MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 6th 2010

MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present:

Judy Belyea, Chair
Thomas Williams Jr.
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Highway Department: The Selectboard and Road Agent Ken Stocker continued to review quotes for the replacement dump truck. To date, the town has three quotes on the truck and two quotes on the body and plow equipment. A third quote on the body is expected very soon. Ken feels that the Beau Roc dump body is a very high quality product that more than pays for its additional cost in longevity. Likewise, he prefers to have the trucks set up with a low front post configuration for the plow wing and prefers the Larochelle plows. The truck replacement is expected to cost between $125,000 and $135,000.

Police Department: The board spent time with Chief Gillens fine-tuning the process that is planned for appointing a new Police Chief. Chief Gillens feels that the Selectboard and or the search committee should first look at internal candidates before opening the search to others. The Selectboard has committed to using a search committee to help with the selection but as not decided on a final process yet and may well that decision up to the committee.

Town Office: The Board spent the rest of the meeting working on the 2010 budget, 2010 warrant and finalizing year-end 2009 details. The town’s budget hearing is scheduled for January 20th this will also be the next meeting with the town’s finance committee.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
January 20th  2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present:
   Judy Belyea, Chair
   Thomas Williams Jr.
   Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Highway Department: Road Agent Stocker met with Selectboard and reviewed additional proposals for outfitting the replacement dump truck. The cost of the truck, body and plow has been refined to about $125,000. Ken strongly recommends both the Beau Roc body and the Larochelle plows as both are, in his view, superior in quality. If a compromise needs to be made, he would recommend the proposed body be changed before the plow equipment.

Ken noted that winter operations have been going smoothly. He plans to remove the snow from the sidewalks in Plainfield Village the end of this week.

Halleran reported that the town’s energy committee hopes to meet with Ken and the Selectboard to discuss ways of reducing energy consumption in the highway department. Street lighting, truck idling, and highway garage heating are all up for discussion.

Budget Hearing/Finance Committee: The Selectboard held their budget hearing and fourth meeting with the Finance Committee. The board had hoped to bring a level funded operating budget to the town meeting for the second year in a row. Unfortunately, this has not been possible and the current spending proposal is up 2% over the 2009 approved budget, which was unchanged from 2008. The board has also cut plans for additional paving money in 2010, opting instead to redirect funding from the town’s bridge fund to the highway improvement fund.

The Selectboard is proposing a heavy truck replacement from reserves and is intending to add additional monies to the revaluation reserve fund. The Selectboard does not support the Plainfield Library Trustee’s proposal for increasing the library director to a full time position. This item will be handled as a separate warrant article.

The board has added money into the budget for the ADA compliance fund of $5,000 and the 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee $3,500.

Given declining revenue projections, it is estimated, that if all articles pass at town meeting, an additional $69,000 or an increase of about 6.41% will be required from property taxes. If just the Selectboard proposed articles pass, the percentage drops to 4.85%.

The budget hearing ended at 8:00pm with discussion about the likely combined tax rate for 2010. Based on the available information the Selectmen’s office estimates a rate of about $24/$1,000 up from the current rate of $22/$1,000.

Police Department: The Board completed a proposed roster for the Police Chief search
committee.
The committee will be limited to no more than 7-9 members. Interest in serving on the committee has been strong, consequently, not all that wish to serve will be able to.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
February 4th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present:
Judy Belyea, Chair
Thomas Williams Jr.
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Highway Department: Road Agent Stocker reviewed the latest round of proposals for the
body and plow equipment for the new dump truck. Responding to a question from Selectman
Williams Ken noted that he feels strongly that the existing plow equipment should be replaced.
The new equipment is safer and far better designed. The new equipment should last through
the next truck or about twenty years. The range for the total cost of the vehicle replacement
is $121,000 to $131,000. Selectboard member Belyea felt it would be very hard, without more
documentation about durability, in these economic times to select the most expensive options
regardless of how good Ken feels the equipment would be.

Police: Chief Gillens reported that an electrical problem with one of the cruisers has been
corrected. The battery was draining very quickly on the car when not in use.

The Selectmen are planning to hold their first meeting with the chief search committee on
February 17th.

Town Office: The Selectboard chose a picture taken from the top of French’s Ledges for the
cover of the annual report. The report is going to the printer tomorrow and will be mailed to
residents on or about February 25th in advance of the March 6th School Meeting.

Final edits were made to Selectboard member Rob Taylor’s draft of the Select board’s annual
report.

Halleran reported that Brad Wilder is in the process of cleaning up the debris from the former
Tuttle house. The clean up is a combination of hauling debris to a landfill and burning some
materials onsite. The Selectboard has expressed interest in having the old building cleaned up
as soon as possible. Brad had the house demolished last March.

Plainfield Library Trustees: Trustee Webber asked for clarification on the town’s advertised
budget process. She was disappointed to learn earlier this week that the library could not
increase its appropriation at that time. Halleran explained that budget and town report
request letters are mailed out in early October. While a certain amount of changes are
anticipated, once the town has completed its budget hearing it becomes more difficult to make
additional changes. Selectman Taylor noted that any and all changes could be made at town
meeting. At some point, the materials
for the town report have to be finalized for printing.

They’re being no other business the Selectboard meeting was adjourned.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
February 17th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present:
Judy Belyea, Chair
Thomas Williams Jr.
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm.

The Board reviewed correspondence and signed orders. The Selectboard accepted the newly updated Town Hazard Mitigation plan, signing the required certificate of adoption.

Casella Waste Management: At the request of the Selectboard, Dave Allen met with the board to discuss the status of the ongoing collection program and to discuss possible cost cutting measures. From these discussions, two ideas emerged. This first was to provide homes with a second bin, perhaps yellow in color, that would be used for paper or fiber materials. Containers in one bin, fiber in the other would likely increase collection rate times saving the town some collection costs. Dave will crunch the numbers on this, but his experience suggests that, if done town wide, the payback period on the cost of the additional bins would like be two years or less. The second idea is to encourage the use of standard sized tote containers for waste, the collection truck has a device mounted on it that assists the driver with dumping these bins. Dave stressed that for both of these ideas in a town like Plainfield with low density, the savings is not as significant in higher density areas. Much of the trucks time in Plainfield is spent driving from stop to stop. The Selectboard did note that for the average homeowner, the town sponsored collection service is costing something like $3 or $4 per week, much less than the cost of driving the waste to the landfill themselves.

Police Chief Search Committee: The Selectboard went into nonpublic session at 7:05pm. Committee Members present: Fire Chief David Best, Fire Chief Frank Currier, Resident Pat McNamara, Resident Carin Reynolds, Police Sergeant Lawrence Dore and the full Selectboard. Absent was resident Shawn Lundrigan who will be out of town through March 1st. Staff present: Stephen Halleran- Town Administrator and Police Chief Gordon Gillens

Summation of the nonpublic session.

The committee discussed how to proceed with finding a replacement for the retiring Chief Gillens. Gordon has served the town as Chief for 25 years. There is one internal candidate for the position and that candidate has a positive recommendation from Chief Gillens. Both town fire chiefs noted that the relationship with all members of the existing police department is excellent and that keeping this positive relationship going forward is a real priority. All agreed that maintaining a police department, heavily focused on community service, is key and that the Chief establishes this tone.

At the end of this discussion the committee decided to further evaluate the internal candidate before making any decisions about a full search. Halleran will solicit the assistance of the municipal association in developing a list of interview questions and the committee will hold an interview session after town meeting with the candidate.
The nonpublic session ended at 8:15pm.

Town Meeting Preparations: The Selectboard began their preparation work for town meeting by finalizing who would present the various articles. The board then completed a cursory review of the warrant and necessary supporting materials for town meeting. Final decisions are plow equipment and body make for the dump truck replacement are still pending.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
March 3rd 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present:
Judy Belyea, Chair
Thomas Williams Jr.
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6pm.

Police Report: Al Grindle Health Officer joined the discussions concerning a Lawton Lane residence that because of a large number of cats and general junk and debris may represent a health hazard to the neighborhood. The Humane Society is available to assist the town if necessary. Al has spoken with the owners who have been given a week to make significant progress on a clean up. Chief Gillens noted that state law requires that all cats be vaccinated for rabies. The Selectboard determined that if significant progress is not made in the next seven days the town will have no choice but to turn the issue over to the state Health Department and the Human Society.

Tax Deeding: The Selectboard met with Stage Road resident whom after inheriting in the last year his family’s property is facing town tax deeding this May. The new owner has made significant progress on catching up the latest of the taxes, but will still likely be $1,500 behind at deeding time. The Selectboard indicated that the town has not displaced a resident from their primary home for back taxes in many years. However fees/interest will continue to accumulate so its important that progress continues to be made to catch up.

Police Chief Search: This committee will be meeting next week to continue its efforts to find a replacement for retiring Chief Gordon Gillens.

Windstorm: There was a brief discussion about last week’s windstorm and the reverse 911 call that was sent out to both Cornish and Plainfield residents from Hanover Dispatch. Halleran has learned that Hanover purchased the database used for those calls ass they are not allowed access to the state’s 911 database. A link has been added to the town’s website where residents can sign up to make sure they receive future calls.

Yield Tax: A local settlement has been reached with property owner Shirley Hudson concerning the Timber Tax bill from their recent cut. This settlement says both the taxpayer and the town the expense of a hearing with the Board of Land and Tax Appeals.
Town Meeting Preparation: The board spent the rest of the meeting making final arrangements for the upcoming town meeting.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
March 10th  2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present:
   Judy Belyea, Chair
   Thomas Williams Jr.
   Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:30pm.

Prior to the start of the search committee work the Selectboard reviewed and approved three building permits and signed a grant application for the Meriden Fire Department.

Police Chief Search Committee: The Selectboard went into nonpublic session at 6:40pm.
Committee Members present: Fire Chief David Best, Fire Chief Frank Currier, Resident Pat McNamara, Resident Carin Reynolds, Police Sergeant Lawrence Dore Shawn Lundrigan and the full Selectboard. Staff present: Stephen Halleran- Town Administrator.

Summation of the nonpublic session.

The committee reviewed Corporal Roberts resume and letters of recommendation and finalized questions to be asked during the interview of internal candidate Paul Roberts for the position of Police Chief.

The interview started at 7:15pm and ended at 8:00pm. A committee discussion followed the interview. Based on the interview, letters of recommendation and recommendation of Police Chief Gordon Gillens at the February 17th meeting the committee on a unanimous vote, recommended that Corporal Roberts be offered the position of Police Chief. The details of the employment offer to be worked out by the Board of Selectmen.

The nonpublic session ended at 8:415pm.

The Selectmen thanked the committee for its work.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea, Chair

Thomas P. Williams Jr

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING

March 25th, 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Thomas Williams Jr.
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

This is the first Selectboard meeting since the 2010 annual meeting. The Selectboard was pleased with the outcomes from the meeting and will work over the course of the next year to carry out the voters established agenda. Selectman Tom Williams was elected as board chairman for the next year.

Highway Department: Road Agent Ken Stocker reviewed additional cost estimate information for Willow Brook Road. Best case, with a modified approach to resurfacing the road, would cost $700,000 if town forces are used for most of the work. To have the road rebuilt with an outside contractor is estimated at $1.8 million dollars. Halleran will continue to push for information concerning the town’s FEMA grant application.

The Selectboard approved the purchase of the new dump truck complete with the Beau Roc dump body and LaRocelle front plow and wing. The decision to spend additional monies on the items was based on the Road Agent’s recommendation that this equipment would last for two trucks or about 25 years.

Police Department: The Selectmen met with Chief Gillens and Corporal Paul Roberts. Effective immediately Paul has been promoted to the position of Deputy Chief. He will become Plainfield’s full time chief at the end of May.

The Selectboard also supported the idea of amending part-time officer Tony Swett’s police academy application to indicate that Tony will have full time job with our department at the successful completion of the state program. As the class size fills up, priority will be given to those cadets that have commitments for full time work lined up.

Town Treasurer: The Selectboard met with resident Sara Brooks-Governo concerning the town’s Treasurer position. Sara explained that she has both an accounting degree and experience as a financial advisor in addition she has significant experience with electronic fund transfers. The Selectboard discussed with Sara the salary for the position. The Board voted in favor of appointment her as the next Town Treasurer. She will work with retiring Treasurer Fred Sweet in the coming weeks to make the transition as smooth as possible. Halleran noted that the town’s professional auditing firm would also be available as a resource.

Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the state municipal forms detailing action at the 2010 annual meeting. Town Office focus will now move to 2010 assessment work, the printing of new zoning ordinances as amended and continuing to work on the broadband expansion project with Comcast.
The March 25th meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
April 7th  2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr. Chairman
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Highway Department: The Selectboard reviewed and approved the bid documents for the sale of dump truck #2. At Road Agent’s Stocker’s request, the sale will be held off until closer to the time with the replacement truck will be ready to be put into service, likely in early June.

Ken hopes to be able to remove the road postings by the mid to late April. Pavement roads and some gravel road postings may come down in the next week.

Gravel crushing has started in the town gravel pit. The contractor will crush 10,000 yards for $2.90/yard which is the same price as 2009.

Police Department: Deputy Chief Paul Roberts reported to the board on the last two week’s activities. At Chief Gillen’s request Paul is updating the department’s fee schedules. Insurance reports, copies and special duty officer rates will all be adjusted up to be current with surrounding department charges. Paul noted that he feels strongly that the town should continue with the practice of not charging Plainfield residents for these services. The Selectboard supported and approved the fee update project.

Other: Richard Atkinson and Susan Turner met with the Selectmen to provide draft language for the required letters to be sent by the board that came out of the amended Article 13 at town meeting. The Selectboard appreciated the drafts and indicated that they would likely use some of the wording in their letters to the state. Richard will forward an electronic version to the town office.

David Grobe and Myra Ferguson met with the Selectboard to discuss the membership of the Conservation Commission and to discuss the possibility of getting some administrative support from the town office. David has recently communicated to the Selectboard that he wishes to step down as chairman, but will continue to serve either as a member or alternate member to the commission. The Selectboard agreed to work on appointing two new members to the board. Joe Dellabadia and Shawn Lundrigan have recently left the board. The Conservation Commission will appoint a new chairman at their April or May meeting and Halleran will work with that person to help post agendas, minutes and information on the town’s website for both the public and members to access.

Town Office: The Selectboard approved pay rates for 2010 (wages earned 4/1-3/31) reviewed and approved building permits.

The board authorized Town Administrator Halleran and Health Officer Grindle to work
toward resolution of the large amounts of debris and garbage around the residence at 298
Route 12A. The town was able to get the property cleaned up in 2001, but debris has again
accumulated and requires attention. As in the past, the town will recover all costs and fees
associated with the project through liens on the property.

Halleran will attend a meeting in Concord for Federal reimbursement for the February
windstorm clean up.

The April 7th meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING

April 21st 2010

MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
                   Robert Taylor
                   Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Energy Committee: Chairwoman Nancy Mogielnicki and member Allan Ferguson met with the Selectmen to discuss energy saving measures for town streetlights, highway garage and vehicle fleet. Halleran noted that in recent years the town has upgraded streetlights in Plainfield Village for both dark sky requirements and energy savings. The highway garage interior and exterior lighting was updated in 2008 as well. Focusing on streetlights in Meriden Village, Nancy would like to see the town reduce some of the 38 lights around the village. The Selectmen agreed to look into this, but felt it was important to keep in mind that streetlights are for nighttime security. Other ideas discussed included limiting truck idling, adding solar panels to the roof of the highway garage. Also the possibility of adding plastic strips like those used on large overhead doors at refrigerated warehouses, to reduce heat loss when the doors at the highway garage are opened during winter conditions.

Highway Department: Ken Stocker discussed his work plan for the next two weeks with the Selectboard. Spring grading and brush cutting on gravel roads has started. As time allows, the crew will continued with work on Freeman Road in anticipation of repaving the first 1,800 feet up the hill from Route 12A this summer.

Other Business: Logger Rier Jaarsma of Cornish met with the Selectmen to review how timber tax harvest laws are interpreted in Plainfield when it comes to land conversion forest to field. Timber Tax Agent Belyea noted that timber tax is assessed in these cases.

Resident Sarah Brooks attend the meeting to be sworn in as the town’s deputy treasurer. She will assume the role of treasurer in a couple of months when Fred Sweet retires. Swearing her in now as deputy allows her to be a signer on the town’s various accounts and should make for a smooth transition.

Police Department: Chief Gillens reported that he feels Deputy Chief Roberts is doing an outstanding job learning the administrative details of the department. Each week he is assuming more and more of the responsibilities associated with running the police department.

Chief Gillens also cautioned the Selectboard about reducing streetlights. He feels strongly that the lighting acts as a strong deterrent to theft and mischievous behavior during the night hours.

Town Office: The Selectboard approved and signed the letter to be sent to the State of New Hampshire commending the state for enacting the same sex marriage law. This directive resulted from an amendment to Article 13 at town meeting.
The Selectboard set the final details for the June 5\textsuperscript{th} community dinner for Chief Gillens. The PVFD will host the event and advertising will begin with the May Plainfacts.

Croydon Turnpike resident Anne Donaghy was appointed as an alternate member to the town’s conservation commission.

\textbf{298 Route 12A} : The town has been working with the landowner to get some of the outside garbage and debris cleaned up. The landowner has asked to have until May 5\textsuperscript{th} to gain material compliance. The Selectmen agreed to this with the condition that clean up work be ongoing.

\textbf{Grantham Perambulation}: Selectman Taylor, TA Halleran and Conservation Commission member Grobe will be joining a group from Grantham this Friday morning to look for missing stone #11. Local surveyor Chris Rollins may join the group as well on this hunt for the illusive stone that has not been located in many years.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
May 5th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Highway Department: The Selectboard accepted Ken’s recommendation to have Pike Industries repave approximately 1,800’ of Freeman Road from Route 12A up just past the access road to the Oak’s. Ken hopes to have the work done by Memorial Day. The money to fund the work will come from money set aside from last year’s Highway Block Grant.

Gravel crushing in the town’s pit is now complete. The Selectboard reaffirmed its decision to not sell any overburden material from the town gravel pit this year. The sale last year was tied to a specific project that will not have to be repeated for the next couple of years.

Road intersection sweeping is nearly complete.

The Selectboard will start their next meeting on Willow Brook Road to finalize the 2010 work on the road.

Police Department: Chief Gillens updated the board on his work over last two weeks. Tony Swett is doing well at the Police Academy. Twelve weeks of training remain in the program. Once Tony successfully completes the academy he will fill the existing third officer spot with the department.

Deputy Chief Roberts met with the Selectboard to get approval for the new procedure manual for the department. Gordon has tasked Paul with the job of updating this required department document.

Town Office: The Selectboard approved and Chairman Williams signed a planning contract with the UVLSRPC for work involved with assisting the Planning Board with the Master Plan update. The town will also designate a portion of its annual dues “Service Incentive Program” to this contract to keep the overall project cost down.

After reviewing the quotes received, the Selectboard approved hiring local mason Joel Waters to repair the foundation at the Meriden Town Hall.

Later this summer Halleran will be putting out to bid, the painting of the Plainfield Town Hall and two sides of the Meriden Town Hall. The Selectboard want to make sure that as many local contractors as possible have an opportunity to bid on the work.

The Selectboard will place a wreath at the town’s service memorial on Thursday afternoon May 27th.
Halleran noted that substantial improvements have been toward cleaning up the 298 Route 12A property. Work remains to be done, but as long as the owner is making steady progress, the Selectboard are willing to delay additional enforcement actions.

The Selectboard will hold a hearing on May 19th concerning the possible donation of 3.4 acres of backland along the Connecticut River from TransCanada power. The Plainfield project is part of a larger project involving the transfer of land to Hartland Vt.

Other Business: The Selectmen continued to refine some of the details for Gordon’s retirement dinner. The board will be meeting with Frank Currier at their next meeting.

Town Assessor George Hildum will be starting 2010 assessment work tomorrow. George will be in town for most of the next four work days.

Halleran will notify Tax Collector Wheeler that the board has reviewed the possible deed list for properties with delinquent taxes. The TQS Trust property is one that the Selectboard would not accept a deed for, but liens and fees will continue to accrue.

The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING

May 19th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 5:45pm. Willow Brook Road site visit.

Willow Brook Road: The Selectboard viewed with Road Agent Ken Stocker and Assistant Road Agent Richard Collins Willow Brook Road. The goal of the trip was to finalize areas of the roadway that will be rebuilt with the remaining sections to receive a pavement overlay. The board will focus its reconstruction efforts on the section from just north of House Lane, northerly toward the Lebanon line. Morrill Construction will be asked to submit a bid for this mile of the roadway. Town forces will concentrate on ditching and trimming along the areas of the roadway to be overlaid. The Selectboard remains commitment to being done with the Brook Road project in 2011.

6:30pm, returned to Meriden Town Hall.

The Selectboard signed orders and reviewed correspondence. Halleran noted that the first round of appraisal work is complete for 2010. Spring tax bills should be mailed out in the next week.

The Selectboard confirmed that they will place a wreath on the Service Memorial on Thursday May 27th at 1:30pm.

Sumner’s Fall Land: The public hearing was opened at 7:00pm. TransCanada is proposing to, as part of a larger project, donate 3.4 acres of land in Plainfield to the Town of Plainfield. As part of its relicensing agreement, the utility has agreed to donate the land to a public entity. Most of the Sumner’s Fall land is located in Hartland Vermont and is being donated to them. While no one is entirely sure of the exact boundaries of the parcel, given the choice of Hartland Vt owning the land or Plainfield the Conservation Commission has recommended that Plainfield accept the gift. There being no public wishing to speak, the hearing was closed at 7:10pm and was followed by a motion to accept the donation. The motion was seconded and voted in the affirmative on a vote of 3 to 0.

Mike Williams: Plainfield property owner Mike Williams met with the board to gain clarification on how much longer he has before the town assumes ownership of his property for nonpayment of taxes. Selectperson Belyea explained that by being in arrears for three years and having been provided the notices required by law, the town can now take the property to settle his debt. Mr. Williams was granted, by the board, one final chance to pay the taxes. If not paid by June 16th the town will assume ownership of at least the undeveloped lot owned by Mr. Williams. The sale of that parcel should be sufficient to cover the taxes due to the town on both parcels. Note: Selectman Tom Williams did not participate in these discussions as Mike Williams is a relative.
Gordon’s Retirement Party: The Selectboard spent the next hour working with Fire Chief Currier planning the June 5th event for Gordon’s retirement. Townline Equipment has donated the use of their tables. The Christ Community Church has agreed to allow parking at their facility across the street from the Fire Station. The jointly owned town/school public address system will be used. Meals and arrangements will be made using an estimate of about 300 guests attending the event.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
June 2nd 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway Report: Paving on Freeman Road has been moved back to June 14th, it had originally been scheduled for June 1st. Tree work is continuing on Willow Brook Road. The town’s roller is in need of motor repair which includes damage to one piston and the motor head. Road Agent Stocker will do most of the repair, but some of the work will have to be outsourced to a machine shop.

Police Report: Deputy Chief Roberts reported on the memorial day weekend which included both a large gathering on Burnhaps Island and an ATV accident with injuries. Fire Chief Currier supported the idea of requiring permits to camp on the island.

Selectboard Chair Thomas Williams swore in Paul Roberts as Plainfield’s 6th Police Chief replacing Gordon Gillens who retired last month.

Town Office: The Selectboard worked through the final arrangements for Chief Gillen’s retirement party this coming Saturday. Townline Equipment and Smith’s Auction Gallery have donated tables and tents respectively to insure that this day is a grand success.

Halleran reviewed with the Board, the latest plans for establishing a trailhead on Route 12A for the Home Hill Trail. The town is committed to completing this project this summer.

The Selectboard approved a request by Bill Knight to use $3,500 from the Townsend Bridge and Trail fund toward the purchase of a trail groomer. The majority of the groomer is being funded through a state grant. The $8,600 balance in the fund is all from private donations. No taxpayer money will be used for the project.

The Selectboard will open bids, on June 16th for the sale of the existing town dump truck which is being replaced this summer. The new truck should be in service by early August.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
June 16th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
                   Robert Taylor
                   Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Police Department: Chief Roberts met with the Selectboard to introduce part-time officer
trainee Mat Agan. Mat is a fulltime employee of Dartmouth Security and will be attending the
part-time police officer academy in Concord. Mat discussed his qualifications with the
Selectboard. The board, on Chief Robert’s request, appointed Mat has a part-time officer for
the Police Department. This will allow Mat to attend the part-time officer academy.

Chief Roberts discussed a program that he would like to implement with the school system
where parents would have, at their home, a kit that they could use to have ready the necessary
information when a child becomes lost or separated from a parent. The board supported this
idea.

Paul and Steve reported on the safety committee meeting where the idea for a police
equipment capital reserve fund was discussed. If established this fund would work exactly like
the Highway Equipment fund only on a much smaller scale. The board will discuss this with
the town’s finance committee.

Paul reported on a recent drill at the elementary school where the building was evacuated up
to the KUA campus. This annual event is done to test the school’s preparedness for an
emergency.

The Selectboard established the location for the sign dedicating the Police Station to Retired
Chief Gordon Gillens.

The Selectboard made it clear that all duty officers or officers that are responding to
emergency calls will wear the town provided Kevlar vests, no exceptions.

Highway Department: Assistant Road Agent Rich Collins met with the Selectboard. No bids
have been received for the truck sale. This being the case truck #2 will be traded in as part of
the new truck replacement. Trade in value is $8,500. The town will continue to be open to
purchase of the used truck, but the minimum sale price was set at $9,500.

Morrill Construction has done test borings along the worst section of Willow Brook Road
and should have a reconstruction estimate to the Selectboard for next meeting.

The steep hill on the south end of Freeman Road has been re-paved, shoulder work will follow
next week.

Coincident with the school being out of session, four ten hour day work weeks will begin for
the Highway crew starting next week.

The Selectboard made it clear that safety gear, including but not limited to helmets and chaps, will be worn at all time that chainsaws are in operation. No exceptions.

**Town Office:** As no payments have been received, the Selectboard instructed the Tax Collector to deed tax map 237 lot 14.1 vacant land on Route 12A to the Town of Plainfield. Once title matters are resolved the town will resell the property to pay off the tax debt.

The Solid Waste Committee is holding its 5th annual clean up day on Saturday from 8:00am to noon at the Highway garage.

Attorney Barry Schuster has started the town’s defense of the ZBA’s approval of the Parrish House Museum. Abutter Si Mintz has appealed that approval.

The town’s operating budget remains within projections. At 52% of the remaining, 57% of the budget is available.

Halleran and Bill Knight will meet with property owner Brad Atwater and the NHDOT tomorrow morning to make final arrangements for the parking lot installation at the east end of the Home Hill Trail on Route 12A. The next step will be to receive competitive bids for the work.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran  

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
July 7th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway

Willow Brook Road two year plan: Year one, Road Agent Ken Stocker and the Selectboard reviewed the latest proposal from Morrill Construction for the Willow Brook Road. See attached. Morrill has estimated that a total rebuild of the worst 1.2 miles of the roadway will cost $480,075 this year. The town has in hand, $252,000. The town can by doing some of the work reduce the Morrill quote by some $93,000 leaving a deficit of $135,075 on the 1.2 miles.

Year two: Pike has provided a proposal for repairing the remaining 3.8 miles of the road. If town forces do some of the preparation work, the estimated cost of this is $550,000. Its expected that in 2011, without additional tax dollars, the town will have about $160,000 designated for pavement.

To complete Brook Road in two years will cost in round numbers about $950,000 for which the town has $412,000 available. A FEMA grant application for $490,000 is still pending, but seems to be taking years to work through the review process. The FEMA grant, being the key to the next step in the reconstruction process, the Selectboard instructed Ken to have the highway crew continue to work on vegetation clearing and drainage issues along Brook Road. If the FEMA grant is not approved the town will have to seek additional property tax funds for the Brook Road at the 2011 town meeting. Alternatively, the entire roadway could be overlayed with fresh pavement. However, this “fix” has by far the shortest life expectancy and is the least desirable as it does not address most of the road’s base and drainage issues.

Other Highway Business: Kevin McNamara purchased the Highway Truck #2 for $9,500. After receiving no bids on the truck the vehicle was going to be traded in toward the new one for a value of $8,500. The town reserved the right to sell the truck right up until the new truck was delivered.

The board approved $3,000 worth of engine work for the town’s compactor. Ken will do the repairs, but the parts alone are nearly $3,000.

Repair work is completed on the covered bridge planks. The repairs should eliminate the excess noise that was occurring when cars went through the bridge. Eleven planks were replaced and all were re-secured to the bridge super structure.

Ken reviewed 2011 salt prices with the board. It looks as though next year’s price should be down about $6.00/ton over the 2010 price.

Police: Chief Roberts reviewed the Selectboard his department’s activities over the last three weeks. The 4th of July parade went well. Paul shared several positive letters from residents commending the work of officers Larry Dore and Tony Swett.
The Police Department has been working on alerting residents to several scams that are targeting the town’s elderly residents. Residents should not be sending money orders to claim prizes or to help relatives that they personally have not had direct contact.

Chief Roberts requested that Master Sergeant Larry Dore be promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief. Larry will, as he has in the past, run the department in the absence of Chief Roberts and Paul feels strongly that this change in title should be made. The Board indicated a willingness to let Paul organize the department as he sees fit. The Selectboard approved the request.

LGC: Member relations executive Tom LoPizzo met with the Selectboard to review the various functions and services provided by the local government center. Should the Selectboard need assistance from LGC, Tom is available to help.

Town Office: The Selectboard appointed Conservation Commission member William Knight as the grant administrator for the cross country ski trail groomer grant that the town has received from the State of NH Trails Bureau. The $24,000 grant will cover the cost of a new groomer for the trails around the Townsend Bridge. Bill wrote the grant on behalf of the Conservation Commission and Trails Group and the entire project is being paid for from a combination of private and grant funds. The town is responsible for paying for the groomer and then seeking reimbursement from the state. However, the unanticipated revenue will cover the cost of the unit and no property tax money will be used.

The Selectboard finalized paperwork for the School’s Energy Grant. A resolution was made, seconded and adopted designating Town Administrator Stephen Halleran with the authority to sign grant documents on behalf of the town. Here too, the town is the recipient of the grant monies, but has designated others, in this case the school superintendent, to administer the grant.

The Selectboard approved an RFP for the painting of the Plainfield and Meriden Town Halls. Proposals will be sought for painting the entire Plainfield Town Hall and two sides of the Meriden Town Hall.

The Selectboard prepared a letter to the town’s library trustees concerning the passage of Article 8 at the 2010 town meeting. The Selectboard is suggesting an August 18th meeting to begin to map out a strategy for merging the two boards into a single board.

Halleran reported, that as directed the town vacant land parcel was taken on Route 12A for nonpayment of taxes. The property will retain his residence, but the undeveloped lot will be sold to satisfy all the outstanding taxes owed the town. The Selectboard expressed regret for having to do this, but in this case, the taxpayer has made no attempt to satisfy his lawful obligations to pay property taxes to the town. Not taking the land would, in the board’s view, not be fair to others who are paying their taxes despite difficult economic times.

***
The July 7th meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

July 21st, 2010

MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway Department: The Selectboard continued its planning session with Road Agent Stocker concerning the Willow Brook Road project. The Selectboard remains committed to completing work on the road in 2011. The board agreed that just overlaying the existing pavement is not an option, but that a complete rebuild is not possible either. The board settled on a hybrid option that has town forces doing the necessary drainage, replacement of failed or near failure culverts and slope work followed by a pavement overlay of the roadway. Road Agent Stocker felt that the Highway Department should concentrate its efforts on the area from the Lebanon Line to the intersection with Houser Lane and if possible overlay this section this year. The remainder of the roadway would be done in 2011. The expected cost for the two year project is about $500,000. The pavement overlay alone is $375,000. As part of this work the Selectboard approved the rental of an excavator for a month. Ken will look into whether the rental charge can be based on the hour meter rather than a thirty day period of time.

Police Department: Chief Roberts updated the board on various cases the department is working on. Given the full cost of the police chief transition and having a new officer trained at the Police Academy, Halleran acknowledged that the 2010 police budget did not include enough funding in several areas. The Selectboard, Town Administrator and Chief worked on some strategies for minimizing any budgetary overage that the department might have in 2010.

Paul noted that Kimball Union Academy has made the school’s fitness facility available to the department.

The Selectboard thanked William Knight for recently installing the Gordon Gillens dedication sign at the Police Department.

Town Office: The Selectboard expressed support for having a granite watering tub, lost to the town in the 1970’s, returned to the town. Elizabeth Backofen now has possession of the tub and feels that it should be returned to the town. The tub served as a horse watering trough on Old County Road for the then Daniels Farm. The neighborhood is working on a plan for returning the object to as close to its original location as possible.

Painting bids for the Meriden and Plainfield Town Halls: The Selectboard opened the bids, see attached. Halleran will make sure that each bidder was qualified. The Selectboard instructed Halleran to award the work to the lowest qualified bid for each project.

Walker Conservation Land: Halleran explained that the property owned by Lynn Walker which includes conservation easements has likely been sold. The new owner will be pursuing a building permit for the property. Halleran will contact the state agency that monitors the LCIP easements to insure that the building is located on the land that was purposely excluded from the easement.
Library Trustees: The Selectboard is trying to set up a meeting with the Library Trustees to begin the process of transition to a single board of trustees for 2011 and beyond. A date of August 18th has been rejected as many of the trustees are on vacation. A date in early September is a possibility.

Townline Equipment Case: The Selectboard was pleased to learn that one of the two cases brought by abutters concerning the Townline Equipment expansion has been decided in favor of the town by the NH Supreme Court. The case in question concerned zoning matters and was widely viewed as the more significant of the two appeals. The fate of the second case, which contests the site plan review approval by the Planning Board, is unclear at this time. The Selectboard felt that it was unfortunate that tens of thousands of dollars of public money has had to be spent defending this longstanding business in our town. Board members noted that the owner has spent significantly more than the town on this legal issue.

The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
August 4th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
                    Robert Taylor
                    Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway Department: Road Agent Stocker reported that shoulder work is now completed on
Freeman Road and work on Willow Brook Road is fully underway.
Summer grading is continuing as necessitated by summer storms.
The town’s compactor remains out of service, but Ken now has the parts to complete the repair on
order.

Police Department: Chief Roberts reviewed the department’s activities over the last two weeks.
He continues to work with the school administration on the fund raising concert that is being
planned. As proposed, Livingston Taylor will perform on the school grounds. Paul hopes that by
talking with the promoters he can obtain a better estimate on how many people will likely turn
out to see Livingston Taylor. This will be important for planning an appropriate level of security
and traffic control for the event.

Other Business: Contractor Brian Morse attending the meeting to answer any questions on the
Audra Bucklin application for a building permit. There being none, the permit was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Thomas P. Williams Chair
Robert W. Taylor
Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
August 18th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway Department: Road Agent Ken Stocker reported that the Highway crew has continued with its efforts to prepare the northern end of Willow Brook Road for paving. Ditch line work, cross culverts and bank stabilization efforts will continue for another week to ten days. New pavement should follow in late September.

The new dump truck has been put into service. The Selectboard is very interested in how well the automatic transmission works for winter plowing. Ken noted that he was sold on the technology based on a demonstration ride he took with a local oil delivery driver. The fully loaded fuel oil truck did very well going up hill in winter conditions with the automatic transmission.

Town Office: The Selectboard voiced continued support for doing all that is necessary to bring the #830 Route 12A property into conformance with the zoning ordinance. As Zoning Administrator Halleran has asked the owner to come forward by 8/30 with an application to the Zoning Board of Adjust to establish the auto detailing business being operated from the site. The only approved use of the building is, as stated by the owner at the time of construction, the storage and repair of his personal car collection.

The Selectboard reviewed the initial estimates by Comcast for the cable system expansion. On average Comcast is requesting $3,500 per household to build plant on various roads in town. The range was $800 to $8,500 per household depending on street density. Halleran will be contacting Comcast about the proposals.

The trailhead at the Home Hill trail Route 12A end is now ready for construction. Proposals from local contractors are due in the office next week.

Halleran distributed to board members copies of the Valley News articles from 1967 that covered the loss from Old County Road of a stone watering trough located near the Lebanon line. The trough was placed there and used by the Daniels Farm, now owned by Peter and Nancy Mogeilnicki. The trough was removed in 1967 by Stephen Cole, who claimed ownership of it and refused to return it. Elizabeth Backofen has offered the trough back to the town and provided copies of the Valley News article as a frame of reference for the project.
Police Department: Chief Roberts was involved in an interview and was unable to meet with the Selectboard. Halleran noted that he is working on a case involving theft of auto parts from a Route 12A car repair facility.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Halleran

August 18th Minutes

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
September 1st 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway Department: Road Agent Ken Stocker requested, and was granted permission to extend the rental of the small excavator that is being used on Willow Brook Road. Ken needs at least two more weeks to complete the rock wall at the clay bank adjacent to Willow Brook Sand and Gravel. Ken hopes to be able to stabilize the uphill portion of this problematic slope by removing a large pine from the top and shaping and seeding the bank. Extensive drainage work has been done below the slope and Ken is confident that the fix will be successful. Paving at the north end of Brook Road is scheduled for late September.

The Selectboard reaffirmed their position that four day work weeks can only be used during summer months when the school is not in session.

Building Inspector: David Lersch met with the Selectboard to review several changes in the building codes. In particular, Dave discussed the need for improved drawings and project specifications with submitted applications. The Selectmen noted their strong preference for the town to work very cooperatively with applicants, but agreed that any project that involves living quarters, will be required to submit measured drawings and an inventory of materials to be used on the project.

Police Chief: Paul provided a detailed run down of the departments work over the last week. Based on data from the speed trailer, Paul has placed a new emphasis on having the duty officers work traffic during peak commuter times. Vehicle speeds have increased and with school back in session, a stronger police presence is necessary.

Paul is working with KUA administrators on a memo of understanding concerning crimes on the KUA campus. Historically, KUA has not wanted to enter into this commonly used arrangement with local law enforcement and academic institutions. Paul has made it clear to the school that not reporting crimes is a crime and that in absence of clear direction on how issues will be handled, teachers, coaches and staff shielding students from possible prosecution for crimes will be themselves be charged. Not doing so, puts the town at fault under NH law.

Town Office: The board discussed the 2010 budget noting that, while tight, the budget seems overall to be well within approved limits. Selectmen Williams noted that the road project is very tight on cost and that it should be carefully watch so that no overage occurs.

The Selectboard discussed the upcoming meeting with Library Trustees concerning the merger of the two boards. The Selectboard is firm in its position that the 2011 budgeting be done as a single department.
Selectboard Taylor noted that he feels that the KUA Field House project review must include a
detailed review of the adequacy of campus center drive. Halleran will make sure that town
engineer Lou Caron includes this in his work.

The Selectboard signed all the papers necessary for the establishment of the 2010 tax rate. The
new rate should be set in early October and is expected to be around $23.50. The current rate is
$22.50.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
September 15th 2010
PLAINFIELD TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

The Selectboard toured the Plainfield Town Hall and view the exterior paint work being done by local contractor George Hadlock. The board was very pleased with the work.

The Selectmen walked over to the Plainfield Library and met with Road Agent Ken Stocker.

Highway Department: Ken updated the board on the Willow Brook Road project which should be ready for paving in two weeks.

Ken and Halleran presented a proposal for the board to consider the purchase of a vibratory screen for the town’s gravel pit. Ken, like Scott MacLeay who has worked for the town in the pit on reclamation and management now feels that a screen would reduce the need for crushing as much gravel with an outside contractor. Much of the cost of the screen could be paid for with a sale of overburden material from the pit. The last sale took less than a month and paid for the cost of having some of the pit reshaped and winter sand exposed. The board agreed to consider the project with the finance committee.

Out Reach Program: The Selectboard left the meeting for 45 minutes to go and visit new business owner to Plainfield, Ann Yates who has reopened the Plainfield Village Store. Ann provided a tour of the facility and discussed with the board some of her challenges in getting the store up and running. The property had become bank owned and much of the equipment needed repairs or updating to satisfy building code requirements. Ann has been very pleased with the support from the community and continues to search for ways to make the store a success.

The board returned to the Plainfield Library.

Police Department: Chief Roberts provided a detailed report of his department’s activities over the last week. Paul shared some photos and pieces of the device that was discovered up at the TQS Trust property on Center of Town Road. The state police explosive squad determined that the device was not a functioning bomb and then broke the shot filled canister up.

Paul is making sure that to the extent possible the town’s two police cruisers are out and visible during commuting times. Traffic complaints remain a real concern.

Paul is working with KUA to determine, what if any, special duty coverage is necessary at the hockey rink during tournaments and large gatherings. The department has heard from several individuals who feel that parents behaving poorly can be a real intimidating factor at hockey events involving Twin Valley Hockey league.

Town Office: The Selectboard continues to try and hold a meeting with both board’s of library trustees. To date, no date that works for everyone has been possible. As an alternative the
Selectboard instructed Halleran to ask that a member from each board attend the October 6th meeting.

Halleran reported that the Tuesday election went very smoothly. Town Clerk Michelle Marsh and Deputy Ruth Wheeler worked very hard to make sure the day went smoothly.

The town’s energy committee continues to work on a variety of projects. Tuesday members of the group met with consultants who have federal funding for performing additional energy audits for all town buildings.

The town’s employee safety committee met earlier this week. The visit was to the Meriden Library. The group was impressed with the work that has been done to the facility. Solving the ADA compliance issues with the building continues to be the biggest challenge the trustees face.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
October 6th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway Department: The group discussed the recent award to the town of a $490,000 hazard mitigation grant to be used to make drainage way improvements on Willow Brook Road. The town applied for this grant in March of 2009 and has just now been notified of the award. This is the second grant in the last five years that the town has received and brings the total to $660,000 received for work on Willow Brook Road. Halleran will be working in the coming weeks with Hazard Mitigation Director Richard Verville on finalizing the grant documents.

Ken reported that fall grading and hauling of winter sand is on going. Last week’s 5” of rain resulted in very little wash to town roads, downed trees and some minor repairs have now been completed.

Police Department: Chief Roberts reviewed with the board the various investigations that his department has been working on. The large carved wooden bear that was stolen from Ledge Road has been found and returned. Those responsible for the theft face a variety of charges.

Steve and Paul are working on a capital improvements project for the department. It is very likely that voters will be asked to establish a Police Department capital reserve fund at the 2010 town meeting.

Library Trustees: The Selectboard met with representative of both the Meriden and Plainfield boards of library trustees to discuss the ongoing unification project that was approved with the passage of article 8 at the 2010 town meeting. The two boards have met several times and have now developed a memo of understanding with regard to this project. All recognized that this project will take several years to fully implement. The 2011 budget will be a compilation of both library budgets and the 2012 budget will be the first true single budget that will be developed by the one board of five. In regard to the transition from six trustees to five, since two terms expire at the end of this year, only a single trustee will be elected in 2011.

Other Business: Halleran reported that the stone water trough will be moved tomorrow morning. The trough is being returned to Old County Road after an absence of more than 40 years.
The Selectboard approved taking enforcement action against #830 Route 12A. A business concerned with making modifications to cars is being operated from the building on the lot without the proper zoning approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
October 19th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present:  Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
                    Robert Taylor
                    Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 2:45pm

The Selectboard, School Board Member Mike Sutherland, Superintendent Noelle Vitt and
Business Manager Beth Bierwirth met with NH DRA Auditor Jamie Dow to establish the 2010
tax rate. The various reports from the town and school district were reviewed. The 2010 tax rate,
subject to final DRA approval was established at $23.75 up from $22 in both 2008 and 2009.
The new rate should be ready for tax billing later next week.

The meeting was recessed until Wednesday evening at 6pm at the Meriden Town Hall.

Wednesday October 20th 2010

Richard Verville and Danielle Morse from the NH Department of Emergency Management
attended the meeting to obtain signatures on the town’s approved hazard mitigation grant in the
amount of $490,118. These monies to be used in 2011 for Willow Brook Road drainage work.

In accordance with authority granted by article 5 of the 1995 town meeting pursuant to RSA 31-95-b
the Selectboard opened a public hearing on the acceptance of this grant. No one spoke
against the acceptance of the funds. The Selectboard, Town Administrator and Road Agent all
voiced support for the grant. The public hearing was closed and a motion to accept the funds was
made by Chairman Williams, seconded by Selectman Belyea and voted in the affirmative
unanimously. Next, grant contracts were signed and returned to Richard Verville who will take
them to the governor and council for final approval.

Sale of Route 12A town owned property acquired by Tax Collector deed. The Selectboard
opened the three bids received for property formally owned by Mike Williams map 237 lot 14.1.

Everett Williams $6,000.00
Robbie Williams $15,300.00
Judith Ptak $19,000.00

The property was awarded to Judith Ptak, subject to review by Town Counsel Barry Schuster.

Highway Department: Ken reported that the over lay on the Lebanon end of Brook Road has
been put town with a top to be added in the coming days, shoulder work to follow after that.
As outlined in the grant application the FEMA monies will be used for drainage improvements
along the middle 2.5 miles of the roadway.

Police Department: Chief Roberts reported that he would like to use a possible $7,000 donation
to the town’s recently created Beautification, Operation and Maintenance Fund, created in 2008
with the passage of article 10, for the purchase of a used Crown Victoria car for the Police
Department’s use. The donor, a private trust, would like to earmark the funds for this purpose
and the town operations fund may provide the necessary legal framework for the transaction. The
Selectboard are named agents to expend on the fund. The board will consider this request, but noted that as a general rule large purchases should go through the town meeting process. Paul agreed noting that right now he uses his personal car for a lot of town business. Consequently, at times he has to respond to emergencies in a car that is not properly equipped for the work that needs to be done. The board noted that this car will not become part of the standard car rotation and that if acquired it will be expected that its use will be limited to extend the life of the vehicle.

**Town Office:** The Selectboard confirmed Clara Perry as the next recipient of the Boston Post Cane. The board hopes to present the cane on November 3rd to Ms. Perry.

The Selectboard signed the agreement between the town, Mary Ann Palmer and her assigns that makes it clear that the now returned stone watering trough, which has been located on the Palmer property, is owned by the Town of Plainfield. The agreement will be recorded at the Sullivan County Registry.

The Selectboard appointed the 2010 KUA Study Committee. This year’s group will include Gordon Defoe, James Bonney, Elizabeth Duany, John Yacavone, Robyn Hadlock, Robert Hewett, Shelley Andrews a School Board member and representatives of the KUA Administration.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
November 3rd 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
                    Robert Taylor
                    Judy Belyea

The formal meeting opened at 6:00pm

BOSTON POST CANE: Prior to arriving at the Meriden Town Hall the Selectboard was please
to visit Plainfield’s oldest resident Clara Perry at #147 Dodge Road and present to Ms. Perry the
town’s Boston Post Cane. A group comprised of family members and friends gathered to
celebrate this achievement with Clara. She indicated how proud she was to be a recipient of the
cane and she hoped to keep it a long time.

The Selectboard moved across town to the Meriden Town Hall

GOODWIN ROAD: Forester Ehart Frost and Head of Buildings and Grounds for KUA Doug
Plummer met wit the Selectboard to discuss the school’s desire to make improvements to the
class VI Goodwin road. The road will be used to access KUA’s 700 acres on Snow Mountain for
forestry purposes. Once improved, the class VI road will be gated, but not locked. Selectboard
member Belyea noted that the town’s Road Agent should oversee the project, including culvert
sizing and placement. KUA will pursue all necessary wetland permits. Halleran will forward to
the school the town’s permitting process for work on class VI roads.

WALKER EASEMENT: Resident George Sandmann and Conservation Commission Chairman
Myra Ferguson met with the Selectmen to discuss amending the permitted access to the one
house site on the 104 acre property (map 252 lot 35.1) that had previously been part of the
Walker Farm and was encumbered with an LCIP Conservation Easement in the 1980’s. After
holding a site visit with Mr. Sandmann, the town’s Road Agent and Steve Walker from the
State’s Office of Energy and Planning, the town’s Conservation Commission has agreed to the
change which moves to the driveway access to the edge of the existing field avoiding the
disturbance of ledge and a small wetland area. All utilities will be buried along the driveway and
overhead poles will not be permitted. Halleran noted that the town holds the easement and
therefore must apply for any amendment to the easement. The Selectboard supported the change.
Halleran will work with George Sandmann to submit the formal application for the amendment.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Roberts reviewed his work over the last two weeks.
Halloween was relatively uneventful. Halleran noted that he has heard many positive comments
about the glow bracelet program that Paul established. The bracelets were paid for by local
businesses and helped to keep the kids visible. Residents also appreciated all the efforts by both
fire departments to keep the village areas safe for young children.

The department is working on several complex cases involving theft and domestic violence.
Trials are pending.

Paul updated the board on the incident involving an Old County Road resident who was found
dead in the woods of an apparent heart attack while deer hunting. Fish and Game is the lead
agency on the case, but Plainfield Police along with other rescue agencies were involved in the
matter.
TOWN OFFICE: Halleran noted that the tax sale of land formerly owned by Mike Williams is moving to a closing with high bidder Judy Ptak. The sale should be finalized by mid November.

The Willow Brook Road tax sale continues to languish, although the town has received all of its money, but is waiting to turn over the deed when the owner removes the existing house on the lot.

Halleran reported that former resident Edward Brown has sued the town in Superior Court for failing to protect he and his wife Elaine from Federal Authorities. Town Counsel Barry Schuster will file a motion with the court to dismiss the suit. Halleran will also notify the town’s insurance company about the suit which seeks monetary damages.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Selectmen reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week. Building permits were also reviewed and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

November 17th 2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
                    Robert Taylor
                    Judy Belyea

The formal meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway Department: Road Agent Stocker again inquired with the Selectboard about
purchasing a used screen for the town gravel pit. The Selectboard felt that a screen might be
useful periodically and thus renting a unit as needed might be a more cost efficient approach.

Ken is interested in selling or trading one of the town’s small pick up trucks for a larger one ton
truck to facilitate salting the town’s asphalt roads. The larger truck would allow the department
to reduce the amount of time it takes to get salt applied. The Selectboard agreed to look at the
used truck, however, the board felt that even though these smaller used vehicles typically cost
less than $10,000 and in the past have been paid for out of the operating budget, such purchases
should be part of annual meeting business.

Ken hopes to complete road stripping prior to winter setting in.

Halleran reported that surveyor Chris Rollins and Town Engineer Lou Caron are now doing field
work for the necessary wetland permits for next summer’s completion of the Willow Brook Road.

Winter sand has been hauled and the department is making final preparations for winter.

Shoulder work on Willow Brook Road is nearly complete and is the final piece of the 2010
project.

Town Office: The Selectboard held some general budgetary discussions. No final decisions were
made on employee compensation rates for 2011, but the Selectboard acknowledged, that holding
the town rate flat is a priority for the board. Halleran is looking into health care plan options that
might save the town on premium costs. Employees will be subject to greater health care costs in
2011.

Police Department: Chief Roberts explained that the department has been involved in several
complex investigations which have been taking away from patrol time. Progress is being made
on these cases, including a burglary on Old Country Road. Paul has been scheduling part-time
officer Mat Agan for some of the patrol shifts to keep the town’s cruisers highly visible.

Finance Committee: The Selectboard met with the Finance Committee to discuss the basics of
the 2011 plan. Establishing a capital reserve fund for the police department and adding some
additional funding to the police department for shift coverage, are both likely in 2011. The
Finance Committee encouraged the Selectboard to make sure that all employees are being
compensated fairly; noting that asking too much from salaried positions will only increase the
likelihood that highly valued employees will be lost.

The Finance Committee acknowledged the efforts that the town has taken over the years to keep
costs low and the town tax rate relatively stable.
Halleran noted that the Plainfield Fire Department, Meriden Fire Department and Meriden Library have all committed to level or nearly level operating budgets for 2011.

The town is in process of trying to negotiate a 15% reduction on the refuse collection costs. Its too early to know if this will be successful.

The Selectboard will meet next with the Finance Committee in mid December. An initial draft of the 2011 budget will be available at that time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
December 1st  2010
MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The formal meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway Department: Road Agent Ken Stocker attended the meeting between dealing with
downed trees and muddy roads from the in progress wind and rain storm. The Selectboard has
determined that based on the current economic climate the town would not at this time pursue
either the trading of one of the small pick ups for a one ton truck or the screen for the gravel pit.
Both projects have some merits but simply can’t be afforded at this time.

School Board Meeting: The Selectboard met with School Board Members Chris Foreman, Myra
Ferguson and Doug Cogan. Superintendent Noelle Vitt and Finance Committee members Scott
MacLeay and Doug Adams both sat in on the meeting. The group discussed ways that additional
collaboration between the school and town might be possible. It was noted that the pooling of the
town and school employees with School Care Health Insurance which the town is now switching
to has allowed both organizations to secure pricing in the 50 or greater pool. This change will
save the town over $10,000 on its 2011 coverage.

A brief discussion followed about combining recreation with school athletics. However, it quickly
became clear that such a consolidation would not save any money and could even end up costing
more. If the school ran the recreation program, it would have to be done in a manner
commensurate with school certifications, and while this might result in an enhanced program it
would also cost more.

The group also touched base on the work that the KUA Study Committee is doing to get a solid
understanding of the impact that KUA faculty children have at the Elementary School. Some on
the committee feel that KUA should be paying something toward the cost of the elementary
school.

Halleran noted that growth in the town’s taxable grand list is very minimal. Building starts are
way down.

At 7:30pm several teachers from the school arrived to hear the discussion and indicated that the
school administration had advertised a 7:30pm start for the meeting. A recap of the discussion
was held for their benefit.

Both the School Board and the Select Board pledged to do all that was possible to hold the line on
spending. Both noted that declining state and local revenues are making zero based budgeting
very difficult.

Judy Ptak: Judy attended the meeting to complete the sale of the 5.02 acres of undeveloped land
on Route 12A formerly owned by Mike Williams. Attorney Barry Schuster’s office has prepared
the necessary documents. The Selectboard accepted the $19,000 bid for the lot and signed the
deed. The transfer will be recorded at the registry of deeds in the next few days.
**2010 Budget:** Based on the previously determined schedule the Selectboard reviewed draft 01 of the 2010 budget, see attached. The operating budget is level, however necessary increases in reserve funding and declining revenues result in a net increase of $47,000 proposed to be raised from taxes. These funds would add $.17 to the tax rate. The Selectboard continue to hope that this number can be further reduced in the coming weeks. The Selectboard discussed an increase in the trash user fee sticker, but was not immediately in support of this idea.

Halleran noted that reducing the reserve fund contributions is a possibility, but doing so will leave the town less prepared for the next property revaluation and or major highway equipment purchases.

The Selectboard signed the various documents necessary for switching the town’s health care coverage from the NH Municipal Association to School Care. The new coverage will take affect 01/01/11. This change has allowed the town to budget nearly $10,000 less in premiums and deductible expenses than would have otherwise been required.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

December 15th 2010

MERIDEN TOWN HALL

Selectmen present: Thomas Williams Jr., Chair
Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The formal meeting opened at 6:00pm

Police Department: Chief Roberts reviewed with the board, the major investigations he and his officers are working on. Most recently we have two cases of identity theft. In one case a Plainfield resident’s credit card was used to gain access to an emergency room in California. In the second, heating oil for a home in Boston was charged to a Plainfield resident.

The department continues to work on leads concerning the break in at Ann’s Country Store. The department has security camera data on those that are responsible.

Highway Department: Halleran presented the Selectboard with several purchase orders for road salt, grader tires and roadside mower tires. The highway department worked on Sunday to clean up from the weekend storm.

The Selectboard discussed the broad concept of a low cost lease for the remaining Karl Klinges property on Ferry Hill Road. Mr. Klinges has indicated a willingness to donate the remaining portion of the land to the town, but must wait for two more years before doing so. During the interim he would like to at have the town responsible for the property.

Finance Committee: The Selectboard met with the Finance Committee to review the 2011 town budget. Currently, the town’s proposal will raise the municipal rate some $.12/$1,000. See attached. Several members of the committee noted that while they appreciated the work done by the town, all avenues for saving money must be considered. In particular, consolidation of town services and perhaps regionalization of some functions should be looked at.

The Selectboard informed the Finance Committee, that based on discussions at the first meeting, the board has now signed a contract with the NHMA to conduct a wage and salary classification study for the town’s full-time positions. This study will be aimed at determining whether Plainfield’s compensation packages for employees is competitive with what is offered in other similar communities.

Members of the Finance Committee helped make some funding decisions for the town’s human service agencies. In general, no new agencies will be added at this time and existing funding levels will be maintained.
**Walker Easement**: The Selectboard approved the amendment to the Walker Conservation Easement which will allow the access for the 104 acre lot now owned by Jennifer Brunori (252 35.1) to be relocated along the western edge of the existing field.

**Other business**: The Selectboard voted to encumber, pending the outcome of the town’s financial audit, the following funds from the 2010 budget:

- Highway Radio $2,500 for Highway
- Road Projects $9,000 for Willow Brook Road
- 250th Celebration $4,000 for 2012 Celebration
- Executive $3,000 for Wage Study
- Cemetery $3,000 for lot layout Freeman Cemetery/fence repairs.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Thomas P. Williams Chair

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea