

TOWN MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2015
Plainfield, New Hampshire

The annual meeting for the Town of Plainfield was held at the Plainfield Elementary School on Bonner Road on March 10, 2015. Moderator Paul Franklin opened the meeting at 8:00 am with the reading of Articles 1 & 2. Michelle Marsh made a motion to dispense with the reading of the warrant, seconded by Stephen Halleran. The Polls were declared opened.

Total Number on Checklist: 1551
Total Number of Ballots Cast: 313
Percentage of Voting: 20%

ARTICLE 1. To choose by ballot: one Selectman for three years, one Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years, two Library Trustees for three years, one Cemetery Trustee for three years, one Supervisor of the Checklist for four years and any other necessary town officers.

Select board Member for three years:

Robert W. Taylor 298

Write-Ins:

Ian Rogers 1

Robert W. Taylor was declared elected.

Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years:

Donald E. Garfield 300

Donald E. Garfield was declared elected.

Two Library Trustee for three years:

Nancy Liston 211

Emily Sands 177

Cindy Heath 108

Dennis Girouard 89

Nancy Liston and Emily Sands were declared elected.

Cemetery Trustee for three years:

James Taylor 299

James Taylor was declared elected.

Supervisor of the Checklist for four years:

Fern Wilder 286

Write-Ins:

Jeanne Thompson 1

Steve Taylor 1

Fern Wilder was declared elected.

ARTICLE 2. To see what action the town will take with regard to the following questions relative to the Plainfield Zoning Ordinances, **said changes being recommended by the Planning Board:**

Question 1. In order to clarify questions that have risen with the administering of the newly adopted Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance (approved in 2014) the following minor changes are proposed:

Amend Criteria which apply to detached ADUs, #2 which reads

2. The peak of the ADU roof may not be higher than 25’.

To read

2. For buildings constructed after January 1st 2015 maximum building height is 25’ for ADU’s. Ornamental cupolas measuring less than 30” in width and 30” in depth and that are no higher than 48” may be excluded from the 25’ building height limit.

Amend Criteria which apply to detached ADUs, #3 which reads:

3. When located in an outbuilding such as a barn or garage, whether existing or new, only the portion of the structure used for the ADU must conform to the dimensional requirements above.

To read

3. When located in an outbuilding such as a barn or garage built before January 1st 2015, the maximum height restriction does not apply. However the ADU portion must conform to all other dimensional requirements for ADUs as listed in this ordinance.

254 voting yes 34 voting no

It was declared a vote in the affirmative and the amendment so adopted.

Question 2.

To provide a basic regulatory framework for the establishment of solar energy projects the following is proposed:

Add a new section **3.8 SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS:** The town, through its policies and zoning ordinance in accordance with RSA 672:1 III & 674:62-66, supports and encourages the development of alternative energy systems. However, like telecommunication towers and wind powered generating systems (WPGS) solar energy systems (SES) have the potential to impact other properties, including view sheds. Therefore, no building permit for a SES shall be issued without the project first having been granted a special exception by the Zoning Board of Adjustment unless the SES meets the following criteria:

1) Roof top mounted or wall mounted system, in all zones, that does not extend beyond the exterior perimeter of the building on which the system is mounted and does not rise up more than 5’ from the exterior surface of the roof.

2) Ground mounted systems in the Rural Residential (RR), Rural Conservation I (RCI) and Rural Conservation II (RCII) zones that do not rise more than 14’ from the ground measured from the

surface of the existing grade to the top of collector at its highest point and are not more than 7kw in size.

For SES that do not require a special exception the arrays will be considered an accessory use and will be permitted with a building permit in all zones except the Conservation Zone.

All ground mounted systems proposed in the Village Residential Zone (VR) shall require a special exception.

All ground mounted solar installations which are connected to a commercial metering system shall require a site plan review by the Planning Board.

Application Requirements for Solar Energy System (SES) requiring a special exception and or site plan review:

- a. Names and addresses of the owners of the property where the SES is proposed
- b. Abutter list
- c. Written description of the project
- d. Site map of the property and proposed facility design
- c. Visual analysis
- d. Decommissioning plan (if applicable)

Standards to be met: In addition to evidence of conformance to all the general performance standards found in section 5.6II of this ordinance, proposals for SES must satisfy all of the following:

Location: Systems will be located and or screened so as to minimize the visual impact from abutting properties. For the purpose of this ordinance a ground mounted solar array shall be considered a structure.

Fencing: While generally not required in cases where the town's land use boards deem it necessary to protect public safety, perimeter fencing may be required around all or some of the system components.

Utilities: Unless specifically waived by the Zoning Board all distribution lines associated with the system will be underground.

Approved Solar Components: All electric solar components must have UL listing or equivalent.

Utility Company Approval: The applicant, as part of the application process must show a letter of acceptance from any utility company which will receive the electric power from the system.

Decommissioning: All proposals for SES, which require either a special exception or a site plan review, will include provisions, acceptable to the town, to insure that once the facility is no longer in use, it will be completely removed from the site.

Add to the list of special exceptions for the VR, RR, RCI and RCII zones: #24 Approved Solar Energy System.

Renumber the zoning ordinance as required.

262 voting yes 33 voting no

It was declared a vote in the affirmative and the amendment so adopted.

Question 3.

To provide homeowners with all of the pool barrier options permitted by the town's adopted building code ~~delete~~ from the Plainfield Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1 FENCES, WALLS and HEDGES #3 which reads:

3. Every in-ground swimming pool shall be entirely enclosed with a good quality chain link wire, stockade or other equivalent fence of not less than five (5) feet in height measured from the ground level unless a special exception is granted.

199 voting yes 35 voting no

It was declared a vote in the affirmative and the amendment so adopted.

The polls closed at 7:00 p.m. the Moderator recessed the meeting which will resume on Saturday, the 14th of March next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon at the Plainfield school gymnasium.

On Saturday, March 14, 2015 Moderator Paul Franklin re-opened the meeting at the Plainfield Elementary School at 10:00am. The meeting began with a salute to the flag, the singing of "My Country Tis of Thee" and a few words given by Reverend Harold (Dewey) L. Jones, Jr. who asked for a moment of silence to honor residents who are no longer with us.

The Moderator then introduced the town officers and recognized Select Board member Robert Taylor who awarded the 2012 Stephen H. Taylor Community Service Award to Mike (Claude) Sutherland for his many years of service to the town. Mike is responsible for creating and maintaining our town website, served as school board member for 6 years and volunteers for many town projects and events. Thank You Mike! A standing ovation was received.

Moderator Franklin explained the rules of the meeting. Steven Taylor made a motion to dispense with the reading of the entire warrant and proceed to Article 3. His motion was seconded and passed unanimously by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 3. Stephen Halleran offered the following resolution and moved its adoption: Resolved that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,101,932** to defray town charges for the 2015 fiscal year. Judy Belyea seconded the motion.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Executive | \$194,950 |
| 2. Election/Registration/Vital Statistics | 3,380 |
| 3. Financial Administration | 68,700 |
| 4. Revaluation of Property | 13,000 |
| 5. Legal Expenses | 8,100 |
| 6. Personnel Administration | 5,500 |
| 7. Planning and Zoning | 1,000 |
| 8. General Government Buildings | 9,425 |
| 9. Cemeteries | 25,000 |
| 10. Insurance | 36,600 |

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| 11. Regional Associations | 5,100 |
| 12. Police Department | 356,598 |
| 13. Ambulance Service | 27,000 |
| 14. Fire Departments -Plainfield | 48,500 |
| -Meriden | 44,500 |
| 15. Building Inspection | 8,900 |
| 16. Emergency Management | 250 |
| 17. Hydrant & Forest Fire Expense | 4,100 |
| 18. Dispatching for Fire, Police & Ambulance | 27,000 |
| 19. Highway Administration | 20,050 |
| 20. Highways and Streets | 680,200 |
| 21. Road Projects | 99,900 |
| 22. Street Lights | 12,000 |
| 23. Solid Waste Collection | 153,000 |
| 24. Solid Waste Disposal | 49,810 |
| 25. Health Agencies | 18,370 |
| 26. Animal Control | 500 |
| 27. Welfare | 8,500 |
| 28. Recreation Commission | 19,000 |
| 29. Library Department | 124,649 |
| 30. Patriotic | 1,000 |
| 31. Conservation Commission | 500 |
| 32. Principal Long-term debt | 25,000 |
| 33. Interest Long-term debt | 1,850 |
| Total: | \$ 2,101,932 |

Moderator Franklin recognized Town Administrator Stephen Halleran who spoke to the motion. Mr. Halleran reported on projects that were completed during 2014 reporting that we finally received the last of the grant monies from the state for the Willow Brook Road project.

To help us be prepared in the event of a natural disaster, we now have an emergency response trailer which houses cones and signs and other such equipment, the town highway garage became equipped with a generator and the Police Chief applied for and received a grant for computer equipment that has allowed all school and town employees and volunteer fire fighters to have ID badges.

The energy committee applied for and received monies from the Conservation (Moose Plate) grant organization to repair and refurbish the windows in the town office and police department.

If all of the warrant articles and budget pass, we will be adding \$.20 to the town tax.

Questions were asked and answered.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 158 No 2

It was a vote in the affirmative, the resolution was adopted and so declared.

ARTICLE 4. Selectboard member Judy Atwater offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$149,500** to be placed in existing town capital reserve and general trust funds, pursuant to RSA 35:1 and RSA 31:19-a as follows:

RSA 35:1 funds:

| | |
|----------|--|
| \$15,000 | Revaluation Fund created in 1993. |
| \$50,000 | Highway Equipment Fund created in 1987. |
| \$55,000 | Transportation Improvement Fund created in 2006. |
| \$5,000 | Bridge Capital Reserve Fund created 1994. |
| \$5,000 | ADA Access Fund created in 2003. |
| \$6,000 | Police Equipment Fund created in 2011. |
| \$5,000 | Gravel Pit Reclamation Fund created in 2012. |

RSA 31:19a funds:

| | |
|---------|---|
| \$6,000 | Town Hall Repair Fund established in 1996. |
| \$2,500 | Library Building Repair Fund established in 1992. |

Further, to name the Selectboard as agents to expend on the Highway Equipment Fund created in 1987.

The Selectboard is named agents to expend for the bridge fund, the town hall repair fund, the library building repair fund, the revaluation fund, the transportation improvement fund and the police equipment fund. Steve Halleran seconded the motion.

Discussion followed with questions asked and answered.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 163 No 4

It was a vote in the affirmative, the resolution was adopted and so declared.

ARTICLE 5. Selectman Ron Eberhardt offered the following resolution and moved its adoption: That the town vote to establish a capital reserve fund to be called the Town Facilities Maintenance Fund for the purpose of making repairs to town buildings and grounds and to appropriate the sum of **\$60,000** from the town's unassigned fund balance for this purpose, pursuant to RSA 35:1. Further, to name the Selectboard as agents to expend for this fund. Rob Taylor seconded the motion.

Mr. Eberhardt spoke to the motion explaining that the funds taken would be used to repair, insulate and replace the highway garage roof. All being done to bring the building up to current code.

Questions were asked and answered.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 160 No 15

It was a vote in the affirmative, the resolution was adopted and so declared.

ARTICLE 6. Selectman Taylor offered the following resolution and moved its adoption: That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$12,000** for the purchase of a brush chipper to be used by the highway department and to authorize the Selectboard to withdraw up to the sum of \$12,000 from the Highway Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund created in 1987 pursuant to RSA 35:1 and to further authorize the Selectboard to sell or trade the town's existing brush chipper. Steve Halleran Seconded the motion.

Selectman Taylor made a motion to amend the wording of article 6 from “Highway Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund” to “Highway Equipment Fund”
A voice vote was taken, the “Ayes” were unanimous, the motion passed and was so declared.

A vote by paper ballot was taken on Article 6.

Yes 170 No 2

It was a vote in the affirmative; the resolution was adopted and so declared.

ARTICLE 7. Eric Brann offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:
That the town vote to increase the real estate exemption on dormitories, dining rooms, and kitchens of Kimball Union Academy above the required \$150,000 as allowed in RSA 72:23, to eighty (80) percent of the assessed value of property over which the town has statutory discretion.
Discussion followed.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 116 No 56

It was a vote in the affirmative; the resolution was adopted and so declared.

ARTICLE 8. Judy Belyea offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:
That the town direct the Select board to appoint a committee to continue the KUA/Plainfield study. The charge to this committee shall be to meet with representatives of the KUA administration and maintain an ongoing review of the relationship between the academy and the town, including any agreement pursuant to RSA 72:23, and to report its findings at next March's annual town meeting. Ron Eberhardt seconded the motion.

Selectboard member Belyea thanked the current members of the committee.

A Voice vote was taken.

The “Ayes” were unanimous.

The vote was in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 9. Selectman Taylor offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:
That the town vote to instruct the moderator to appoint a finance committee (advisory only) of six Plainfield voters to advise the Select board and other officers of the town in the prudential affairs of the town. Steve Halleran seconded the motion.

Selectman Taylor thanked all of the 2014 committee members for their time.

A Voice vote was taken.

The “Ayes” were unanimous.

The vote was in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 10. As originally printed.

That the town will, pursuant to RSA 202-A:6, vote to create, beginning April 1, 2015, two separate boards of trustees, one for the Meriden Library and one for the Philip Read Memorial Library. The present board members to be distributed between the two newly created boards, as determined by the current board of trustees, with the Selectmen to be responsible for approving the final make-up and appointing a sixth trustee. Each library shall be administered by a three

member board, each trustee to serve a three year term. Further, to authorize and instruct the Selectboard and the existing trustees to take all necessary action to achieve the purpose of this article (Article by petition).

Moderator Franklin recognized Clinton Swift who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

That the town will, pursuant to RSA 202-A:6, vote to create, beginning April 1, 2015, two separate boards of trustees, one for the Meriden Library and one for the Philip Read Memorial Library. **Further, to rescind and dissolve the creation and existence of the current Board** The present board members to be distributed between the two newly created boards, as determined by the current board of trustees, with the Selectmen to be responsible for approving the final make-up and appointing a sixth trustee. Each library shall be administered by a three member board, each trustee to serve a three year term. Further, to authorize and instruct the Selectboard and the existing trustees to take all necessary action to achieve the purpose of this article (Article by petition). Beverly Widger seconded the motion.

A lengthy discussion followed with many residents taking time to offer thoughts on the motion.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

No 120 Yes 60

It was a vote in the negative; the resolution was not adopted and so declared.

ARTICLE 11. Peter Mogielnicki offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

That the Town of Plainfield, NH, stand with communities across the country to defend democracy from the corrupting influence of big money in our political system, by calling upon our legislators to amend the United States Constitution to establish that:

- Only individual human beings are endowed with constitutional rights, and
- Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

And that the People of Plainfield, NH hereby instruct our state and federal representatives to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort, and to reduce the influence of big money and increase transparency and voter participation in our electoral system.

And that the record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Plainfield's Congressional delegation, and to Plainfield's State Legislators, and to the Governor of New Hampshire, and to the President of the United States, informing them of the instructions from their constituents, by the Town Administrator's office within 30 days of the vote (Article by petition). Chris Dye seconded the motion.

A vote by paper ballot was taken

Yes 135 No 17

It was a vote in the affirmative; the resolution was adopted and so declared.

ARTICLE 12: Mike Jaeger offered the following motion and moved its adoption:

That the Town vote to send a message to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, the Vermont Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources, and the State of Vermont requesting that they take all appropriate and needed measures to fully mitigate the shooting noise nuisance emanating from the Hammond Cove Shooting Range in Hartland, Vermont into Plainfield, New Hampshire and to fully restore the quiet, peaceful character of nearby Plainfield residences and recreation areas to levels that existed prior to the 2012 Hammond Cove site construction (Article by Request).

A vote by paper ballot was taken

Yes 134 No 8

It was a vote in the affirmative; the resolution was adopted and so declared

ARTICLE 13: Ron Eberhardt offered the following motion and moved its adoption: That the town vote to accept the reports of officers as they appear in the annual report, subject to corrections. Seconded by Steve Halleran.

A vote by voice was taken.

The "Ayes" were unanimous.

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 14. Moderator Franklin swore in the following newly elected officers:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Robert Taylor | Selectman |
| Michelle Marsh | School Clerk |
| Audra Bucklin | School Board Member |
| Christian Foreman | School Board Member |

Paul Franklin was sworn into office as School Moderator the morning of the town meeting on March 14, 2015 by Clerk, Michelle Marsh.

Steve Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m. seconded by Steve Beaupre.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Marsh

Town Clerk