MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
January 4th 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair
Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway Department: Road Agent Collins met with the Selectmen. The early winter season continues to be very quiet. No major snow storms, however, several icing events have necessitated calling the crew out for sanding and salting.

Rich will ask SG Reed to provide a quote for the new plow truck with a built in sander body. This technology has the advantage of not having to take the sander in and out of the body for various projects. At the Selectmen’s request, he will also investigate the additional cost purchasing a ten wheel rather than a six wheel truck. The town spends additional money each year renting trucks for hauling large quantities from the town’s gravel pit. A ten wheeler hauls more than two to one the volume of material that our six wheeled trucks can carry.

Police Department: Chief Roberts reported to the board that officer Anthony Swett has resigned his position and has accepted a job with the Lyme New Hampshire police department. Tony will work for the town for another two weeks. The Selectboard expressed their disappointment with Tony’s leaving. He was a highly valued member of the department and the board is sorry to see him leave. The Selectmen and Police Chief spent time discussing what changes could be made in the future to minimize turnover in the department.

Town Office: The Selectboard expressed their disappointment in Primex’s decision to reject a workers compensation claim for a Meriden Fire fighter. The board instructed Town Administrator Steve Halleran to draft a letter from the board to Primex requesting that this decision be reconsidered. The Selectboard is firm in its position that coverage should be provided to all fire fighters who are injured while on a call.

The Selectmen spent the final half hour of the meeting fine tuning the 2012 budget. The first hearing on the new budget is January 18th.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas Williams
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
January 18th 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair
Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Police Department: The Selectboard spent time with Chief Roberts discussing possible staffing models for the Police Department. Paul requested and was granted permission to advertise for a full time officer to replace Anthony Swett who took a position with the Lyme NH police department. The Selectboard would like Paul to work out the savings for operating the Police Department with two full time officers and two or three part-time officers, thus avoiding the cost of providing benefits.

Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed and signed a Fund Balance policy for the town. This work was done to gain material compliance with GASB 54.

The Selectboard agreed to hold a hearing on a proposed donation of 19 acres, much of which is frontage on a large wetland area, from the Shulman subdivision currently before the Planning Board. The parcel is highly valued for its prime wildlife habitat and the owner would like have it protected, but has been unable to find a land trust organization willing to accept such a small isolated parcel. The hearing will likely be in mid February.

Town Budget Hearing: The first of two budget hearings on the 2012 budget was opened at 7:10pm. The town’s finance committee was in attendance along with library trustees, library directors and resident Richard Atkinson. Mr. Atkinson was once again complimented for being the “general public” at the hearing.

The 2012 budget was explained as a proposal that maintains a like level of service, but offers no expansions. In an effort to contain personnel costs the Selectboard has made one of the highway department positions a part-time offering with no benefits. A similar change is under consideration within the Police Department which will be dealing with the likely retirement of Dept. Chief Lawrence Dore later this year.

The Selectboard has acted on several of the wage and salary study recommendations from the now completed study. On average town employees will be receiving a 2.5% increase in overall pay in 2012.

As currently proposed the operating budget is up 3.44% or $65,000. Accounting for capital reserve funding and special warrant articles monies to be raised from taxes would increase by $52,000 adding $.19 to the tax rate. The Selectmen are proposing the replacement of one large dumptruck, funded from reserves, as well as the creation of new fund for eventual closing of the town’s gravel pit. An article to ratify a proposed expansion of the town’s gravel pit land area is also proposed.

Operating budget is proposed at $1,955,393, reserve funding $157,500, special projects $12,000.

Finance Committee members asked several questions about how the budget is constructed. The group encouraged the Selectmen to squeak out another 5% to 10% from the highway department
and to make sure that motor vehicle registration projects were realistic. The committee supported the changes that have been made since the last meeting, but hope that further reductions are possible to the operating budget.

Halleran noted that a $1,000 expenditure request came in today from Stephen Taylor. The request is related to last year’s 250th Celebration and seeks to establish a town spirit day in late August. The Selectboard agreed to include this article on the warrant.

The hearing closed at 8:30pm and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran  
Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas Williams
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
February 1st 2012
Plainfield Library

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor, Chair
       Judy Belyea
       Thomas Williams

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Police Report: Chief Roberts reported on the efforts to hire a new full-time police officer. Advertisements have been running in local newspapers and trade publications. To date, Paul has had three inquiries and is expecting at least two applications to be filed by the February 6th deadline.

The Police Department has been concentrating its investigative energies at solving a burglary that took place on the Plainfield side of town last week. Paul is expecting to make an arrest shortly.

Highway Department: Interim Road Agent Collins feels that the Selectboard should consider upgrading the replacement dump truck to include a built in sander unit into the body. The Selectmen will investigate this further. A visit to an area town that is using these will be arranged.

Town Office: The Selectboard approved the cover for the 2011 Town Report. The document is nearly complete and should be at the printer in the next couple of business days.

Halleran noted that the hearing on the Shulman proposed land donation to the town will likely be February 15th.

The Selectmen signed a three year contract to continue with Windsor Ambulance. The cost of the contract has decreased by about 14%.

Budget Hearing: The 2nd and final budget hearing was opened at 7pm at the Plainfield Library. Mike Sutherland played the role of the general public. The Finance Committee was also in attendance. Halleran noted that an additional $18,000 has been reduced from the budget since the first hearing. Dollars to be raised from taxation now stands at $48K which would add about $.15 to the tax rate. Finance Committee members asked some final questions about special warrant articles and plans for future replacement of heavy equipment. Member Scott MacLeay questioned whether we are setting enough money aside to properly fund the replacements of all the major pieces in the highway department. Likewise committee members noted that the Highway Garage which is now coming up on 30 years old may need some updating.

The hearing was closed at 8:00pm and the board meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran                             Robert W. Taylor, Chair

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas Williams
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
February 15th 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:
   Judy Belyea
   Thomas Williams

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Halleran reported that Selectmen Rob Taylor was home with the flu and would not be attending
this evening’s meeting.

Highway Department: The Selectmen reviewed the data gathered on built in sander bodies for
the proposed truck replacement. Based on the evidence before it, the Selectmen voted to move
forward with a proposal to equip the new dump truck with one of these bodies. The pros of the
body include the ability to carry more material, the ability to sand under the trucks drive wheels,
the ability to use the sander in the summer for road shoulder work and perhaps most importantly
the ability to utilize the truck during the winter for other jobs without having to pull the sander
out. Cons include the added cost of the unit, about $10,000, and the complexity of having the
sander and the body being a single unit.

Rich Collins reported that the crew is out trimming and doing road side maintenance. The lack of
any real snow depth and warm temperatures allows this work to move forward.

Police Department: Paul reported that he has received three applications for the open officer
position. Only one of the candidates has police experience. The Selectmen asked Paul to set up
an interview with the applicant and the board for sometime in the next week.

School Board: School Board members Chris Foreman, Mike Sutherland, and Myra Ferguson met
with the Selectmen to discuss the upcoming school and town meetings. The school board will be
sending out the annual letter to residents summarizing the budgetary changes for the coming year.
The group agreed that the most pressing issue facing the school in the coming year is to continue
to downsize the school to the appropriate level for the declining enrolment.

Schulman Property: The hearing on the proposed gift of 19 acres of wetlands to the town was
opened at 7:15pm. Mike O’leary explained the gift on behalf of the owner. The proposal
involves a donating to the town the area owned by Mr. Shulman that is directly adjacent to
including about ½ of the large beaver pond on the property. The property has significant wildlife
value and conserving the land would protect the wetland from encroachment by future homes
planned for the upper part of the Shulman property. The donation does come with condition of no
hunting on the 19 acres, however, that condition is going to be imposed by the owner regardless
of who owns the property in the future. The Selectboard has tried to have this condition
eliminated, but that was not possible. The property will not be posted; a small sign at the parking
area will outline the rules of use.

Halleran read letters of support for accepting the gift from the Conservation Commission,
residents Richard and Diane Rogers, Robyn and Robert Carpenter, Gretchen Cherington and
Nancy Mogielnicki.

Halleran also noted that the office has heard from resident Reginald Tyler and Brue Plummer
who have expressed concern about public ownership of land with a no hunting restriction.

Research has shown that the town accepted a similar restriction back in the 1980’s from Ira and Sally Townsend on land adjacent to French’s Ledges. The issue gets even more complex when the expenditure of public money is necessary to acquire the property. In the current case, the land is being donated and the foregone annual tax bill for the property, due to current use valuations, is something like $25/year. Much of the adjacent pond will remain in private ownership and has historically been available for hunting.

The hearing was closed at 7:45pm and the Selectboard voted to accept the donation as proposed, subject to a review of the proposed deed by town counsel.

Other business: The Selectmen signed the official copies of the town warrant and budget sheets instructing Halleran to, on their behalf, post the documents at the Plainfield Town Hall, Plainfield School and the Meriden Town Hall.

Halleran noted that the town report is now available on the town’s website and the printed books will be back from the printer next week.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas Williams
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
March 7th 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Police: Chief Roberts reviewed the last fourteen days of the department log with the Selectmen. Paul noted that the approved candidate for the full time police position has past the required polygraph test and will undergo psychological testing in the next day or so.

Library Trustees: The trustees continued their dialog with the Selectboard about the past accounting practices used at the Meriden Library. It appears that public and private funds retained in the same account from year to year. Private monies need to be accounted for separately, and unspent public monies returned to the town. Neither library has a history of returning unspent appropriations, however, it's clear that the Plainfield library has not accumulated a fund balance from year to year, having instead spent any year end remaining funds on books or supplies. In Meriden the unspent funds were retained and earmarked for larger projects. The Trustees have now met with Terry Knowles of the AG’s office and notes from that meeting were provided to the Selectmen and those in attendance. The Trustees will immediately turn over to the town any remaining public funds once the private donations/gifts have been properly segregated. Trustee Mark Pensgen noted that his research indicates that much of the money that has been held resulted from the year that longtime librarian Bettyann Dole past away. Volunteers filled in at the library that year, leaving an expended balance in the payroll line of the libraries budget.

Resident and library employee Diane Rogers who has been very critical of the accounting at the Meriden Library, made it clear that she feels the Selectboard and Town Administrator have let the town down on this issue by not paying more attention to the work of the Library Trustees.

Resident Gordon Wilder asked that Plainfield not become like the federal government, if unspent monies remain at the end of the year, those funds need to come back to the taxpayers of Plainfield.

Dennis Girourd questioned the exact amounts of money that were in play and the timing of the work that needs to be completed. Trustee Bernadina Webber and trustee Mark Pensgen noted of the $81,000 held buy the Meriden Library, $60,000 is clearly private monies held in the building fund. Of the remaining $21,000 some is private and some is public.

The Selectboard thanked the Trustees for attending the meeting and putting a lot of effort into working on this project.

Plainfield Town Hall Committee: Bev Widger, Nancy Scott and Nancy Norwalk met with the Selectmen to discuss the possibility of purchasing new table and chairs for the Plainfield Town Hall. The existing chairs game from Dartmouth College and have provided 16 years of service. Those chairs were going to be thrown out by the college. The Committee acknowledged that they have missed the budgeting process but were inquiring about amending the budget. Halleran suggested that perhaps by years end some of the necessary funds could come from the 2012 town hall budget and the remaining from the 2013 budget. Selectperson Belyea noted that she feels the
chairs and tables are warranted and that she will donate the necessary funds to purchase replacements. Those in attendance thanked Judy for this generosity.

**Town Office:** The Selectboard spent the remainder of the meeting preparing for the Town Meeting. Moderator Paul Franklin met with Selectmen to go over the various article for the town meeting.

Other business: The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert W. Taylor

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
March 28th 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm. This was the first gathering of the board since the 2012 annual meeting on March 17th.

**Highway Department:** The Selectboard approved the purchase of a new International Cab and chassis from Reed’s Truck Service in Claremont NH. The town will be participating in the state bid program for this purchase.

McCullough Crushing will be moving into the town’s gravel pit in the next week or so do crush 5,000 yards of gravel at an agreed price of $3.10/yard. The last time the town crushed was in 2009, 10,000 yards cost $2.90/yard at that time.

**Police Department:** Paul a continuing to review two applicants for the open police officer position. Paul hopes to have the candidates meet with the Selectmen in the next couple of weeks.

Paul reviewed the department’s activity log noting the major incidents that have taken place since the last meeting.

Paul asked the Selectboard to become involved with a discussion with the Lebanon Ambulance Service concerning continuing life support on all patients until a death has been declared by a medical examiner or doctor. Halleran will contact the City of Lebanon on this matter.

**Town Office:** The Selectmen reviewed and approved the state documents that detail the 2012 annual meeting.

The Selectboard approved pay rates for 2012 (April to April) and signed orders for upcoming week.

The Selectboard signed a letter to the Library Trustees offering support for the work they are doing to combine the operations of the two library buildings into a single operation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Robert W. Taylor
Judy A. Belyea
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
April 4th 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
                    Thomas Williams
                    Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway Department: Following a review of his performance, the Selectboard appointed
Richard Collins to be the town’s new Road Agent, effectively dropping the term Interim from his
title. The Selectboard praised Richard for his work this winter noting the many favorable
comments received from residents who have interacted with Richard.

Road postings will be removed on most roads starting Monday April 9th. The early spring and
warm temperatures have made this date possible.

Police Department: At Chief Roberts request the Selectboard met with Mat Foss, candidate for
our open full time police position. Mat lives in Claremont and is a fully certified police officer
with ten years experience. The board was favorably impressed with his work history and resume.

Paul reported that the first of the two replacement police cruisers is now in service. The new cars
are black and white and have generated favorably comments. As discussed during the budget
process and at town meeting, leasing the two cars now allows the town to use most of the existing
mobile equipment from our existing cars. A model change with the Crown Victoria will not
allow this to happen in the future. By the time we need new cars again, any issues with the new
models should be worked out.

Class VI Roads: Several residents and members of the local snowmobile club, led by Ann
Donaghy of Croydon Turnpike met the Selectboard to encourage the board to take all necessary
actions including gating to protected the town’s class VI road network. These highly valued roads
are being damaged by heavy trucks and mud running type activities. This issue has been going
on for years, but as groups spend money and resources to improve the class VI roads, protecting
them from future damage needs to be a priority. While the Selectboard has generally not been in
favor of allowing unlocked gates on these highways, the board indicated a willingness to look at
some criteria for when a gate might be viable option.

Selectman Taylor encouraged the group to look at the class A & B trail enabling legislation to see
if future action at town meeting might be a way to control motorized vehicle use on these roads.
By adopted ordinance 1991-01 all class VI roads in Plainfield are posted against wheeled
motorized vehicle use from March 1st to June 1st each year. Chief Paul Roberts encouraged
residents to record plate numbers of violators and the department will pursue criminal charges for
those that violate the ordinance.

Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed and signed orders and various correspondence. A
current use application and disabled exemption application were also approved.

The Selectboard accepted the resignation of Diane Rogers from her town office position and the
Supervisor of the Checklist. In accepting the resignation the board acknowledged the many
contributions Diane has made over the years.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor
Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting
April 18th 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway Report: Road Agent Richard Collins reported on the department’s work over the last two weeks. Road postings have been lifted and spring grading is now underway. To give each crew member more experience, Richard is providing each of them an opportunity to run the town’s grader on their own route.

Richard and Steve Halleran reported on the possibility that TDS might donate their 1995 Ford bucket truck to the town. Resident and TDS employee Dave Chellis has suggested this to the company. Richard has looked at the truck and while it does need some work, his feeling is the vehicle would be an asset to the department for tree work. The Selectboard agreed to move forward with the town’s donation procedure if an offer from TDS is brought forward.

Morrill Construction is pulling together the final details for the two large culverts that are to be replaced on Willow Brook Road this summer. The Selectmen will meet with Jason Morrill prior to start up to discuss the handling of traffic.

Complaint against the Town Administrator: Residents Dennis Girouard met with the Selectboard to file a complaint against Town Administrator Stephen Halleran. Gordon and Fern Wilder, Jesse and Ruth Stalker, Bev Widger, Richard Rogers, Gene Hewes, Melissa Longacre, Mark and Elizabeth Pensgen and Stephen Beaupre were also in attendance. Mr. Girouard read from a letter to the Selectboard detailing why he feels that Mr. Halleran should be disciplined for a letter that he and his wife, Melissa Longacre wrote in the Viewpoints section of Plainfacts last month. The letter, in his opinion, is full of many slanderous and inaccurate comments intended to hurt him and Diane Rogers. Gordon Wilder, who recently authored a letter to the Eagle Times expressing a similar viewpoint about Halleran spoke strongly in favor of placing the town administrator on administrative leave.

The Selectboard made it clear that it has no role in what residents Steve Halleran and Melissa Longacre print in the Plainfacts under their name as their opinion.

Richard Rogers provided the board a letter to be included in the town record on this matter.

At the request of the Selectboard, Library Trustee Mark Pensgen updated the meeting and the public on the Trustees findings to date concerning the funds held by the Meriden Library. The Trustees believe that a total of about $6,000 in public monies has been retained by previous library boards. That money will be returned or repurposed at the will of the town voters. All Meriden Library funds in the Vanguard mutual fund are private donations targeted for future additions to the Meriden Library building.

Class VI Road Gates: Residents Paul and Nancy Franklin met the Selectmen as a follow up to the April 4th meeting on the subject of gates on class VI roads. As landowners of property off
Farm Road they are putting together an application for a gate. The Selectboard discussed with
them what to include with the application. The board noted that this will be the first such
application since 1990 when Gordon Wilder was granted a similar request for Tallow Hill Road.
Consequently, it may take the board a little while to work out the details of the procedure for
reviewing the request.

Streetlight Timers: On behalf of the Energy Committee, David Taylor met with the Selectboard
to see if the board would be willing to hold a public hearing in Plainfield Village to discuss the
option of install timers on the town’s streetlights. The Selectboard agreed to this request and
directed Halleran to set up a hearing for mid May in the Plainfield Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
May 2nd 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway Department: Road Agent Rich Collins discussed with the Selectboard paving options for 2012. Both BlackTop and Pike Industries have provided quotes for paving both Main Street and Bonner Roads. Bonner will cost $68,000, Main Street about $70,000. The Selectboard will consider paving only half of Bonner Road, Route 120 to School Street, in an effort to also be able to afford a top coat on Main Street as well. The board feels strongly that several of these roads that have been reconstructed in the last twenty years need to be repaved now to prevent significant damage to the base.

Gravel crushing is now complete. The Selectboard will visit the town’s gravel pit prior to the next Selectboard meeting to continue their long-term planning efforts for the gravel pit. At this same time, the board will tour the Klinges property that the town now has custody over.

Maria Guzman: Westgate Road resident Maria Guzman added her voice to those from last meeting who feel that the Town Administrator over stepped his bounds when he and his wife authored an opinion letter in the Plainfacts. She asked for a copy of the town administrator’s job description and the worksheet the town uses. She feels the Selectboard should consider making the position a part time job.

Diane Rogers: The Selectboard met in private session with Diane, who at her request asked the Bev Widger be allowed to accompany her for this exit interview. The board met for about one hour with Diane and Bev discussing a wide variety work related concerns that Diane had as a town and library employee.

Town Office: The Selectboard accepted with regret, the resignation of Kim Moss as a Library Trustee. In her resignation letter Kim cited a health issue as her reason for leaving her elected office. Halleran was directed to have the Library Trustees forward to the Selectboard a recommendation for Kim’s replacement.

Reacting to complaints from neighbors along various roads, the Selectboard will once again begin a process of encouraging residents to clean up their property by properly disposing of junk. If local solutions are not possible, district court will again be used to gain compliance.

Based on input from the Police and Fire Chiefs, the Selectboard voted not to support a Sullivan County Regional dispatch center. Neither Chief Currier nor Chief Roberts supports this idea. Both feel that keeping multiple dispatch centers at the local level provides Plainfield more choices.
Allan Ferguson met with the Selectboard to ask permission to negotiate with power producers on behalf of the town for lower electric rates. The board agreed to this and thanked him for his work. All hopes to be able to pool Plainfield’s electric usage with other businesses in town to save few cents per kilowatt hour.

Reacting to an April 16th request, the Selectboard approved an expenditure of $670 from the Library Repair Fund. The balance in the fund is $12,750. The funds were for window washing service provided by Jeff Hale.

The May 2nd Selectboard meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
May 16th 2012
Plainfield Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
                    Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 5:00pm with a Selectboard visit to the town’s municipal gravel pit on Ferry Hill Road. Following up on a meeting from last year, the board met with Road Agent Collins to discuss how the pit is being managed. The board was very pleased with the clean up efforts that have taken place over the last year. Halleran was asked to contact Hammond Lumber about having some of the old wood/tree debris in the pit ground up. The wood is stored in a single location and is ready to be ground.

Based on Rich’s assessment the board determined that the town would not have any overburden material to sell this summer.

The Board moved up to the Klinges property which is now controlled by the town. The board discussed strategies for cleaning up the mass of debris that is on the site. Some is scrap metal which will help offset the cost of getting rid of the refuse and construction trash. Rich will use the clean up as fill in work with an overall goal of having the place substantially cleaned up by next winter. Once free of debris, the large barn on the property should provide some much needed storage.

Plainfield Town Hall:

Town Office: The Selectboard voted to abate the 2012 property taxes on the LaFlam property 169 Main Street. Similar property tax forgiveness has been extended to families who experience a devastating house fire. In this case, the Selectboard felt that this one year gesture was appropriate, given the unique circumstances the LaFlam’s are now enduring.

Following up from last meeting, the Selectboard approved a round of junk car/debris letters for property owners with clearly visible violations. The town office has received a significant number of complaints this spring about the amount of junk that is visible around town.

The Selectboard will place the annual wreath at the town’s Service Memorial on Thursday May 24th at 2:30pm. This annual vent is timed to coincide with the end of the Senior Social luncheon.

The Selectboard will ask Morrill Construction for a performance bond on the project to replace the two large culvert on Brook Road.

Police: Chief Roberts reviewed the department log for the last two weeks going over the major crimes and incidents under investigation.

The Police Department is working with Michelle Marsh, Town Clerk on the annual effort to get all of Plaifield’s dog’s registered. Currently, there are 42 owners who face fines and penalties for keeping an unregistered dog.

The Selectboard will hold a rare morning meeting next Thursday at the Meriden Town Hall to
discuss Police Department staffing with the Chief. Chief Roberts is ready to move forward with filling Lawrence Dore’s position.

Plainfield Village Streetlights: Selectman Taylor opened the hearing by noting that the focus of the meeting was to investigate whether or not to add timers to the streetlights in Plainfield Village. Periodic maintenance scheduled for this summer on the lights allows this work to be done for only $5/light, rather than the normal $176/light. If placed on the timers the 29 streetlights in the village area would save about $800 of the $6,000/year bill. This initiative is at the request of the energy committee. Those at the hearing who spoke, all opposed the idea citing concerns about increased speed at night, to safety, to security. Chief Roberts noted that he has studies that show that shutting the streetlights off can increase the crime rate late at night by as much as 30%. Brad Migill, Brad Atwater, David and Nancy Scott, Nancy Norwalk, Edward Mitchell, Anita Brown, Robert Drye all spoke against the change. Claudine Spencer phoned the office to voice her concern about the project. The Conservation Commission provided a letter of support. While this project was not supported by the group in attendance, all in attendance thanked the energy committee for its efforts on this and other energy saving initiatives. The Selectboard felt, that based on the public’s response and the recommendation of the Police Department, that timers would not be installed at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Thursday May 24th 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 7:00am.

Police: This meeting was a continuation of last meeting’s discussion about staffing levels for the Police Department with the pending retirement of Deputy Chief Lawrence Dore just a few weeks away. After looking at several spreadsheet options, discussing input that the Selectmen have received from community members, and staffing models used by other towns the Selectboard determined that the Police Department will remain with three full time officers and a maximum of 20 hours per week of part-time officer coverage. This will keep staffing at the same level it has been for the last two years. The Selectboard stressed the need to have the Police Department budget stabilize after two budget cycles of significant growth.

The Selectboard asked that Halleran schedule some discussions with the institutional members of the community about requiring special detail coverage at large events. In these cases, the organization hosting the event would be required to pay for extra coverage.

Town Office: The Selectboard signed a timber tax warrant for just under $18,000 of tax. One of the cuts in the warrant is the clear cut on Willow Brook Road (West property). Halleran has walked the site with a ranger from the division of forest and lands and the timber tax appraiser from the NH DRA. Both feel that the report of wood cut that has been filed with the town is reasonable based on stump size, count and species type.

Acting on a recommendation from the Board of Library Trustees, Nancy Liston was appointed to take over for Kim Moss who resigned early in the month.

Service Memorial: The board will lay a wreath at the town’s service memorial at 2:30pm today. This annual event, which coincides with the May senior luncheon, has become a favorite event of the Selectboard.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05am.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
Wednesday June 6th 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Police Department: Chief Roberts updated the Selectboard on the department’s efforts to solve three burglaries in town. These types of crimes have occurred throughout the Upper Valley in the last few weeks. Law enforcement is confident that the thieves will soon be caught.

Chief Roberts introduced Glen St. Amant to the Selectboard. Paul would like to hire him for the department position that is being vacated by Lawrence Dore, who is retiring. The Selectboard spent about an hour talking with Glen and learning about him. Glen is currently a patrol officer for the City of Claremont.

Highway: Halleran reported that Road Agent Collins continues to concentrate on ditching work and tree trimming. This past week Main Street and Bonner Road have received the most attention. Richard is exploring options for replacing the Road Agent truck which is a 1986 and has more than 216,000 miles.

Andy Schmidt: Representative Schmidt met with the Selectboard to discuss the challenges facing local and state government. The Selectboard stressed the need for the state to stop reducing local aid and/or passing expenses down to the small towns. Democrat Schmidt agreed, but noted that he feels that things will get tougher before they get better. Employee benefits and energy costs are so high its making sustained economic growth a real challenge.

Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed and selected a flag pole design for the Service Memorial. The board reviewed and approved the recommendations on tax abatements formulated by appraiser George Hildum. Three applications were granted and two were denied. The board completed its night work with a discussion about class VI roads and gates. The board is developing a score sheet to use when assessing any requests for unlocked gates on these public ways.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea
Thomas P. Williams
Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday June 20th 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 11:00am.

The Selectboard met early on this date in conjunction with a retirement luncheon for Deputy Chief Larry Dore who is leaving the department after more than 23 years of full time service and another 14 or so of part-time service. The Board thanked Larry for his long dedicated service to the Town of Plainfield.

Highway Department: The Selectboard reviewed a proposal by the Meriden Water District to cross School Street with a replacement water line that will run along the edge of the adjacent town owned land. This will replace an old section of plastic water line that is failing. The Selectboard approved the road crossing subject to the district installing, at the time of the cut, a second sleeve that will be available should the town owned land every need water service. This will prevent the need for cutting pavement a second time.

The Selectboard authorized Rich Collins to replace the existing Road Agent pick up truck with a used vehicle paid for from the 2012 operating budget. The truck to be replaced is a 1994 with 216,000 miles. As in the past, Selectboard feels that this periodic purchase of an older vehicle for the Road Agent truck saves the town’s from the much higher expense of purchasing a new vehicle. The Selectboard is comfortable with this approach if the purchase costs less than $10,000. In this case the board authorized the expenditure of no more than $8,500 which represents about 1.1% of the department’s operating budget.

Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed and approved final abatement recommendations from Town Assessor George Hildum. In this batch three abatements were approved and four were denied.

The Selectboard approved the location of the service memorial flag pole. Highway should have the unit installed by the 4th of July weekend. Townline Equipment was thanked for its donation to the project.

Halleran reported that the Highway Department will pick up ten folding picnic tables from Townline Equipment that will be stored at the Plainfield Fire Station. Townline is donating these tables to the town which will be used for the newly established Spirit Day. In the past the tables were borrowed from Townline on an as needed basis. Again, the Selectboard thanked Townline for its continued community support.

Police: Paul reported that a suspect from Massachusetts who seemed to be targeting homes with close proximity to Interstate 89, has been arrested by the Lebanon Police Department.

The Selectboard recessed their meeting to enjoy a farewell lunch with retiring Deputy Chief Larry Dore. The meeting will resume at 5:30pm with a site walk on Goodwin Road concerning the State of New Hampshire’s plans to log the Annie Duncan State Forest.
5:30pm Annie Duncan State Forest: Robert Hardy and Daniel DeHart met with Robert Taylor-
Selectboard, Stephen Halleran-TA, Lou Caron-Town Engineer, Myra Ferguson CC, Matrick
Magari-land abutter, Anne Donaghy land abutter, Jim Gray KUA, Erhardt Frost-KUA Forester to
discuss the state’s request to upgrade some 500’ of Goodwin Road to allow for access and timber
harvest on the Annie Duncan State Forest. The project involves completing the last section of the
Goodwin Road upgrade that was approved last year for KUA and an additional 500’ to reach the
state land. Accessing the property from Red Hill Road has been considered by the state,
however, the newly improved Goodwin Road allows for access with less environmental impact
than the Red Hill Road which is much wetter ground. The state plans to do a bare ground
operation as soil disturbance is necessary to gain the tree species regeneration that they are
managing the property for, many pine and oak.

The group walked the road and discussed the details of the project. Engineer Lou Caron will
report his recommendations to the Selectboard. Ann Donaghy asked that the Selectboard
consider not allowing this work on the road noting that the Croydon Turnpike neighborhood has
had enough truck traffic and logging activity from last year’s KUA project which has now been
suspended. Robert Hardy noted that the state would be willing to impose time of day conditions
on the work. Halleran voiced support for having the road work done by a local contractor.

The site walk ended at 6:45pm. The board will meet next on June 27th, this meeting replacing the
July 4th meeting.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor
Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

**Town Office:** Steve Halleran reported that the flag pole for the Service Memorial has been installed. The pole is equipped with a solar light to keep the flag illuminated at night.

Dump truck bids are due in on Monday, once the bids have been opened Halleran will notify the Selectboard of the outcome so that a final decision on the disposition of the truck can be made.

Tax bills are due next week, payments have been coming in at about the same rate as previous years.

**Police:** Paul explained that he is away during the day this week, attending a fire arms instructor course in Concord. Both new officers are working out very well. Paul hopes that the department can now settle into a more defined work schedule for the officers.

**Duncan State Forest/Goodwin Road:** The Selectboard met with Kenneth Desmarais and Robert Hardy to continue the discussions about using Goodwin Road (class VI) as an access point to the Annie Duncan State Forest for a timber sale. Several Croydon Turnpike Road residents were in attendance to learn more about the state’s plans for the land. Mr. Desmarais provided information about how the state manages its land and how decisions are made concerning timber harvest.

This project like all state projects will be open to public comment and will not move forward until all possible efforts have been made to address reasonable concerns. Most who spoke cited concerns for increased traffic on Croydon Turnpike while the operation is being conducted, noting that the road has a significant grade from bottom to top. Several questioned whether environmentally and/or economically a timber sale on this remote land was a sound decision.

The Selectboard noted that while they are not involved in the decision as to whether or not a landowner sells their timber, it is very likely that the board will, as it has in the past, grant permission for the class VI road to be used, subject to conditions to insure safety. As was done with Kimball Union on their project last year, town engineer Lou Caron is reviewing the proposal and will comment on the drainage plan for the improved road. The Selectboard did not take any action on the Goodwin Road request, but will likely vote on it at the July 18th meeting.

**Hartland Vermont Shooting Range:** Residents Ted Moynihan and Richard Colburn met the Selectboard to ask whether the town be willing to request that the State of Vermont Fish and Game hold a hearing in Plainfield to discuss the planned improvements to the state owned shooting range in Hartland. Its not clear if the planned improvements will help with noise abatement, but Ted and Richard felt it was important that Vermont officials at least be aware that this range has impacts on Plainfield residents. The Selectboard agreed to ask for a hearing or
meeting and agreed to make the Plainfield Town Hall available.

The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Wednesday July 18th 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Highway: Halleran reported that Pike Industries has now installed the overlay on Main Street and Bonner Road. Shoulder work is ongoing. Selectman Taylor suggested that the town install wide, hardpak shoulders on Bonner Road to give pedestrians additional room. He noted that in the mornings when school is in session, the road is very busy. Halleran will have Road Agent Collins work up an estimate for the work.

Police: Chief Roberts updated the board on several ongoing investigations. Several key cases will be coming up for trial in the next month. Paul noted that his new officers continue to be very well received by the community. He feels very good about his department and its long-term outlook for stability.

Hartland Shooting Range: The Vermont Fish and Game has agreed to come to Plainfield to discuss with neighbors, the planned improvements to the state owned fish and game shooting range in Hartland. The Selectmen held meeting will be Monday July 30th at the Plainfield Town Hall.

Goodwin Road Duncan State Forest: The Selectboard reviewed the file on the state of New Hampshire’s request to make improvements to Goodwin Road beyond those done by Kimball Union last summer. The state is looking to improve access to the Annie Duncan State Forest and to perform a timber harvest. To date, the Selectmen have visited the site, had the work plan reviewed by town engineer, and taken public comments. The town has a long history of allowing landowners to work on class VI roads that provide access to their property. The board voted to approve the state’s request with conditions. See attached.

ComCast Cable: Halleran informed the board that the first meeting for the franchise renewal process will be on August 1st.

2012 Budget: The Selectboard spent the rest of the meeting reviewing the 2012 budget and checking budget to actual expenses on the town’s planned highway projects.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Submitted,
Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea
Thomas P. Williams
Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Wednesday July 30th 2012
Plainfield Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 7:00pm.

Hartland Vermont Shooting Range: This informational session was being held by the
Selectboard to provide a forum for Plainfield residents to discuss directly with State of Vermont
there experiences living near the state owned shooting range located in Hartland Vermont.
Vertmont Fish and Wildlife held a similar meeting in Hartland Vermont, but has no authority to
hold a meeting outside of Vermont. Tom Decker Chief of Operations for the Vermont Fish and
Wildlife service and his team, made a brief presentation to the group of about thirty present
including residents of Plainfield, Cornish and the Hartland Vermont Gun Club. The range has
been state owned since the late 1960’s, a significant upgrade is planned for the range this
summer. The range is located directly across from River Road in Plainfield near the intersection
with Ferry Hill Road. The Hartland Vt gun club currently takes care of the range for the state and
a more formal arrangement is being worked out to continue that relationship into the future. The
planned upgrade will include safety improvements, rules for its use, hours of operations and
fencing. The orientation of the range will not change. Shooting is done perpendicular to the
Connecticut River. Rules of operation will likely prohibit large caliber firearms, (over 50 caliber)
and will set ours of operation from something like 8:00am to 7:30pm seven days per week.
Operational hours have not been set and the state is still accepting suggestions on what those
should be. Currently, there are no posted hours. It was noted that several other privately owned
gravel pits in the area also have shooting taking place in them.

The rest of the meeting was a general discussion between River Road and Freeman Road
residents and the Vermont Fish and Game about what living near the shooting range is like. The
residents were encouraged about the changes that are planned for the range, generally feeling that
these should help with some of their concerns. Particularly the hours of operation for the range
and restricted access outside of those hours were seen as improvements. The residents asked that
consideration be given to adding additional noise abatement measures to the range. Things like
vegetative plantings and additional earth embankments. Tom Decker provided the group with his
e-mail and encouraged residents to forward suggestions and comments to him directly.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Wednesday August 1st 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Police: Chief Roberts discussed with the Selectboard the status of his budget for 2012. It’s been a strange year with the turn over in the department but both he and Halleran believe the budget is adequate to complete the year. The Selectboard cautioned Paul, the 2013 must look very similar to the 2012 budget. All departments are going to be asked to keep increases to no more than inflation.

Highway: Halleran reported that Road Agent Collins is looking into having the annual line striping done now since paving for the year is completed. The crew is starting work on repairing the base of the Houser Lane bridge abutment that was damaged by Irene last August.

Resident and retired state transportation engineer, Jeff Albright stopped into the meeting to offer his assistance in coming up with a solution for dealing with a steep embankment on Camp Road that has caused problems in the past. The Selectmen thanked Jeff and will have Road Agent Collins visit him early next week.

Comcast Cable: The Selectboard met with Tuck Rainwater of Comcast to discuss the process for renewing the town’s franchise agreement. The current agreement was for eight years and expires in 2012. Riverview Farm owners Paul and Nancy Franklin attended the meeting to advocate for expanding the cable plant in Plainfield. They noted that River Road has at least six businesses and twenty homes and does not have any access to cable broadband. The Selectboard indicated that insuring all homes in town have broad band internet access available is a priority, but one that has been frustrating to make much progress on. Mr. Rainwater indicated that he is happy to investigate areas in town to expand cable. If the town can identify key areas he will look into expansion possibilities. The group reviewed coverage maps noting places like Ladieau Hill, Columbus Jordan, True Road, River Road, Freeman Road that do not have access.

As a first step in the formal franchise renewal process the town will hold a public hearing in late September.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams
Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

The Selectboard reviewed correspondence and orders for the week.

Police Department: Chief Roberts is soliciting a quote from WaveCom for an improved communication system that might assist the police and fire departments with problems they have been having with pagers not working properly.

Based on a large amount of police time recently spent working on a Cornish case, Town Administrator Halleran feels that it might be appropriate for the Selectmen to discuss with the Cornish Selectboard limits to the service that Plainfield is able to provide without some financial support from Cornish. No one questions the value or need for emergency mutual aid. In these cases both agencies will always help each other. The Selectboard agreed.

Kimball Union Academy: A team from KUA lead by CFO Jim Gray met with the Selectboard to update the town on plans for the school’s 200th Birthday Celebration. Police Chief Paul Roberts was in attendance for this meeting as well. The celebration will take place over three days, May 30th 2013 thru June 2nd 2013 and will likely include about a 1,000 guests coming to the campus. A typical KUA graduation brings about 1,500 guests to campus. The school is working on a variety of logistical issues, including parking, alcohol availability during events, and having extra security on the campus. Selectman Taylor noted that this discussion fits nicely with the overall discussion the town has been having concerning when large institutional events which should be required to have a police officer on site. Jim Gray noted that the school expects to need to hire extra officers for the 200th anniversary celebration. The Selectmen thanked KUA for updating the board on the plans. KUA was encouraged to contact some of the Plainfield 250th celebration committee members that helped put together that very successful event.

Highway Department: The Selectboard approved the purchase of a new 600 gallons/minute water pump for the Highway Department use. The department’s two small pumps are old and often are not powerful enough to do the work that is necessary. Most recently these pumps have been used for work around bridge abutment repairs.

Morrill Construction is starting to mobilize for the Brook Road culverts that were delayed last year by Irene. Morrill feels that they can do both sites simultaneously and that the road can remain open during the construction. Each site will be necked down to a single lane, but the road should remain open daily excepting small delays during critical work times.

Farm Road Gate Hearing: The Selectboard opened the public hearing on a request by Paul and Nancy Franklin to install a gate on Farm Road. This is the first application for a gate on a class VI road since 1991 when a request was approved for Gordon and Fern Wilder. That gate was not ever constructed. Paul noted that the gate will not be locked and is only meant to deter those who plan on doing damage to the agricultural and forestry land beyond the gate. Following the town’s draft gate policy Paul noted that the turnaround for the gate will be at the Heath’s residence and
that as planned, the gate will have good to excellent visibility. The gate will be able to be locked
in the open position and will be constructed to meet NH DRED gate standards. Paul further noted
that Farm Road is now a dead end class VI road that does not continue past the foundations for
the old poor farm. Doris and Maurice Mercier noted that they have no objection to the gate, but
were concerned that additional through traffic down to their place might result. Paul and Nancy
Franklin assured them there are no plans to open or improve any roads between the Farm Road
and the Mercier land to the west. There being no further comments the public hearing was
closed. The Selectboard will decide on the request within the next month.

Other business: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the reports necessary for the setting of the
2012 tax rate. The new combined rate is expected to be in the area of $24.55 depending on how
the school was able to complete its fiscal year and the availability of state aid.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Wednesday September 5th, 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm.

Morrill Construction/Brook Road: The meeting opened at the Loomis Road culvert replacement site for a meeting with interested landowners and abutters. Jason Morrill and Barry Ward of Morrill Construction were in attendance. The plans for the culvert replacement were discussed including the need to build two temporary by-passes around the construction to allow Brook Road to remain open. Neighbors present asked that the town be aggressive with signage and traffic warning devices, noting that at times of the day Brook Road is very busy. Halleran noted that any work done outside the town’s right of way would be returned to its original condition. Jill Young, whose property is to be used for one of the detours asked if she could have some written assurance that she would not incur any liability from the temporary road. The Selectboard directed Halleran will work with her to develop the necessary temporary road easement document.

The group moved down to the Jenny Road site having a similar discussion. The Selectmen then returned to the Meriden Town Hall.

Library Trustees: The Selectmen met, at their request with town’s library trustees, Hillary Sundell, Kara Toms, Mark Pensgen and Nancy Liston. Trustee Anita Brown was unable to attend the session. Resident Dennis Girouard also set in on the meeting, recording the discussion. The Trustees explained that they are meeting with Terry Knowles of the Secretary of State’s Office next week to go over the forensic accounting they have done. Once this work has been reviewed by Ms. Knowles, the Trustees should be in a position to discuss with the Selectmen how to return or repurpose the unexpended public funds that have been held in the Meriden investments.

The trustees asked the Selectboard for assistance in establishing a committee to study the Meriden Library for ADA compliance issues. The group read a letter from resident Judy Hallam that encouraged the Trustees to move forward with making the library building compliant. Judy offered her assistance to this process as well. The Selectmen agreed to establish a committee once the Trustees have agreed on the wording for the groups charge.

State Primary Election: Moderator Paul Franklin met with the Selectmen to discuss Tuesdays election. Paul and Town Clerk Michelle Marsh have recently attended training for this election. The state’s new voter ID law is slowly being implemented. Paul encouraged the Selectmen to spend some time at the polling places on voting days. As Moderator he plans to do all that he can to insure that no one feels intimidated by the new state law.
Class VI Road Gate Ordinance: The Selectmen approved ordinance 2012-01 which spells out the procedure to be followed when a request to install a gate on a class VI road is received. A motion followed to approve the request by Paul and Nancy Franklin to install a gate on the Town Farm Road a class VI highway in Plainfield. See the August 15th for background on the application.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday September 19th 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Highway Department: Halleran reported that Morrill Construction has encountered a significant amount of ledge at the Cole Brook sight. Test borings had revealed some ledge, however the amount of ledge that has been discovered now that the old culvert is out is much larger and will require blasting and more money to remove. The cost is expected to be $18,000, Halleran is investigating the possibility of getting some or all the money from the state Hazard Mitigation Program that has funded much of the Brook Road project. In any case, the Selectboard approved the change order, the work on the two culverts will continue.

Halleran reported that the town’s Employee Safety Committee met at the Highway Garage Tuesday evening. The group was very favorably impressed with how clean and organized the Highway facility is under the leadership of Road Agent Collins.

Police Department: Chief Roberts reported that both Plainfield Sales and Ann’s Country Store were burglarized on Saturday evening. The thefts occurred late at night and within a few minutes of each other. The department is following up on several leads and hopes to make an arrest shortly.

Paul asked the Selectmen to consider funding the set up of a small trailer with emergency signs, traffic cones and such to be used during storm events like Tuesday night that results in multiple downed trees all over town.

Energy Committee: Chairman Mogelnicki updated the Selectmen on the groups efforts to make energy improvements at the town offices. The effort has been divided into two phases. The first low cost things like new set back thermostats, weather striping, and air sealing. The second phase will be more costly and might include things like window shades, a new front door and perhaps a different furnace. The group discussed the possibility of making these improvements a special warrant article at the 2013 town meeting. If, like the school the payback period on the work is very short it seems likely that the work would be approved. The Selectmen thanked the energy committee for its work.

Cable Franchise Hearing: The Selectmen held the required public hearing as part of the Comcast franchise renewal. Melissa Pierce was the Comcast representative filling in for Tuck Rainwater who was called away.

At the hearing the Board took testimony from those who struggle with no reliable broad band service. Complaints about Comcast not living up to verbal agreements to extend cable lines were brought up as well as concerns about the quality of the company’s customer service. The need for reliable broad band access for all homes in town was a reoccurring theme.
The possibility of assessing a franchise fee to fund cable line expansion was discussed as well as enhancing the service available at the libraries to provide a no cost option for those that need access to the internet. Currently, the system slows way down when multiple users are accessing the modem at either library.

**Other business:** The Selectmen acknowledged the work and assistance that Judy Hallam has brought to the Conservation Commission. Judy recently resigned from the Commission, but continues to be willing to serve the community in any way that she is able.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Wednesday October 3rd  2012

Meriden  Town Hall

Selectmen present:  Judy Belyea
                        Thomas Williams
                        Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Public Comment: Library Trustee Anita Brown met with the Selectboard to drop off a copy of the proposed charge for the ADA Compliance Committee for the Meriden Library that the trustees are requesting that the Selectboard appoint.  See attached copy. The Selectboard will review the document and attempt to appoint the committee within the next month.

Jane Stephenson, Chairman of the Planning Board met with the Selectboard to discuss some of the findings from the 2010 Census. Of particular concern to Jane is the increase from 2.6% to 5.5% of Plainfield residents living below the poverty level. Jane noted that according to the Census data 13% of the children at the Plainfield School live below the poverty level. Jane is asking that the Selectboard do all that it can to reach out to needy families in town and provide enhanced information about the local, state and federal social safety net that is available. All agreed that no children in our town should be hungry or be living without their basic needs being met.

Building Inspector David Lersch: David met with the Selectboard to review permitting procedures. David would like to see the town require more advanced design layouts and to provide better documentation on compliance with the New Hampshire energy code. While wanting to keep the permitting process low cost and user friendly, the Selectboard agreed that the NH Energy Code needs to be followed and that the building inspector needs to have sufficient information to review a proposed structure for general code compliance. The group decided that in the case of heated space projects, enhanced efforts would be made to have applicants meet with David prior to submitting permit applications to the town for approval.

Police Department: Chief Roberts explained the department’s current efforts to catch those responsible for stealing two used excavators from Townline Equipment. In addition to the investigative efforts, Paul is going to increase, yet again, night time patrols around town. Paul noted that a State Trooper had checked the Townline lot on the night the theft occurred and found nothing out of the ordinary.

Highway Department: Morrill Construction should have traffic on the first of the two large pipes by early next week. The second culvert has already been delivered and will be set in about two weeks.

Fall road grading is progressing. Rich is running a split crew right now with some involved with grading and ditching, the others performing tree trimming.

Town Office: The Selectboard approved an information letter to be sent out to all Plainfield introducing the start of the 2013 property reassessment project that will begin the last week of October. The project will officially be started on October 17th when the Selectboard meets
with Avitar, Town Assessor George Hildum and Sam Greene from the State’s Department of Revenue Administration.

The 2012 Tax rate should be established in about two weeks and is expected to be about $24.60 depending on how final state numbers come in for revenue to the town and school.

Solid Waste: The Selectboard and members of the town’s Solid Waste group will be touring the Casella Zero Sort facility in Rutland Vermont that receives all the town’s recyclables on October 24th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
Wednesday October 15th 2012
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Police: Chief Roberts updated the full board on the recovery of the two excavators stolen from Townline Equipment. The Chief was very pleased that his department could play a positive role in finding the machines. Resident Roger Sharkey has sent a letter to the Selectboard praising the work of the Police Department on this case.

Paul is continuing to work with Fire Chief Frank Currier and Hanover Dispatch Chief Doug Hackett on possible repeater opens for improving radio coverage in town for EMS. Paul noted that the volume of calls that resulted from the regional earth tremor on Tuesday night jammed up both landlines and cell phones, revealing a weakness in the Upper Valley Communication network during possible emergencies.

Highway Garage: Traffic is now on the first of the two new bridges on Willow Brook Road. The second should be opened next week. The town has received the final payment from the state for the grant award and should have sufficient funds in hand to complete the project.

Fall road grading and ditching continues daily along with road side trimming. The Highway Department was praised for its work in the Raynesford Cemetery. The work involved realignment of some granite posts and a lot of tree limb and brush removal along the perimeter of the cemetery.

Sullivan County Commissioner Jeff Barrette: Mr. Barrette met with the Selectmen to update them on the work of the County Commissioners. Sullivan County is now solvent, the deficit paid off and the Commissioners are very pleased with the operational efficiencies that have been achieved in all county departments but particularly the nursing home. The 2012 county tax apportionment did not increase for this year.

2013 Revaluation: Loran Martin-President of Avitar, Mark Stetson Avitar job supervisor, Sam Greene- NH DRA Review Appraiser met with the Selectboard and Town Assessor George Hildum for the formal “kick off” of the 2013 revaluation project. This revaluation work will include a full measure and list of all properties and that data collection work is scheduled to begin the week of October 29th. The group discussed process and a timeline for the project. Values will be established for April 1st 2013. Sam Greene will be monitoring the project for the state. Town Assessor George Hildum will monitor the project for the town. The Selectboard approved the process as outlined and recommended by Assessor Hildum. This effectively green lights the project for start up,

Meriden Library ADA Study Committee: The Selectboard determined that the “community residents” portion of the committee would consist of five members. The Trustees will be allowed to decide if they wish to appoint two of their members to sit on the committee. In determine a membership pool, the Selectboard reviewed the work of the Library Needs Assessment
Committee that operated back in 2001. After a full discussion, the board determined that Rod Wendt, Brad Atwater, Judy Hallam, Shirley Hudson and Amy Lappin would be asked to serve. Road Wendt would be asked to also serve as Chair.

**Other business:** The first meeting of the KUA Study Committee is November 13th. The Select board’s first meeting with the Finance Committee will be November 28th.

The Selectboard meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING

Wednesday November 7th 2012

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Police: Chief Roberts reported that the stolen excavators that were recovered in New York state have now been returned to Townline Equipment. Paul reviewed the most significant police calls over the last two weeks. He is working on his 2013 budget and should have draft ready in the next couple of weeks.

Highway Department: The Selectboard congratulated Road Agent Richard Collins on his first full year as Road Agent. The board has heard a lot of positive feedback from residents on the work that Richard has done. Richard was thanked for all his hard work.

The two culvert to small bridge conversions on Brook Road are now done, Morrill Construction is moving out this week.

The new town dump truck should be in service in about two weeks. The cab and chassis has been at Osgood Welding since July.

The highway crew is all set should tonight’s weather bring the first snow storm of the season.

Election: The Selectmen noted the extraordinary effort that Town Clerk Michelle Marsh put into the 2012 election. All of the ballot clerks, counters and election workers along with Moderator Paul Franklin deserve credit for making this a successful day.

Library ADA Study Committee: Halleran reported that Shirley Hudson has declined to serve on the committee. The Selectmen appointed Robert Kline of Old Country Road to be the 5th and final citizen member of this committee. The full committee will be Rod Wendt- Chair, Amy Lappin, Judy Hallam, Bradford Atwater, and Robert Kline. Trustee Nancy Liston will join the group as a nonvoting member.

Cable Franchise Renewal: The Selectmen spent time reviewing a draft contract from Comcast. The board made edits and clarified their goals and objectives for the rest of the franchise negotiations. Expansion of cable lines in town and improved bandwidth for the two libraries are the main focus.
Other business: The Selectboard will meet next on November 28th, rather than on the 21st the night before Thanksgiving.

The November 7th meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday November 28th  2012
Meriden  Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
                        Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

The Selectmen reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week. Included in the batch
was a state grant awarded to Plainfield to cover the cost of updating the town’s Local Hazard
Mitigation plan. Having an updated plan is a prerequisite for receiving Federal Funds. The grant
agreement was signed and notarized and will be forwarded to Concord.

The Selectboard also reviewed and approved six current use penalties as prepared by Town
Assessor George Hildum. The Penalties totaled $16,930. Half of this money will go to the
Conservation Commission in 2013, the other half goes to the town to offset property taxes.

Police Department: Chief Roberts reviewed the major calls to the Police Department for the last
three weeks. Next, Chief Roberts informed the Selectboard that officer Glen St. Amant has
resigned his position effective the end of December. The Selectboard accepted, with deep regret,
the resignation. Glen is going to work for the Sullivan County Sheriffs Department.

Chief Roberts held a conceptual discussion with the Selectboard about the department’s 2013
budget. Changes in the NH Retirement System are making a zero based budget impossible
without changing either coverage hours or staffing. The Selectboard plans to workshop the police
department budget at their December 5th meeting.

Finance Committee: The Selectboard met with the Finance Committee for a update session on
the status of the 2012 budget and to discuss broad concepts for the 2013 budget. The operating
budget with 9% of the year to go, has 9% of the budget available. The only significant overage
that has occurred, is the ledge removal on the Willow Brook Road culvert project. The
Selectboard is hoping to receive state reimbursement for that overage. If not, the town’s operating
budget will absorb the overage.

The new property revaluation is moving forward. New values will be available online sometime
next spring. The Selectboard will be accepting comments over the next year about making the
various assessments permanently available online.

For 2013, the NH Retirement System contributions will add some $15,000 to the existing budget.
The town has no plans to add any additional positions or staff or make any significant new
purchases in 2013. The Selectboard does plan to fully fund existing reserve funds and to
maintain existing town services as currently configured.
The November 28th meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran

Judy A. Belyea

Robert W. Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING

Wednesday December 5th 2012

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea
Thomas Williams
Robert Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Town Office: Stephen Halleran reported on a meeting that took place earlier in the day between the town welfare officials, school representatives and pastors of the Meriden Congregational and Plainfield Church. The meeting was called by Jane Stephenson (see October 3rd Selectboard meeting) and was specifically intended to network ways of maximizing the local assistance available to families with you children in town living at or below the poverty level. A second meeting is planned for mid January.

Highway Department: The Selectboard reviewed the highway department budget with Road Agent Collins. Minor changes were made. The most significant increase in the budget is the $12,000 per year for the next four years on the Klinges lease to own agreement that was ratified at the 2012 town meeting.

Police Department: As previously planned the Selectboard and Police Chief reviewed in detail the various line items in the police department budget. As proposed the department’s budget is slated to rise 5%, while the overall town operating budget is increasing only 1.8%. The Selectboard asked Paul to look into making a second round of cuts or coming up creative solutions for filling the soon to be vacant police officer position. An increase in the NH Retirement system employer contributions is driving much of the department increase. Paul has cut several of the budget line items to attempt to address this issue.

Cable Renewal: The Selectboard met with Tuck Rainwater of Comcast to continue negotiations for renewing the town’s cable franchise agreement. The town is willing to agree to a ten year term if Comcast is able to commit to adding to the cable plant in town. Under the Selectboard’s proposal River Road, Freeman Road, True Road are the areas proposed to receive new cable access in the next three years. A third meeting will follow.

2013 Budget: As part of its review of the town’s overall budget proposal, the Selectboard directed the Town Administrator to contact the town’s library trustees asking them to take a second look at their proposed budget. Tax money requested to fund library operations is up 4.47%

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Stephen Halleran
Judy A. Belyea

Thomas P. Williams

Robert W. Taylor