

draft
MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD'S MEETING
Wednesday May 6th 2026
Meriden Town Hall

Selectmen present: Amy Lappin
 Elise Angelillo
 Kent Webber

Others Present	Bev Widger-Z	Stephen Halleran, TA
	Erik Gutsfeld, PC-Z	Maria Guzman
	Nancy Norwalk -Z	Bruce Elder, FC
	Micheal -Z	Stephanie Schell

Call to Order / Nonpublic Session

The meeting opened at 5:15 p.m.

The Select Board immediately entered nonpublic session, on a unanimous roll-call vote, to meet with Municipal Resources Inc. As the first part of the Town Administrator search, MRI will be conducting a study of the town office.

The Select Board returned to public session at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of April 15 were approved as presented.

Public Comment

Resident Maria Guzman continued to express concern about the town's assessing of Kimball Union Academy (KUA). The Select Board reiterated its strong support for the work of the town assessor and is not inclined to initiate, as Ms. Guzman has requested, a third-party audit of the KUA assessments.

Ms. Guzman indicated that, in light of this, she will bring her concerns to the Board of Land and Tax Appeals and request their assistance in the matter.

Each Select Board member stated that fair assessments for everyone in town is their goal and that, to the best of their knowledge, the town is meeting that goal.

Town Administrator Halleran again invited Ms. Guzman to come to the town office and review the KUA assessing workbook that the town's assessor compiles for each revaluation. This workbook is the basis for determining which of KUA's properties are taxable versus nontaxable. To date, Ms. Guzman has not reviewed the book in any meaningful way.

Fire Department

Chief Elder reported that the fire department has had 17 calls in the last 22 days.

The department will be participating in a regional effort to increase the number of residents with basic CPR training.

The Fire Department will assist the Plainfield School with an evacuation drill in which the entire student body walks to the KUA campus as a place of safety in the event of an emergency at the school.

Human Services / Health

1 The family that was being housed at Singing Hills has been relocated to an income-based rental
2 unit in a neighboring town.

3 Stephanie has completed health inspections at Kimball Union Academy.

4 **Police Department**

5 Sergeant DePietro, filling in for Chief Gutsfeld, who was under the weather, reported on the
6 department's April statistics, which included eight after-hours call-outs for service.

7 The department, in conjunction with the school PTA, will be holding a bike safety rodeo for
8 Plainfield Elementary School students.

9 The department requested and received approval to purchase new modems for each of the town's
10 cruisers. The new modems will be dedicated to the laptops and, based on a one-month trial, are
11 expected to improve connectivity for the department's records management system.

- 12 • Estimated capital cost: approximately \$5,000
- 13 • Ongoing subscription service: approximately \$1,500 per year for three modems
- 14 • Funding source: Police Department operating budget

15 **Highway Department**

16 Spring road grading is underway and will continue for the next several weeks.

17 Due to elevated petroleum prices caused by the war with Iran, the Select Board discussed the
18 need to possibly scale back some summer paving projects to ensure that adequate funds are
19 available going into next winter.

20 **Facilities**

21 Brad reported that work on the highway garage roof structure and covering should be completed
22 within the next week. Some chimney repair work has been added to the scope of services. The
23 masonry chimney is 40 years old, and the top blocks and flue need to be replaced.

24 Various grant-related projects, both for the town's resiliency planning and the new water
25 department, are moving forward.

26 **Town Office / Recreation**

27 Addressing a concern raised by Recreation Director Dan Cantline about possible dates for Spirit
28 Day, and on the suggestion of Stephanie Schell, the event date may be moved this year to
29 Saturday, August 30.

- 30 • Opening day of school this year is Monday, August 31.
- 31 • The Cornish Fair is the previous weekend.
- 32 • The subsequent weekend is Labor Day.

33 Halleran reported that, with 62% of the budget year remaining, the town has 66% of its budget
34 remaining. However, increased costs for petroleum-related items may begin to narrow that
35 differential.

36 **Kearsarge Power PILOT**

37 Having had an opportunity to review the record on this project and the details of previous PILOT
38 discussions, the Select Board approved the proposed Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) of
39 \$6,000 per year for the next ten years, with an option to extend the PILOT for an additional ten
40 years.

41 The PILOT amount is based on town and county taxes applied to the likely property assessment
42 for a 0.99-megawatt array (five acres of panels). The amount to be paid is higher than many
43 existing PILOTs for arrays of this size in other communities, but lower than the amount the array
44 would pay if fully taxed (approximately \$12,000).

45 **Adjournment**

1 The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

2

3

4 Submitted,

5

6

7 Stephen Halleran/Chat GPT

8

9

10 Amy Lappin

11

12

13 Elise Angelillo

14

15

16 Kent Webber

17

18