

Town Meeting March 14, 2006
Plainfield, New Hampshire

The annual meeting for the Town of Plainfield was held at the Plainfield School Gymnasium on Bonner Road on March 14, 2006. Stephen H. Taylor, moderator, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with the reading of Article 1. Ruth Ann Wheeler moved to dispense with the complete reading of the warrant and Mark Wilder seconded it.

Total number on checklist:	1472
Total number of ballots cast:	588
Percentage voting:	40%

ARTICLE 1. To choose by ballot: One selectman for three years; One trustee of trust funds for three years; One library trustee (west side) for three years; One library trustee (east side) for three years; One cemetery trustee for three years; one Supervisor of the Checklist for six years and any other necessary town officers.

Selectman for three years:

Robert W. Taylor	had	557 votes
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Michael F. McNamara, Maura Hart and Kenneth L. Weeks each had one vote.

Robert W. Taylor was declared elected.

Trustee of Cemetery Funds for three years:

Howard Zea	had	557 votes
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Billy Sweetwater, Boone Rondeau, Bob Hewett, Thomas Spaulding, Pooh Sprague each had one Vote.

Howard Zea was declared elected.

Library Trustee for three years-West Side:

Beth Williams	had	548 votes
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Jen Frederick, Nancy Liston, Ruth Stalker and James Taylor each had one vote.

Beth Williams was declared elected.

Library Trustee for three years- East Side:

Joseph Crate	had	532 votes
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Phil Conley, Des Hudson, William Taylor, Donna Beaupre each had one vote.

Joseph Crate was declared elected.

Trustee of Trust Funds for three years:

Donald Garfield had 557 votes

Elena Williams had one vote.

Don Garfield was declared elected.

Supervisor of Checklist for six years:

Harold L. Jones Jr. had 545 votes

Troy Medfield had one vote.

Harold L. Jones 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.

To insure access to Federal Flood Insurance for Plainfield residents the following update to Flood Plain Overlay District (F) is required:

Remove the following language found on page 7 of the ordinance:

The following regulations in this ordinance shall apply to all lands designated as special flood hazard areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in its "Flood Insurance Study for the City/Town of Plainfield, N.H." together with the associated Flood Insurance Rate Maps, and Flood Boundary & Floodway Maps of the city/town dated April 18, 1983 which are declared to be a part of this ordinance and are hereby incorporated by reference.

Replace the removed language with the following:

The following regulations in this ordinance shall apply to all lands designated as special flood hazard areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in its "Flood Insurance Study for the County of Sullivan, N.H." dated May 23, 2006 or as amended together with the associated Flood Insurance Rate Maps, and Flood Boundary & Floodway Maps dated May 23, 2006 which are declared to be a part of this ordinance and are hereby incorporated by reference.

Replace the following definitions that already exist in the ordinance with this new wording:

Areas of special flood hazard in the land in the flood plain within the Town of Plainfield subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. The areas are designated as Zone A and AE on the Flood Insurance Rate Map.

Development means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling,

grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials.

Manufactured home means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. For floodplain management purposes the term “manufactured home” includes park trailers, travel trailers, and other similar vehicles placed on site for greater than 180 consecutive days. This includes manufactured homes located in a manufactured home park or subdivision.

Regulatory floodway means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.

Special flood hazard area see “area of special flood hazard”.

Add to the ordinance the following definitions:

Manufactured home park or subdivision means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

New construction means, for the purposes of determining insurance rates, structures for which the “start of construction” commenced on or after the effective date of an initial FIRM or after December 31, 1974, whichever is later, and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures. For floodplain management purposes, new construction means structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of a floodplain management regulation adopted by a community and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures.

Violation means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community’s flood plain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in 44CFR § 60.3(b)(5), (c)(4), (c)(10), (d)(3), (e)(2), (e)(4), or (e)(5) is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.

Remove the following definitions from the ordinance:

Area of Shallow Flooding
Breakaway Wall
Flood Boundary and Floodway Map

Replace Item V, 3 of the ordinance with the following:

Along watercourses with a designated regulatory floodway no encroachments, including fill new construction, substantial improvements, and other development are allowed within the floodway unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practices that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the base flood discharge.

Revise Item V, 4 of the ordinance to read as the following:

Until a regulatory floodway is designated along watercourses, no new construction, substantial improvements, or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within zone AE on the FIRM, unless it is demonstrated by the applicant that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point within the community.

Add following language to Item V of the ordinance:

The building inspector shall obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any floodway data available from federal, state, or other sources as criteria for requiring that all development located in Zone A meet the following floodway requirement:

"No encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development are allowed within the floodway that would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the base flood discharge."

Additional Revisions and Additions:

Add a new Item I reading:

All proposed development in any special flood hazard areas shall require a permit.

Re-number the following items:

In Item VI, 1. b change "unnumbered A zones" for "Zone A".

In Item VI, 2. a refer only to Zones A and AE.

Remove Item VI, 1. c completely as the town has no mapped Zone AO.

Remove Item VI, 2. e as the town has no mapped Zones AO and AH.

Yes 449 No 75

The question was declared in the affirmative.

Question 2.

To insure that any proposed state governmental project receives the same type of review under the zoning ordinance as private business, remove from all zones the Special Exception #18 State facility. The result being that these types of projects

would be reviewed under section 3.5 of the ordinance "Approved Business Project."

Yes 456 No 76

The question was declared in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 3. To see what action the town will take with regard to the following question relative to the Plainfield Zoning Ordinances, said change is by petition:

The Town of Plainfield Zoning Ordinance in Article II, Section 2.1 (1) states that the purpose of the Village Residential Zone is "to encourage the development of residential centers of land suitable for building development and which will serve as a nucleus of community activity."

Large businesses within a predominately residential zone shall be detrimental to the quality and safety of the village. Such a large business will drastically change the character of the Village.

Currently the ordinance provides that if an existing business or a new business is beyond the size and intensity of an "Approved Cottage Business" (seven workers) it must seek a permit as an "Approved Business Project" (no worker limit).

REMOVE FROM SCHEDULE A - VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL LIST OF SPECIAL EXCEPTION OPTION NO. 35 "APPROVED BUSINESS PROJECT".

Yes..... 99
No 451

The question was declared in the negative.

Moderator Stephen Taylor, called the recessed meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. on Saturday, March 18, 2006. Rev. Harold Jones, followed by a salute to the flag, gave an invocation and the singing of "America the Beautiful" led by Betsy Rybeck-Lynd.

Howard Zea moved to dispense with the reading of the warrant, seconded by Paul Franklin.

ARTICLE 4. Stephen Halleran made the following resolution: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,644,785 to defray town charges for the 2006 fiscal year. Rob Taylor seconded it.

- 1. Executive \$120,010
2. Election/Registration/Vital Statistics 7,280
3. Financial Administration 50,853

4. Revaluation of Property	13,000
5. Legal Expenses	8,100
6. Personnel Administration	11,900
7. Planning and Zoning	2,500
8. General Government Buildings	5,950
9. Cemeteries	23,450
10. Insurance	41,700
11. Regional Associations	4,100
12. Police Department	212,480
13. Ambulance Service	27,100
14. Fire Departments -Plainfield	39,000
-Meriden	37,000
15. Building Inspection	8,800
16. Emergency Management	200
17. Hydrant & Forest Fire Expense	6,350
18. Dispatching for Fire, Police & Ambulance	12,500
19. Highway Administration	17,550
20. Highways and Streets	498,700
21. Road Projects	105,213
22. Street Lights	7,000
23. Solid Waste Collection	130,200
24. Solid Waste Disposal	90,500
25. Health Agencies	18,064
26. Animal Control	400
27. Welfare	9,000
28. Recreation Commission	15,660
29. Libraries - Plainfield	46,412
- Meriden	32,063
30. Patriotic	2,000
31. Conservation Commission	2,500
32. Principal Long-term debt	25,000
33. Interest Long-term debt	12,250
Total:	\$ 1,644,785

Stephen Halleran said that the town ended 2005 by adding \$64,000 to the unreserved Fund balance bringing the total to an audited \$405,372. For a community our size the NH Dept of Revenue recommends a fund balance of between \$350,000 to \$700,000. Halleran said that the Selectmen felt their first priority is to insure the overall financial health of the town. As witnessed in 2005, no town in our region is insulated from natural disasters and the resulting unanticipated expenditures. Alstead to our south and Hanover to our north both experienced significant damage to their road systems due to high water events. Had the microburst that hit Hanover traveled just twenty miles to the south it could have been Plainfield that received \$500,000 worth of road damage in less than twenty minutes. In the event of a disaster, fund balance would be our insurance policy and would be available to help repair damaged infrastructure.

Halleran said that every \$215,000 we spend raises our tax rate \$1.00 conversely every \$215,000 we receive from nonproperty tax sources will reduce our rate by \$1.00.

Halleran said as in past years, the budgetary process was a collaborative effort involving the board of selectmen, the finance committee, two boards of library trustees, three land use boards, two fire associations, and multiple outside agencies that all submit funding requests. The budget looks to balance the short-term and long-term critical needs versus wants and to balance all this with our community's collective ability to pay both now and into the future.

Halleran said that as part of the budgetary hearings, it became clear that we are not meeting our responsibility to adequately fund the long term care of our road system. This will be addressed under Article 9 in the proposed Transportation Improvement Fund.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 194 No 18

It was vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 5. Robert Taylor offered the following motion: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000** for the second year's payment on the two year police cruiser lease approved under article 5 of the 2004 annual meeting. Judy Belyea seconded it.

A vote by hand was taken and there were no votes in opposition. It was a unanimous vote and so declared.

ARTICLE 6. Mark Wilder offered the following motion: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$67,500** 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:

\$5,000	Town Bridge Capital Reserve Fund created in 1994.
\$5,000	Revaluation Fund created in 1993.
\$45,000	Highway Vehicles Fund created in 1987.

RSA 31:19a funds:

\$10,000	Town Hall Repair Fund established in 1996.
\$2,500	Library Building Repair Fund established in 1992.

The selectmen are named agents to expend for the bridge fund, the town hall repair fund and the library building repair fund. Wilder explained that there is

an increase of \$5000 in the town hall fund to cover the repair of the back shed on the Plainfield Village Town Hall.

A vote by hand was taken and there were no votes in opposition. It was a unanimous vote and so declared.

ARTICLE 7. Judy Belyea offered the following motion: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000** for the purpose of establishing the bounds of individual burial lots to be offered for sale in the Gleason Cemetery.

A vote by hand was taken and there were no votes in opposition. It was a unanimous vote and so declared.

ARTICLE 8. Robert Taylor offered the following motion: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,000** to be used by the veterans memorial committee, established by Article 11 of the 2004 meeting, to continue with plans for a suitable memorial to town veterans.

Taylor thanked the veterans memorial committee for their effort and said that an easel was in the foyer with the conceptual design. The memorial will be located at the entrance to the Plainfield Cemetery in Plainfield Village. Monies for the actual monument will be obtained through fund raising.

A vote by hand was taken and there were no votes in opposition. It was a unanimous vote and so declared.

ARTICLE 9. Mark Wilder offered the following motion: To see if the town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund to be called the "Transportation Improvement Fund" pursuant to the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of highway related improvement. Further, to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** to be deposited into the fund.

Wilder explained that this article was recommended by the finance committee to start preparing for the future work on Willow Brook Road as well as other roads. We use the highway block grant with local funds now to repair our roads but projects like Willow Brook Road costs are estimated to be over \$1,000,000.

Halleran offered that we have tried to get the state to take over this road to no avail and that even if the state did, it might not be maintained well.

The town has applied for a FEMA grant and townspeople can write to their representatives in support.

A paper ballot was taken.

Yes 205 No 11

It was declared a vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 10. Stephen Halleran offered the following motion: To see if the town will vote to authorize, starting with fiscal year 2006, that twenty five percent of the revenues collected from current use change tax penalties, pursuant to RSA 79-A, be deposited into the conservation fund established pursuant to RSA 36A:5. Currently, fifty percent of the revenues collected are deposited into the Conservation Fund.

Halleran explained that this was not a negative against the conservation commission but since the current use penalties have increased substantially in the last few years; it was felt that it should be brought to the meeting to re-affirm the town's wishes.

A paper ballot was taken.

Yes 69 No 148

It was a vote in the negative and so declared.

ARTICLE 11. Robert Taylor offered the following motion: Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 79-A:25 to account for revenues received from the land use change tax in a fund separate from the general fund? Any surplus remaining in the land use change tax fund shall not be part of the general fund until such time the legislative body shall have an opportunity at an annual meeting to vote to appropriate a specific amount from the land use change fund for any purpose not prohibited by the laws or by the constitution of this state. After an annual meeting any unappropriated balance of the land use change tax revenue received during the prior fiscal year shall be recognized as general fund revenue for the current fiscal year.

Taylor explained that with the defeat of the previous article, fifty percent of the Current Use penalties will continue to go into the Conservation Fund and the remaining fifty percent would be carried to the next town meeting if this article passed. A warrant article (s) would be created for the use of the monies, which the town would vote on. Monies could be used for any purpose such as land preservation or to offset taxes. It would be next year's body that would decide.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 151 No 62

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

A recess for lunch was taken at 11:50 and the meeting resumed at 12:30 p.m. with the gavel being held by assistant Moderator Paul Franklin.

**The following officers elected on Tuesday 3/14/06 were sworn in by Moderator Taylor:
Harold Jones, Beth Williams, Howard Zea, Donald Garfield and Robert Taylor**

ARTICLE 12. Judy Belyea offered the following motion: To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a contract or contracts for not more than five years for the curbside collection of household garbage, selected recyclables, and for the disposal of said garbage. The purpose being to continue the existing waste management program that has been in place since 1991 and to act on the recommendations by the solid waste committee established by the passage of article 14 at the 2005 town meeting.

Richard Atkinson referred to the report of the committee as printed in the town report and said that the committee has worked diligently to compare all areas of the trash picture and reach a decision that will benefit the town.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 197 No 3

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 13. Mark Wilder offered the following motion: To see if the town will vote to instruct the selectmen to reappoint the Solid Waste Committee established by the passage of article 14 at the 2005 meeting for an additional one-year term. Further to instruct the committee to continue with its work on developing a solid waste management strategy for the community and to report its findings at the 2007 town meeting.

Bill McGonigle spoke briefly about the goals the committee is reaching for and feels that its focus will be on increasing recycling which will bring the greatest cost benefits. The committee feels that a yearly collection of the hard to get rid of items would be of great benefit and get things like electronics out of the waste stream.

A voice vote was taken. The “ayes” were unanimous and it was declared a vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 14. David Grobe offered the following motion: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** to be used by the conservation commission to refresh the boundary markings of town-owned properties where needed. Further to withdraw said sum from the Forest Maintenance Fund established in 1992 pursuant to RSA 31:113.

Grobe explained that several town properties have unknown boundaries and that this article would address that problem. The first property would be the Townsend lot and others would be done as funds permitted.

A hand vote was taken and there were no negative votes. It was declared in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 15. Stephen Halleran offered the following motion: To see if the town will 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 one hundred (100) percent of the assessed value of property over which the town has statutory discretion.

Halleran referred to the report of the study committee in the report. He said that the committee is encouraged by Kimball Union’s commitment to offer the grants on a “needs” basis.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 151 No 64

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 16. Judy Belyea offered the following motion; To see if the town will direct the selectmen to appoint, within 60 days of town meeting, 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.

A voice vote was taken and the “ayes” had it. It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 17. Mark Wilder offered the following motion: To see if the town will vote to instruct the moderator to appoint a finance committee (advisory only) of six Plainfield voters to advise the selectmen, and other officers of the town in the prudential affairs of the town.

A voice vote was taken and the “ayes” had it. It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 18. Judy Belyea offered the following motion: That the Town vote, subject to correction, to accept the reports of the town officers and committees as they appear in the 2005 annual report. A corrected copy will be placed on file with the Town Clerk.

A voice vote was taken and the “ayes” had it. It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 19. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Laura Ward came forward and asked that the select board contact the community transportation service of Claremont and see if Plainfield could be added as stop. She felt that residents could benefit from public transportation.

Lee Lynd came forward and said that he had headed a Tax Equity Committee. He felt that the Town should expand its flexibility to give tax relief to those in need.

Sandy Stettenheim came forward and asked that in the future, the Town report give the names of committees and boards and show how they voted.

Rob Taylor wanted to reiterate that the Town's thanks for the efforts of the various emergency services in Plainfield – our two Fire Departments and the Cornish Rescue Squad. He also said that volunteers are needed.

Gordon Gillens moved that the meeting be closed, seconded by Max Jewell. The meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Ann Wheeler
Town Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cash On hand, January 1 st , 2006	
Cash-checking	\$ 37,972
Cash-Investments	\$1,987,948
Total	\$2,025,920
 Receipts during the fiscal year	 \$2,526,340
Total available	\$4,552,260
 Less selectmen's orders	 \$2,396,955
Cash On Hand, December 31st, 2006	\$2,155,305
Cash-Checking	\$48,500
Cash-Investments	\$2,106,805

Respectfully Submitted,
Fred Sweet , Treasurer