

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2018

Plainfield, New Hampshire

The annual meeting for the Town of Plainfield began at the Plainfield Elementary School on Bonner Road on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. 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 Robin Marsh. A unanimous voice vote in the affirmative followed and the Polls were declared opened.

Number on Checklist: 1629 Same Day Registrants: 1

Number of Regular Ballots Cast: 127 Number of Absentee Ballots Cast: 7

Percentage of Voting: 8%

ARTICLE 1. To choose by ballot: One Select Board member for three years, one Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years, Two Library Trustee for three years, one Cemetery Trustee for three years, one Supervisor of the Checklist for six years, one Moderator for two years and any other necessary town officers.

Moderator for two years:

Paul Franklin 134

Paul Franklin was declared elected.

Supervisor of the Checklist:

Harold "Dewey" Jones 130

Write In: Diane Rogers 1

Harold "Dewey" Jones was declared elected.

Select Board Member for three years:

Robert W. Taylor 131

Write Ins:

Myra Ferguson 1

Chris Forman 1

Richard Rogers 1

Dennis Girouard 1

Boone Rondeau 1

Robert W. Taylor was declared elected.

Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years:

Donald E. Garfield	130
Write In: Andy Kuhre	1

Donald E. Garfield was declared elected.

Two Library Trustees for three years:

Stephanie T. Berman	125
Nancy Liston	106
Write-Ins:	
Nancy Norwalk	3
Cindy Heath	3
Andrea Keen	1
Virginia Drye	1

Stephanie T. Berman and **Nancy Liston** were declared elected.

One Cemetery Trustee for three years:

James L. Taylor	131
Write Ins:	
Bonnie Swift	1
Virginia Drye	1
Bev Widger	1

James L. Taylor 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:

Question 1. In order to make the Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance (approved in 2014, amended 2016) in compliance with newly enacted RSA 674:73 Accessory Dwelling Units (effective June 2017) the following changes are proposed:

Amend Criteria #3 which reads

3. ADUs may be between 320 and 800 sq feet and cannot exceed 50% of the gross living area of the primary residence.

to read:

3. ADUs may be no larger than 800 sq feet and may not exceed 50% of the gross living area of the primary residence.

Amend Criteria #5 which reads:

5. The parcel on which the ADU is built must be conforming in lot size and road frontage for the zone in which it is located. The ADU, whether a new or an existing structure, must satisfy the front, side, and rear yard setbacks for the zone. Setback encroachments or variances involving the living area square footage requirements are not allowed.

to read:

5. The parcel on which the ADU is built must be conforming in lot size and road frontage for the zone in which it is located. The ADU, whether a new or an existing structure, must satisfy the front, side, and rear yard setbacks for the zone.

Amend the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) definition which reads:

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU): An attached or free standing independent residential unit, in addition to the primary residence on a single lot, which is between 320 and 800 square feet and which contains no more than one bathroom and two bedrooms

to read:

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU): An attached or free standing residential unit, in addition to the primary residence on a single lot, which contains no more than one bathroom and two bedrooms and is no larger than 800 square feet.

Those voting **YES: 124**

Those voting **NO: 6**

It was a vote in the affirmative and so declared.

Don Jordan made a motion to recess the Town Meeting, seconded by Jeff Marsh and a unanimous voice vote was in the affirmative. The Moderator closed the polls at 7pm and recessed the meeting until Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 10am.

On Saturday, March 17, 2018 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 of encouragement offered by Reverend Harold “Dewey” Jones.

Moderator Franklin introduced the panel noting the absence of Select Board member Judy Belyea who was ill with the flu. He then explained the rules of the meeting. Steven Taylor made a motion to dispense with the reading of the entire warrant and proceed to Article 3. His motion was seconded and passed unanimously by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 3. The Moderator recognized Selectman Rob Taylor who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption: To see if the Town will vote to organize the municipal “Town of Plainfield Fire Department” in accordance with RSA 154:1, III, which provides that “a municipality may choose a form of fire department organization different from those set forth in paragraph I, including the election of fire chief, fire officers or firefighters, or all such persons, by the firefighters.” The firefighters will recommend one Fire Chief for the town of Plainfield to be appointed by the Select Board. The selection of all other officers and firefighting positions will be at the discretion of the fire chief with the approval of the Select Board. The fire department will be formed from the buildings, equipment and fire apparatus, currently owned and managed by the two individual Fire Departments (Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department Inc., and Meriden Volunteer Fire Department Inc.) In accordance with RSA 154:1, IV, this change, if approved, shall not take effect until one year after the approval of this Article.

The motion was seconded by Steve Halleran. Rob Taylor explained the article and the floor was open for discussion.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes: 131 No: 2

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

The Moderator then recognized Select Board member Robert Taylor who awarded the Stephen H. Taylor Community Service Award to Stephen A. Beaupre for his service to the town. His service and work spans more than 5 decades and has included being a long time teacher and principal in Plainfield, beginning when there were multiple schools between the two villages. He has been a volunteer Fireman with MVFD for 53 years! He has served on many boards and committees and is a true humanitarian. Congratulation Steve! He received a standing ovation.

ARTICLE 4. The Moderator recognized Stephen Halleran, who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,335,085** to defray town charges for the 2018 fiscal year. The Select Board proposes the following budget:

1. Executive		\$213,350
2. Election/Registration/Vital Statistics		16,330
3. Financial Administration		71,450
4. Revaluation of Property		10,000
5. Legal Expenses		13,000
6. Personnel Administration		9,500
7. Planning and Zoning		1,700
8. General Government Buildings		17,025
9. Cemeteries		36,100
10. Insurance		56,500
11. Regional Associations		6,100
12. Police		412,688
13. Ambulance Service		37,000
14. Fire	-Plainfield	55,000
	-Meriden	44,500
15. Building Inspection		11,900
16. Emergency Management		250
17. Hydrant & Forest Fire Expense		4,100
18. Dispatching for Fire, Police & Ambulance		32,000
19. Highway Administration		21,550
20. Highways and Streets		703,510
21. Road Projects		117,360
22. Street Lights		12,000
23. Solid Waste Collection		167,000
24. Solid Waste Disposal		49,310
25. Health Agencies		18,485
26. Animal Control		500
27. Welfare		10,000
28. Recreation Commission		19,000
29. Library		153,227
30. Patriotic		1,500
31. Conservation Commission		500
32. Principal Long-term debt		12,500
33. Interest Long-term debt		150
	Total:	\$2,335,085

The motion was seconded by Rob Taylor. Steve Halleran re-capped 2017, noting projects that had been completed. He broke down the budget by sections, explaining increases. He gave a quick run down of major projects happening in 2018. The floor was then open to debate and discussion.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes: 129 No: 15

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

ARTICLE 5. The Moderator recognized Steve Halleran who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$192,500** 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.
\$75,000	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 31:19-a funds:

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

The Select Board 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 Ron Eberhardt.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes: 134 No: 5

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

ARTICLE 6. The Moderator recognized Rob Taylor who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption: That the town vote to establish, pursuant to RSA 35:1 a capital reserve fund to be called the Fire Department Equipment Fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** to be placed in this fund. Said purpose of the fund is for the future replacement of fire department equipment including vehicles. Further, to name the Select Board as agents to expend. The motion was seconded by Steve Halleran.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes: 137 No: 5

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

ARTICLE 7. The Moderator recognized Steve Halleran who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. That the town vote to establish, pursuant to RSA 35:1 a capital reserve fund to be called the Meriden Library Building Fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** to be placed in this fund. Said purpose of the fund is for the renovation and/or replacement of the Meriden Library Building. Further, to name the Select Board as agents to expend. The existing Meriden Library Building does not meet the requirements of the American Disability Act (ADA). Any significant renovation or the replacement of the building will result in material compliance with the ADA. The Select Board recommends this appropriation. The motion was seconded by Ron Eberhardt.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes: 121 No: 22

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

ARTICLE 8. The Moderator recognized Lee Lynd who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption: That the Town of Plainfield vote to commit to a goal of 100% reliance on renewable sources of electricity by 2030 and renewable sources for all other energy needs, including for heating and transportation, by 2050.

The impetus for this goal is to achieve the public benefits of protecting the economic, health and social well-being of our citizens; to reduce energy costs to the community and to keep energy dollars in the local economy; as well as to reduce the risks to the community associated with any future escalation in energy prices, and to address the threat of global climate change.

The intent of this article is to effect policy at the local level in a fiscally responsible manner that will support and encourage individual action to shift toward renewable energy. It does not mandate changes to private property or the behavior of private citizens. This article is proposed by the town's Energy Committee. The motion was seconded by Steve Halleran.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes: 100 No: 22

The vote was in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 9. The Moderator recognized Ron Eberhardt who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption: That the town vote to **repeal and**

replace its current wind (RSA 72:66) and solar power (RSA 72:62) exemption adopted at the 2008 town meeting which reads as follows: An exemption of 100% of the value of accessory use generation systems up to a maximum of \$50,000 in taxable value. Criteria for granting the exemption shall be that the installed system must generate energy for the owner's primary residence or place of business located on the site. The system, however, may transfer surplus energy to the electric grid. Commercial solar and wind generation facilities that represent the primary use of the property shall not be eligible for this exemption. The **replacement** exemption to read as follows: An exemption pursuant to RSA 72, from property taxation for solar (72:62), wind (72:66) and wood heating (72:69) energy systems in Plainfield. The exemption will be 100% of the energy system value up to a maximum of \$300,000. The motion was seconded by Steve Halleran.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes: 79 No: 17

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: That the town direct the Select Board 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.

The committee from last year was recognized.

A voice vote was taken.

The "Aye's" were unanimous.

The vote was in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 11. The Moderator recognized Ron Eberhardt who offered the following resolution 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 Select Board and other officers of the town in the prudential affairs of the town.

The motion was seconded by Steve Halleran.

A voice vote was taken.

The “Aye’s” were unanimous.

The vote was in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 12. 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 2017 annual report, subject to any corrections. A certified copy to be kept by the Town Clerk.

The motion was seconded by Steve Halleran.

A voice vote was taken.

The “Aye’s” were unanimous.

The vote was in the affirmative and so declared.

ARTICLE 13. Moderator Franklin swore in the following newly elected officers:

Harold “Dewey” Jones, Supervisor of the Checklist

Town Clerk, Michelle Marsh swore Moderator Paul Franklin, Trustee of the Trust Funds, Donald Garfield and Selectman Robert Taylor into office on 3/17/2018.

Town Clerk, Michelle Marsh swore in Library Trustee Nancy Liston and Cemetery Trustee James Taylor on 3/21/2018.

Deputy Town Clerk, Susan Liebowitz swore in Library Trustee Stephanie Berman on 3/21/2018.

John Yacavone moved to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Stephen Taylor and a unanimous voice vote in the affirmative followed. Moderator Paul Franklin declared the meeting closed at 2:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Marsh
Town Clerk