

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2016

Plainfield, New Hampshire

The annual meeting for the Town of Plainfield began at the Plainfield Elementary School on Bonner Road on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Moderator Paul Franklin opened the meeting at 8:00 am with the reading of Articles 1 & 2 and the posting certifications. Michelle Marsh made a motion to dispense with the reading of the entire warrant, seconded by Stephen Halleran. A unanimous voice vote in the affirmative followed and the polls were declared opened.

Total Number on Checklist: 1623

Total Number of Ballots Cast: 301

Percentage of Voting: 18.54%

ARTICLE 1. To choose by ballot: A Moderator for two years, a Town Clerk for three years, one Selectboard 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, and any other necessary town officers.

Select board Member for three years:

Judith A. Belyea 270

Write-Ins:

Beverly Widger	1	Mark Horne	1
Jeff Marsh	1	Justin Rogers	1
Eric Brann	1	Bonnie Swift	1

Judith A. Belyea was declared elected.

Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years:

Jesse R. Stalker 283

Jesse R. Stalker was declared elected.

Two Library Trustees for three years:

Jean S. Strong 216

Suzanne Spencer 176

Cindy Heath 135

Write-Ins:

Dennis Girouard	1	Raymond Morin	1
Diane Rogers	1	Bev Widger	1

Jean S. Strong and **Suzanne Spencer** were declared elected.

Cemetery Trustee for three years:

Stephen Halleran 269

Write-Ins:

Darrell Beaupre	1	Elaine Lenz	1
Jerry Doolittle	1	Bob Marrazzo	1
Boone Rondeau	1	David Taylor	1
James Taylor	1		

Stephen Halleran was declared elected.

Town Clerk

Michelle Marsh 279

Michelle Marsh 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, **said changes being recommended by the Planning Board:**

Question 1. In order to provide enhanced opportunities for development in the Village Residential Zoning District, the following change is proposed: **Remove** the 20% maximum lot coverage requirement for the Village Residential Zoning District and **replace** it with a maximum lot coverage of 40%.

Yes **224** No 64

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

Question 2. In order to clarify what is meant by the term Impervious Surface, the following change is proposed: **Add** to Article VIII of the Zoning Ordinance-Definitions the following: **Impervious surfaces:** Surfaces that cannot effectively absorb and infiltrate water and therefore increase both the amount and rate of storm water run off. Examples of impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to driveways, parking areas, sidewalks, roofs, decks, and patios. Vegetative surfaces are not considered impervious.

Yes **266** No **27**

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

The polls closed at 7:00 p.m; a motion was made, seconded and voted in the affirmative to recess the meeting until Saturday, the 12th of March next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon at the Plainfield school gymnasium.

On Saturday, March 12, 2016 Moderator Paul Franklin re-opened the meeting at the Plainfield Elementary School at 10:00am. The meeting began with a salute to the flag, the singing of "America the Beautiful" and a few words offered by Pastor Rubin Jennings who also asked for a moment of silence to honor residents who are no longer with us. A special mention was made by Steve Halleran to remember Fred Sweet who had served as Town Treasurer for more than 53 years.

The Moderator then introduced the town officers and recognized Selectboard member Robert Taylor who awarded the 2015 Stephen H. Taylor Community Service Award to the late Halton “Al” Grindle for his service to the town, in particular for his devotion to the Seniors of Plainfield and the wonderful Luncheons he put on each month. Al’s daughters and granddaughter accepted the award on his behalf.

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 3. His motion was seconded and passed unanimously by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 3. 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 **2,176,000** to defray town charges for the 2016 fiscal year. This amount differs from the original posted amount in the warrant due to the following amendments:

1)	Police	\$365,876	to	\$354,777
2)	Ambulance	\$ 35,500	to	\$ 34,500
3)	Highway	\$695,679	to	\$685,679

These amendments result in a decrease of **\$22,099**.

The Selectboard proposes the following budget:

1. Executive	\$197,977
2. Election/Registration/Vital Statistics	14,330
3. Financial Administration	68,200
4. Revaluation of Property	13,000
5. Legal Expenses	8,100
6. Personnel Administration	6,500
7. Planning and Zoning	1,000
8. General Government Buildings	12,425
9. Cemeteries	25,600
10. Insurance	40,500
11. Regional Associations	6,100
12. Police Department	364,777
13. Ambulance Service	34,500
14. Fire Departments -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	29,000
19. Highway Administration	20,050
20. Highways and Streets	685,679
21. Road Projects	111,496

22. Street Lights	10,000
23. Solid Waste Collection	163,000
24. Solid Waste Disposal	47,810
25. Health Agencies	18,585
26. Animal Control	500
27. Welfare	10,000
28. Recreation Commission	19,000
29. Library Department	137,336
30. Patriotic	1,000
31. Conservation Commission	500
32. Principal Long-term debt	25,000
33. Interest Long-term debt	1,285
Total:	\$ 2,176,000

The motion was seconded by Rob Taylor.

Stephen Halleran explained why the three budget items had been decreased and reported on projects from 2015 such as the completion of the Penniman Road and River Road pavement projects. He mentioned that Thrasher Road is next on the list for road repairs. He also reported on changes to the Town Highway Garage that have been made and more that will be made in 2016.

If all of the warrant articles and budget pass, we will be adding \$.19 to the town tax.

Questions were asked and answered.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 135 No 5

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

ARTICLE 4. Moderator Franklin recognized Judy Belyea who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption: Resolved, that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$170,500** 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:

\$18,000	Town Facilities Maintenance Fund created in 2015.
\$20,000	Revaluation Fund created in 1993.
\$50,000	Highway Equipment Fund created in 1987.

\$55,000	Transportation Improvement Fund created in 2006.
\$5,000	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:	
\$5,000	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 Stephen Halleran.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 132 No 7

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

ARTICLE 5. Moderator Franklin recognized Rob Taylor who offered the following resolution and moved its adoption: Resolved, that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$90,000** for the purchase of a backhoe loader for the use of the Highway Department, further to authorize the Selectboard to sell or trade the town's existing backhoe loader. If approved, the Selectboard will withdraw said sum from the Highway Equipment Fund. The Selectboard recommends this appropriation. The Selectboard was named agent to expend the highway equipment fund at the 2015 town meeting. The motion was seconded by Judy Belyea.

Rob Taylor spoke to the article and mentioned the current value of our existing backhoe is approximately \$20,000 and will be traded in to help defray the costs of the new one.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

Yes 136 No 4

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

ARTICLE 6. 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 **\$10,000** to hire a consultant to study the feasibility of relocating the United States Post Office in Meriden Village to the Meriden Library located at #22 Bean Road. As part of this project, the Meriden Library facility would be made compliant with the Americans with Disability Act. The motion was seconded by Judy Belyea.

Selectman Eberhardt explained how Kimball Union Academy no longer wishes to lease to the United States Postal Service which means the village will need to find a new location to house it. KUA offered the current Post Office building to the town with the thought it could be moved (at the town's expense) to the Bean Road location next to the Meriden Library. Given that the Meriden Library is not currently in full compliance with the ADA, there was talk of perhaps building a new Post Office as an addition to the Library which could help with the ADA compliance issues.

Discussion ensued with many questions and comments.

Moderator Franklin recognized Mark Hardy who made the following amendment to Article 6: That the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to hire a consultant **to consider options to effect ADA compliance for the library in an opportunistic and cost effective manner including options related to the current post office building.**

The motion was seconded.

Mr. Hardy felt his motion would broaden the scope of what the consultant would be able to study which in turn could help with our decision.

After much discussion, a voter card hand tally was taken on the **amendment** to Article 6.

Yes 78 No 49

It was a vote in the affirmative; the amendment was adopted and so declared.

The question was called from the audience to go to the vote. It was supported by seven voters and passed unanimously by a voice vote.

A vote by paper ballot was taken.

The votes were double counted.

NO 63 Yes 61

The motion failed, the resolution was not adopted and so declared.

Harold "Dewey" Jones recommended the selectboard form a study committee to look into this issue and report its findings at budget time next year.

This recommendation was supported unanimously by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 7. Moderator Franklin recognized Eric Brann 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 Steve Halleran.

Moderator Franklin recognized Maria Guzman who made the following amendment to Article 7: 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 **zero (0%)** percent of the assessed value of property over which the town has statutory discretion. The amendment was seconded.

Point of order was questioned as one of the Moderators rules announced at the start of the meeting was not allowing an affirmative vote for a negative outcome. The Moderator agreed and explained the amendment must have any number other than zero. None was offered, the amendment was dis-allowed and so declared.

A vote by paper ballot was taken on the original Article 7.

Yes 71 No 22

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

ARTICLE 8. Moderator Franklin recognized Stephen Halleran 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 Judy Belyea.

Mr. Halleran thanked 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. Moderator Franklin recognized Judy Belyea 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 Select board and other officers of the town in the prudential affairs of the town. Steve Halleran seconded the motion.

Selectboard member Belyea thanked all of the 2015 committee members for their time.

**A Voice vote was taken.
The “Ayes” were unanimous.
The vote was in the affirmative and so declared.**

ARTICLE 10: Ron Eberhardt 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 11. On behalf of the Plainfield EMS providers, Stephen Halleran recognized Postmaster Jean Temple for her response during an incident where a resident went into heart failure. Her timely reaction allowed the EMS providers to save a life.

Moderator Franklin swore in the following newly elected officers:

Judith Belyea	Selectboard Member
Stephen Halleran	Cemetery Trustee
Suzanne Spencer	Library Trustee

Paul Franklin (Town Moderator) was sworn into office on March 8, 2016 by Clerk, Michelle Marsh.

Michelle Marsh (Town Clerk) was sworn into office March 8, 2016 by Moderator, Paul Franklin.

Jesse Stalker (Trustee of Trust Funds) was sworn into office March 11, 2016 by Clerk, Michelle Marsh.

Jean Strong (Library Trustee) was sworn into office March 15, 2016 by Clerk, Michelle Marsh.

Dan LaPan moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m. seconded by Brad Atwater.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Marsh
Town Clerk