manager
11 Julia Griffin who has been on the forefront of this project joined the meeting and provided
12 background on Hanover's reasons for joining. Hanover has had the entire program reviewed by
13 three attorneys one that specializes in power coalitions and two from New Hampshire. In
14 addition, the NH Attorney General's Office has reviewed the arrangement. Steve, Evan and Julia
15 all concurred that agreements such as the town's power purchase plan would have to be ratified
16 by a vote of town meeting. Selectboard member Eberhardt reported on town counsel's view,
17 which was very much in line with what Julia has reported.

18
19 Resident Eric Sorenson questioned whether this was about cost or energy source. He is skeptical
20 that adding another layer of bureaucracy will result in lower rates. Julia Griffin noted that
21 Hanover wants an option for 100% green power. Both Representative Lee Oxenham and Julia
22 Griffin noted that buying power at the scale this organization will represent will likely create
23 opportunities for some savings and improved rates and will replace the power buying bureaucracy
24 that each utility currently has for their efforts. Only the power purchase portion of a customer's
25 bill will change, the various utility companies will continue to distribute the power through their
26 lines and infrastructure and will of course charge for that as they do now.

27
28 There being no other public wishing to comment, Ron Eberhardt moved to have Plainfield join
29 the NH Power Coalition, the motion was seconded by Lappin and voted unanimously in the
30 affirmative.

31
32 The next step will be to appoint a representative and Evan Oxenham indicated a willingness to fill
33 that role if the board wished.

34
35 **Town Administrator's Report:** The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and signed
36 documents. Halleran noted that with 38% of the budget period remaining the town currently has
37 42% of the approved appropriation remaining.

38
39 The heat pump project, the new generator and the conference room upgrade are all in progress
40 and should be wrapped up within the next month.

41
42 The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

43
44 Submitted by Stephen Halleran

45
46 Approved,

47
48
49 Eric Brann, Chair

Amy Lappin

50
51 Ron Eberhardt

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday September 1st 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present:

6 Eric Brann-MTH
7 Ron Eberhardt-MTH
8 Amy Lappin-MTH
9

10 Steve Halleran, MTH
11 Richard Collins-MTH
12 Brad Atwater-MTH
13

14 **Others via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Holly and Vern Braswell, Eric Sorenson
15

16 The minutes of August 18th were approved as amended.
17

18 **Public Comment:** Eric Sorenson asked why the town was pursuing a new website design.
19 Chairman Brann informed him that long time volunteer webmaster Mike Sutherland has asked
20 the town to do so as he would like to step back from this role.
21

22 **Highway Department:** Road Agent Collins explained that he is now completing culvert
23 replacements for this year. Fall grading will begin next week. The Selectboard engaged Rich in a
24 Capital Planning discussion. He offered that his recommendation is to move the loader
25 replacement up one year in the current plan, to 2022. The board asked Rich to develop a
26 specification sheet for a new machine and to obtain three quotes. The Board had little interest in a
27 used machine; however, they did indicate a used machine with a factory warranty might be
28 acceptable. Building on past discussions with the Finance Committee the Selectboard asked town
29 staff to look into a lease option for the new loader.
30

31 **Facility Manager:** Brad Atwater asked the board to set aside some time for discussion about the
32 Plainfield Town Hall with regard to its value to the community and how much money the town is
33 able to spend on it each year. The Board agreed to do this at their next meeting. Given the history
34 & high value of the Maxfield Parrish Stage Set, Clint Swift suggested that once a vision for a
35 renovated Plainfield Town Hall & well researched long term strategy was established, funds from
36 historic restoration grant makers, private foundations & individuals would likely be available.”
37

38 **Town Administrator:** The town continues to pursue federal funding for the River Road repair.
39 FEMA’s Hazard mitigation program seems the most likely avenue.
40

41 One third of the budget year remains, the town has 40% of the approved budget remaining.
42

43 Moderator Paul Franklin is working on appointing the new finance committee.
44

1 The Meriden Library Project is getting very close to asking for authorization to begin the
2 construction. It is hoped that such a decision can be made by September 15th.

3
4

5 The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

6
7

8 Submitted by Stephen Halleran

9
10

11 Approved,

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13

14 Eric Brann, Chair

Amy Lappin

15
16

17 Ron Eberhardt

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19

20
21

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday September 15th 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present:

6 Eric Brann

7 Ron Eberhardt

8 Amy Lappin

9
10 Steve Halleran , TA

11
12 Chief Swett

Brad Atwater

13 Holly Braswell

Vern Braswell

14 Jen Lenz

Mary King

15 Shannon Decker
16

17 **Others via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Eric Sorenson, Beth Houde, Stephanie Schell, Diane
18 Rogers, Mike Sutherland, Nancy Norwalk, Bev Widger
19

20 The minutes of the September 1st meeting were approved as presented.
21

22 Public Comment: Clint Swift asked if the Plainfield Town Hall will be discussed this evening. He
23 was told that it would be discussed.
24

25 Holly Braswell shared with the Selectboard her strong feelings that the Meriden Library project
26 should not go forward. From both a needs and a process prospective in her view the project is
27 flawed and unnecessary. Her statement and an e-mail from her husband Vern will be added to the
28 Selectboard minute's permanent file. Both she and Vern feel strongly that not enough effort was
29 put in to try and sell the Meriden Library. Chairman Brann acknowledged Holly's comments
30 noting that those who participate get to decide. He has not always supported the project, but now
31 that the town has voted on it, it's the Selectboard's job to make sure that the project happens as
32 smoothly as possible.
33

34 **Byrne Foundation Gift:** Chairman Brann opened the public hearing to accept a \$15,000 gift
35 from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation. Chief Swett explained the request that he made for
36 a new radar trailer, two in vehicle repeaters and new AED units for the cruisers. The package
37 totaled \$18,000 and the foundation provided \$15,000. All at the meeting were grateful for the gift
38 from the foundation and spoke in favor of accepting the funds for these purposes. A motion to
39 accept the generous gift was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative.
40

41 **Human Services:** Stephanie Schell updated the group on upcoming flu and COVID vaccination
42 opportunities. The Selectboard will be assisting with the senior lunch next Thursday. Stephanie
43 again asked the Selectboard, in the near future, to consider reinstating the mask ordinance.
44 She further noted that she is looking for volunteer help to organize bulk vegetables to be
45 distributed to local families.
46

47 **Facility Manager:** As part of the Selectboard's continued capital planning efforts, Brad Atwater
48 walked the group through a detailed evaluation of the Plainfield Town Hall. In addition to several
49 maintenance issues (paint, door repair, bat excrement removal) the building will need some
50 foundation and drainage work. Bev Widger asked the Selectboard to consider reinstating the
51 Plainfield Town Hall committee to work on these types of issues. The Selectboard agreed and feel

1 it would be appropriate to ask the town meeting to weigh in on the value of the building to the
2 community.

3
4 **Meriden Library Replacement:** Members of the building committee and Board of Library
5 Trustees met with the Selectboard to go over the budget for the project. The current estimate for
6 the work is \$1,175,000 and all private funding is now in place to match that amount. Jen pointed
7 out that this does include \$4,000 from the town to pay for one half of the estimated \$8,000 it will
8 cost to have the town's facility manager be the owner's representative through the project. Vern
9 Braswell noted that this would seem to be violation of the no new tax dollars commitment.
10 Chairman Brann agreed noting he could not support the project with that money coming from
11 taxpayers. The library group withdrew that request. All agreed that having an owner's
12 representative was key and that the facility manager position was the most likely place for this job
13 to land. It was noted that the Meriden Library Foundation will continue to fundraise. Every
14 building project has some change orders. In the current case the available contingency is \$18,000
15 which is small for a project of this size. Eric Brann moved to find that the Library Trustees have
16 met their charge to show a viable budget with no new tax dollars. The motion was seconded and
17 voted in the affirmative. Funds to pay for the project will be transferred to the town prior to the
18 start of construction. Selectboard member Lappin recused herself from this discussion and vote.
19
20

21 **Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire:** Building on the Selectboard's vote at their
22 August 18th meeting to join this organization, Selectboard and Energy Committee Member Ron
23 Eberhardt offered the following motion: That the Plainfield Select Board hereby authorizes the
24 Select Board Chair Eric Brann to enter into an intermunicipal agreement known as the "Joint
25 Powers Agreement" under the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 53-A to create the Community
26 Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) for the purpose of supporting member
27 municipalities and counties in developing and implementing electric aggregation plans, pursuant
28 to RSA 53-E, as well as related statutory authorities." Further, to appoint Energy Committee Co
29 Chair Evan Oxenham as the town's director to the above listed organization and Energy
30 Committee Co Chair Steve Ladd as the alternate director to said organization. The motion was
31 seconded and voted in the affirmative.
32
33

34 The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

35
36 Submitted by Stephen Halleran
37
38

39 Approved,
40
41

42 Eric Brann, Chair

Amy Lappin

43
44 Ron Eberhardt
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46

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday October 6th 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4
5 Selectmen present:

6 Eric Brann-Zoom
7 Ron Eberhardt
8 Amy Lappin

9
10 Steve Halleran , TA

11
12 Holly Braswell

13
14 Via Zoom Shannon Decker Mary King Mike Sutherland
15 Bev Widger

16
17 **Others via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Eric Sorenson, Stephanie Schell, Diane Rogers, Mike
18 Sutherland, Nancy Norwalk, Bev Widger

19
20 Since chairman Brann is away, joining via Zoom, he asked that Ron Eberhardt Chair this
21 meeting.

22
23 The September 15th minutes were approved as amended. Holly Braswell asked that her written
24 statement from last meeting be taken out of the minute book and returned to her. The Selectboard
25 had no objection.

26
27 **Public Comment:** Eric Sorenson asked about COVID monies received by the town in 2021.
28 Town Administrator Halleran responded that to date the only funds received this year have been
29 American Recovery Fund money and that these funds have not been spent. A pubic hearing will
30 be held prior to there use.

31
32 **Health Department:** Stephanie Schell reported that currently there are no active COVID cases in
33 Plainfield. She thanked the Selectboard for their efforts to approve and distribute new signs that
34 will encourage mask wearing.

35
36 Last weeks clinic gave out 304 flu shots.

37
38 **Town Administrator:** Police Chief Swett is away on vacation, the department has full coverage
39 in the chief's absence. Chief Swett has made necessary repairs (brakes and tires) to the existing
40 cruisers as he anticipates using these cars for the entire winter.

41
42 Highway is hauling winter sand and doing fall grading. Road Agent Collins is looking into
43 options for replacing a 36" culvert on River Road. Pike plans to be in town on October 18th to
44 pave on Chellis and Westgate Roads.

45
46 All fire department vehicles have now been inspected and had maintenance performed by Road
47 Agent Collins and his crew. Halleran indicated that, in his view, the highway department needs to
48 get back to the model of having a full time dedicated mechanic. This is particularly true with the
49 new municipal fire department adding 6-8 vehicles to the town's inventory.

50
51 The 2021 tax rate setting papers were signed.

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Plainfield Town Hall Discussion: The Selectboard agreed to reestablish the Plainfield Town Hall Committee. The board worked with Bev Widger on a draft document that outlines the charge of this group. The board hopes to finalize the charge at their next meeting.

The October 6th meeting was adjourned at 7pm.

Eric Brann,

Amy Lappin

Ron Eberhardt, Acting Chair

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday October 20th 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present:

6 Eric Brann, Chair
7 Ron Eberhardt
8 Amy Lappin
9

10 Steve Halleran , TA
11 Tony Swett, PC
12 Richard Collins, RA
13
14
15

16 **Others via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Mike Sutherland, Nancy Norwalk, Bev Widger
17 Vern and Holly Braswell.
18

19 The meeting opened at 6pm.
20

21 The October 20th minutes were approved as amended.
22

23 **Public Comment:** Nancy Norwalk asked about the Selectboard returning to the Plainfield
24 Library for alternating meetings. Chairman Brann indicated that the board will return to that
25 schedule once the library meeting room has the necessary technology for hosting zoom meetings
26 so that those in attendance can also see the zoom participants.
27

28 **Bonnie Swift:** Bonnie thanked the police department for all of its help with making Route 12A
29 pedestrian safe for the book sale. She particularly enjoyed meeting new officer Robert Depietro
30

31 **Department Heads:**
32

33 **Highway,** Richard Collins updated the Selectboard on a 36” culvert that is failing on River Road.
34 Engineer work indicates that a replacement pipe of the same size is the best option. This work
35 will be done in the spring. Rich will evaluate whether any additional work to reinforce the culvert
36 is warranted before winter sets in.
37

38 Halleran thanked the crew for their work at the town office. A large maple that was shedding
39 branches have been removed and a second pruned. Road Agent Collins brought in his bucket
40 truck to assist with this work.
41

42 The crew also cleaned the town’s Service Memorial located on Route 12A.
43

44 **Police,** Chief Swett reported that the “speed trailer” purchased by the Jack and Dorothy Byrne
45 Foundation is now in service. The trailer will be moved around town as needed to address
46 vehicular speed concerns.
47

48 The Police Department continues to wait for its new cruisers; they likely will not be delivered
49 until next year.
50

1 **Town Administrator**, Steve Halleran reported that the Library Trustees and the Library
2 Foundation have now turned over to the town \$1,099,900 that when coupled with the \$55,000
3 approved from the ADA Fund and the \$17,761 from the Library Replacement Fund totals
4 \$1,172,661 to cover the cost of the construction of the new library. The monies have been
5 deposited in the town's general fund.

6
7 The town's operating budget with 19% of year to go has 27% of the budget remaining.

8
9 The Selectboard will be meeting with the Finance Committee on November 3rd.

10
11 **Tax Rate Setting:** The NH Department of Revenue Administration has now set the town's tax
12 rate at \$26.65. The Selectboard voted 3-0 to release all unassigned fund balance over \$1,000,000
13 to go toward tax rate reduction. Therefore, \$32,503 will be used to reduce taxes. The new tax rate
14 will be \$26.55. The Selectboard signed the necessary paperwork.

15
16 The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

17
18 Submitted,

19
20 Stephen Halleran

21
22
23 Approved,

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25
26 Eric Brann, Chair

27
28
29 Ron Eberhardt

30
31
32 Amy Lappin

33

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday November 3rd 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present:

6 Amy Lappin, Acting Chair
7 Ron Eberhardt

8
9 Steve Halleran , TA
10 Tony Swett, PC
11 Richard Collins, RA
12

13 **Others in person:** Mike Sutherland, Pattie Hall, Dan Cassedy

14 **Others via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Mike Sutherland, Nancy Norwalk, Bev Widger
15 Vern and Holly Braswell, Eric Sorenson
16

17 The meeting opened at 6pm.
18

19 Selectwoman Amy Lappin opened the meeting by noting that Chairman Eric Brann is away on a
20 trip and she will be chairing the meeting.
21

22 The October 20th minutes were approved as amended.
23

24 Public Comment: None
25

26 **Department Reports**
27

28 **Fire:** Chief Taylor updated the Selectboard on budget and capital planning issues for the fire
29 department. The fire department budget will be level funded this year and their first major capital
30 replacement will be in 2027 when one of the department's trucks is replaced. Bill feels confident
31 that the existing reserve funding allocation will be sufficient to fund the replacement.
32

33 **Water District:** System Operator Bill Taylor reported that the water main replacement on Main
34 Street is now complete. The final business on this project is for the water district to work out with
35 the town the necessary contribution from the district toward Main Street paving.
36

37 **Police:** Chief Swett is looking into options for improving radio communications between police,
38 fire and highway. These include the use of both stationary repeaters and mobile repeaters.
39 Resident Bonnie Swift encouraged the group to look into state and federal funding for the units.
40

41 **Human Services:** Stephanie Schell thanked all those involved in the fall foliage drive through
42 luncheon. The holiday luncheon will be hosted by KUA and will also be a drive thru format.
43

44 In regard to COVID, Plainfield's case count remains low. Stephanie asked that signage and the
45 encouragement of masking be increased throughout town.
46

47 Human Service agencies are making their budget requests and she will be reviewing them with
48 Town Administrator Halleran.
49

1 **Town Office:** The Selectboard approved a roster of potential names for the newly minted
2 Plainfield Town Hall Committee. Bev Widger has agreed to Chair the group initially and will
3 help get it up and running.
4

5 At the request of Town Clerk Michelle Marsh the Selectboard discussed the three properties most
6 in arrears on property taxes. While the Selectboard could deed their property to the town, they
7 have instead set up payment plans with each owner. The plans are being materially complied
8 with, however, the amount of back taxes is not getting significantly smaller, most of the payments
9 made go to interest. In total, the amount of unpaid property taxes in Plainfield is less than 1% of
10 the total tax levy for that same time period.
11

12 **Finance Committee:** The Selectboard spent the remainder of the meeting with the Finance
13 Committee. The current tax rate, current budget and broad concepts for 2022 were discussed. In
14 regard to the operating budget the Police Department, now at full staff, will likely see one of the
15 largest percent increases in 2022. Based on continued work on capital planning Town
16 Administrator Halleran thinks it is likely that the town should look at shortening the expected in
17 service life of its highway trucks and equipment. Based on expenses and time spent it seems
18 likely that too much time and effort is being allocated to repairs.
19

20 The Selectboard will meet next with the Finance Committee on December 15th.
21
22

23 The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.
24

25 Submitted,
26

27 Stephen Halleran
28
29

30 Approved,
31
32

33 Amy Lappin, Chair
34
35

36 Ron Eberhardt
37
38
39

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday November 17th 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4
5 Selectmen present:

6 Eric Brann Chair
7 Ron Eberhardt
8 Amy Lappin
9

10 Steve Halleran , TA
11 Tony Swett, PC
12 Richard Collins, RA
13

14
15 **Others via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Nancy Norwalk, Bev Widger
16 Vern and Holly Braswell, Eric Sorenson, Lee Oxenham
17

18 The meeting opened at 6pm.
19

20 The minutes of the November 3rd meeting were approved as grammatically amended.
21

22 **Public Comment:** Holly Braswell asked the Selectboard if it would be okay for her to replace her
23 planters in Plainfield Village with holiday decoration. The Selectboard graciously approved this
24 request, again thanking Holly for all her hard work.
25

26 Representative Lee Oxenham met briefly with the Selectboard to inform them that the legislature
27 has determined that Plainfield and Cornish will remain in the same legislative district. There was
28 recent discussion about separating the two towns but that is not going to happen.
29

30 **Highway Report:** Road Agent Collins updated the board on his department's maintenance and
31 repair work over the last two weeks. Rich noted that he is working with Steve on his new budget.
32 He is very concerned about the escalating costs of hard goods. A significant increase in the
33 highway department's budget is likely.
34

35 Pike will not be able to complete Plainfield's paving for 2021. Rainy weather, cold temperatures
36 and a shortage of labor has ended their season with unfinished work. Rich hopes to be able to
37 pave all of Westgate, Chellis and Main Street next year. The Selectboard agreed with this
38 approach.
39

40 **Police Report:** Chief Tony Swett echoed the concerns expressed by Road Agent Collins, he too
41 is experiencing significant cost increases across the board. He also noted that the labor market
42 for police officers is extremely tight with competing departments offering hiring bonuses in
43 excess of \$10,000.
44

45 The Selectboard called out the good work of the police department which recently stopped a
46 burglary in progress on Route 12A.
47

48 **Town Office:** The Selectboard completed and signed a letter to the City of Lebanon requesting a
49 meeting with the City Council to discuss Lebanon's plans to close Brook Road for five months
50 during the summer of 2023.
51

1 Town Administrator Halleran acknowledged the near universal difficulties with controlling costs
2 in all areas of the operating budget. He is building the draft budget with a 3% increase for wages
3 but acknowledges that this might not be sufficient.

4
5
6 The first draft of the 2022 budget will be presented to the Selectboard at their next meeting.

7
8 The Selectboard received an update on the new Plainfield Town Hall Committee from Chair Bev
9 Widger. The group is hoping to have its first meeting at PTH before the town closes it for the
10 year.

11
12 The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

13
14
15 Submitted,

16
17 Stephen Halleran

18
19
20 Approved,

21
22
23 Eric Brann, Chair

24
25
26 Ron Eberhardt

27
28
29 Amy Lappin

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday December 1st 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present:

6 Eric Brann Chair
7 Ron Eberhardt
8 Amy Lappin
9

10 Steve Halleran , TA
11 Tony Swett, PC
12

13 **Others via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Nancy Norwalk, Bev Widger
14 Eric Sorenson, Stephanie Schell.
15

16 Chairman Brann opened the meeting at 6pm. The minutes of November 17th were approved as
17 amended.
18

19 **Public Comment:** Bev Widger updated the Selectboard on the newly minted Plainfield Town
20 Hall Committee: Bev, Erica Smith, Rob Gattie, Diane MacDonald, John Hendrick and Nancy
21 Norwalk have all agreed to serve. The group's first meeting is Monday December 6th at the town
22 hall starting at 2pm.
23

24 **Police:** Chief Swett gave a quick review of his department's activity over the last two weeks. He
25 reported that one of the existing police cruisers will need \$3,000 worth of repairs. The new cars
26 are not expected to be here for months so the repair work will be necessary. Tony asked the
27 Selectboard to consider holding back one of the cars as a spare. The Selectboard will add this to
28 their list for the Finance Committee.
29

30 **Health Department:** Stephanie Schell reported on the continued evolution of the COVID
31 pandemic and its seemingly endless variants. Hospitalizations are at an all time high in NH and
32 the need to maintain vigilance was stressed. Stephanie is trying to bring a booster shot clinic to
33 town. At this very moment getting the young kids and unvaccinated adults shots remains the
34 priority.
35

36 **Town Office:** Reacting to a building permit request from Paul and Nancy Franklin to build a
37 house on the Town Farm lot whose access is a class VI highway the Selectboard will meet on
38 December 20th with the Planning Board to discuss this request. Town Counsel has advised the
39 board that RSA 674:41 requires this step. The Plainfield Selectboard in conjunction with the
40 Planning Board adopted in 1986, amended in 1993 a local ordinance that prohibits new housing
41 units where the sole access is a class VI road.
42

43 **2022 Budget:** The Selectboard spent the remainder of the meeting working with Town
44 Administrator Halleran on the 2022 budget. The Town Administrator's budget was reduced from
45 \$2,638,014 to \$2,632,614. The Selectboard will be discussing the 2022 budget plan with the

1 Finance Committee on December 15th. Dealing with rising cost of both labor and hard goods as
2 well insuring that the town is setting aside sufficient funds for future capital projects will be
3 discussed.

4

5

6 The December 1st meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

7

8

9 Submitted,

10

11 Stephen Halleran

12

13

14

15 Approved,

16

17

18 Eric Brann, Chair

19

20

21 Ron Eberhardt

22

23

24 Amy Lappin

25

26

27

28

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday December 15th 2021**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4
5 Selectmen present:

6 Eric Brann Chair
7 Amy Lappin

8
9 Steve Halleran , TA
10 Tony Swett, PC
11 Stephanie Schell HS
12 Mike Sutherland FC
13 Dan Cassedy FC
14

15
16 **Others via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Nancy Norwalk, Bev Widger
17 Eric Sorenson, FC, Mark Hardy FC, Patty Hall FC.
18

19 The minutes from December 1st were approved as amended.
20

21 **Public Comment:** Bev Widger asked that the Selectboard formerly appoint the Plainfield Town
22 Hall Committee members as follows: Bev Widger, Robert Gattie, John Hendrick, Erika Smith,
23 Diane MacDonald, Bruce Elder, Kelly Taylor and Clint Swift. Nancy Norwalk will serve as
24 historian. The Selectboard gladly made the appointment as recommended by Bev, thanking her
25 for the work it took to set the group up.
26

27 Evan Oxenham presented the Selectboard with wording for a possible article on the 2022 town
28 warrant with regard to the community power coalition project. Chair Brann indicated that the
29 board would take this matter up during the formation of the warrant.
30

31 **Human Services:** Stephanie Schell updated the Selectboard on efforts to bring more COVID 19
32 vaccination clinics to the town. Last Sunday's clinic used every dose that was available.
33

34 **Highway Department:** Highway is experiencing several cases of COVID, Road Agent Collins
35 has and will as needed continue to use outside contractors to assist with any storms.
36

37 **Town Office:** The Selectboard reviewed the list of money to be withdrawn from the Trust Funds
38 that the Selectboard is named agents to expend on. This year's total is \$110,000 as follows:
39 \$17,761 from the Meriden Library replacement fund, \$5,260 from the town hall fund, \$55,000
40 from the ADA accessibility fund, \$17,355 from the Fire Equipment Fund, \$6,358 from the
41 Facilities Fund.
42

43 **Finance Committee:** The Selectboard spent the remainder of the night working with the Finance
44 Committee on the 2022 budget. The group discussed ways to reduce the overall increase in the
45 operating budget. Paying for some portion of the town hall heat pump project from reserves rather
46 than operating funds was discussed. The group also acknowledged the need to increase reserve
47 funding for highway equipment. The town is trying to get the fleet on a shorter

1 rotation schedule, but to do so will require more money.

2

3 The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

4

5 Submitted,

6

7 Stephen Halleran

8

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10

11 Approved,

12

13

14 Eric Brann, Chair

15

16

17 Ron Eberhardt

18

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20 Amy Lappin

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