

## TOWN MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2020

Plainfield, New Hampshire

The annual meeting for the Town of Plainfield began at the Plainfield Elementary School on Bonner Road on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. Moderator Paul Franklin opened the meeting at 8:00 am with the reading of Article 1 and the posting certifications. Stephen Halleran made a motion to dispense with the reading of the entire warrant, seconded by Rob Taylor. A unanimous voice vote in the affirmative followed and the polls were declared opened.

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

**Number on Check list: 1709 Same Day Registrants: 5**  
**Number of Regular Ballots Cast: 592 Number of Absentee Ballots Cast: 31**  
**Percentage of Voting: 36%**

### **Town Moderator for two years:**

Paul Franklin 509

**Paul Franklin** was declared elected.

### **Cemetery Trustee for three years:**

Bradford Atwater 451

**Bradford Atwater** was declared elected.

### **Select board Member for three years:**

Ron C. Eberhardt 345

Marc Morgan 215

**Ron C. Eberhardt** was declared elected.

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

Ed Stansfield 484

**Ed Stansfield** was declared elected.

### **One Library Trustee for three years:**

Rosemary Mills 326

Beverly Widger 215

**Rosemary Mills** was declared elected

**One Library Trustee for one year:**

Adrienne W. Cedeno                    320  
John Hendrick                         207

**Adrienne W. Cedeno** was declared elected.

The moderator closed the polls at 7pm. Rob Taylor made a motion to recess the Town Meeting, seconded by Michelle Marsh and a unanimous voice vote was in the affirmative. The moderator announced the results at 9:34 pm and recessed the meeting until Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 10am.

Alice Eberhardt was sworn into office on 3/13/2020  
Adrienne Cedeno and Rosemary Mills were sworn into office on 3/16/2020  
Paul Franklin and Edward Stansfield were sworn into office on 3/18/2020  
Bradford Atwater was sworn into office on 3/19/2020  
Ron Eberhardt was sworn into office on 3/20/2020  
All officials were sworn in by Town Clerk, Michelle Marsh at the Town Office.

***SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:***

*After conferring with State of New Hampshire officials, being mind full of the recommendations of federal health agencies relative to COVID 19, and with input of the selectboard and other local officials the moderator pursuant to RSA 40:4, postpones the Plainfield Town Meeting until 10:00am Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 at the Plainfield School.*

*In the event the COVID 19 situation has not improved sufficiently to allow for a safe town meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup> a determination will be made at that time about a subsequent date.*

*Questions can be addressed to Moderator Paul Franklin at 298-8519.*

*Stephen Halleran  
Town Administrator*

*At the May 20<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting, the moderator announced, due to ongoing COVID 19 issues, his decision to postpone the meeting again until 10:00am Saturday, July 11th 2020 with the location and details to be determined.*

## **Plainfield Voters**

### **Town Meeting**

The postponed March 14<sup>th</sup> business portion of town meeting will reconvene on **Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the Smith Auction Gallery 1064 Route 12A in Plainfield Village.** It will be held outside under the Smith's two large tents.

To address COVID-19 concerns and provide as safe a meeting venue as possible: 1) we will request that masks be worn (masks will be provided if you need one); 2) pre-meeting sanitizing will be done and hand sanitizer will be available; 3) seating will be configured to allow for social distancing; 4) cold water and bathrooms will be available but there will be no concessions or child care provided; and 5) meeting procedures will be expedited to reduce overall meeting time.

Please bring your 2019 Town Report that contains the warrant to be covered (also posted at [www.plainfieldnh.org](http://www.plainfieldnh.org)). There are eight articles to complete; four of them are procedural and can be dealt with in moments. With the endorsement of the library trustees, building committee and select board, it is the intention to amend the Meriden Library replacement article to zero dollars, putting off any substantive decision to 2021 or later. The Board of Selectmen also intends to amend the town budget article to reflect current conditions and the capital reserve funding will be held as proposed. The resulting 2020 tax rate is projected to be smaller than the 2019 tax rate (\$26) which was smaller than the 2018 tax rate (\$26.90).

While we plan for the meeting venue to be as safe as possible, we understand if there are those who don't feel they can attend, our goal is to meet the statutory requirement to hold town meeting, obtain necessary approval for more routine town spending and to push into the future new proposals and new ideas to a time when we can all feel safe gathering and debating these issues.

#### **Fall Elections**

We will be holding two traditional ballot elections this fall with all day voting. However, anyone concerned about COVID 19 may vote via absentee ballot. Please call the town office (469-3201) or e-mail our Town Clerk [mmarsh@plainfieldnh.org](mailto:mmarsh@plainfieldnh.org) for the details.

We appreciate your patience and understanding in this most difficult year.

Paul Franklin  
Town Moderator

Robert Taylor, Ron Eberhardt, Eric Brann  
Plainfield Selectboard

On Saturday, July 11, 2020 Moderator Paul Franklin re-opened the twice post-poned town meeting at the William A. Smith Auction Gallery under the big tent located at 1064 Rte 12A in Plainfield Village at 10:00am. The meeting began with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence for all community members we have lost in the past year.

Moderator Franklin introduced the panel and explained Select board member, Ron Eberhardt's absence was due to his personal health concerns over COVID 19 but he asked the moderator to express to the crowd his belief that we were carrying on the meeting in the safest way possible given the circumstances.

The moderator announced all articles would be voted on via voice vote; however, if the outcome is undeterminable we would vote by a hand count or paper ballot.

Stephen Taylor made a motion to dispense with the reading of the entire warrant and proceed to Article 3. His motion was seconded by Lee Oxenham and passed unanimously by a voice vote.

**ARTICLE 2.** The moderator recognized Jeanne Woodward-Poor who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption: That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$0.00** for the replacement of the Meriden Library building for budget year 2020.

The motion was seconded by Jennifer Lenz.

Jeanne Woodward-Poor explained that due to COVID 19, the library trustees and library building committee all agreed this is not the right time to build the new library.

The floor was open for discussion.

A voice vote was taken.

**The "ayes" were unanimous.**

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

**ARTICLE 3.** 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 **\$2,410,000** to defray town charges for the 2020 fiscal year. The select board proposes the following budget.

1. Executive	\$231,350
2. Election/Registration/Vital Statistics	20,930
3. Financial Administration	88,350
4. Revaluation of Property	12,000
5. Legal Expenses	7,000 <b>5,000</b>
6. Personnel Administration	12,500
7. Planning and Zoning	1,500
8. General Government Buildings	17,025
9. Cemeteries	34,600 <b>29,600</b>
10. Insurance	68,430
11. Regional Associations	6,100
12. Police	422,340 <b>412,340</b>
13. Ambulance Service	38,000
14. Fire	67,500
15. Building Inspection	15,400

16. Emergency Management	250
17. Hydrant & Forest Fire Expense	4,100
18. Dispatching for Fire, Police & Ambulance	43,000
19. Highway Administration	21,050
20. Highways and Streets	747,035
21. Road Projects	741,743
22. Street Lights	10,000
23. Solid Waste Collection	180,000
24. Solid Waste Disposal	56,810
25. Health Agencies	13,610
26. Animal Control	500
27. Welfare	25,500
28. Recreation Commission	21,471
29. Library	161,105
30. Patriotic	1,500
31. Conservation Commission	500
32. Principal Long-term debt	0
33. Interest Long-term debt	0
Total	\$2,449,621
	<b>\$2,410,000</b>

The motion was seconded by Eric Brann.

The moderator turned the floor over to Steve Halleran who explained which line items in the budget had been decreased to create the new appropriation request.

The floor was open for discussion.

A voice vote was taken.

**The “ayes” have it.**

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

**ARTICLE 4.** The moderator recognized Robert Taylor, who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$257,500** to be placed in existing town capital reserve and general trust funds, pursuant to RSA 35:1 and RSA 31:19-a as follows:

\$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.
\$50,000	Fire Department Equipment Fund created in 2017
\$25,000	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 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 Steve Halleran.

A voice vote was taken.

**The “ayes” have it.**

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

**ARTICLE 5.** The moderator recognized Eric Brann who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption. That the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans’ Tax Credit. If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$500, the same amount as the standard or optional veterans’ tax credit voted by the Town of Plainfield under RSA 72:28.

The motion was seconded by Steve Taylor.

A voice vote was taken.

**The “ayes have it.**

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

**ARTICLE 6.** The moderator recognized Stephen 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 Eric Brann.

A voice vote was taken.

**The “ayes” have it.**

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

**ARTICLE 7.** The moderator recognized Robert Taylor who 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 select board and other officers of the town in the prudential affairs of the town.

The motion was seconded by Rod Wendt.

A voice vote was taken.

**The “ayes” have it.**

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

**ARTICLE 8.** Moderator Franklin recognized Eric Brann 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 2019 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 “ayes” have it.**

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

**ARTICLE 9.** Moderator Franklin recognized Lee Oxenham who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption: That the Town of Plainfield hereby call upon our state and federal elected representatives to enact carbon-pricing legislation to protect New Hampshire from the costs and environmental risks of continued climate inaction. To protect households, we support a Carbon Fee and Dividend approach that charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. Enacting a Carbon Cash-Back program decreases long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aids in the economic transition for energy consumers, and keeps local energy dollars in New Hampshire’s economy. Carbon Cash-Back has been championed by US economists (Jan 17, 2019 WSJ) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our safety.

We expect our representatives to lead in this critical moment for the health and well-being of our citizens and for the protection of New Hampshire’s natural resources upon which we all rely.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Plainfield’s State Legislators, to the Governor of New Hampshire, to Plainfield’s Congressional Delegation, and to the President of the United States, informing them of the instructions from their constituents, by Plainfield’s Select Board, within 30 days of this vote. (Article by Petition)

The motion was seconded by Rod Wendt.

The floor was opened and discussion ensued.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

**Yes: 77            No: 53**

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

Eric Brann moved to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Stephen Taylor and a unanimous voice vote in the affirmative followed. Moderator Franklin declared the meeting closed at 11:20 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Michelle Marsh*  
Town Clerk