

## TOWN MEETING MINUTES

March 8, 2011

Plainfield, New Hampshire

The annual meeting for the Town of Plainfield was held at the Plainfield Town Offices on Main Street on March 8, 2011. A motion was made by Donald Jordan and seconded by Elizabeth Lurie to move the location of the meeting from the Plainfield Elementary School to the Town Offices due to the Ice Storm and lack of power at that location. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Stephen H. Taylor opened the meeting at 8:15 am with the reading of Article I. Michelle Marsh made a motion to dispense with the reading of the warrant, seconded by Donald Jordan. The warrant will be read on Saturday, March 12, 2011.

Total Number on Checklist: 1543

Total Number of Ballots Cast: 189

Percentage of Voting: 12%

**ARTICLE 1.** To choose by ballot: One Town Moderator for two years, one Selectboard member for three years, one Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years, one Library Trustee for three years, one Cemetery Trustee for three years and any other necessary town officers.

**Town Moderator for two years:**

Paul Franklin had 180 votes.

**Paul Franklin was declared elected.**

**Select board Member for three years:**

Thomas P. Williams, Jr. had 164 votes .

**Thomas P. Williams, Jr. was declared elected.**

**Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years:**

Edward Stansfield had 174 votes.

**Edward Stansfield was declared elected.**

**Library Trustee for three years:**

Mark Pensgen had 101 votes.

Kimberly Moss had 73 votes.

**Mark Pensgen was declared elected.**

**Cemetery Trustee for three years:**

Bradford Atwater had 174 votes.

**Bradford Atwater was declared elected.**

On Saturday, March 12, 2011 Moderator Stephen Taylor re-opened the meeting at the Plainfield Elementary School at 10:10am. The meeting began with words of inspiration given by Rev. Harold “Dewey” Jones, the singing of the Star Spangled Banner accompanied by Glen Griffin on trumpet followed by the salute to the flag.

Moderator Taylor recognized Selectman Robert Taylor who reflected on the past weeks ice storm and offered thanks to the Highway Crew, Police Department, and members of the Plainfield and Meriden Fire Departments for all of their efforts during the long hours of the clean-up.

Next Selectman Taylor saluted Meriden Fire Chief David Best as he steps down from his post. He received a standing ovation.

Selectman Taylor ended by introducing the creation of the first ever community service award and presented it to Moderator Taylor for his 28 years of service to the town. A standing ovation was given. School board chair Chris Forman also presented Moderator Taylor with a plaque from the school district recognizing his long time post as school moderator.

Moderator Taylor resumed the meeting. Paul Franklin moved to dispense with the reading of the articles and it was seconded by Stephen Halleran.

**ARTICLE 2.**

Stephen Halleran offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:  
 Resolved that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,890,337** to defray town charges for the 2011 fiscal year. Judy Belyea seconded the motion.

<b>1. Executive</b>	<b>\$167,240</b>
<b>2. Election/Registration/Vital Statistics</b>	<b>4,580</b>
<b>3. Financial Administration</b>	<b>63,300</b>
<b>4. Revaluation of Property</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>5. Legal Expenses</b>	<b>8,600</b>
<b>6. Personnel Administration</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>7. Planning and Zoning</b>	<b>2,200</b>
<b>8. General Government Buildings</b>	<b>5,350</b>
<b>9. Cemeteries</b>	<b>26,000</b>
<b>10. Insurance</b>	<b>35,000</b>
<b>11. Regional Associations</b>	<b>5,100</b>
<b>12. Police Department</b>	<b>303,166</b>
<b>13. Ambulance Service</b>	<b>29,120</b>
<b>14. Fire Departments -Plainfield</b>	<b>43,000</b>
<b>-Meriden</b>	<b>38,000</b>
<b>15. Building Inspection</b>	<b>8,700</b>
<b>16. Emergency Management</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>17. Hydrant &amp; Forest Fire Expense</b>	<b>5,100</b>
<b>18. Dispatching for Fire, Police &amp; Ambulance</b>	<b>19,000</b>
<b>19. Highway Administration</b>	<b>23,800</b>

<b>20. Highways and Streets</b>	<b>591,822</b>
<b>21. Road Projects</b>	<b>111,385</b>
<b>22. Street Lights</b>	<b>8,500</b>
<b>23. Solid Waste Collection</b>	<b>140,000</b>
<b>24. Solid Waste Disposal</b>	<b>50,310</b>
<b>25. Health Agencies</b>	<b>20,195</b>
<b>26. Animal Control</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>27. Welfare</b>	<b>5,250</b>
<b>28. Recreation Commission</b>	<b>18,140</b>
<b>29. Library Department</b>	<b>105,479</b>
<b>30. Patriotic</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>31. Conservation Commission</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>32. Principal Long-term debt</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>33. Interest Long-term debt</b>	<b>7,250</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,890,337</b>

Stephen Halleran explained that for every \$276,000 we increase our budget by, our tax rate is increased by \$1.00. By decreasing the budget in the same amount, we would decrease our tax rate by \$1.00.

Steve reported that thanks to FEMA grant monies, the town will be able to continue with the Brook Road reconstruction project without requesting additional tax monies this year. The town was awarded a Hazard Mitigation Grant for \$490,000. Combined with the 2008 grant monies, the total is \$660,000 that has come from this program to Plainfield for Brook Road.

Steve briefly ran down the various budget lines in the operating budget explaining the significant changes. In this year's budget, there are 27 lines that are level funded or reduced.

Steve thanked Al Grindle for continuing to do a fantastic job in the welfare department and for the senior luncheons he puts on monthly.

**A vote by paper ballot was taken.**

**Yes 160 No 19**

**It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.**

A motion was made from the floor by Eric Brann to move Article 8 to the front. The motion was seconded by Dan Lapan.

**A vote by voice was taken.**

**It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.**

## **ARTICLE 8.**

John Yacavone offered the following motion and moved its adoption: That 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.

Yacavone spoke on behalf of the KUA study committee to report the various discussions throughout the year which included reducing this deduction in the future due to the tough economic times, improving the street lighting and the ongoing services that KUA provides to the town.

Eric Brann made a motion from the floor to amend the main motion to read “Eighty (80) percent of the assessed value of property over which the town has statutory discretion.” The motion was seconded by Dan Lapan. Mr. Brann explained that he feels in difficult economic times, KUA paying more in taxes, like all other tax payers are doing, is not unreasonable. Last year, KUA’s tax bills declined by 10% while other taxpayer bills increased by 8%. Eric noted that at 80% the optional exemption still leaves a lot of money for local students.

Moderator Taylor recognized Jim Gray, CFO for KUA. Mr. Gray noted that any reduction in the exemption simply reduces that amount of aid funds available to assist local students.

After about thirty minutes of discussion, Dan Lapan made a motion to end discussion and it was seconded by seven voters.

**A hand vote was taken.  
It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.**

The vote was taken on whether to accept the amended article.

**A paper ballot was taken.  
Yes 108 No 84  
It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.**

Dan Lapan made a motion to go to the vote on the accepted amended article. It was seconded by Eric Brann.

**A hand vote was taken.  
It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.**

The vote was taken on the accepted amended article.

**A paper ballot was taken.  
Yes 150 No 46  
It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.**

Moderator Taylor recognized Margaret Drye to give a brief presentation of the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> Town Anniversary Celebration to be held August 12 – 14, 2011. Events will occur on both sides of town and will include special dinners, entertainment, contests, a parade and will end with a fireworks display. Souvenirs of T-shirts, milk bottles, license plates and stamps will be sold to help defray the costs.

Moderator Taylor turned the meeting over to Moderator elect Paul Franklin to conduct business for the next four articles.

**ARTICLE 3.**

Thomas P. Williams Jr offered the following motion and moved its adoption: that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$147,500 to be placed in the 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:

\$ 0	Town Bridge Capital Reserve Fund created in 1994.
\$30,000	Revaluation Fund created in 1993.
\$50,000	Highway Vehicles Fund created in 1987.
\$55,000	Transportation Improvement Fund created in 2006.
\$5,000	ADA Access Fund created in 2003

RSA 31:19a funds:

\$5,000	Town Hall Repair Fund established in 1996.
\$2,500	Library Building Repair Fund established in 1992.

**A Paper ballot was taken.**

**Yes 106 No 11**

**It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.**

**ARTICLE 4.**

Robert Taylor offered the following motion and moved its adoption: that the town vote to establish a Police Department Equipment capital reserve fund and to further raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 to be placed in said fund. Purposes of the fund are periodic replacement of police department equipment, items such as radios, video equipment, safety vests. Seconded by Thomas P. Williams Jr

**A paper vote was taken.**

**Yes 111 No 14**

**It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.**

**ARTICLE 5.**

Judy Belyea offered the following motion and moved its adoption: that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,500** to be used by the town's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee which was appointed at the 2009 town meeting. Said funds to be used for the planning and implementation of the upcoming anniversary celebration.

All revenues from the celebration and grants awarded will be returned to the town's general fund to offset the appropriations for this event. Seconded by Robert Taylor.

A motion was made by Boone Rondeau to call the vote by voice. Moderator Elect Franklin stated he would take a voice vote to see if the people supported Rondeau.

**A voice vote was called.  
The ayes were unanimous.**

The vote was taken on Article 5

**A vote by voice was taken  
The ayes were unanimous  
It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.**

**ARTICLE 6.**

Thomas P. Williams Jr offered the following motion and moved its adoption: that pursuant to RSA 72:37 the town vote to adopt a tax exemption for applicants who are legally blind as determined by the State of New Hampshire Blind Services Program Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Education. Said tax exemption is to be in the amount of \$47,000, applied annually, to the assessed value of the applicant's primary residential real estate. This article is at the request of the NH Department of Revenue Administrator to verify that Plainfield has properly adopted the blind exemption. Seconded by Judy Belyea.

Williams explained that this is the same exemption that has always been in place; however, we have not been able to find the original date of its adoption.

**A vote by voice was taken.  
The ayes were unanimous.  
It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.**

Moderator elect Franklin turned the gavel back over to Moderator Taylor and the meeting resumed with article 7.

**ARTICLE 7.**

Robert Taylor offered the following motion and moved its adoption: Pursuant to RSA 232 the Town vote to discontinue completely the former section of Main Street that fronts along the property of Christian Forman and Angela Toms (tax map 101 lot 3) in a southerly direction for some 300'. This section of road was left in place during a previous realignment of Main Street and now serves basically as a town maintained driveway for a single residence. All abutters affected by this transaction have been notified and concur with the discontinuance of the roadway. Seconded by Judy Belyea. Selectman Taylor spoke to a correction that the RSA was changed from 232 to 231. Thanks went to Paul Franklin for noticing the error.

**A vote by voice was taken.  
The ayes were unanimous.  
It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.**

**ARTICLE 9.**

Judy Belyea offered the following motion and moved its adoption: that the town 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 Steve Halleran.

**A vote by voice was taken.  
The ayes were unanimous.  
It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.**

**ARTICLE 10.**

Thomas P. Williams Jr 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 Selectboard and other officers of the town in the prudential affairs of the town. Seconded by Judy Belyea.

**A vote by voice was taken.  
The ayes were unanimous.  
It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.**

**ARTICLE 11.**

Judy Belyea 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 Thomas P. Williams Jr.

**A vote by voice was taken.  
The ayes were unanimous.  
It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.**

**ARTICLE 12.**

Moderator Taylor swore in the following officers:

Paul Franklin	Moderator
Thomas P. Williams Jr	Selectman
Mark Pensgen	Library Trustee
Kimberly Moss	Appointed Library Trustee
Bradford Atwater	Cemetery Trustee

Edward Stansfield was sworn in as trustee of trust funds by Michelle Marsh on March 17, 2011.

John Yacavone moved to close the meeting at 1:30 p.m. seconded by David Chellis.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michelle Marsh*  
Town Clerk