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MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD'S MEETING
Wednesday September 2nd 2026
Meriden Town Hall

Select Board members present:

- Amy Lappin
- Kent Webber

Others present:

- Stephen Halleran
- Eric Gutsfeld PC
- Brad Atwater FM
- Michael Miller-Z
- Nancy Norwalk-Z
- Bev Widger-Z
- Bruce Elder FC
- Maria Guzman
- Mike Martin
- Sarah Martin
- Jamie Hynes
- Skip Lisle-Z
- Megan Chapman-Z
- Amy Beaupre-Z

The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m.

The August 19 minutes were approved as amended.

Public Comment

Flat Iron Road / Truck Issue

Mike Martin, Sarah Martin, and Jamie Hynes presented a letter to the Select Board asking that the Board look into the practice of Scott Lamadeleine, 37 Flat Iron Road, bringing home his company's large commercial truck. Due to the size of the truck, it is backed down Flat Iron Road, leading to lawn damage at the Bean Road/Flat Iron Road intersection. The truck is parked on the Kimball Union Academy log landing across from the Lamadeleine residence.

This practice occurs year-round (though the truck size may change from season to season), regardless of whether the road is posted or not. Board members agreed to look into the matter.

Maria Guzman questioned the Municipal Resources Inc. (MRI) town office study, stating she feels the document is poorly done and contains incorrect conclusions. She again requested that both the Facility Manager and Town Administrator positions be changed to part-time.

Maria Guzman also asked for the details of the Police Department's contract for services with the State Police. Chair Lappin noted that no such contract currently exists. Maria Guzman next inquired about the search costs for the current Police Chief and was informed that the effort cost approximately $4,000.

Highway Department

Skip Lisle, owner of the Beaver Deceiver Company, who installed a beaver deceiver unit on Hedgehog Road seven years ago (funded by the Conservation Commission), expressed concern that the unit needs to be cleaned out and rehabilitated. In his view, the deceiver is no longer working properly, and water is building up in a large volume behind it.

Road Agent Rich Collins agreed that the beaver deceiver has saved both the beavers and the Highway Department a large amount of work. Without the deceiver, trapping would likely have been required to remove beavers from this valued wetland in order to protect Hedgehog Road.

While not speaking for the Conservation Commission as a whole, Chair Megan Chapman expressed her personal support for continued Conservation Commission involvement in this project. Road Agent Collins and Skip Lisle will work on a solution for the deceiver structure.

It was noted that lowering the pond is dangerous work and, if done improperly, can lead to road washouts and property damage.

The Select Board again expressed support for Rich hiring out some of the early fall grading and culvert work. The Highway crew is currently down two positions and there is much work left to complete this construction season. Rich indicated he would consider outside help with fall grading to free up additional crew hours for tree and guardrail work.

Roadside mowing is nearly complete for 2026. Gilkey Cemetery will be mowed next week.

Police Department

The department responded to 143 calls for service in August. The department relied heavily on the town's speed trailer and electronic signs as a means of slowing down drivers.

In response to a question, the Chief indicated that in New Hampshire, electronic ticketing (speed) cameras are not permitted.

Fire Department

Chief Elder reported 12 fire calls in August, several of which were false alarms. The Fire Department assisted with Spirit Day, including the retrieval of a drone aircraft that became lodged in a tree during the event.

Recreation Director Dan Cantlin was thanked for his hard work in making this annual event a success.

Facilities

Fall water line flushing will begin later this month. Meter replacements, except for Spruce Park, are now essentially complete.
A lighting and technology upgrade at the Town Office—which includes new computers and a new phone system—has begun and will continue over the next month.

Town Office

2028 Property Revaluation

Letters soliciting interest for the 2028 property revaluation have been sent to all NH DRA-qualified companies. To date, no responses have been received. There are currently far too many assessing projects statewide and not enough available firms.
Avitar Associates, the town's long-time revaluation firm, has indicated that they cannot perform a 2028 revaluation for Plainfield. The NH Constitution requires revaluation updates every five years. Plainfield's last update was in 2023.

The 2026 budget, while tight, remains on track, and adjustments will be made as needed.

Moderator Dan Cassedy has reappointed the 2026 Finance Committee for 2027.

Town Administrator Search

Consultant Bev Widger reported that she is working to reduce the applications received down to approximately the 20 most viable candidates.

The citizens' committee has a meeting scheduled at Town Hall tomorrow. A staff committee will be organized in late September.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted,

Stephen Halleran/Chat GPT

Amy Lappin

Kent Webber