

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2019

Plainfield, New Hampshire

The annual meeting for the Town of Plainfield began at the Plainfield Elementary School on Bonner Road on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. Moderator Paul Franklin opened the meeting at 8:00 am with the reading of Articles 1 & 2 and the posting certifications. Stephen Halleran made a motion to dispense with the reading of the entire warrant, seconded by Ron Eberhardt. A unanimous voice vote in the affirmative followed and the Polls were declared opened.

ARTICLE 1. To choose by ballot: One Select Board member for three years, one Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years, Two Library Trustees for three years, one Library Trustee for two years, one Cemetery Trustee for three years, one Town Clerk for three years and any other necessary town officers.

Number on Checklist: 1686 Same Day Registrants: 9
Number of Regular Ballots Cast: 559 Number of Absentee Ballots Cast: 42
Percentage of Voting: 35%

Town Clerk for three years:

Michelle Marsh 580

Michelle Marsh was declared elected.

Cemetery Trustee for three years:

Margaret Drye 404

Margaret Drye was declared elected.

Select board Member for three years:

Judith A. Belyea 255
Eric R. Brann 309
Mark Horne 21

Eric R. Brann was declared elected.

Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years:

Jesse Stalker 513

Jesse Stalker was declared elected.

One Library Trustee for two years:

John W. Hendrick 255
Jeanne Woodward-poor 307

Jeanne Woodward-Poor was declared elected
Two Library Trustee for three years:

Patricia (Patty) Rondeau	240
Jennifer Lenz	266
Judy Ptak	288
Suzanne Spencer	227

Judy Ptak and **Jennifer Lenz** were declared elected.

ARTICLE 2. To see what action the town will take with regard to the following question relative to the Plainfield Zoning Ordinance.

Question 1. In order to clarify the criteria for the granting of special exceptions ~~delete~~ section 5.6II a) & b) which read

5.6II CONDITIONS TO BE MET

II. Special Exceptions

In order for the Board to grant a special exception it must find that the special exception being sought by the applicant is in fact permitted and specified in the Zoning Ordinance and that all of the conditions for the special exception are met.

a) A special exception as specified in this ordinance may be permitted only if the Board of Adjustment makes the following findings of fact:

- (1) The use is one that is ordinarily prohibited in the district.
- (2) The use is specifically allowed as an exception under the terms of the Ordinance.
- (3) Appropriate and adequate facilities will be provided for the proper operation of the proposed use.
- (4) The proposed use will comply with the applicable regulations of the district in which it is to be located.

b) For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following are established as general conditions for the granting of all special exceptions (subject to further conditions as may be defined elsewhere herein as to the uses concerned) namely:

- (1) That the use will not be detrimental to the character or enjoyment of the neighborhood.
- (2) That the use will not be injurious, noxious, or offensive and thus detrimental to the neighborhood;
- (3) That the use will not be contrary to the public health, safety or welfare by reason of undue traffic congestion or hazards, undue risk to life and property, unsanitary or unhealthful emissions or waste disposal, or similar adverse causes or conditions.

Replace the deleted text with

5.6II CONDITIONS TO BE MET

II. Special Exceptions

A special exception as specified in this ordinance may be permitted only if the Board of Adjustment makes the following findings of fact:

1. The use is specifically allowed as a special exception under the terms of the Ordinance.
2. That the use will not be detrimental to the character or enjoyment of the neighborhood.
3. The proposed use will comply with the applicable regulations of the district in which it is to be located.
4. The granting of a special exception must include remedy for any existing zoning violations on the property.
5. The capacity of existing or planned community services or facilities, including streets and utilities will not be adversely affected.
6. Traffic on roads and highways in the vicinity shall not be adversely affected.
7. The use will not be contrary to the public health, safety or welfare by reason of traffic congestion or hazards, undue risk to life or property, unsanitary or unhealthful emissions or waste disposal, or similar adverse conditions.
8. Appropriate and adequate facilities will be provided for the proper operation of the proposed use.
9. No undue municipal expense will be created.

Renumber the section as indicated.

Those voting **YES: 443**

Those voting **NO: 79**

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

Question #2. In order to clarify the local appeal process the following replacement of section 5.5 APPEALS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT is proposed.

Delete the existing section 5.5 which reads

5.5 APPEALS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

If it is alleged that an error has been made, any aggrieved person, officer, department, board or bureau of the town affected by any decision of the administrative officer may appeal to the Board. Such appeals must occur within fifteen days of the granting or denial of a zoning permit by filing with the Zoning Board of Adjustment a notice of appeal specifying the grounds for appeal. Work may not continue during an appeal unless the administrative officer states that work stoppage would cause imminent peril to life and property.

An appeal stays all proceeds under the action appealed from unless the officer from whom the appeal is taken certifies to the Board of Adjustment after notice of appeal shall have been filed with him or her, that, by reason of facts stated in the certificate, a stay would, in his or her opinion, cause imminent peril to life or property. In such case, proceedings shall be stayed by a restraining order which may be granted by the Board of the Superior Court.

Replace with

5.5 APPEALS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT If it is alleged that an error has been made by any decision of a town administrative official, any aggrieved person, department, or board affected may appeal to the Zoning Board. Such appeals must occur within fifteen days of the decision or the granting or denial of a zoning permit. Such appeal shall be made by filing with the Zoning Board of Adjustment a notice of appeal specifying all the grounds for the appeal.

Any activity or work may not continue during an appeal unless the town administrative official certifies to the Zoning Board of Adjustment that work stoppage would cause imminent peril to life and property.

Those voting **YES: 407**

Those voting **NO: 56**

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

Steve Halleran made a motion to recess the Town Meeting, seconded by Stephen Taylor and a unanimous voice vote was in the affirmative. The Moderator closed the polls at 7pm. The moderator announced the results at 9:30 pm and recessed the meeting until Saturday, March 16, 2019 at 10am.

On Saturday, March 16, 2019 Moderator Paul Franklin re-opened the meeting at the Plainfield Elementary School at 10:05am. The meeting began with a salute to the flag, a round of “America the Beautiful ” and a few words of encouragement offered by Reverend Harold “Dewey” Jones.

Moderator Franklin introduced the panel. He then explained the rules of the meeting. The Moderator then recognized Selectboard member Robert Taylor who awarded the Stephen H. Taylor Community Service award to Daniel P. Cantlin for his service as Recreation Director. Dan got involved in 2004 and took head position in 2006. He puts in many hours organizing team schedules as well as seeking out coaches. In addition to the sports, he organizes our annual spirit day and fishing derby which always run smoothly because of his tireless efforts. Congratulations Dan! He received a standing ovation.

Stephen 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. The Moderator recognized Joe Crate who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$975,000** for the replacement of the Meriden Library building, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$487,500 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and at least \$464,000 of the project cost will come donations raised on behalf of the Meriden Library Foundation created in 2019.

The motion was seconded by Chris Dye. Joe Crate spoke to the article by giving a brief history of the committee and his involvement. The moderator then recognized Brad Atwater who gave a thorough presentation on the specifics of the new building. He also projected sketches of the completed building inside and out on an overhead for the audience to view. The floor was then open for questions and discussion.

After a couple of hours, the question was called to go to the vote. The moderator saw a show of support by seven voters raising their hands and the majority ruled via voice vote.

The moderator explained the voters would be using their special library paper ballot and voting would be open for at least one hour as per state statute on a bond vote. The Moderator recessed the meeting for one and one half hours to give voters a chance to cast their ballots and eat lunch. At 1:30 pm, the moderator gave last call for voting on Article 3. He then explained the meeting would continue with Article 4 while the ballot clerks counted the votes.

ARTICLE 4. The Moderator recognized Robert Taylor, who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. That the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$135,200** for the purchase of retiring all outstanding debt of the Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. Note this article is part of the fire department municipalization project approved at the 2017 town meeting. It was seconded by Stephen Halleran.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes: 235 No: 3

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

The Moderator read the tabulated results from Article 3 as follows:

Yes: 249 No: 190

A 2/3 majority vote requirement needed 293 affirmative votes to pass. The resolution failed and so declared.

The Moderator recognized Kesaya Noda who made the following motion and moved its adoption. That the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$975,000 for the replacement of the Meriden Library building, that at least \$464,000 of the project cost shall be defrayed by donations raised on behalf of the Meriden Library Foundation, that \$212,000 be drawn from unassigned fund balance and that \$299,000 be raised by taxation in 2019. The motion was seconded by Chris Dye.

The floor was open for discussion.

Lee Lynd made a motion to “table the motion” seconded by Joe Crate. In a voice vote, the “NO’s” won, it was declared a lost motion and the floor was once again open to Kesaya Noda’s motion.

After more discussion, Kesaya Noda withdrew her motion from the floor and Chris Dye withdrew his “second” to the motion, the motion was declared closed.

ARTICLE 5. The Moderator recognized Steve Halleran who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,358,950** to defray town charges for the 2019 fiscal year. The Select Board proposes the following budget:

1. Executive	\$223,650
2. Election/Registration/Vital Statistics	16,030
3. Financial Administration	77,050
4. Revaluation of Property	10,000

5. Legal Expenses	8,000
6. Personnel Administration	10,300
7. Planning and Zoning	1,700
8. General Government Buildings	17,025
9. Cemeteries	34,100
10. Insurance	65,200
11. Regional Associations	6,100
12. Police	431,000
13. Ambulance Service	38,000
14. Fire	60,000
15. Building Inspection	11,900
16. Emergency Management	250
17. Hydrant & Forest Fire Expense	4,100
18. Dispatching for Fire, Police & Ambulance	38,000
19. Highway Administration	21,550
20. Highways and Streets	721,535
21. Road Projects	119,000
22. Street Lights	10,000
23. Solid Waste Collection	170,500
24. Solid Waste Disposal	50,810
25. Health Agencies	13,610
26. Animal Control	500
27. Welfare	20,000
28. Recreation Commission	20,000
29. Library	157,040
30. Patriotic	1,500
31. Conservation Commission	500
32. Principal Long-term debt	0
33. Interest Long-term debt	0
Total:	\$2,358,950

The motion was seconded by Judy Belyea.

Stephen Taylor made a motion to refrain from the reading of the entire warrant as written, it was seconded and the “Ayes” were unanimous in a voice vote.

The Moderator turned the floor over to Steve Halleran who gave an explanation to different sections of the budget, highlighting line items only where there were increases or decreases from the previous year. The floor was open for questions and discussion.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes: 179 No: 15

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

ARTICLE 6. The Moderator recognized Judy Belyea who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$242,500** 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 Town Facilities Maintenance Fund created in 2015.

\$10,000	Revaluation Fund created in 1993.
\$75,000	Highway Equipment Fund created in 1987.
\$55,000	Transportation Improvement Fund created in 2006.
\$25,000	Meriden Library Replacement Fund created in 2017.
\$25,000	Fire Department Equipment Fund created in 2017
\$10,000	Bridge Capital Reserve Fund created 1994.
\$5,000	ADA Access Fund created in 2003.
\$5,000	Police Equipment Fund created in 2011.
\$5,000	Gravel Pit Reclamation Fund created in 2012.
RSA 31:19a funds:	
\$10,000	Town Hall Repair Fund established in 1996.
\$2,500	Library Building Repair Fund established in 1992.

The Select Board is named agent to expend for the bridge fund, the town hall repair fund, the library building repair fund, the revaluation fund, the transportation improvement fund, the police equipment fund, the facilities maintenance fund and the highway equipment fund.

The motion was seconded by Stephen Halleran.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes: 127 No: 15

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

ARTICLE 7. The Moderator recognized Ron Eberhardt who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$123,000** for the purchase of a dump truck with plow and sanding equipment for the use of the highway department, further to authorize the Select Board to sell or trade the town's existing truck #8. If approved, the Select Board will withdraw said sum from the Highway Equipment Fund. The Select Board recommends this appropriation. The Select Board was named agent to expend the highway equipment fund at the 2015 town meeting.

The motion was seconded by Stephen Halleran.

Mr. Eberhardt explained the sum had been reduced from the original posting of **155,000** to **123,000** due to the road agent finding a less expensive option.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes: 123 No: 9

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

The Moderator recognized Mr. Halleran who made a motion to combine the discussion of Articles 8 and 9 as the qualifications in the articles were identical. The motion was seconded. A voice vote was in the affirmative. The Moderator stated they would still be voted on separately.

ARTICLE 8. The Moderator recognized Robert Taylor who offered the following resolutions and moved their adoption. Shall we modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the town of Plainfield based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$64,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$92,000; for a

person 80 years or older, \$141,000? To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 years; own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by his/her spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$28,000 or if married, a combined net income of less than \$35,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$65,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

Note: If approved this article will raise the maximum income eligibility requirements for a single person from \$23,500 to \$28,000 and for a married couple it raises the maximum income from \$30,000 to \$35,000.

Robert Taylor further resolved that:

ARTICLE 9. we modify the exemption for the disabled, as outlined in RSA 72-37-b? The exemption, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers shall be \$47,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least five years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$28,000 or if married a combined net income of not more than \$35,000; and own net assets of not more than \$65,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

Note: If approved this article will raise the maximum income eligibility requirement for a single person from \$23,500 to \$28,000 and for a married couple it raises the maximum income from \$30,000 to \$35,000.

A voice vote was taken on Article 8.

The "Aye's" were unanimous.

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

A voice vote was taken on Article 9.

The "Aye's" were unanimous.

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

ARTICLE 10. The Moderator recognized Ron Eberhardt who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. That the town adopt pursuant to RSA 72:38-b an exemption from property tax in the town of Plainfield for the deaf or severely hearing impaired. Said exemption shall be \$47,000. To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years; own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by his/her spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$28,000 or if married, a combined net income of less than \$35,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$65,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. See RSA 72:38-b II for the necessary medical qualifications to be satisfied.

The motion was seconded by Robert Taylor.

Mr. Eberhardt explained that the town of Plainfield had not yet adopted this exemption and felt that it was one we should have available to our residents.

A voice vote was taken.

The "Aye's" were unanimous.

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

ARTICLE 11. The Moderator recognized Stephen Halleran who 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. The motion was seconded by Judy Belyea.

A voice vote was taken.

The “Aye’s” were unanimous.

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

ARTICLE 12. The Moderator recognized Judy Belyea who offered the following motion 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. The motion was seconded by Steve Halleran.

The committee from last year was recognized.

A voice vote was taken.

The “Aye’s” were unanimous.

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

ARTICLE 13. Moderator Franklin recognized Ron Eberhardt who offered the following motion and moved its adoption: That the town vote to accept the reports of town officers as they appear in the 2017 annual report, subject to any corrections. A certified copy to be kept by the Town Clerk.

The motion was seconded by Judy Belyea.

A voice vote was taken.

The “Aye’s” were unanimous.

The vote was in the affirmative, the resolution was adopted and so declared

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

Judy Ptak – Library Trustee

Jennifer Lenz – Library Trustee

Eric Brann – Selectman

Margaret Drye – Cemetery Trustee

Michelle Marsh – Town Clerk

Jeanne Woodward-Poor – Library Trustee was sworn in by Town Clerk on 3/14/2019

Jesse Stalker – Trustee of Trust Funds was sworn in by Town Clerk on 4/4/2019

Dewey Jones moved to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Patty Rondeau and a unanimous voice vote in the affirmative followed. Moderator Franklin declared the meeting closed at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Marsh

Town Clerk