

1 **MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD'S MEETING**
2 **Wednesday June 17th 2026**
3 **Meriden Town Hall**

4
5 Selectmen present: Amy Lappin
6 Elise Angelillo
7 Kent Webber

8
9 Others Present Stephen Halleran, TA Rich Collins
10 Stephanie Schell Brad Atwater Micheal -Z
11 Bev Widger Nancy Norwalk-Z Bruce Elder
12 Erik Gutsfeld Maria Guzman

13
14 **Public Comment:** Maria Guzman presented her findings from a collaborative
15 independent data verification project, highlighting discrepancies between internal
16 property spreadsheets and certified state records in the town's assessing
17 system. The project identified a \$966,100 difference between internal and state-
18 verified property values, with specific examples of data gaps in property
19 measurements. Steve Halleran will have assessor George Hildum review the
20 concern, but noted that the state reports are generated from the assessing data,
21 so the results are directly linked. Halleran noted that Maria's concerns are more
22 likely due to a misunderstanding on her part about how to interpret the cards.

23
24 **Stephanie Schell** commented on her concerns about negativity on the
25 community resource platform Nextdoor. She felt some comments were
26 inappropriate and not intended to be helpful. She thanked elected officials and
27 town employees for their service, noting that while not everyone agrees with all
28 decisions, she appreciates their hard work in maintaining the community.
29 Nextdoor Moderator Bev Widger noted that comments deemed offensive are
30 immediately removed.

31
32 **Bev Widger** noted that the Plainfield Town Hall and stage set are featured
33 prominently in the summer issue of SooNipi magazine.

34
35 **Department Reports**

36 **Police Department Activity and Challenges**

37 The police chief reported that in May the department handled 157 calls for
38 service, including seven call-outs, four motor vehicle accidents, and 10 stops,
39 while deploying speed feedback devices 11 times and conducting seven
40 community relations activities. For June, 109 calls were received, with 29 being
41 motor vehicle stops, and eight speed feedback deployments occurred.
42 The chief expressed frustration about ongoing staffing shortages. Despite
43 reaching out to state representatives, senators, and the governor's office, he has
44 received only limited responses. The department has implemented new
45 technology, including updated modems, a new printer, and cellular boosters,

1 while continuing grant-funded patrols and applying for additional equipment
2 funding.

3 4 **Human Resources**

5 **Stephanie Schell** reported that a summer barbecue luncheon is scheduled for
6 next Thursday at noon at the Plainfield School, with a rain location at the fire
7 station. The town received a \$3,000 grant from the Millar Fund to support a
8 senior celebration at Langwood Farm, and a separate \$800 grant from Feeding
9 New Hampshire to support local farm initiatives and the food pantry. The Upper
10 Valley Humane Society has expanded its emergency response capabilities to
11 assist families with pets during disasters.

12 Stephanie is exploring updates to the Active 911 system to better communicate
13 with residents during emergencies. Summer camp at MCC begins on the 29th,
14 with 50 registered children aged 3–13, featuring a junior counselor program and
15 support for breakfast and snacks.

16 17 **Highway**

18 Road Agent Collins reviewed his activity log over the last two weeks, which has
19 continued to focus on road grading. He also discussed road maintenance
20 challenges, particularly regarding two short paved roads (Whitney Road and
21 Thompson Cheese Road) that serve limited traffic. The discussion centered on
22 whether to keep these roads paved or convert them to dirt, with concerns about
23 the cost–benefit analysis and maintenance requirements.

24 25 **Fire**

26 Chief Elder reported that the fire department has responded to 77 calls so far this
27 year, which is ahead of schedule compared to last year's total of 140 calls. He
28 discussed recent incidents, including lightning damage to the Kimball Barn and
29 the library phone system.

30 Chief Elder mentioned plans to align fire drills with Cornish to avoid scheduling
31 conflicts.

32 The Fire Department is working on a federal Fire Act grant application seeking
33 \$91,000 for new portable radios and \$28,000 for hose replacement, with the
34 application due Monday at 5 p.m.

35 36 **Facilities**

37 Brad reported the following:

- 38 1. Highway garage – Roof project punch list: waiting on return of roofers,
39 expected next week. Heat pump re-install: an ordered stand was picked up
40 and assembled today, to be set tomorrow. Final hook-up is expected early
41 next week.
- 42 2. Meriden Town Hall painting: per Marshall today, work is expected next
43 week, likely midweek.

3. Meriden Library rooftop solar project: a transformer in front of Meriden Town Hall was replaced. No obvious change on Bean Road; work should proceed anytime.
4. Plainfield Fire Station – drywall repair of a wall section damaged by a leak: priming and repainting will begin tomorrow.
5. IT/phone project is progressing: met with and received a proposal from a third vendor, Saguaro Technologies. Brad spent time today dissecting the proposals to get to a comparison/selection point. The proposals are complicated, but a selection should be possible this week or early next week.
6. Hub66 fiber optic – no new updates.
7. Mahan Roofing looked at three slate roofs. A report is pending, expected early next week.

Water Department

1. Meter replacements: 2 of 87 remain to be swapped.
2. Asset Management Grant: located two curb stops and updated their locations; also shut off service at the curb to an unoccupied property to be demolished.
3. Sustainability Grant: kick-off meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.
4. The vendor released a new feature: a leak alarm (at least 0.25 gpm for 48 hours). The report showed six possible leaks. Staff called customers and was able to explain one; a second took longer to resolve. In the end, staff stopped by and turned off a garden hose. This was a good interaction with the public/consumers.
5. Maura is going to start doing some hydrant maintenance this coming weekend (seals, grease and replace broken parts, repainting, flags, etc.).
6. The department is in good shape for Q2 billing.
7. Staff is currently drafting the required annual Consumer Confidence Report.
8. Eighty-plus pictures of customer service lines at meters were forwarded as part of documenting service line material. All of the service lines observed so far are either plastic or copper. No lead has been found in any customer service lines.

Other

1. UVLSRPC projects (pavement analysis and remaining culvert assessments) have begun or will begin soon.
2. DOT Resiliency Grant: work is progressing. Mark Goodwin had hip surgery last week and will resume work next week.
3. DOT Resiliency Grant – Part 2, River Road embankment project: engineers conducted a site visit on 6/9 and will produce a scope of work document that outlines work necessary to move the road. Steve and Brad stopped by the abutters, Chuck and Madeline Wira, to explain the activity and explore any interest in assisting the project with land (purchase or easement). They indicated interest in improving the situation.

1 4. There has been a flurry of cemetery questions. Staff was able to make
2 progress and resolve all issues, with good interactions with the public.

3 **Town Office**

4 Steve reported that this week featured a planned trash sticker compliance check
5 on all toters. Halleran noted that residents had been responsive in purchasing the
6 required stickers.

7
8 The conversation ended with discussion of the Lebanon Ambulance contract,
9 which will increase from \$28,000 to \$33,000 per year in 2027. Town
10 Administrator Halleran was authorized to sign the contract.

11
12 At 7:50 p.m. the Select Board, on a unanimous roll call vote, went into nonpublic
13 session to discuss with Human Resource Consultant Bev Widger recruitment
14 efforts for the next Town Administrator. Steve Halleran has a planned retirement
15 date of April 2, 2025.

16
17 The Select Board came out of nonpublic session at 8:30 p.m. and announced
18 that Bev Widger's company has been hired to conduct the town administrator
19 search. There will be upcoming opportunities for residents to participate in the
20 process. The Select Board continues to aim to have the new person hired for
21 January 2027.

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23 Submitted,

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26 Stephen Halleran/Chat GPT

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28 Amy Lappin

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31 Elise Angelillo

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34 Kent Webber
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