

TOWN MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2013
Plainfield, New Hampshire

The annual meeting for the Town of Plainfield was held at the Plainfield Elementary School on Bonner Road on March 12, 2013. Moderator Paul Franklin opened the meeting at 8:00 am with the reading of Article I. Michelle Marsh made a motion to dispense with the reading of the warrant, seconded by Stephen Halleran. The warrant will be read on Saturday, March 16, 2013.

Total Number on Checklist: 1557
Total Number of Ballots Cast: 357
Percentage of Voting: 23%

ARTICLE 1. To choose by ballot: One Selectman for three years, One Town Clerk for three years, One Tax Collector for three years, one Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years, three Library Trustees, two for a three year term and one for a two year term, one Cemetery Trustee for three years, one Supervisor of the Checklist for three years and any other necessary town officers.

Town Clerk for three years:

Michelle Marsh had 335 votes.

Michelle Marsh was declared elected.

Tax Collector for three years:

Michelle Marsh had 337 votes.

Write-Ins:

Maria Guzman had 1 vote.

Michelle Marsh was declared elected.

Select board Member for three years:

Judith A. Belyea had 254 votes.

Maria Elena Guzman had 84 votes.

Write-Ins:

Frank Currier had 2 votes.

Dan Barnet had 1 vote.

Mark Wilder had 1 vote.

Dewey Jones had 1 vote.

Judith A. Belyea was declared elected.

Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years:

Jesse R. Stalker had 333 votes

Write-Ins:

Diane West had 1 vote.

Jesse R. Stalker was declared elected.

Two Library Trustees for three years:

Anita K. Brown had 252 votes.

Suzanne Spencer had 249 votes.

Write-Ins:

Dennis Girouard had 4 votes.

Anne Grobe had 1 vote.

Jesse Stalker had 1 vote.

Sarah Sprague had 1 vote.

Diane West had 1 vote.

Michelle Marsh had 1 vote.

Diane Rogers had 1 vote.

Anita K. Brown and **Suzanne Spencer** were declared elected.

One Library Trustee for two years:

Nancy Liston had 309 votes.

Write-Ins:

Andrea Keen had 1 vote.

Maria Guzman had 1 vote.

Nancy Liston was declared elected.

Supervisor of the Checklist for six years:

Suellen Leugers had 324 votes.

Write-Ins:

Justin Rogers had 1 vote.

Ruth Stalker had 1 vote.

Bernadina Webber had 1 vote.

Suellen Leugers was declared elected.

Cemetery Trustee for three years:

Jesse Stalker had 332 votes.

Write-Ins:

Brad Atwater had 2 votes.

David Clifton had 1 vote.

Jesse Stalker was declared elected.

On Saturday, March 17, 2012 Moderator Paul Franklin re-opened the meeting at the Plainfield Elementary School at 10:05am. The meeting began with words of

wisdom given by Kesaya Noda, followed by a salute to the flag and the singing of America the Beautiful.

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 the family of David A. Chellis in memory of his many town contributions most notably his 43 years of service on the Meriden Volunteer Fire Department earning him the rank of Lieutenant.

At this time, Selectman Taylor also took a moment to recognize the Meriden and Plainfield Volunteer firefighters, highlighting that their quick response to action during some recent fire calls saved two homes in Plainfield.

Moderator Franklin explained the rules of the meeting. Stephen Taylor made a motion to dispense with the reading of the entire warrant and proceed to Article 2. His motion was seconded and passed unanimously by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 2. Stephen Halleran offered the following resolution and moved its adoption: That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,973,355** to defray town charges for the 2013 fiscal year. Tom Williams Jr. seconded the motion.

1. Executive	\$180,350
2. Election/Registration/Vital Statistics	3,630
3. Financial Administration	66,300
4. Revaluation of Property	12,000
5. Legal Expenses	3,100
6. Personnel Administration	4,700
7. Planning and Zoning	1,200
8. General Government Buildings	6,025
9. Cemeteries	24,500
10. Insurance	35,700
11. Regional Associations	5,100
12. Police Department	349,298
13. Ambulance Service	28,500
14. Fire Departments -Plainfield	45,000
-Meriden	40,000
15. Building Inspection	7,400
16. Emergency Management	250
17. Hydrant & Forest Fire Expense	4,100
18. Dispatching for Fire, Police & Ambulance	20,000
19. Highway Administration	22,800
20. Highways and Streets	622,800
21. Road Projects	98,300
22. Street Lights	8,000
23. Solid Waste Collection	147,000
24. Solid Waste Disposal	46,810

25. Health Agencies	20,195
26. Animal Control	500
27. Welfare	5,250
28. Recreation Commission	18,979
29. Library Department	113,818
30. Patriotic	1,000
31. Conservation Commission	500
32. Principal Long-term debt	25,000
33. Interest Long-term debt	5,250
Total:	\$ 1,973,355

Moderator Franklin recognized Town Administrator Stephen Halleran who took a moment to recognize retiree Ruthann Wheeler for her many years of service to the town in the capacity of Town Clerk and Tax Collector. She received a round of applause.

Halleran spoke about the revaluation taking place this year explaining how the new numbers may affect the tax rate. He urged residents to take a careful look at their assessment cards to be sure their property is being fairly represented. He reflected a bit on projects from the past year and thanked all the department heads for their ongoing service to the town.

The discussion was opened to the floor. After a few comments the question went to the vote.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 153 No 19

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

The Moderator recognized Conservation Commission Chair Myra Ferguson who presented Nancy Mogielnicki with the Conservation Award. She received a plaque and a round of applause.

ARTICLE 3. Judy Belyea offered the following motion and moved its adoption: That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$157,500** 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 Rob Taylor

RSA 35:1 funds:

\$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.
\$5,000	Police Equipment Fund created in 2011.
\$5,000	Gravel Pit Reclamation Fund created in 2012.

RSA 31:19a funds:

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

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 149 No 11

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

ARTICLE 4: Robert Taylor offered the following motion and moved its adoption: That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,425** to be placed in the town's ADA Compliance Fund created in 2003. This sum is to come from the undesignated fund balance; no amount to be raised from current year taxation. Said sum being the amount of unexpended prior years' appropriations retained by the then Meriden Library Trustees. These funds have now been returned to the town's general fund. This article is intended to repurpose these funds. Judy Belyea seconded the motion.

Select Board member Taylor spoke to the article explaining the circumstances as to why the undesignated monies were not returned to the town. Library Treasurer Mark Pensgen took the floor and gave further explanation on the accounting methods they used to determine the exact amount of money to be returned. Pensgen also cited a letter of acceptance received from Terry Knowles with the Attorney Generals Office.

A period of comments and discussion occurred until the question was called by Jerry Doolittle who was supported by seven others to go to the vote.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 136 No 19

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

ARTICLE 5: Thomas Williams, Jr. offered the following motion and moved its adoption: That the town vote to increase the town's current optional RSA 72:28 veterans tax credit from \$150 to \$300. Qualifications for receiving the credit to be as outlined in RSA 72:28.

Selectman Williams reported that this credit has not been looked at since the adoption of Article 12 from the Town Meeting of 2005, when the credit was raised from \$100 to \$150.

A motion was made from the floor by Dan LaPan and seconded by Susan Taylor to increase the amount of the veterans credit to \$500.

A vote by paper ballot was taken to accept the amended article.

Yes 141 No 9

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

The Moderator explained that the meeting would now vote on the adopted amended article:

That the town vote to increase the town's current optional RSA 72:28 veterans tax credit from \$150 to \$500.

A Voice vote was taken.

The "Ayes" were unanimous.

The vote was in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 6: Robert Taylor offered the following motion and moved its adoption: That the town vote to direct the Selectboard to appoint a committee to be charged with the study and if feasible, the development of a single lane covered bridge structure to be placed over the existing Daniels Road Bridge. It is the Selectboard's goal to complete this project without the support of property tax dollars. Tom Williams, Jr. seconded the motion.

Robert Taylor spoke to the article giving a brief explanation of how and why this idea came to be. There was discussion regarding safety concerns including visibility of oncoming traffic.

A motion came from the floor by Robert Drye to amend article 6 as follows: To see if the town will vote to appoint a committee to be charged with the study of a single lane covered bridge structure to be placed over the existing Daniels road bridge and for that same committee to report its findings at the March 2014 town meeting. Boone Rondeau seconded the motion.

A vote by paper was taken on the amended article.

No 79 Yes 55

The vote was negative, the amendment failed and was so declared.

The Moderator explained that the meeting would now vote on the original version of Article 6.

A vote by paper was taken.

No 113 Yes 19

The vote was negative, the article failed and was so declared.

ARTICLE 7: John Yacavone offered the following motion 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. Steve Halleran seconded the motion.

The article was opened to the floor for debate. Discussion ensued. Questions were asked and answered.

A vote by secret ballot was taken.

Yes 80 No 52

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

ARTICLE 8: Judy Belyea offered the following motion and moved its adoption: That the town direct the Selectboard 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.

Tom Williams, Jr. seconded the motion.

A vote by voice was taken.

The "Ayes" were unanimous.

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

ARTICLE 9: Robert Taylor offered the following motion and moved its adoption: That the town vote to discontinue the office of elected Tax Collector and to authorize the Selectboard to appoint, effective at the end of the current term, a Tax Collector with a term of office not to exceed three years, subject to removal as allowed by state law. Judy Belyea seconded the motion.

A vote by voice was taken.

The "Ayes" were unanimous.

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

ARTICLE 10: Thomas 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. Judy Belyea seconded the motion.

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 Rob Taylor.

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

ARTICLE 12: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Moderator Franklin swore in the following elected officials:

Judith Belyea	Selectboard
Michelle Marsh	Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Suellen Leugers	Supervisor of the Checklist
Suzanne Spencer	Library Trustee
Anita Brown	Library Trustee

Jesse Stalker was sworn in as Trustee of trust funds and cemeteries on Monday, March 18, 2013 by Michelle Marsh.

Nancy Liston was sworn in as Library Trustee on Friday, March 22, 2013 by Michelle Marsh.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Marsh
Town Clerk