

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2017

Plainfield, New Hampshire

The annual meeting for the Town of Plainfield began at the Plainfield Elementary School on Bonner Road on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. 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 Beverly Widger. A unanimous voice vote in the affirmative followed and the polls were declared opened.

Number on Checklist: 1761

Same Day Registrants: 1

Number of Regular Ballots Cast: 209 Number of Absentee Ballots Cast: 23

Percentage of Voting: 13%

ARTICLE 1. To choose by ballot: 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, one Cemetery Trustee for two years and any other necessary town officers.

Select board Member for three years:

Ron C. Eberhardt 179

Mark H. Horne 38

Write-Ins:

Bonnie Swift 5 Claire Healy-Leavitt 1

Gary Ward 2

Ian Rogers 1

Ron C. Eberhardt was declared elected.

Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years:

Ed Stansfield 217

Write-Ins:

Glen Greenough 1

Laura Ward 1

Ed Stansfield was declared elected.

One Library Trustee for three years:

Richard B. Davidson 114

Shannon Decker 107

Write-Ins:

Laura Ward 2

Nancy Norwalk 1

Peter Legare 1

Richard B. Davidson was declared elected.

One Cemetery Trustee for three years:

Bradford Atwater 205

Write-Ins:

David Taylor	1	Glen Greenough	1
Bill Taylor	1	Hillary Ward	1
Bonnie Swift	1		

Bradford Atwater was declared elected.

One Cemetery Trustee for two years:

Margaret M. Drye 215

Write-Ins:

Stanley Dole	2
Clint Swift	2
Darrell Beaupre	2

Margaret M. Drye was declared elected.

Harold “Dewey” Jones made a motion to recess the Town Meeting, seconded by Melissa Longacre and voted in the affirmative. The Moderator closed the polls at 7 pm and recessed the meeting until Saturday, March 18, 2017 at 10 am.

On Saturday, March 18, 2017 Moderator Paul Franklin re-opened the meeting at the Plainfield Elementary School at 10:00am. The meeting began with a salute to the flag, a round of “America the Beautiful ” and a few words offered by Reverend Harold “Dewey” Jones.

The Moderator then recognized Selectboard member Robert Taylor who awarded the Stephen H. Taylor Community Service Award to Judy A. Belyea for her service to the town. Judy began her service to the town in 1974 by taking a seat on the Planning Board which she held for 12 years. She has served as Selectboard member for 30 years, Selectboard representative to the planning board for 8 years and timber tax agent for 29 years. She has contributed to many fund raising projects as well as making donations to the town including new tables and chairs for the Plainfield Town Hall and bleachers and team benches for the Hewes Memorial Field. Congratulation Judy! She received a standing ovation.

The Moderator recognized Emily Sands who thanked Library Trustee Mark Pensgen for his service on the board.

Moderator Franklin explained the rules of the meeting. Steven 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. Moderator Franklin recognized Town Administrator Stephen Halleran who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolved: That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,254,618** to defray town charges for the 2017 fiscal year. The Selectboard proposes the following budget:

1. Executive	\$200,887
2. Election/Registration/Vital Statistics	15,330
3. Financial Administration	68,100
4. Revaluation of Property	12,000
5. Legal Expenses	14,000
6. Personnel Administration	8,500
7. Planning and Zoning	1,000

8. General Government Buildings	17,025
9. Cemeteries	28,100
10. Insurance	50,500
11. Regional Associations	6,100
12. Police	387,796
13. Ambulance Service	30,500
14. Fire	
-Plainfield	55,000
-Meriden	44,500
15. Building Inspection	8,900
16. Emergency Management	250
17. Hydrant & Forest Fire Expense	4,100
18. Dispatching for Fire, Police & Ambulance	31,000
19. Highway Administration	18,050
20. Highways and Streets	686,738
21. Road Projects	115,956
22. Street Lights	12,000
23. Solid Waste Collection	163,000
24. Solid Waste Disposal	51,810
25. Health Agencies	18,485
26. Animal Control	500
27. Welfare	10,000
28. Recreation Commission	19,000
29. Library	148,266
30. Patriotic	1,000
31. Conservation Commission	500
32. Principal Long-term debt	25,000
33. Interest Long-term debt	725
Total:	\$2,254,618

The motion was seconded by Ron Eberhardt.

Moderator Franklin recognized Stephen Halleran who thanked the members of the finance committee for their hard work. He gave an update of the progress the new position of the facility manager has made in regards to maintaining town buildings. The energy committee continues to improve the town office building with this year's project being window restoration. The highway study group made good progress completing the well, septic and drain at the garage. This year will focus on the upstairs office and break room. Still no resolution with the Brown Property Taxes. We are waiting for the judge's decision. The floor was opened for public debate and discussion.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 224 No 12

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

The Moderator recognized Suzanne Spencer who made a motion to move Article 8 to after Article 4. The motion was seconded.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 181 No 48

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

ARTICLE 3. Moderator Franklin recognized Ron Eberhardt who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolved: That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$167,500** 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.
\$50,000	Highway Equipment Fund created in 1987.
\$55,000	Transportation Improvement Fund created in 2006.
\$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 Selectboard 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 Steve Halleran.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 230 No 14

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

ARTICLE 4. The Moderator recognized Rob Taylor who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolved: That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,000** to continue the restoration of the stone entryway into the Plainfield Plain Cemetery.

The motion was seconded by Judy Belyea.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 237 No 6

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

ARTICLE 8. The Moderator recognized Diane Rogers who made the following motion.

Resolved: That the Town of Plainfield adopt the Philip Read Memorial Library as the town's one public library building supported by the Town of Plainfield's tax appropriations. The result being that the Meriden Public Library building will no longer have funds raised and appropriated by property tax dollars for the building's maintenance and operation as of March 17th 2018. Article by Petition. The motion was seconded by Richard Rogers.

After many opinions were expressed from the floor, a motion was made by Diane Rogers that action under article 8 be laid on the table.

A voice vote was taken.

“No” was the favor of the voice vote the motion failed and was so declared.

The floor was once again open for further comments and discussion on Article 8. The question was called to go to the vote.

A voice vote was taken.

“Aye” was the favor of the voice vote (2/3 majority) and so declared.

A vote by paper ballot was taken on Article 8.

No 225 Yes 29

It was a vote in the negative the resolution failed and so declared.

The Moderator recognized Suzanne Spencer who made a motion to limit reconsideration of Article 8. The motion was seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

“Aye” was the favor of the voice vote, and so declared.

ARTICLE 5. The Moderator recognized Steve Halleran who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolved: 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 fifty (50) percent of the assessed value of property over which the town has statutory discretion.

The motion was seconded by Rob Taylor.

Mr. Halleran explained that the KUA study committee has continued to discuss the elimination of this article in the future and that it is likely it will not be included in the 2018 warrant.

A vote by paper ballot was taken on Article 8.

Yes 147 No 36

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.

Resolved: 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.

The motion was seconded by Ron Eberhardt.

Selectboard member Belyea, recognized the committee members.

A voice vote was taken.

The “Ayes” were unanimous.

The vote was in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 7. The Moderator recognized Ron Eberhardt who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolved: 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.

The motion was seconded by Judy Belyea.

Mr. Eberhardt recognized the current members of the committee.

A voice vote was taken.

The “Ayes” were unanimous.

The vote was in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 9. The Moderator recognized Judy Belyea who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolved: That the Town vote to direct the Selectmen to continue the Meriden Library/Meriden Village Study Committee established in 2016 for the ensuing year.

The motion was seconded by Steve Halleran.

The committee from last year was recognized.

A voice vote was taken.

The “Ayes” were unanimous.

The vote was in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 10. The Moderator recognized Steve Halleran who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption.

Resolved: That the Town of Plainfield through the FERC relicensing process, has been presented with information on the Connecticut River. If it is shown that there is a causal relationship between the operation of the Wilder Dam by the TransCanada Corporation or subsequent owners resulting in deterioration of the riverbank and attendant roads and farmland, it is recommended that the Town of Plainfield formally request that TransCanada or subsequent owners modify current dam operations and create a mitigation fund to reimburse towns and landowners for any and all damages.

The motion was seconded by Ron Eberhardt.

A voice vote was taken.

The “Ayes” were unanimous.

The vote was in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 11. The Moderator 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 2016 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 “Ayes” were unanimous.

The vote was in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 12. Moderator Franklin swore in the following newly elected officers:

Ron Eberhardt	Selectboard
Bradford Atwater	Cemetery Trustee
Margaret Drye	Cemetery Trustee
Richard Davidson	Library Trustee

Justice of Peace, Michelle Marsh swore in School Moderator Paul Franklin.

Steve Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting it was seconded and a unanimous voice vote in the affirmative followed. Moderator Franklin declared the meeting closed at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Marsh

Town Clerk