MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Wednesday January 3rd 2018
Plainfield Library

Selectmen present:  Robert Taylor
Ron Eberhardt
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:15pm

Public Comments: Fire Warden Bruce Elder presented the Selectboard with two nominations for Deputy Fire Wardens. The Selectboard approved the requests.

Bruce also provided a briefing to the board on the house fire at #17 Ferry Hill Road. The house was fully involved by the time the call came in. The department was able to save the detached garage. The extreme cold created an abundance of problems. The Plainfield community is rallying around the family.

Virginia Drye met with the Selectmen to continue her discussions about the rededication of the WWI Service Memorial next November.

Town Business: The Selectmen reviewed the proposed plan for replacing two bridges next summer. The first will be the Camp Road bridge once school is out, followed by the Houser Lane bridge. Houser will require a temporary bridge that will be installed by the contractor prior to starting work on Camp. This will allow the highway department to remove the Houser lane bridge while the other one is being installed. The two projects will cost about $200,000 and will be paid 50% by monies received from the state of New Hampshire, SB 38. The Board of Selectmen approved the plan.

The remainder of the meeting was spent fine tuning the 2018 warrant and budget. The Selectboard meets next with the Finance Committee on January 17th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Robert Taylor, Chair

Stephen Halleran
Judy Belyea
Ron Eberhardt
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Wednesday January 17th 2018

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
Ron Eberhardt
Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

The Selectboard reviewed and approved a revised fee schedule for building permits. Most fees increased by between $15 and $50 depending on the scope of the project. The last update to these fees was in 2008. In developing the new fees the goal is to capture the costs of inspecting, listing and mapping the project covered by the permit while at the same time keeping the cost of permits reasonable. By example the base fee for new homes was $300 and will now be $350. A renewal of permit was $35 and will now be $50. The Selectboard approved the new fee schedule, effective immediately.

2018 Budget Hearing/Workshop: The remainder of the meeting was spent working on the 2018 budget, including the first of two budget hearings. See attached. While generally supportive of the proposal the Finance Committee expressed concern that the town is falling behind with reserve funding for highway equipment. Several finance committee member encouraged the board to look at this issue closely and if necessary adjust the annual contribution upward. The sooner this is done the better. Halleran acknowledged that for some time the town’s capital reserve fund shows that repetitive replacement of highway equipment costs more than the $50,000 that is currently being placed in a fund each year. The town has been hesitant to increase the contribution as it will further increase property taxes. The budget hearing was opened at 6:30pm and closed at 8:00pm.

The Selectboard’s next meeting will be Wednesday February 7th at 6pm at the Plainfield Library where a second budget hearing will be held.

Robert Taylor, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea

Ron Eberhardt
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
Wednesday February 7th 2018
Plainfield Library

Selectmen present: Robert Taylor
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Police: Chief Roberts notified the board that it is likely that one of the town’s three full time officers will be leaving for another area department. The Chief attributed this to differences in compensation between small town police departments and larger city departments. Town Administrator Halleran felt if a vacancy arises it might be another opportunity to evaluate staffing models in the Police Department. Due to the state mandated 31% retirement contribution, full time benefited officers are extremely expensive to fund. In any case, it will be several months before the town is able to fill any vacancy that comes up.

Budget hearing #2: As has been customary over the last few years, this second budget hearing was held in Plainfield Village. David Grobe, Mike Sutherland, Virginia Drye and Margaret Drye were all in attendance.

Halleran noted that since the first hearing the budget has had two changes. One, the contribution for the highway equipment fund has been increased from $50,000 to $75,000. This change will insure that the fund is solvent through 2028. Two the Trustees of the Trust Funds are hiring a management firm to invest the town’s reserve funds RSA 31:38-a permits this. The cost of the firm is expected to be $5,000-$8,000 per year.

As currently proposed the town’s spending plan, less projected revenues, calls for $105,000 in new spending and will add approximately $.40 to the town’s tax rate.

The group completed the discussion by reviewing the warrant. There were concerns expressed that the proposed increase in the solar exemption is reducing the town’s taxable property list at a time when operating costs are increasing significantly.

Like wise the Meriden Library replacement project was viewed by some in attendance as a “nice to have” project, but one that should necessarily be considered against the back drop of future capital spending on projects like the highway garage replacement and work on the school roof.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Robert Taylor, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
Wednesday February 21st 2018
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:  Ron Eberhardt
                    Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Police Department:  Chief Roberts provided an activity report for the last two weeks.
                   Paul has been medically cleared to return to patrol duty.
                   As requested by Steve Halleran, Paul has been working with Golden Cross Ambulance to see if
                   there is an opportunity to save money on ambulance service cost by down sizing the portion of
                   town covered by Lebanon Ambulance.  The town enjoys high quality ambulance services from
                   both Lebanon and Windsor, however the cost of the Lebanon service has risen dramatically in the
                   last few years and has become a budgetary concern.

Town Office:  The Selectmen reviewed and signed the warrant and budget for posting. Halleran
              noted that the town report is now available on line and will be mailed to residents next
              Wednesday.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Stephen Halleran          Judy Belyea
                          Ron Eberhardt
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Tuesday March 13th 2018
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Ron Eberhardt
Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm, Town Meeting Day.
The Selectboard had gathered on this night as a replacement for the March 4th meeting. The
Board spent the meeting preparing for the upcoming business portion of town meeting. Each
warrant article was reviewed.
The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm so that the Board could return to the polling place and take
down the polls and count ballots.

Stephen Halleran
Ron Eberhardt
Robert Taylor

Historical note: The region has been hit on three consecutive Tuesday/Wednesdays with classic
“Nor’easter” snow storms. At this time there is something like 36” of snow base throughout
Plainfield. Prior to these three storms we had enjoyed several days with temperatures in the high
50’s low 60’s and snow coverage was minimal.
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Thursday March 22nd 2018
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:  Ron Eberhardt
                      Rob Taylor
                      Judy Belyea

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Public Comment: Kathy Chapman met with the Selectboard to ask that the town do more to help seniors to be able to stay in their homes longer. She feels that elder exemption requirements are not inclusive enough and that many seniors who could use help are not qualifying for assistance.

Regional Planning Commission: Steve Schneider and Megan Butts from UVLSRPC discussed with the Selectboard and Road Agent Collins, a road surface management system that is available to towns from the RPC. The system inventories paved road condition and is used as a planning tool for road replacement projects.

Highway: Richard Collins reported back to the Selectboard on the salt application class the highway crew recently attended. Rich felt that the class was helpful, but could have had a greater hands on component as opposed to just classroom instruction. The goal of the class is to insure proper salt application for winter ice control.

Town Office: The Selectboard discussed the outcomes from the 2018 town meeting. The next step for the Meriden Library project is to discuss a path forward with the Trustees. This will happen at the April 2nd Library Trustee meeting and the April 4th Selectboard meeting. Tasking Town Facility Manager Brad Atwater with being the point person for the project is likely. Brad would then be responsible for taking the replacement concept through design and build. Having a full replacement library design ready for voter consideration at the 2019 town meeting is the goal.

The Selectboard signed the DRA Report of Approved Appropriations resulting from the 2018 town meeting. This form is uploaded to the DRA for the 2018 tax rate setting process.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Judy Belyea, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Wednesday April 4th 2018
Plainfield Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Ron Eberhardt
Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm PRML 1st meeting of the new quarter.

Public Comment: Nancy Norwalk came to the meeting with Evan and Lee Oxenham to discuss the option of adding a crosswalk to Route 12A between the library and the town hall. Nancy has met with Bill Lamber of the NHDOT. The Selectboard would have to apply for the crosswalk and would need to commit the town to constructing and maintaining properly landings and lighting at both ends of the walk. Traffic on Route 12A is about 3,000 cars per day, typically the threshold is 9,000 per day for crosswalks to be considered. The Selectboard was not immediately in support of this option, but was willing to consider temporary traffic calming measures to be deployed when special events at either the library or the town hall warrant it.

Meriden Library: The Selectmen supported the Library Trustee approved plan to place Town Facility Manager Brad Atwater in the role of point person for the Meriden Library replacement project. Brad will, as needed, seek the guidance of the Trustees, the Selectboard and the various committees working on this project. His charge is to prepare a plan, complete with anticipated costs, for the removal and replacement of the existing Meriden Library building ready for presentation at the 2019 town meeting.

Plainfield Water District: Tim Herbert inquired doing some work in Peterson Road as part of his efforts to expand the Plainfield Village Water District to his #51 Peterson Road home. His drilled well is failing and connecting to the district may be a viable option. The Selectmen had no objection to the plan and pledged to do all that the town could to assist him with getting a new water supply.

Web based GIS application: The Selectboard approved the CAI proposal for adding a web based interface for the town’s GIS data. Effectively the new system will allow for the viewing and printing of the town’s GIS data on line. Currently, the town has no digital way to utilize its tax maps. The new system will allow for tax maps to be overlaid with other GIS data, like satellite imagery, flood plain maps, zoning maps, assessing data. Etc.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Judy Belyea, Chair
Stephen Halleran
Ron Eberhardt
Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
Wednesday April 18th 2018
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Ron Eberhardt
Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Public Comment: None.

Highway: Road Agent Collins reviewed with the Selectboard the summer project list. Rich is working with Pike on some paving estimates. He hopes to be able to add pavement to Jenny Road, Willow Brook Road and Hell Hollow Roads this summer. The budget for paving is $152,000 this year. Daniels Road in Plainfield Village should be topped next year. Rich hopes to get paving work done early this year as much of the summer will be spent on the two ongoing bridge projects.

Rich reported that the new backhoe has had a hydraulic failure; Townline Equipment has repaired the problem. The backhoe was out of service for about one week. Townline provided a loaner machine for the town’s use.

Spring grading will begin on May 7th this year.

Police: Chief Roberts reviewed the log with the Selectboard and held a discussion about scheduling strategies for the department. Paul continues to try and change the schedule to insure that a duty officer is available for start and end of school and at the same time we have a police officer on duty later into the night when most crimes occur.

Town Office: The Selectboard reviewed and approved four senior tax exemptions and one veteran’s credit for 2018. The Selectboard hopes to gain voter approval to raise the income limits for the senior tax exempt at the next town meeting. Currently a single person making more than $23,500 or a couple making more than $30,000 cannot qualify for local property tax relief.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Judy Belyea, Chair
Stephen Halleran
Ron Eberhardt
Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday May 3rd 2018
Plainfield Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Ron Eberhardt
Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Public Comment: Resident Helen Koehler met with the board to convey her feeling that the Meriden Library should be left alone, not closed, not replaced with a new building. In her view the building serves the town well and it should be retained. She feels there are many other projects in our town that should have a higher priority. See attached.

Highway: Spring road grading begins on Monday. The temporary bridge for the Houser Lane bridge replacement will be installed this next month. The Houser Lane bridge could be replaced as soon as late June. Camp Road will not start until school is out for the summer.

Police: Chief Roberts shared the details of some of the more complex cases the department is working on. Fraud cases continue to take up a lot of time. The department spends a lot of time educating residents about the dangers of sending money orders or payments for services not yet received.

Facilities: Brad Atwater reported that Marshall Beattie will begin painting the front of the Meriden Town Hall later this week. The project was planned for last year, but is a definite for this year.

Town Office: The assessment update is now in full swing. Avitar Associates will be in town the week of May 14th working with assessor George Hildum reviewing all sales data in the last twelve months. The goal of the update is to accurate predict market values in Plainfield as of 4/1/18.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Judy Belyea, Chair
Stephen Halleran
Ron Eberhardt
Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
Wednesday May 16th 2018
Plainfield Town Hall

Selectmen present:  Judy Belyea, Chair
Ron Eberhardt
Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Highway: Road Agent Colburn reported that the temporary bridge abutments are nearly complete for Houser Lane. The temporary bridge could be installed as early as next week, but won’t have traffic diverted on it for three to four weeks.

Paving work on Willow Brook Road, High Street and Jenney Road is scheduled for this Friday. Spring grading is ongoing. Gravel crushing will be done in late June.

Police Chief: Chief Roberts present Ejona Haxhija to the board with a recommendation that she be hired as a part-time officer. She will attend the upcoming part-time officer academy in Concord. Much of her family was in attendance to enjoy the start of her law enforcement career. The Selectboard welcomed her to the town’s law enforcement team.

Fire Department: Bill Taylor and Bruce Elder met with the Selectboard to review the details of the ongoing fire department merger/municipalization project. The group discussed the time line for the project. Assets and property will be transferred by 12/31. The Fire Chief will be appointed in Mid March and a vote on the PVFD truck loan will take place at Town Meeting. Halleran will get Attorney Barry Schuster the necessary information so that the property transfer documents can be drawn up this summer.

Town Office: First half tax bills will be prepared next week. The town’s assessing update is moving forward. The Selectboard approved removing two streetlights on Route 120 north of the Main Street intersection.

Selectpersons Belyea reviewed with the other two Selectpersons some changes in the NH timber tax procedures.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Judy Belyea, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor
Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Ron Eberhardt
Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm this meeting replaces the June 6th session.

Mill Cemetery: Attorney James Mulligan, representing the private Mill Cemetery Association, presented the Selectboard, for signing, the necessary documents to complete the transfer of the private Mill Cemetery to the town. Plainfield voters approved this action in 2014 under article 9 of the town meeting. All of the assets and liabilities of the association are being transferred to the town; the association will then either be dissolved or allowed to expire. The various legal documents were signed and Attorney Mulligan working with Town Attorney Barry Schuster will complete the transaction.

Highway Department: Road Agent Collins reported on last week’s paving on Willow Brook, High St and Jenney Road. Shoulder work is now ongoing with road stripping to follow. Rich hopes to have reflective markings on Brook Road in the next couple of days, shoulders finished by June 11th.

The Selectboard authorized Steve Halleran to speak with the State DOT about getting some deferred maintenance done on Stage and Rout 120. Downed trees, rotted guardrail, growing vegetation all seems to take a very long time to get cleaned up the NHDOT on these two roads.

The Selectboard discussed the highway departments 4 day work schedule. The board has no objection to the ten hour day, but affirmed its position that a highway crew should be in town every day that school is in session. Halleran and Collins will work out the details on this issue.

Police Department: Chief Roberts reviewed the case log from the last two weeks. Recently, the Police Department was involved with assisting a River Road landowner with removing two squatters who had set up an encampment on this private property.

Resident Reed Brozen has expressed to the town office and the Police Department his dissatisfaction with the changes to the Coreyville Cemetery and Ladieu Road. Ladieu is a scenic road and Reed does not feel the town has shown it the proper respect.

New part time officer trainee Ejona Haxhija has continued to ride with our officers in preparation for attending the part time police academy later in the summer or early fall.

Town Office: The Selectboard reaffirmed its full support for the Library Trustees and the work they are doing to standardize the town’s library system. Recently, the Trustee have come under verbal attack for requiring Cornish residents who wish to take materials out on loan to purchase library cards. Nonresidents from other town’s have to pay, but Cornish has enjoyed an exemption. Plainfield residents may also use their library at no cost.

The Selectboard discussed the former Archie Metivier property #83 Hayward Road, which is now owned by the town. The Selectboard would prefer to clean up the property and role those
expenses into the sale price. The goal is to remove the .26 acre parcel as a building lot and have it merged into an abutting parcel.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm. The board’s next meeting is June 20th.

Judy Belyea, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING
Wednesday June 20th 2018
Plainfield Town Hall

Selectmen present:  Judy Belyea, Chair
     Ron Eberhardt
     Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Public Comment Period: Rod Wendt, John Gregory-Davis, and Jill Marshall attended the Selectboard meeting to discuss the Meriden Congregational Church’s decision to become a sanctuary location for undocumented immigrants who are working on becoming citizens. The church leadership was clear that this is not about hiding from the law. In fact, they will notify the federal government about anyone they are sheltering. The group also made it clear that they would immediately surrender anyone who has an outstanding warrant for their arrest. At this time the church has had no request for sanctuary. In the event they do they want our local government to be fully aware on their program.

Highway Report: Reacting to the RPC report on Bonner Road the Selectboard directed Road Agent Collins to have our road marking vendor add white fog lines to Bonner Road, narrowing the perceived travel lanes to 9’. Improving road markings on Bonner Road was one of the easy to do steps to make Bonner Road safer for pedestrians. The road marking work is planned for later this month.

Police Report: Chief Roberts reviewed his department’s activity log. A traffic stop in Plainfield Village that led to several arrests has taken a lot of time this last week. The car contained illegal drugs, open cans of alcohol. Several of the occupants provided false information and have since been connecting to other criminal activity around the state.

Town Office: The Selectmen signed the town’s MS 535 prepared by our auditing firm. The signed copy will next be uploaded to the town’s DRA website.

Selectman Eberhardt shared with the Selectboard a letter that he had written in support of the Library Trustees decision to ask Cornish residents to contribute to the operating costs of our library system.

The Selectboard reviewed and adopted the following resolution: That the Selectboard accepts the Primex offer to enter into the CAP program for a period of three years. During this period the town’s property liability insurance will not increase by more than 9%.

The Selectboard will meet next on July 11th (July 4th is a holiday) that meeting will take place at the Plainfield Library (1st meeting new quarter).

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.  

Judy Belyea, Chair

Stephen Halleran
Ron Eberhardt
Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING

Wednesday July 11th 2018
Plainfield Library

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Ron Eberhardt
Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Public Comment: Resident Paul Cabot discussed with the Selectboard the town’s plans for #83 Hayward Road. The property was recently acquired through tax collector deed. The Board noted that the “plan” was to clean up the lot and then offer it for sale to an abutter. The small parcel will not be available in the future as a separate lot. Paul noted that he and William Dow are the only abutters. Paul would be interested in owning the parcel and is willing to clean it up as part of any acquisition.

Lee Oxenham: Energy Committee member Lee Oxenham inquired about the town’s zoning ordinance and whether or not, as configured, it creates an impediment to solar projects in Plainfield. Lee was directed to the Planning Board for a more detailed discussion.

Nancy Norwalk: On behalf of the friends of the Plainfield Library Nancy requested that the group be allowed to store their records in a single file cabinet upstairs in the Plainfield Town Hall. They have a file cabinet and can put it next to two others in the room. The Selectboard did not object.

Nancy also asked if the special event signs can be used on Rte 12A during the children’s plays. Halleran will have the Police Department set them each Monday.

Plainfield Water District: The three commissioners met with the Selectmen to make final arrangements for work on Peterson road to extend the water line to the Hebert residence. The Selectmen affirmed their position that the town will help in anyway to get water to the house. Any necessary work on Peterson Road should be coordinated with Road Agent Richard Collins.

Halleran reminded the group that at next week’s meeting the Library Trustees will be attendance for a detailed report/update from the Meriden Library Building Committee.

The Selectmen voted to declare the mobile home at #83 Hayward Road a public hazard per RSA 155 and directed Town Administrator Steve Halleran to work with Town counsel Barry Schuster on having the building removed and the property which is now town owned returned to the tax roles as part of an adjacent lot, not as a separate parcel.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Judy Belyea, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Wednesday July 18th 2018

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
                Ron Eberhardt
                Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Public Comment: Cornish Resident Peter Burling and Plainfield resident Virginia Drye met with the Selectboard to review possible language for a sign on Thrasher Road to commemorate artist Harry Thrasher who lived in Plainfield and was killed in WWI. The Board approved the proposed language and funding for the sign.

Highway Department: Road Agent Collins indicated that both summer bridge projects are slated to start Monday morning. Hansen Bridge will be replacing both the Camp Road and Houser Lane bridges. Houser Lane has a temporary bridge installed. For Camp Road traffic will use Burr Road in Cornish.

Police Department: The Selectboard and Chief Roberts held a discussion about Bonner Road and what might be the next step. School Facility Manager Bill Knight was in attendance. The town has added fog lines to the roadway to given the impression the road is narrow. Bill and Paul favor the three way stop concept at the School Street, Bonner Road intersection. The Selectboard has not ruled this out, but prefers at this time to investigate flashing light signs as a way to slow traffic during the school year. Before any traffic pattern change occurred on Bonner Road a public hearing would be held.

At the request of Thomas Braginetz, the Selectboard and Chief Roberts agreed to ask the NHDOT to look at extending the 35 speed limit further to the south on Route 120 between Stage Road and Whitaker Road.

Town Office: Halleran reported that the town’s energy committee is now inventorying streetlights and plans to make a recommendation to the board on whether some lights should be discontinued. Chief Roberts questioned eliminating any streetlights, feeling its more likely that additional lighting is needed in some places to keep the public safe.

Meriden Library Building Committee: As a way of updating the Board of Trustees, the Selectmen and the public, the Meriden Building Committee made a presentation on their progress. Brad Atwater explained the conceptual design process that has been followed and has led to the chosen shape. As previously discussed, the new building will be on a slab and will include a meeting room; total size is 3,700 sq ft. The current building is 2,400 sq ft. but does not include a meeting space. Brad’s next phase is to begin to really drill down on costs for the complete project.

Shawn Rogers showed the group a three dimensional to scale model of the new building that he has developed. The model is a great tool to see how the new building interacts with neighboring properties.
Joe Crate provided the group an update on the fund raising efforts to date. A private foundation is being set up and the group has received several donations and pledges. The group continues to feel it can meet its fund raising goals for the 2019 town meeting.

Plainfield resident Diane Rogers addressed the group to remind them that the Plainfield library is fully ADA accessible. She encouraged the group to continue to find ways to engage the Plainfield community so that all opinions on the project may be shared. The group agreed that this is important and that the project is intended to provide value to the entire community. All committee meetings are open to the public and several public forums are planned over the next few months.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Judy Belyea, Chair
Stephen Halleran
Ron Eberhardt
Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING  
Wednesday August 1st 2018  
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:  Judy Belyea, Chair  
Ron Eberhardt  
Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Virginia Drye updated the Selectmen on efforts to honor Harry Thrasher, artist and WWI veteran from Plainfield who died in battle.

Jeff Allbright reviewed with the Selectmen some possible options for improving the school zone signs on Bonner Road. Jeff noted that sign standards have changed and the new signs are much more visible to drivers. The Selectboard approved replacing all the road signs for Bonner Road.

The Board also reviewed some options for permanent flashing signs. Halleran will share the information with the school community and hopefully the board can make a decision on purchasing them at their next meeting.

Police: Chief Roberts reported on an untimely death that occurred in Meriden Village. The 78 year old woman appears to have died during the night and was found by her husband in the morning. Paul reviewed for the board the procedures that the department follows when these types of events occur.

Highway: The Camp Road bridge has been removed and the work on the replacement has begun. The time frame is tight, but the bridge seems to be on tract to be completed by the start of the new school year.

Due to the temporary bridge, the Houser Lane bridge can be out of service for a longer period of time. It too should be done by 10/1.

Town Office: At the request of Town Administrator Steve Halleran, the Selectboard voted to make the two official posting locations for public meetings the Town Offices and the town website. State law now allows the website to be one of the required two.

Goodwin Road Mowing: Steve Halleran brought forward a request by Robert Marrazzo to mow the class VI (unmaintained) section of Goodwin Road from Croydon Turnpike to the snowmobile warming hut. Halleran spoke with landowner Anne Donaghy. Anne does not object to the mowing, but would prefer that it be limited to no more than 4’ on either side of the travelled portion of the road. In making this request Ann noted that she and her neighbors enjoy the wild flowers that grown along the roadside which also play an important role for wildlife such as bees, butterflies, and birds The Selectmen approved the requested mowing by Mr. Marrazzo. Once a year the area between the stonewalls can be mowed, more frequent mowing is also allowed, but is to be limited to more than 4’ from either side of the travelled portion. The stonewall to stonewall...
mowing is to be timed after the majority of the wild flowers have lost their bloom.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Judy Belyea, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING

Wednesday August 15th 2018
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Ron Eberhardt
Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Paul and Paula Cabot attended the meeting for the purpose of signing necessary paperwork as part of the transfer of the former Archie Metiever property to the Cabots. The parcel, which was claimed by the town for back taxes, is to be merged into their existing lot and will not be a separate parcel in the future. The only other abutter to the lot was not interested in the property. As part of the transfer the Cabot’s have agreed to clean up the lot and remove the old trailer by December.

Police: Chief Roberts announced that one of his part time officers has, for medical reasons, resigned. While unexpected, Paul recommended that the resignation be accepted.

The department has seen an increase in ATV’s on the roads and young drivers going too fast in cars on gravel roads and crashing. The department is working to correct this behavior before some one is seriously hurt. ATV’s are not allowed on state and town roads, except when crossing/accessing approved trails. Young riders must have proper training and be wearing a helmet.

Highway: Roadside mowing is nearly complete. Fall grading will begin very soon. Both bridge projects are ongoing on a daily basis now. Camp Road should be ready for cars by the end of next week.

Richard had a discussion with the Selectboard about staffing in his department and job allocation. Town Administrator Halleran has asked him to make some position changes. The Board made it clear that Richard should utilize the skills in his department to maximize work output and quality. Except when training is going on, the most qualified operator should be used.

Town Office: The revaluation is nearly complete and notices of value should be going to taxpayers in the next month. Avitar is expected to deliver the final product to the Selectboard on October 18th. At that time all reviews and taxpayers questions must have been addressed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Judy Belyea, Chair
Stephen Halleran
Ron Eberhardt
Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Wednesday August 29th 2018

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:  Judy Belyea, Chair
                    Ron Eberhardt
                    Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

To accommodate vacation schedules, the Selectboard met one week early. Their next meeting will be September 19th.

The board began the meeting by reviewing correspondence and signing orders for the upcoming two weeks.

Department reports were received. Highway is fully engaged in the two bridge projects. Police has been preparing for the opening of the new school year. Enhanced attention to Bonner Road early in the morning and late in the afternoon as school is getting out will again be a priority.

Halleran updated the board on the status of the operating budget and projected revenues. Due to the ongoing revaluation, a later than usual tax rate setting, is anticipated this year. Avitar will deliver the completed revaluation on October 19th. Taxpayers should be receiving their notice of values in the next three weeks.

The Selectmen discussed the upcoming state election on September 11th. Duties were assigned to each board member. Facility Manager Brad Atwater will be handling the set up of the polls with School staff.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Judy Belyea, Chair
Ron Eberhardt
Robert Taylor

Stephen Halleran
Selectmen present:  Judy Belyea, Chair  
Ron Eberhardt  
Rob Taylor  

The meeting opened at 6:00pm  

Correspondence from the last two weeks were read and orders for the week approved.  

The Selectboard met with Superintendent Frank Perotti to discuss pedestrian safety measures on Bonner Road. The work to date, police patrols, speed trailer, fog lines and new road signs seems to have helped slow traffic speeds. Flashing lights might be the next step but due to cost would have to wait for a new budget cycle.  

Superintendent Perotti also updated the Selectboard on the school’s capital planning efforts. He hopes that the town can be represented on a facility committee that is forming.  

Highway: Rich expects to button up both the Camp Road and Houser Lane bridges in the next two weeks. Both bridges are in place and final work is in progress on both.  

Fall grading is about half done. As time allows Highway continues to work on ditching and brush cutting. Road sand is nearly all stockpiled for the upcoming winter. Rich has no plans to use the winter salt treatment this year. The town has been unable to document any improved effectiveness or a reduction in actual salt used. The liquid costs about $15,000 to treat the winter salt pile.  

Police: Chief Roberts went through the major incidents from the police log. A low telephone wire caught on the boom of a local excavator being moved down the road and resulted in three utility poles being broken on Stage Road. The wire is required to be no lower than 15’ above the road, the vehicle that it was caught on was lower than the maximum height of 13’6”. The incident occurred on Saturday morning, all utilities were restored by Sunday afternoon.  

The Selectmen and Chief Roberts will meet with key election officials in advance of the November election to go over safety procedures. The Police Department will refer all election site campaigning concerns to the Moderator for clarification.  

Stephanie Schell: Stephanie updated the Selectmen on her work has Plainfield’s Human Services Director. Stephanie has developed a very strong network of organizations to assist those from Plainfield with any special needs or challenges they might be facing at any time in their life. The Selectboard thanked Stephanie for all her work and voiced a concern that she is not adequately compensated for all she does to help.  

Town Office: Completing the in progress revaluation is the main focus in the town office. Notices of values have been sent to taxpayers. Avitar hopes to hold reviews in early October and is scheduled to complete the project by October 17th. Preliminary numbers suggest that on
average Plainfield property values have risen 12% since 2013. A late October tax rate setting is anticipated.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Judy Belyea, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING

Wednesday October 3rd 2018

Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present:  Judy Belyea, Chair
                   Ron Eberhardt
                   Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Correspondence from the last two weeks were read and orders for the week approved.

The Selectboard will meet next on October 17th at the Plainfield Library. Typically this meeting, the first of a new quarter, would have been at PRML, but the meeting room was unavailable.

Grace Hardy of the Duckworth Museum met with the Selectboard to formally announce that the museum plans to cease operations at the end of 2019. The collection will be moved to one of two colleges who will also receive the proceeds from the sale of the building. A brief discussion about the town’s zoning ordinance and the types of uses that might fit in the building followed. Being a large lot in the VR zone, the ordinance has lots of options for the building.

Clint and Bonnie Swift met with the Selectboard to discuss how meeting notices are posted around town. The Selectboard noted as of August 1st that the town’s website and the Meriden Town Hall are the official spots, but that all efforts are made to keep the Plainfield Town Hall bulletin board current as well. Bonnie pointed out some conflicting information on the town’s website. The website was corrected.

Facility Manager Brad Atwater reviewed with the board, the status of several ongoing projects. The replacement door at the PRML is to be installed in mid October. After that, a floor will be poured in the back shed of the Plainfield Town Hall to store the sidewalk snow blower. This change will allow the old storage shed at PRML to be removed. Brad, despite his injured foot, still hopes to achieve the egress improvement at the highway garage as well.

Steve Halleran updated the board on the ongoing revaluation project. Taxpayer reviews are next week with the final project being delivered to the Selectboard on October 17th. The 2018 tax rate will follow after that. Early estimates show the rate in the area of $27.50.

The Selectboard reviewed and signed a grant application with the State of New Hampshire for an update of the town’s hazardous mitigation plan. The following motion was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative. The Selectboard accepts the terms of the PDM grant program as presented in the amount of $7,500 for the local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Furthermore, the Board acknowledges that the total cost of the project is $10,000, for which the town will be responsible for 25% or $2,500.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair
Ron Eberhardt
Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING  
Wednesday October 17th 2018  
Plainfield Library

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair  
Ron Eberhardt  
Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Resident Nancy Norwalk thanked the Selectmen for the “Event Ahead” signs that have recently been used during activities at the Plainfield Town Hall. Nancy feels the signs are helpful in slowing down traffic in the village during these busy times. Townline Equipment purchased the signs and donated them to the town. The signs are used during their annual luncheon.

The Selectmen will be accepting nominations for Library Trustee through November 20th. The appointed Trustee will fill the turn vacated by Stephanie Berman until the March town meeting election.

Virginia Drye updated the Selectmen on her efforts to recognize the 100th year anniversary of the end of World War I. A display at the Plainfield Town Hall is planned.

Road Agent Collins noted that the department is finalizing fall projects. Rich committed to a cosmetic overhaul of the employee lunch room at the highway garage as a winter project. The space has not been freshened up in nearly 20 years and its time for flooring, some paint.

Looking at the 2019 budget process Rich indicated that the grader will need at least four new tires. Rich is in the process of getting quotes for them.

Mark Stetson of Avitar Associates presented the Selectboard the results of the now completed revaluation. On average, town assessments increased by about 12-15%. Of the 1,000 property owners, 49 participated in the review process. The town is now set to go and establish a new tax rate for 2018. That rate is expected to be in the area of $27.25. The old rate was $28.25. Tax bill amounts for most will increase by about 6%, which is a reflection on last year’s spending.

Moderator Paul Franklin met with the Selectmen to review election procedures for the upcoming November 6th voting. The discussion focused on that, except for the designated areas, campaigning on public property (school) is not allowed during an election.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Judy Belyea, Chair  
Stephen Halleran  
Ron Eberhardt  
Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday November 7th 2018
Plainfield Library

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Ron Eberhardt
Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

Police: The Selectmen started the meeting by swearing in part-time police officer trainee Nevin Niboli who will be attending the police academy in February. Nevin’s family attended the meeting to support his candidacy.

Chief Roberts updated the Board on several complex and time consuming cases that have been consuming a lot of the department’s resources over the last two to three weeks.

The Chief acknowledged that he will likely be over budget for 2018. He and Steve Halleran are working to minimize the overage.

Beginning January 3rd Chief Roberts will be out for 8-12 weeks for a second shoulder surgery.

The Selectboard thanked Town Clerk for all her efforts during Tuesday’s mid term election voting. Keeping the voting place in conformance with state law is an ever changing task that is more complex now than ever. Moderator Paul Franklin and Michelle spend a lot of time preparing for each election and following up with the state after the polls have closed.

Finance Committee: The Selectmen met with the town’s Finance Committee. The new tax rate, the current budget and plans for 2019 were all broadly discussed. The Meriden Library replacement and the creation of a municipal fire department are two of the largest issues facing the town. The group’s next meeting with the Selectboard is December 19th and will feature the first draft of the new budget and warrant.

The Finance Committee urged the Selectmen to look at doing more capital budgeting for the town’s growing roster of buildings. The group also encouraged the Selectmen to continue to do all it can to encourage voter participation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Stephen Halleran

Judy Belyea, Chair
Ron Eberhardt
Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING

Wednesday November 21st 2018

Plainfield Library

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Ron Eberhardt
Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 5:00pm

The Selectmen reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week.

Chief Roberts stopped in to update the board on his efforts to price some dispatch service options from other surrounding towns. At issue is a more than 25% increase in dispatch cost that is being proposed by the Town of Hanover.

The Selectmen took public comment from Peter Martin who is interested in seeing a group of investors be proactive with the future development of several properties that are or will soon be for sale in the area of the Meriden Library. These lots have public water and sewer and might have some potential for multi-family housing or affordable housing. This group while private would want to work closely with the town on this project.

The Board discussed the 2019 budget. Increasing costs in dispatch service is one area of concern. In response to previous concerns about fluctuating costs, the City of Lebanon has now offered an ambulance contract that has less uncertainty; however the cost remains at $26,000/year.

The Fire Department merger is on schedule for an early 2019 transfer of assets to the town. The Fire Chief and his roster of fire personnel will be appointed one year from the date of the vote as outlined in the statute.

It being Thanksgiving eve, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm following the early 5pm start.

Judy Belyea, Chair

Stephen Halleran
Ron Eberhardt
Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Wednesday December 5th 2018
Plainfield Library

Selectmen present: Judy Belyea, Chair
Rob Taylor

The meeting opened at 6:00pm

The Selectmen reviewed correspondence and signed orders for the week.
Finance Committee Members Brad Atwater and Mark Morgan were in attendance.

Recreation Department: Director Dan Cantlin met with the Selectmen to discuss his work over the last year and to discuss Spirit Day. The town has received at least one concern over the noise from the fireworks and the impact it has on domestic as well as wild animals. The most viable way to lessen the impact is to go to residential grade fireworks and or shorten the show.

The entire event costs about $5,000 and donations have recently dropped to a few hundred dollars. The Selectmen expressed strong support for continuing the day and asked Dan to look into ways to increase donations for the event. Some years a donation spot has been set up on the school driveway as you enter the event.

Fire Departments: Bruce Elder and Fire Chief Bill Taylor met with the Selectboard to review the status of the municipalization project. Attorney Barry Schuster is working on deeds, both fire departments are developing asset inventories and a meeting is planned with representative from the Secretary of State’s office to go over what financial assets can be turned over to the town and which will be held by the two private associations. The project should be complete by April 1st.

Police Department: Chief Roberts reviewed his 2019 budget with the Selectmen. Aside from the budgetary increase (4.4%), Paul feels that the department’s capital reserves are not sufficient and should be increased.

Helen Koehler: Helen met with the Selectmen to express her displeasure over the recent tax billing. She feels strongly that property taxes in Plainfield have made it impossible for many residents to comfortable remain in town. She urged the Selectmen to do all that they are able to reduce property taxes. She has also taken her concerns to the school and she plans to attend both budget hearings later this year. She is not in favor of building a new library.

Library Trustee Appointment: The Board discussed and reviewed the list of candidates for the Trustee position. Five names have been submitted, one has been withdrawn. A motion was made to appoint Richard Atkinson of Penniman Road to serve as a library trustee until March town meeting. All four individuals will be encouraged to file for the elected office in March.

Town Budget: Steve Halleran reviewed with the group the first draft of the 2019 budget. At the moment the budget calls for an additional $29,000 or about 2% The group urged Halleran to see
what a 0% budget would look like. In other words what would have to change to get to no tax rate increase at all for the town? The Selectboard will meet with the full finance committee at their next meeting.

The meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm

Judy Belyea, Chair

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor
MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN’S MEETING

Wednesday December 19th 2018
Plainfield Library

Selectmen present: Rob Taylor
Ron Eberhardt

The meeting opened at 6:00pm in the Police Department conference room. Resident Bonnie Swift in attendance. The town’s finance committee was meeting in the main town hall conference room.

Public Comment: Bonnie Swift asked if the Library Trustees could give away town property. Town Administrator Halleran did not think that any significant property owned by the town could be given away and that when necessary the Selectboard have a defined process for disposing of property.

Police Department: Chief Roberts update the Selectmen on his plans for coverage while he is away next month having his injured shoulder repaired. Like the shoulder fixed last year, this one will result in Paul being away for two or more months. Sgt Foss will be in charge of the department while Paul is away.

Paul reviewed the department log for the last two weeks. A stolen car from the KUA campus that was crashed down in Cornish is a case that Paul is working on. The thief was apprehended at the accident scene in Cornish.

Highway Department: Road Agent Collins presented the Selectmen with a quote for a replacement highway truck. The new truck would cost $155,000 and would replace truck #8. The new truck would be involved in salt delivery and plowing during the winter month, much like truck #1 does now. Richard agreed to get a second quote on the body and plow equipment. The cab and chassis is a state bid.

Richard asked that the Selectmen consider approving a tire changing machine and a truck lift for the highway garage. The two items would cost about $12,000.

Town Office: Steve Halleran reviewed with the Selectmen the previously approved expenditures from the town’s expendable reserve funds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meriden Library Replacement</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>1-6100-178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Fund</td>
<td>$128,206.89</td>
<td>1-6100-182</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town Hall Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$3,216.97</td>
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<td>Town Revaluation Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation Fund</td>
<td>$55,000.00</td>
<td>1-6100-182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schell Community Assist Fund</td>
<td>$4,493.76</td>
<td>1-6100-190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total withdrawal $256,430.85

Selectman Taylor moved to approve the withdrawal of these funds from the noted reserve accounts. Selectmen Eberhardt seconded the motion and it was voted in the affirmative.
Sullivan County Commissioners: At 7pm the Selectboard joined the Finance Committee in the main conference room for a presentation by the County Delegation. The presentation centered on county operations and how the $776K from Plainfield is spent at the county level. The nursing home, corrections department, and Sheriff’s office are the core functions of the county. The group discussed ways that the county could assist its towns and help reduce taxes. The group thanked the delegation for taking the time to come and visit each of its towns.

Finance Committee: The remainder of the meeting was spent with the Finance Committee and some members of the public discussing the proposed budget. See attached. As currently configured the entire package being brought forward is a slight reduction over the dollars from taxes raised this year. Resident Dennis Girouard felt that an additional 10% could be reduced from the budget and he noted that he is perfectly willing to live with fewer services. He cannot stand more property taxes. He also felt it was flawed thinking for the community to be considering replacing the Meriden Library.

He and others in the group urged the Selectmen to continue to look into ways to reach more of the community. Getting more attendance at School and Town meeting is a high priority for all.

The group will meet next in early January to continue these discussions. The town budget hearing and a hearing on the proposed library project is planned for January 16th at MTH and on February 6th at PRML.

The meeting Adjourned at 9:40pm

Stephen Halleran

Ron Eberhardt

Robert Taylor