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2 **MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD'S MEETING**
3 **Wednesday July 15th 2026**
4 **Meriden Town Hall**

5 Select Board members present:

- 6
 - Amy Lappin
 - Elise Angelillo7

8 Others present:

- 9
 - Stephen Halleran, Town Administrator (TA)
 - Stephanie Schell
 - Michael Miller-Z
 - Bev Widger
 - Nancy Norwalk-Z
 - Bruce Elder
 - Erik Gutsfeld
 - Alice Ely, Executive Director
 - Lee Oxenham17

18 Minutes of the July 1st meeting were approved as presented.

19 **Public Comment:** Lee Oxenham updated the Selectboard on the status of
20 Community Power in NH. While the organization has gone through a tough year,
21 it is back with rates that are now, once again, at or lower than conventional utility
22 companies. Lee expects that the price gap grow as the utilities are forced to
23 recoup losses from past years through rate increases.

24 Alice Ely, Executive Director of the Public Health Council took a few minutes to
25 explain the role of the council and how it supports the town's Health Officer
26 Stephanie Schell.

27 Maria Guzman expressed dissatisfaction over recent town posts in Connect
28 Cornish that implied she had disseminated inaccurate information about the
29 Town Administrator Search. She accused Town Administrator Halleran of lying
30 about the matter and she threatened litigation. She noted that Town Attorney has
31 not responded to a letter she sent. Chair Lappin noted that not all letters received
32 a response. The Select Board is working very hard with its hired consultant to
33 develop an inclusive search process for the new Town Administrator, but that it
34 will take some time. Its July now the new person will be hopefully working with
35 retiring Town Administrator Halleran after January 1st.

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2 **Department Reports**

3 **Police:** Chief Gutsfeld reported 80 calls for service this month to date, 24 vehicle
4 stops including special speed enforcement work funded by the State of NH.

5 The Chief thought the parade went very well. Everyone seemed to have had a
6 good time and there were no incidents. Extra signage helped with detouring
7 traffic.

8 **Human Services:** Stephanie Schell echoed Chief Gusefld's comments, the parade
9 was a great example of Plainfield community spirit. Everyone was welcomed and
10 had a great time. The town band was awesome.

11 This month's community lunch is tomorrow and is being hosted by Willow Brook
12 Horse Farm owned by Lisa Guaraldi.

13 **Fire:** Chief Elder reported 11 calls for service in the first 15 days of July. Most
14 recently the department put out a small wildland fire on Dodge Road caused by a
15 lighting strike during last night's storms. The smoldering tree was noticed by the
16 landowner this morning.

17 **Highway:** Ditching work continues to be a big priority this summer. Most recently
18 Dodge Road has been done. Croydon Turnpike will follow as Rich tries to get the
19 steep hill areas ditched.

20 Roadside mowing has also begun.

21 **Town Office:** The .gov project and town office IT upgrade are about to kick off. A
22 final meeting was held yesterday with the Overwatch Foundation to work out the
23 final details on how the Police IT and e-mails would be handed going forward.

24 Plans are moving forward to remove all the abandoned cars from the Estate of
25 Nick Cohen #729 Stage Rd. The work is being done to protect the adjacent water
26 shed and the cost will be recovered at the sale of the property.

27 **Town Administrator Search:** Bev Widger requested and was granted permission
28 to post for the Town Administrator job. She reviewed the search timeline with
29 the Select Board and the way that citizens can express an interest in participating
30 on the search committee. All department heads and a member of the Planning
31 and Zoning Boards will be asked to be part of the process.

32 **Bookkeeper Search:** The town office staff will begin meeting with candidates for
33 the new part time bookkeeper position. The Select Board will be consulted before
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1 a hire is made, but will not be directly involved in the interviewing process.

2 The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

3 Submitted,

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6 Stephen Halleran/Chat GPT

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8 Amy Lappin

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11 Elise Angelillo

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