

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday January 5th 2022**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present:

6 Eric Brann Chair
7 Amy Lappin
8 Ron Eberhardt-Z
9

10 Steve Halleran , TA
11 Tony Swett, PC
12 Stephanie Schell HS-Z
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14 Z designates Zoom Participant
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17 **Others via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Nancy Norwalk,
18 Eric Sorenson, FC, Mark Hardy FC, Paul Franklin, Holly and Vern Braswell.
19

20 The minutes from December 15th were approved as amended.
21

22 **Public Comment:** Clint Swift had some questions on the warrant, but agreed to defer them until
23 later in the meeting.
24

25 **Police Chief:** Chief Swett provided the Selectboard a brief report on the department's activities
26 over the last couple of weeks. There is still no prospect for getting the replacement police
27 cruisers. Consequently, he had had to make some repairs to keep the existing vehicles safe. Chief
28 Swett was congratulated for his first year of running the department. The Chief thanked his staff
29 and the Selectboard for all their support and assistance.
30

31 **Human Services:** Stephanie Schell updated the Selectboard on COVID 19 and its impacts to our
32 town. Stephanie continues to recommend to the Selectboard that the mask ordinance be
33 reinstated. Chairman Brann indicated that while the board as a whole is not there yet, all members
34 are constantly evaluating that option.
35

36 **Franklin Building Permit Class VI Road:** The Selectboard acknowledged receipt, before the
37 meeting, of the Planning Board's comments on this issue (RSA 674:41) and determined that they
38 would take the matter up at their next meeting. Applicant Paul Franklin expressed his continued
39 frustration over the town's process with this request and feels that Zoning Administrator Halleran
40 has a conflict and should not be part of these discussions. The Halleran's house is a technical
41 abutter to the Town Farm Lot. Halleran noted that he is an alternate to the Planning Board for
42 quorum purposes and has not voted on this matter. He has worked on the administrative
43 processing of the Franklin's request to build a house where the access is a class VI road. The
44 town has an existing ordinance that prohibits this, the Franklins are asking for an exception.
45

46 **2022 Warrant Review:** The Selectboard reviewed the proposed 2022 warrant draft 01. At this
47 time there are only three monetary articles, the budget, reserve funding and a loader replacement.
48 Paul Franklin objected to what he termed the politicizing of his class VI road issue. The draft
49 warrant contains an article asking the town to weigh in on the no building on class VI roads
50 ordinance. Chairman Brann explained that the article was his idea as a way to address the larger
51 question of whether or not the town wishes to continue to prohibit building on class VI roads. The

1 article may not be in the final warrant, but the concept was to give the town's legislative body a
2 way to express an opinion on this issue.

3
4 **2022 Budget Review:** Going into next meeting's budget hearing the town budget remains at
5 about a 7% increase. The need to now bring on board and train for 2023 a new full time Town
6 Clerk has recently come up and been added into the budget. Michelle Marsh, the town's existing
7 clerk has expressed a strong desire to move to the deputy role, allowing her to spend more time
8 with family in 2023.

9
10 **Nonpublic Session:** The Selectboard, on a unanimous roll call vote, entered into nonpublic
11 session to discuss a personnel matter at around 7:55pm. The board came out of nonpublic session
12 at 8:15pm.

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15 The meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

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17 Submitted,

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19 Stephen Halleran

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23 Approved,

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26 Eric Brann, Chair

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29 Ron Eberhardt

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32 Amy Lappin

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday January 19th 2022**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present:

6 Eric Brann Chair
7 Ron Eberhardt
8 Steve Halleran , TA
9 Tony Swett, PC
10 Stephanie Schell HS-Z
11

12 Z designates Zoom Participant
13

14 **Others via Zoom:** Bonnie and Clint Swift, Nancy Norwalk,
15 Eric Sorenson, FC, Mark Hardy FC, Mike Sutherland FC, Dan Cassedy FC, Patricia Lee FC, Paul
16 Franklin, Holly and Vern Braswell, Bev Widger, Patricia Lee and Jen Lenz-Library Trustee.
17

18 Chairman Brann opened the meeting at 6pm. The minutes of the January 5th meeting were
19 approved.
20

21 **Public comment:** Brook Road resident Patricia Lee asked the Selectboard to consider lowering
22 the speed limit on the sharp corner of Brook Road near her home at 596 Willow Brook Road from
23 35 to 25 mph. The Selectboard determined that a first step would be to obtain traffic data for that
24 area of Willow Brook Road. Police Chief Tony Swett will use the new speed trailer to gather this
25 data once weather will allow. The Police Department's activity logs do not show an unusual
26 number of accidents on that corner.
27

28 Bev Widger reported that the newly formed Plainfield Town Hall Committee is active and will be
29 meeting on the 27th of this month. The group is currently evaluating the building's condition and
30 looking for grant money to assist with other assessments, things like the Stage Set rigging.
31

32 **Police Department:** Chief Swett noted that the court system is now reopening and so several
33 Plainfield back logged cases will be headed to court soon.
34

35 The Police Department has increased directed patrols in both villages to try and slow traffic down
36 during commuting times.
37

38 **Human Services:** As part of her bi- monthly COVID update to the Selectboard, Human Service
39 Director Stephanie Schell asked the board to reinstate the Plainfield mask ordinance. Selectboard
40 members Brann and Eberhardt debated this request but were unable to reach a decision. The
41 matter will be taken up again on February 2nd when the full board will be in attendance.
42

43 **Franklin Building Permt Class VI Road:** Having now had two weeks to think about the
44 Planning Board comments the two members present discussed the merits of the appeal. The
45 Franklin's are asking for a "reasonable exception" as allowed by RSA 674:41 to obtain a building
46 permit for a new house on land whose access is a class VI highway (Farm Road). The Franklins
47 note that the lot does have frontage on Stage Road, but that the cost of using that frontage is
48 prohibitive and warrants the exception. After starting the discussion, Selectboard Members Brann
49 and Eberhardt determined that a matter of this importance should involve all three members,
50 therefore action was deferred until February 2nd.
51

1 **Evan Oxenham:** Energy Committee Chairman and Plainfield's Representative to the NH Energy
2 Coalition Evan Oxenham sought support for the following warrant article:

3
4 **ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Plainfield Community Power Electric
5 Aggregation Plan, which authorizes the Select Board to develop and implement Plainfield
6 Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan as described therein (pursuant to RSA 53-E:7)

7
8 Evan went through a detailed presentation on the work of the Coalition to bring both cleaner and
9 less expensive power to Plainfield's residents. The Selectboard voiced support for the article.

10
11 **Budget Hearing:** The Selectboard and Town Administrator Halleran presented the proposed
12 budget to be voted on at town meeting. Full staffing levels, labor costs and rising hard good costs
13 have resulted in larger than is typical increase of 6.6% this year. It is possible that higher than
14 expected revenues from the state will off set the increase. But at this time to fund town operations
15 an additional \$107,000 is being requested, this amounts to about \$.35 on the current tax rate.

16
17 The full slate of reserve fund contributions are proposed. The group discussed the likely need to
18 increase these contributions in the future. The Finance Committee asked to be part of a
19 discussion about the town's various reserve funds.

20
21 At this time a purchase of a new loader and possibly a new dump truck is under consideration.
22 Both to be funded in one way or another from the highway equipment reserve funds and therefore
23 they do not impact current year taxes.

24
25 See budget presentation for additional details.

26
27 **Other Business:** The Selectboard will be meeting on February 2nd with the Lebanon City Council
28 to discuss the city's plans for replacing a bridge on their section of Willow Brook Road.

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30 The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

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33 Submitted,

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36 Stephen Halleran

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39 Approved,

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42 Eric Brann, Chair

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45 Ron Eberhardt

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48 Amy Lappin

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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday January 25th 2022**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

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5 Selectmen present:

6 Eric Brann Chair
7 Ron Eberhardt
8 Steve Halleran , TA
9 Michelle Marsh TC/TX

10
11 Chairman Brann opened the meeting at 5pm.

12
13 A motion to enter into nonpublic session to discuss a personnel matter was made by Brann,
14 seconded by Lappin and voted in the affirmative 3-0 on a roll call vote.

15
16 The board entered executive session at 5:05pm.

17
18 The board came out of executive session at 5:55pm.

19
20 The Selectboard discussed the format for the upcoming meeting with the City of Lebanon where
21 the Lebanon Brook Road Bridge replacement will be discussed. This meeting is next Wednesday
22 at 5:30pm.

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24 The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm

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26 Submitted,

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29 Stephen Halleran

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32 Approved,

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35 Eric Brann, Chair

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38 Ron Eberhardt

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41 Amy Lappin
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1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday February 2nd 2022**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4

5 Selectmen present:

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

13 Z designates Zoom Participant
14

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

19 Chairman Brann opened the meeting at 6pm. The minutes of the January 19th meeting were
20 approved.
21

22 **Public Comment:** None
23

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

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

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

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

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

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

10
11 At this point Paul Franklin joined the Zoom meeting and was informed of the board's decision.
12 Mr. Franklin expressed frustration at having missed the board discussion.

13
14 **2022 Warrant:** The Selectboard reviewed and finalized the warrant, voting unanimously to
15 recommend each of the money articles (Budget, reserves, truck and loader). The Selectboard also
16 added their endorsement to the Community Power plan article 8. The business portion of Town
17 Meeting will be Saturday March 12th starting at 1pm and will follow the School District Meeting
18 which starts at 9am on that same day.

19
20 **Budget Hearing:** Chairman Brann opened the hearing. Town Administrator Halleran explained
21 that there were no substantive changes since the first hearing. The town's audited fund balance
22 stands at \$1,075,000, making it likely that the Select board will again this year use fund balance
23 over \$1,000,000 to reduce taxes. This has the potential to reduce the anticipated tax rate increase
24 of \$.35 by \$.24.

25
26 The rest of the hearing was spent discussing reserve funding with the Finance Committee. While
27 there was general acknowledgement that the current system has worked some members think it
28 might be better to use current dollars to pay off a loan package for new equipment. In this way
29 those getting the benefit of the equipment would also be paying the bills.

30
31 The Finance Committee also encouraged the Selectboard to meet periodically with the School
32 Board as a way to improve capital planning.

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34 The hearing was closed at 7:45pm.

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36 The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.
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