

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday May 20th 2026**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**
4
5

6 Selectmen present: Amy Lappin
7 Elise Angelillo
8 Kent Webber
9

10 Others Present Stephen Halleran, TA Erik Gutsfeld, PC
11 Maria Guzman Bruce Elder, FC Rich Collins, RA
12 Micheal -Z Stephanie Schell Tea Dodds-Z NH Broad Band
13 Brad Atwater Bev Widger-Z
14

15 **Public Comment**

16 **Town Financial Records** Maria Guzman presented an analysis of town financial
17 records from 2008–2024, outlining what she considers structural vulnerabilities
18 in financial controls and questioning the adequacy of the town’s annual audits.

19 The Select Board noted that the town’s audit is conducted annually by Plodzik &
20 Sanderson, a well-regarded municipal auditing firm also used by the school
21 district. Audits are posted on the town’s website and meet all state and
22 professional requirements.

23 **NH Broadband / Fiber Service**

24 Thea Dodds described NH Broadband’s fiber internet service now available in
25 Plainfield through New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC).

26 Town Administrator Halleran expressed concern that many residents may not be
27 aware of the service. The group discussed ways to improve public awareness of
28 broadband availability for NHEC customers, including website notices and
29 possible mailings or newsletter items.

30

31 **Department Reports**

32 **Facilities**

33 Brad reported on several infrastructure projects:

- 34 • The highway garage roofing project is nearly complete; final inspection is
35 pending.

- The Meriden Library solar project is expected to be finished early next month.
- A slate roofing assessment of town buildings (both town halls and the Plainfield Library) is scheduled over the next two weeks.

Police Department

Over the past two weeks the department responded to:

- Four motor vehicle crashes, including:
- Two rollovers with serious injuries
- One DUI-related crash
- One car–deer collision

The department continues to address ongoing concerns with motorcycles on Route 12A traveling at excessive speeds and with loud exhaust systems. They are working with the New Hampshire State Police to obtain warrants using social media evidence.

The department upgraded to a new Xerox copier, replacing an older, more expensive model.

On the prior Saturday, officers participated in a bike safety event and distributed 12 helmets donated by the Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire.

Highway Department

Road Agent Rich Collins reported on:

- Grading work on multiple roads (Camp, High, Bean, Grantham Mt, Redhill, Marsh Hill, River)
- Roadside ditching (Coly and Hedgehog)
- Removal of fallen trees and beaver dams

The Board and Collins reviewed paving plans, including work on Baynes Road. Two smaller roads, Whitney Road and Thompson Cheese Road, which serve limited numbers of residents but still require maintenance, were discussed. Rich Collins is seeking additional paving quotes and noted that rising diesel fuel costs are a concern for the highway budget.

The Select Board thanked Rich Collins for his detailed written report of April activities. Rich plans to provide such a report monthly.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Director Stephanie Schell reported on an upcoming school emergency drill scheduled for June 2 at 1:30 p.m. The exercise will

1 simulate a brush fire requiring students and teachers to evacuate via designated
2 routes while emergency services respond.

3 Parents have been notified through the Blackhawk's Bulletin. A "hot wash"
4 debriefing will be held immediately after the drill with school staff and EMTs.

5 **Health Department**

6 Health Officer Schell reported that health inspections of the Kimball Union
7 Academy (KUA) campus have been completed.

8 Plainfield School graduation is scheduled for June 12 at KUA's Flickinger Arts
9 Center.

10 **Fire Department**

11 Fire Chief Bruce Elder reported:

- 12 • The department responded to a cat stuck in a tree for several days before
13 it ultimately came out on its own.
- 14 • Crews responded to multiple motor vehicle accidents, a propane leak, and
15 an incident involving a smoking power pole. In two recent calls, incorrect
16 addresses from Hanover dispatch complicated response efforts.
- 17 • The department will host a Forest Fire Wardens dinner and provide
18 hands-free CPR instruction sessions throughout the week.

19 The department's air compressor was serviced after approximately a decade
20 without annual maintenance; the cost was shared between Plainfield and
21 Cornish.

22 The Chief is working on a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters (Fire Act) grant
23 application due June 22.

25 **Town Office / Select Board Business**

26 **Tax Liens**

27 The Select Board discussed two properties with outstanding tax liens totaling
28 approximately \$146,000, representing about 60% of the town's total unpaid
29 property taxes.

30 The Board voted to sign deed waivers for one more year for both properties,
31 rather than taking tax deeds at this time, based on the expectation that the town
32 will eventually recover the principal and interest due. Town Administrator
33 Halleran was directed to inform both owners that future deed waivers are not

1 guaranteed and that significant progress on bringing property taxes current is
2 expected.

3 **Comcast Franchise Agreement**

4 The Select Board reviewed and signed an extension of the Comcast cable
5 television franchise agreement. The extension is for five years and applies
6 specifically to cable TV service.

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8 **Adjournment**

9 The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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11
12 Submitted,

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15 Stephen Halleran/Chat GPT

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18 Amy Lappin

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21 Elise Angelillo

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24 Kent Webber