

**Town Meeting March 10, 2009
Plainfield, New Hampshire**

The annual meeting for the Town of Plainfield was held at the Plainfield School Gymnasium on Bonner Road on March 10, 2009. Stephen H. Taylor opened the meeting at 8:05 a.m. with the reading of Article I. The balance of the warrant will be read on Saturday March 14, 2009.

Total Number on Checklist: 1682
Total Number of ballots cast: 443
Percentage voting: 26%

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 trustees (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.

Supervisor of Checklist for Six Years:

Harold “Dewey” L. Jones Jr. had 413 votes

Write-ins:

Jesse Stalker 1
Diane Rogers 1
Dennis Gerard 1

Harold “Dewey” L. Jones Jr. was declared elected.

Selectman for three years:

Robert W. Taylor had 409 votes

Write-ins:

Brad Atwater 1
Gordon Wilder 3
Mark Wilder 2
Diane Rogers 1

Robert W. Taylor was declared elected.

Trustee of Trust Funds for Three Years:

Donald E. Garfield had 415 votes

Write-ins:

Fern Wilder 1

Debbie Beaupre 1

Donald E. Garfield was declared elected.

Cemetery Trustee for Three Years:

James L. Taylor had 407 votes

Write-ins:

The following had one vote: John Woodley, Diane Rogers, Gordon Wilder,

Tom McNamara,

Howard Zea

James L. Taylor was declared elected.

Library Trustee for Three Years-West Part of Town

Bernadina Webber had 387 votes

Write-ins:

Diane Rogers 1

Katy Sheehan 1

Margaret Drye 2

Bernadina Webber was declared elected.

Library Trustee for Three Years-East Part of Town

Margaret "Leeli" H. Bonney had 391

The following received each vote: Holly Braswell, Amy Lappin, Susan Turner,
Carl Strong,

Roanne Rogerson, Judy Hallam, Jim Taylor

Margaret "Leeli" H. Bonney was declared elected.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

On Saturday, March 14th, the moderator re-opened the meeting at 10:06.

Rev. Harold "Dewey" Jones gave an invocation. The assembly saluted the flag and were lead in the singing of America the Beautiful led by Alice Jordan.

Ruth Ann Wheeler moved to dispense with the reading of the entire warrant, seconded by Howard Zea.

ARTICLE 2. A motion was made by Stephen Halleran to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,846,500 to defray town charges for the 2009 fiscal year. Judith Belyea seconded the motion.

1. Executive	\$146,110
2. Election/Registration/Vital Statistics	5,330
3. Financial Administration	62,800
4. Revaluation of Property	10,000
5. Legal Expenses	10,100
6. Personnel Administration	8,500
7. Planning and Zoning	3,200
8. General Government Buildings	6,750
9. Cemeteries	31,000
10. Insurance	39,600
11. Regional Associations	6,600
12. Police Department	268,291
13. Ambulance Service	29,000
14. Fire Departments -Plainfield	39,000
-Meriden	38,000
15. Building Inspection	8,800
16. Emergency Management	250
17. Hydrant & Forest Fire Expense	6,900
18. Dispatching for Fire, Police & Ambulance	16,500
19. Highway Administration	20,900
20. Highways and Streets	600,059
21. Road Projects	104,966
22. Street Lights	9,000
23. Solid Waste Collection	140,500
24. Solid Waste Disposal	55,610
25. Health Agencies	20,785
26. Animal Control	750
27. Welfare	8,223
28. Recreation Commission	21,815
29. Libraries - Plainfield	56,330
- Meriden	34,581
30. Patriotic	1,500
31. Conservation Commission	500
32. Principal Long-term debt	25,000
33. Interest Long-term debt	9,250
Total:	\$ 1,846,500

Halleran explained that this is a level funded budget and the total to be raised is the same as 2008. The Town was able to complete many projects last year

including the Service Memorial (with donated funds); the assessment update required by the State on a five year basis; Phase I of the Willow Brook project; purchase of the land on School Street; updating of the street lights resulting in more efficient lighting; and the propane generator for the town office.

The budget for 2009 will result in a 0% increase for the town. There are no wage increases for any employees.

The Selectmen had a good meeting with a delegation from Sullivan County to discuss the county deficits. The county representatives are working hard to address the budget shortfalls and to correct the mismanagement of the Sullivan County nursing home, which brought about the present problems.

The Selectmen have decided to continue working on Willow Brook Road with existing funds. Applications have been made for a second Hazardous Mitigation grant.

With the help of Chris Rollins, the town has been able for a small sum of money to connect to Internet programs and provide the Planning and Zoning boards with map data that will reflect topography, wetlands, etc.

\$274,000 in monies appropriated results in \$1.00 on the tax rate. With the present economy, the town does not anticipate any growth in the grand list.

Halleran thanked the town employees for their support and the finance committee for their input.

Sandra Stettenheim asked the impact of the State retirement fund deficits and the State budget problems.

Halleran said that we don't have that many employees that would be impacted by the retirement funds increases and that the State has reversed its plan to cut the revenues that will be coming to towns.

A paper ballot vote was taken:

Yes 161

No 10

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 3. Robert Taylor offered the following motion: that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$127,500 to be placed in existing town capital reserve and general trust funds, pursuant to RSA 35:1 and RSA 31:19-a as follows: Seconded by Judy Belyea

RSA 35:1 funds:

\$10,000 Town Bridge Capital Reserve Fund created in 1994.

\$10,000 Revaluation Fund created in 1993.

\$50,000 Highway Vehicles Fund created in 1987.

\$50,000 Transportation Improvement Fund created in 2006.

RSA 31:19a funds:

\$5,000 Town Hall Repair Fund established in 1996.

\$2,500 Library Building Repair Fund established in 1992.

Taylor explained that the Selectmen felt the fiscal health of the town benefits by continuing to add to these funds.

A paper ballot vote was taken:

Yes 156

No 8

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

Paul Franklin, moderator pro-tem took the gavel for Article 4.

ARTICLE 4. Judith Belyea offered the following: To see if the town, pursuant to RSA 35:16-a will vote to discontinue the following capital reserve funds; any balance in said funds along with accumulated interest to be transferred to the town's general fund: Seconded by Halleran.

Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund created in 1990.

Town Hall Renovations Fund created in 1994

The Selectmen choose to keep the ADA Access fund, as it will be needed as they work with the Meriden library to make it ADA accessible.

Mark Wilder asked the need for the fund for future police cruisers.

Halleran explained that this sum is now included yearly in the police budget.

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

The gavel returned to Moderator Taylor.

ARTICLE 5. David Grobe offered the following resolution: That the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b) to authorize the conservation commission to expend funds for contributions to 'qualified organizations' for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transactions related thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the town will retain no interest in the property? (Article by request of the Conservation Commission) Seconded by Stephen Halleran

Grobe explained that this article and the following one were created by the State legislature to clarify the right of the Conservation Commission to expend funds when it seemed prudent.

The wording of the article and intent of the article was discussed intensively. There were concerns about the expenditure of funds for projects not contained within Plainfield; what are qualifying organizations and whether the town would have any interest after the expenditure of funds.

Many felt that the gist of the article was to enable the Commission to help with projects that would protect development rights or protect lands where the landowner might not have funds to do it alone or to contribute to an organization that was working with a landowner.

Grobe explained that no funds would ever be dispensed without a public hearing.

A paper ballot was taken.

Yes 115

No 58

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 6. David Grobe offered the following resolution: That the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(a) to authorize the conservation commission to expend funds to purchase interests in land outside the boundaries of our municipality, subject to the approval of the local governing body? (Article by request of the Conservation Commission) Seconded by Stephen Halleran

A paper ballot was taken.

Yes 118

No 55

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 7. Stephen Halleran offered the following resolution: 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. Seconded by Judy Belyea.

Halleran explained the historical aspects of the motion. Passage would decrease Kimball Union taxes by approximately \$157,000 or .60 on the tax rate.

A paper ballot was taken.

Yes 99

No 68

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 8. Thomas P. Williams Jr. offered the following resolution: 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. Seconded by Stephen Halleran.

A request was made that the committee be move evenly balanced in the future.

A voice vote was taken and the ayes were unanimous.

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 9. Gordon Wilder offered the following resolution and moved that it be adopted: Resolved that the Town shall vote to direct the Selectboard as follows: “Recognizing the Town of Plainfield and Selectmen’s responsibilities and obligations of assessing property for taxation purposes and maintaining property tax and assessment information, inventories and records for real property in the Town of Plainfield, New Hampshire, shall the Town of Plainfield, its Selectmen, employees, agents, consultants and subcontractors be restricted and precluded from taking, copying, utilizing, maintaining, receiving or sharing any photograph of any residence, dwelling, structure or building located within the Town of Plainfield and using, including, incorporating or allowing to be used such photograph in or when compiling, preserving and/or maintaining property tax and/or assessment information, inventories, data, records, and/or tax cards?” Seconded by Robert LaFlam

Wilder explained that he felt that the photos that the town currently maintains on its tax cards present an invasion of privacy, and create a potential security problem for homeowners. This article would direct the Selectmen to remove all photos.

Discussion of the pros and cons of the photos ensued.

A paper ballot was taken.

Yes 37
No 110

It was a vote in the negative and the resolution was declared lost.

Gavel-Paul Franklin

ARTICLE 10. William McGonigle offered the following resolution and moved its adoption: To see if the town will vote to establish an expendable trust fund

pursuant to RSA 31:19-a. The fund is to be called the “Town Property Beautification, Operation and Maintenance Fund” and to name the Selectmen as agents to expend for the fund. Further, to direct the Selectmen to appoint a committee to make recommendations on appropriate expenditures, to educate the town about the fund, and to coordinate activities for town fund raising. Seconded by Judith Belyea.

McGonigle explained that there are many projects within a community that could be funded with private funds rather than going to town meeting and asking that these projects be funded through taxes. This fund could accept private funds that could accumulate to pay for these projects. The purpose of the committee would be to raise funds and identify projects. A good example of a project privately funded is the Ira & Sara Townsend bridge at the school.

Any funds collected in 2009 would be approved at the 2010 town meeting.

A voice vote was taken and the ayes were unanimous.

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 11. Judith Belyea offered the following resolution and moved its adoption: 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. Seconded by Halleran.

Moderator Taylor said that the finance committee was first formed in 1931.

A voice vote was taken and the ayes were unanimous.

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 12. Robert Taylor offered the following resolution: To see if the town will vote to instruct the moderator to appoint a committee of not more than 10 persons to make plans for the observance in 2011 of the 250th anniversary of the chartering of the town, said committee to report with recommendations at the 2010 annual meeting. Moderator Taylor said that this will be an important occasion for the town and it was important to begin planning for a great celebration.

A voice vote was taken and the ayes were unanimous.

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 13. Thomas P. Williams Jr. offered the following resolution: To accept the reports of town officers as printed in the annual report subject to corrections. A certified copy to be kept on file by the Town Clerk.

A voice was taken and the ayes were unanimous.

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 14. Moderator Taylor swore in the following elected officials:

Robert W. Taylor	Selectman
Harold “Dewey” Jones	Supervisor of Checklist
Margaret “Leeli” Bonney	Library Trustee-East side
Bernadina Webber	Library Trustee- West side
Donald Garfield	Trustee of Trust Funds

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Ann Wheeler
Town Clerk