

TOWN OF PLAINFIELD
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Held at the Town Hall on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 1:00 p.m., then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

Meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. by the Moderator with 80 Plainfield registered voters in attendance.

Article 1. To vote by official ballot for all Town Officers, Committees, Trustees, etc., and to fix compensation for the same.

Passed Unanimously

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide such amounts of money as are reasonable and necessary to defray the expenses of the town for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Town Clerk, Assessors and Highway Department Salaries were approved as requested rather than what was recommended by the Finance Committee. There were two opposing votes for the Mohawk Education Budget. The remaining budget items Passed Unanimously as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to accept the addition of the Town of Rowe as a 7-12 member of the District effective July 1, 2018 by making the following amendments to the Mohawk Trail Regional Agreement (note: the amendments below are to be effective July 1, 2018):

Strike the following language in the Preamble:

The agreement entered into pursuant to Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as amended, and as supplemented by Chapter 371 of the Acts of 1993, among the Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, and Shelburne, hereinafter sometimes referred to as member towns, is hereby further amended in its entirety to read as hereinafter set forth.

and replace said language with the following:

The Agreement entered into pursuant to Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as amended, and as supplemented by Chapter 371 of the Acts of 1993, among the Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, Shelburne, and Rowe (hereinafter sometimes referred to as member towns, is hereby further amended in its entirety to read as hereinafter set forth.

Strike the following language in Section I(A):

The powers and duties of the regional school district shall be vested in and exercised by a regional district school committee, hereafter sometimes referred to as the Committee. The Committee shall consist of sixteen (16) elected members, two (2) from each town. A member appointed by the Rowe School Committee would serve as a non-voting member of the Committee as described in Section IX (G) of this Agreement. Members shall serve until their respective successor members are elected and qualified.

And replace said language with the following:

The powers and duties of the regional school district shall be vested in and exercised by a regional district school committee, hereafter sometimes referred to as the Committee. The Committee shall consist of eighteen (18) elected members, two (2) from each town. Members shall serve until their respective successor members are elected and qualified.

Strike the following language in Section I(B):

At the annual town elections in 1994, in addition to any term of office of an elected member whose term is expired, the following shall also be elected: the Town of Hawley shall elect one member for a three-year term, and one member for two-year term; the Town of Heath shall elect one member for a three-year term and one member for a one-year term; the Town of Plainfield shall elect one member for a two-year term and one member for a one-year term.

2004 Election Year – Terms of all currently elected committee members with the exception of Heath, Hawley and Plainfield, will expire as of the annual town elections in 2004. At the 2004 annual town elections two school committee members will be elected from the Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, and Shelburne. The school committee member who receives the largest number of votes from his/her town will serve a term of three years. The school committee member who receives the second largest number of votes will serve a term of two years.

Thereafter, in every year in which the term of office of an elected member expires, each member town involved shall, at its annual town election, select one member to serve on the Committee for a term of three years.

and replace said language with the following:

In every year in which the term of office of an elected member expires, each member town involved shall, at its annual town election, select one member to serve on the Committee for a term of three years.

At the 2018 annual town elections in the Town of Rowe, two school committee members will be elected. The school committee member who receives the largest number of votes will serve a term of three years, and the school committee member who receives the second largest number of votes will serve a term of two years. Upon the expiration of the initial term of office, each member shall serve on the Committee for a term of three years as stated above.

Each elected member commencing with the organization of the Committee following the 2004 town elections, shall have a weighted vote to be determined

by the member town's population as it relates to the total population of all member towns divided by the number of representatives to the Committee from said member town. Each weighted vote shall be determined to the nearest one-tenth and be adjusted every ten (10) years using the population figures as reported in the most recent federal decennial census.

Strike the following language in Section I(F):

The District shall have one Committee composed of representatives from each member town as set forth above. Members of the Committee from the Towns of Hawley and Charlemont will not vote on any matters that the Committee determines to concern the operation of grades kindergarten through six, exclusively.

and replace said language with the following:

The District shall have one Committee composed of representatives from each member town as set forth above. Members of the Committee from the Towns of Hawley, Charlemont, and Rowe will not vote on any matters that the Committee determines to concern the operation of grades kindergarten through six, exclusively.

Strike the following language in Section I(G):

The initial weighted votes of the Committee members established in 1994 from each member town are as follows:

Member Towns	Number of Members	Weighted Vote of each Member
Ashfield	3	5.6%
Buckland	3	6.3%
Charlemont	3	4.1%

Colrain	3	5.7%
Hawley	2	1.5%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	2.8%
Shelburne	3	6.5%

The weighted votes of the Committee have been adjusted using the population figures as reported in the most recent federal decennial census and are as follows:

Member Towns	Number of Members	Weighted vote of each Member
Ashfield	3	5.7%
Buckland	3	6.3%
Charlemont	3	4.3%
Colrain	3	5.7%
Hawley	2	1.5%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	2.5%
Shelburne	3	6.3%

The above weighted votes of the Committee members shall remain in effect until the new school committee of sixteen (16) members is reconstituted after the 2004 town election for school committee members consistent with Section I, Paragraphs A and B of the District Agreement. After the reconstitution of the committee in 2004 the weighted votes of the Committee members from each town shall be as follows:

Member Towns	Number of Members	Weighted vote of each Member
Ashfield	2	8.5%
Buckland	2	9.5%
Charlemont	2	6.5%
Colrain	2	8.5%
Hawley	2	1.5%

Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	2.5%
Shelburne	2	9.5%

and replace said language with the following:

The weighted votes of the Committee members from each town shall be as follows:

Member Towns	Number of Members	Weighted vote of each Member
Ashfield	2	8.5%
Buckland	2	9.4%
Charlemont	2	6.2%
Colrain	2	8.2%
Hawley	2	1.7%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	3.2%
Shelburne	2	9.3%

The above weighted votes of the Committee members shall remain in effect until the new school committee of eighteen (18) members is reconstituted after the Town of Rowe becomes a 7-12 member of the District. After the reconstitution of the Committee, the weighted votes of the Committee members from each town shall be as follows until the next federal decennial census as provided above.

Member Towns	Number of Members	Weighted vote of each Member
Ashfield	2	8.2%
Buckland	2	9.0%
Charlemont	2	6.0%
Colrain	2	7.9%
Hawley	2	1.6%
Heath	2	3.3%
Plainfield	2	3.1%

Rowe	2	1.9%
Shelburne	2	9.0%

Strike the following language in Section III(A):

Residents of the member towns and all residents of the Town of Rowe in grades seven through twelve will be eligible to attend school at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School, located on Route 112 in Buckland, Massachusetts.

and replace said language with the following:

Residents of the member towns will be eligible to attend school at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School, located on Route 112 in Buckland, Massachusetts.

Strike the following language in Section III(F):

The Committee shall accept for enrollment in the District High School, pupils from the Town of Rowe on a tuition basis and upon such terms as are set forth in Section IX of this Agreement. The Committee may accept for enrollment in the regional district schools pupils from towns other than the member towns and the Town of Rowe on a tuition basis and upon such terms as it may determine. In either case, income received by the District from tuition pupils shall be deducted from the total operating costs in the next annual budget to be prepared after the receipt thereof, prior to apportionment under Section IV of this Agreement to the member towns.

and replace said language with the following:

The Committee may accept for enrollment in the regional district schools pupils from towns on a tuition basis and upon such terms as it may determine. In either case, income received by the District from tuition pupils shall be deducted from the total operating costs in the next annual budget to be prepared after the receipt thereof, prior to apportionment under Section IV of this Agreement to the member towns.

Strike the following language in Section IV(H):

Third: The Committee shall apportion costs of grades seven through twelve, inclusive, to the Towns of Hawley and Charlemont in direct proportion to each town's five-year average share of student enrollment in grades seven through twelve, inclusive.

Fourth: The total budget, less the shares allocated to the Towns of Hawley and Charlemont, shall be apportioned among the district's six remaining member towns on the basis of each member town's five-year average student enrollment share. For purposes of this calculation, average enrollment share, for each of the K-12 Member Towns shall be based on its five year average proportionate share of total student enrollment in the district schools.

and replace said language with the following:

Third: The Committee shall apportion costs of grades seven through twelve, inclusive, to the Towns of Hawley, Charlemont, and Rowe in direct proportion to each town's five-year average share of student enrollment in grades seven through twelve, inclusive.

Fourth: The total budget, less the shares allocated to the Towns of Hawley, Charlemont, and Rowe shall be apportioned among the district's six remaining member towns on the basis of each member town's five-year average student enrollment share. For purposes of this calculation, average enrollment share, for each of the K-12 Member Towns shall be based on its five year average proportionate share of total student enrollment in the district schools (note: pre-K enrollment will be included in the calculation beginning in FY18 and will include the data from October 1, 2015 and October 1, 2016).

Strike the following language in Section VI(C):

For purposes of voting on the annual budget by the member towns, the approval of the District's annual budget by the town meetings of each K-12 Member Town shall constitute two "units" towards approval or disapproval of the annual district budget, while Hawley and Charlemont shall have one "unit" each, with a total of ten units needed to approve the annual budget.

and replace said language with the following:

(D) Vote on the Annual Budget

For purposes of voting on the annual budget by the member towns, the approval of the District's annual budget by the town meetings of each K-12 Member Town shall constitute two "units" towards approval or disapproval of the annual district budget, while 7-12 member towns shall have one "unit" each, with a total of ten units needed to approve the annual budget.

Strike the entirety of Section IX as follows, and renumber the remaining Sections:

SECTION IX

EDUCATION OF PUPILS FROM THE TOWN OF ROWE

(A) Special Education Pupils from the Town of Rowe

The Committee shall provide for the education of all pupils from the Town of Rowe in grades seven through twelve who are entitled to attend the District High School irrespective of the specific and particular educational needs of any pupil from said Town of Rowe, and irrespective of whether such education for any pupil from said Town of Rowe is provided at the District High School or at any other school as may be approved by said Committee.

(B) Transportation of Pupils from the Town of Rowe

The Committee shall provide for the transportation of pupils from the Town of Rowe who are entitled to attend the District High School, to and from said District High School to the extent that such transportation is provided for pupils from member towns who are entitled to attend said District High School. The Committee shall provided for the transportation of pupils from the Town of Rowe

who are entitled to attend the District High School, to and from any other school as may be approved by said Committee to the extent that such transportation is provided for pupils from member towns who are entitled to attend said District High School, to and from any other school as may be approved by said Committee.

The Town of Rowe shall bear the cost of transportation for elementary pupils attending the Rowe elementary school.

(C) Tuition Basis for Pupils Grades 7-12 from the Town of Rowe
The cost of tuition to the District High School for each pupil in grades seven through twelve who attends the District High School or any other school as may be approved by the Committee, and who resides in the Town of Rowe shall be paid by said Town of Rowe to the District during the fiscal year when each such pupil is actually in attendance. The basis of the cost of tuition to the District High School or any other school as may be approved by said Committee for each fiscal year shall be established as follows: The total Maintenance and Operating Budget for said District High School as defined in Subsection VI(D) of this Agreement, for that fiscal year, reduced by the anticipated amounts of receipts from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be used by the Committee to defray such budgeted maintenance and operating charges for that fiscal year, and further reduced by the anticipated amounts of surplus revenue from the District treasury to be used by the Committee to defray such budgeted maintenance and operating charges for that fiscal year, and further reduced by the amounts received from towns paying tuition to the district, consistent with the terms of Subsection III(F) of this Agreement; the balance (viz. the net operating and maintenance budget for said fiscal year) to be divided by the total enrollment of pupils in the District High School from member towns as of October 1 of the previous fiscal year and the resulting balance further divided by one and one-tenth (1.1); the final balance to equal the cost of tuition for one pupil for one complete school year.

(D) Reduction of the Cost of Tuition for Pupils Resident in the Town of Rowe

In the event the Committee reduces the net operating and maintenance costs assessed to the member towns for any fiscal year, by reduction of the Operating and Maintenance Budget for said fiscal year or by the application of additional

amounts of revenue, irrespective of the source thereof, to reduce the net operating and maintenance costs assessed to said member towns for that fiscal year, the cost of tuition to the Town of Rowe for the education of its pupils during said fiscal year shall be likewise reduced in accordance with the provisions of Subsection IX(D).

(E) Schedule of Payment of Tuition Costs by the Town of Rowe

The Town of Rowe shall pay for the tuition of its pupils to the District High School, or any other school as may be approved by the Committee, such amounts as are in accordance with the provisions of Subsection IX (D), and shall make such payments twice each fiscal year at the following time: 1) not later than January 31 of each fiscal year; 2) not later than June 30 of each fiscal year.

(F) Payment of Capital Costs by the Town of Rowe

The Town of Rowe shall have the opportunity to pay a portion of capital costs as defined in Subsection IV (B) for capital projects at District High School. The Committee shall negotiate the rate of a voluntary contribution with the Rowe School Committee at the time of each capital project.

(G) Representation on the Committee

The School Committee of the Town of Rowe may appoint one of its members to represent the Town of Rowe at meetings of the Committee. The Committee shall allow such representative all powers of discussion, debate and deliberation including, but not limited to, participation in such meetings of the Committee while in executive session, but such representative shall not have the power to vote on any matter which comes before the Committee.

(H) Administrative Support Services for Rowe Pupils Grade K-6

The Town of Rowe shall have the opportunity to utilize the services of the Superintendent of Schools and central administration, and Director of Pupil Services who also directs special education, for administration of the Rowe Elementary School and bear the costs thereof.

(I) Distribution of Assets in the Event of Dissolution of the District

In the event of the dissolution of the District, its assets shall be distributed to the member towns and the Town of Rowe on the basis of each town's respective aggregate payment of capital cost to the District.

 Add the following to Section XIV as a new subsection (C):

(C) Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
 Any amendment to the Agreement must be approved by the Commissioner of
 Elementary and Secondary Education.

 Add the following to Section XV:

Pursuant to 603 CMR 41.03(2), all approvals, including but not limited to approval
 by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, must be in place
 prior to December 31 for the agreement to be effective on the following July 1.

 Add the following to the last paragraph of Section XVI(A):

Pursuant to 603 CMR 41.03(2), all approvals, including but not limited to approval
 by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, must be in place
 prior to December 31 for the agreement to be effective on the following July 1.

Submitted by the MTRSD

Approved by the School Committee

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL
 SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT by striking the following
 language contained in Section III(B):

Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that elementary students
 residing in the member towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Heath, Plainfield and
 Shelburne (the “pre-K-12 Member Towns”) will receive their education in facilities
 located in the District and will be assigned as follows: Ashfield and Plainfield
 residents to Sanderson Academy; Colrain residents to Colrain Central School;
 Buckland and Shelburne residents to Buckland Shelburne Elementary School; and
 Heath residents to Heath Elementary School. Notwithstanding the above,
 students may be educated in a District school other than as assigned above upon
 (i) a majority vote of the School Committee, and (ii) an affirmative vote by both

(a) the member town or towns whose students are so assigned, and (b) the member town or towns served by the District school to which such students will be assigned, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at an annual or special town meeting.

However, it is also the intent of this Agreement that the closure of a District elementary school building and the reassignment of all students being educated in that building may not be accomplished under this section. Rather such action requires an amendment to this Agreement, the process for which is contained in Section XII.

and replacing said language with the following:

The pre-K-12 Member Towns are defined as Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Plainfield, Heath, and Shelburne. Subject to the provisions of this section, it is intended that elementary students residing in the member towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Plainfield and Shelburne will receive their education in facilities located in the District and will be assigned as follows: Ashfield and Plainfield residents to Sanderson Academy; Colrain residents to Colrain Central School; and Buckland and Shelburne residents to Buckland Shelburne Elementary School. Elementary students residing in Heath will receive their education in the Hawlemont Regional School District pursuant to a tuition agreement between the Mohawk Trail Regional School District and the Hawlemont Regional School District through no longer than June 30, 2023. During the period of such tuition agreement, the Town of Heath shall seek in good faith to negotiate with the Hawlemont Regional School District regarding joinder of the Town of Heath into the Hawlemont Regional School District for elementary education. The tuition agreement shall constitute a binding financial obligation of the Mohawk Trail Regional School District pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 4A and/or any other enabling legislation. Heath may withdraw from the Mohawk Trail Regional School District for grades PK-6 in accordance with the "Withdrawal" section of this Agreement. Heath shall remain responsible for its outstanding indebtedness, if any, including but not limited to OPEB, to the Mohawk Trail Regional School District despite such withdrawal in accordance with the terms of the Regional Agreement.

If, upon the expiration of such tuition agreement, as may be extended, Heath and the Hawlemont Regional School District have failed to reach agreement as to the

joinder of Heath into the Hawlemont Regional School District, elementary students residing in Heath will receive their education in facilities located in the Mohawk Trail Regional School District, the specific location(s) to be decided as provided herein. The Mohawk Trail Regional School Committee will offer at least two (2) facilities located in the District as options for educating the elementary students of Heath and the Heath members of the Committee will determine which one (1) facility to recommend to the Committee for the placement of all Heath resident elementary students. No facility will be approved by the Committee without the affirmative votes of both Heath Committee representatives, provided however that in the event of a tie vote between such Heath representatives, or in the event that there are vacancies in the positions of Heath representatives, a majority vote of the Committee will prevail. The determination must occur no later than November 1st of the school year prior to the change.

Notwithstanding the above, students may be educated in a District school other than as assigned above upon (i) a majority vote of the School Committee, and (ii) an affirmative vote by both (a) the member town or towns whose students are so assigned, and (b) the member town or towns served by the District school to which such students will be assigned, acceptance by each town to be a majority vote at an annual or special town meeting. However, it is also the intent of this Agreement that the closure of a District elementary school building (other than the Heath Elementary School which was closed as of June 30, 2017) and the reassignment of all students being educated in that building may not be accomplished under this section. Rather such action requires an amendment to this Agreement, the process for which is contained in Section XII.

Submitted by the MTRSD

Approved by the School Committee

Article 3 and 4 were voted on together and passed unanimously

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT by striking the following language contained in Section IV(E)(3):

(3) Capital costs incurred by the Committee and associated with grades pre-Kindergarten to six, inclusive, of any District school or schools which may be constructed by the Committee to serve pupils from the Town of Heath shall, after deducting any receipts from the Commonwealth or other revenue source relating thereto, be assessed to the Town of Heath. Capital costs representing payments of principal and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations as issued by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District or the Committee to finance expenses in the nature of capital outlay for the purpose of construction at the site of, or reconstruction to, the Heath Elementary School or upon any Premises as may be purchased by the Mohawk Trail Regional School District for the purpose of providing facilities primarily for the education of Heath pupils only shall be borne by the Town of Heath.

and replacing said language with the following:

(3) The Heath Elementary School Building shall be returned to the Town of Heath on July 1, 2017, and the Lease between the parties shall terminate as of said date. In exchange for termination of the lease, the District shall pay to the Town of Heath a total sum of \$240,000.00, such payment to be made in no fewer than three (3) annual installments. The amounts and timing of such installments shall be as agreed upon in writing by the School Committee and the Town of Heath, provided however that the final installment shall be due no later than June 30, 2020. Any outstanding debt payments associated with the Heath Elementary School shall remain the responsibility of the Town of Heath, and the Town of Heath shall continue to be assessed for said debt in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

Submitted by the MTRSD

Approved by the School Committee

Article 6. To see if the Town will vote to amend the MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGIONAL DISTRICT AGREEMENT by striking the following language contained in Section XI(A)(2):

2. The inhabitants of Heath shall lease the Heath School to the District for the sum of \$1.00 annually, for an initial term of twenty years, with an option for an extension of an additional twenty years, and upon such further terms as the parties thereto shall later specify.

Submitted by the MTRSD

Approved by the School Committee

Article 5 and 6 were consolidated and voted on together. Passed Unanimously

Article 7. To see if the town will authorize the Assessors to apply \$80,000.00 from Free Cash to reduce the Fiscal 2018 tax rate, or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Town Accountant

Recommended by the Finance Committee

Passed Unanimously

Article 8. To see if the town will vote to transfer the amount of \$9,000.00 from Free Cash for a new furnace for the Highway Garage, or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Buildings Committee

Recommended by the Finance Committee

A motion made by Dave Alvord to increase the amount from \$9,000 to 9,700.

Approved unanimously as amended

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$5,000.00 from Free Cash to upgrade Town Office Technology, or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Select Board

Recommend by the Finance Committee

Passed Unanimously

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$16,000.00 from Free Cash for a plow, wing plow, plow frame, hydraulics, etc. to outfit a new truck, or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Highway Department Recommended by the Finance Committee

Passed Unanimously

Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$29,100.00 from Free Cash to the FY'17 Winter Roads Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Town Accountant Recommended by the Finance Committee

Passed Unanimously

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$5,000.00 from the FY'17 Highway Salaries Account to the FY'17 Machinery Upkeep Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Highway Superintendent Recommended by the Finance Committee

Passed Unanimously

Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$5,000.00 from Free Cash to purchase/outfit a vehicle for the Animal Control Officer, or take any action relative thereto. (This is a FY'17 article.)

Inserted by the Animal Control Officer Recommended by the Finance Committee

Passed Unanimously

Article 14. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$661.50 from Library Sales and Fines to the Shaw Memorial Library, or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Town Accountant

Passed Unanimously

Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$167,500.00 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Town Accountant Recommended by the Finance Committee

Requires a 2/3 majority

Passed Unanimously

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to reduce the amount authorized to borrow for the Highway Department Truck at the May 7, 2016 Annual Town Meeting by \$490.00. (The Town was authorized to borrow up to \$116,000.00 for a fully equipped dump truck; the loan amount was \$115, 510.00.)

Submitted by the Town Accountant Recommended by the Finance Committee

Passed Unanimously

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to negotiate and enter into Structured Tax Agreements or agreements for payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) pursuant to MGL Chapter 59, Section 38H (b), and Chapter 164, Section 1, or any other enabling authority, for a term of years for both real and personal property associated with solar photovoltaic facilities, including but not limited to facilities to be located on land located on 29 Union Street and shown as parcels 1 & 17 on Assessors' map 15C, upon such terms and conditions as said Board shall deem to be in the best interest of the Town, and to take all action necessary to implement such agreements; or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Select Board

Passed Unanimously

Article 18. To See if the Town will amend the By-Laws of the Town of Plainfield, Article XVI * DENIAL, REVOCATION, SUSPENSION OF LOCAL LICENSES AND PERMITS ,

Section 1. By deleting the following:

The tax collector or other municipal official responsible for records of all municipal taxes, assessments, betterments and other records of all municipal

charges, hereinafter referred to as the tax collector, shall annually furnish to each department, board, commission, or division, hereinafter referred to as the licensing authority , that issued licenses or permits including renewals and transfers, a list of any person, corporation, or business enterprise, hereinafter referred to as the party, that has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges for not less than a twelve month period, and that such party has not filed in good faith a pending application for abatement of such tax or a pending petition before the appellate tax board.

and replacing with:

The tax collector or other municipal official responsible for records of all municipal taxes, assessments, betterments and other records of all municipal charges, hereinafter referred to as the tax collector, shall annually, and may periodically, furnish to each department, board, commission, or division, hereinafter referred to as the licensing authority , that issued licenses or permits including renewals and transfers, a list of any person, corporation, or business enterprise, hereinafter referred to as the party, that has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges and that such party has not filed in good faith a pending application for abatement of such tax or a pending petition before the appellate tax board.

Section 2. By deleting the following:

The licensing authority may deny, revoke or suspend any license or permit, including renewals and transfers of any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the licensing authority from the tax collector; provided, however, that written notice is given to the party and the tax collector, as required by applicable provisions of the law, and the party is given a hearing, to be held not earlier than fourteen days after said notice. The list shall be prima facie evidence for denial, revocation, or suspension of said license or permit to any party. The tax collector shall have the right to intervene in any hearing conducted with respect to such denial, revocation or suspension. Any findings made by the licensing authority with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension shall be made only for the purposes of such proceeding and shall not be relevant to or introduced in any other proceedings at law, except for any appeal from such

license denial, revocation or suspension. Any license or permit denied, suspended or revoked under this section shall not be reissued or renewed until the license authority receives a certificate issued by the tax collector that the party is in good standing with respect to any and all local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges, payable to the municipality as of the date of issuance of said certificate.

And replacing with:

The licensing authority may deny, revoke or suspend any license or permit, including renewals and transfers of any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the licensing authority from the tax collector or with any respect to any activity, event or other matter which is the subject of such license or permit and which activity, event or matter is carried out or exercised or is to be carried out or exercised on or about real estate owned by any party whose name appears on said list furnished to the licensing authority from the tax collector; provided, however, that written notice is given to the party and the tax collector, as required by applicable provisions of the law, and the party is given a hearing, to be held not earlier than fourteen days after said notice. The list shall be prima facie evidence for denial, revocation, or suspension of said license or permit to any party. The tax collector shall have the right to intervene in any hearing conducted with respect to such denial, revocation or suspension. Any findings made by the licensing authority with respect to such license denial, revocation or suspension shall be made only for the purposes of such proceeding and shall not be relevant to or introduced in any other proceedings at law, except for any appeal from such license denial, revocation or suspension. Any license or permit denied, suspended or revoked under this section shall not be reissued or renewed until the license authority receives a certificate issued by the tax collector that the party is in good standing with respect to any and all local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges, payable to the municipality as of the date of issuance of said certificate.

Submitted by the Select Board

Requires a 2/3 vote

Passed Unanimously

Article 19. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to apply, accept, and expend for specific purposes provided by any Federal or State Grants or Programs which may be awarded to the Town.

Inserted by the Select Board

Passed Unanimously

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to accept as available funds any and all monies from the Executive Office of Transportation for Fiscal 2018.

Inserted by the Select Board

Passed Unanimously

Article 21. To see if the Town will choose or create, as appropriate, any other Town Committees, Boards, Commissions, Trustees, Offices, etc., and to fix compensation for the same, or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed Unanimously

Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to retain legal counsel for the town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Select Board

Passed Unanimously

Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to leave the care, maintenance and repair of the Town Hall, Shaw Memorial Library, Hallock Memorial School Building, Hathaway Hall, Firehouse, Town Garage, Police Station, Public Safety Building, and surrounding areas, in the charge of the Buildings Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Buildings Committee

Passed Unanimously

Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to leave the care, maintenance and repair of the cemeteries in the charge of the Cemetery Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Cemetery Committee

Passed Unanimously

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to leave the care, maintenance and repair of the highways, public ways, including the alteration and widening thereof, railings and bridges in the charge of the Select Board, or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Select Board

Passed Unanimously

Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Town Officers, Boards, Committees, Trustees, etc. as printed in the Town Report.

Motion made by Brian Hawthorne to change Chairman of the Broad Band Committee to Brian Hawthorne from Sally Silberberg. Passed unanimously as amended.

Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to approve the following non-binding resolution: Resolution for Federal and State Carbon Fee and Dividend

A Resolution Relating to the Growing Risks of Climate Change

To ask the Town of Plainfield to adopt the following non-binding Resolution, or take other action relative thereto:

WHEREAS climate change poses a serious threat to the Town of Plainfield in terms of the economy, public health, and the environment;

AND WHEREAS as a result of climate change, the Northeast is experiencing warming temperatures and a large increase in the amount of rainfall measured during heavy precipitation events;

AND WHEREAS more frequent heat waves in the Northeast are expected to increasingly threaten human health through more heat stress, droughts, and air pollution;

AND WHEREAS sea level rise and more frequent heavy rains are expected to increase flooding and storm surge, threatening people and infrastructure, necessitating increased costs for damage control;

AND WHEREAS as temperatures rise, agriculture will likely face reduced yields, potentially damaging livelihoods and the regional economy;

AND WHEREAS Carbon Fee and Dividend will significantly reduce carbon emissions, create jobs, grow the economy, save lives, and protect households from higher energy prices;

AND WHEREAS most economists, from conservative to liberal, agree that the most cost-effective way to cut carbon pollution is to add a fee that steadily raises the price of fossil fuels;

AND WHEREAS legislation addressing climate change should not economically burden Plainfield and its citizens;

AND WHEREAS Carbon Fee and Dividend will protect lower and middle-income households, as two thirds of families will break even or receive more in dividends than they would pay for in higher living expenses;

AND WHEREAS Carbon Fee and Dividend will create jobs, as the dividend puts money back into local economies;

AND WHEREAS Carbon Fee and Dividend is a market-based solution in which a fee is levied on carbon-based fuels as they come out of the ground or as they are imported, with all monies returned in equal shares to households as a dividend, thus leveraging market forces that encourage investments in increased energy efficiency and alternate sources of energy by both industry and consumers;

AND WHEREAS Carbon Fee and Dividend will employ a "border adjustment" to protect domestic businesses. The "border adjustment" will use import/export

fees and rebates to neutralize any impact to the cost of domestically produced products, and incentivize other states to adopt a comparable carbon fee;

AND WHEREAS in the absence of federal Carbon Fee and Dividend, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can pass state Carbon Fee and Dividend (or “Rebate”);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Plainfield calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature and the United States Congress to implement Carbon Fee and Dividend (or “Rebate”), placing a steadily rising fee on carbon-based fuels, and returning all fees collected, minus administrative costs, to households;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon passage, the Plainfield Town Clerk shall mail copies of the resolution and vote to the President of the United States, Donald Trump; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Paul Ryan; the House Minority leader, Nancy Pelosi; the Majority and Minority leaders of the U.S. Senate, Mitch McConnell and Charles Schumer; the U.S. Senators representing Massachusetts, Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren; the Congressperson representing our district, Richard Neal; the Governor of Massachusetts, Charlie Baker; the Massachusetts Senate President, Stan Rosenberg; the Speaker of the Massachusetts House, Robert DeLeo; and the state senator and state representative from our district, Adam Hinds and Steven Kulik.
By Voter Request

YES Votes 49

NO Votes 8

Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to approve the following non-binding resolution:

Resolution endorsing the protection of pollinators and enhancement of pollinator habitat

WHEREAS, Bees and other pollinators are a crucial component of a healthy ecosystem and a vital link in our food system, providing the pollination responsible for over three quarters of the world’s plant species, and for one out of every three bites of food that we eat, and

WHEREAS, pollinator populations are in sharp decline due to human land use practices that are causing ongoing habitat loss and fragmentation, the expansion of pesticide use by consumers and professionals, and the spread of pathogens and parasites, and

WHEREAS, extensive research has documented that neonicotinoids and other systemic pesticides have been shown to cause illness and death to honey bees, native bees, butterflies, moths, other insect pollinators, and beneficial insects, and

WHEREAS, guidelines for land management best practice are available which allow residents, businesses, farms, towns, and land trusts to manage their land in ways that increase pollinator forage and nest sites while decreasing maintenance costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Town Meeting that the Town of Plainfield is hereby declared a Pollinator-Friendly Community and that the town encourages the adoption of policies and practices that support pollinator health by minimizing the use of insecticides as already encouraged as “responsible” practices in the Plainfield Right to Farm By-Law .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Plainfield will set an example by adopting the pollinator-friendly practices below and encourage property owners, residents, town departments, business owners, and land trusts to adopt pollinator-friendly practices including:

- *Planting more pollinator-supporting forage on their property, emphasizing native plant species, and adopting organic or chemical-free lawn and landscaping practices;

- *Avoiding the planting of flowering plants which are treated with systemic insecticides and avoiding the use of seeds coated with systemic neonicotinoids;

- * Avoiding the use of insecticides, including systemic insecticides on their property.

The Town clerk is requested to send copies of this resolution to Governor Charlie Baker, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux, State Senator Adam Hinds, and State Representative Stephen Kulik, or to take any other action relative thereto.

By Voter Request

YES Votes 52

NO Votes 1

Abstained 3

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to approve the following non-binding resolution:

The American Anti-Corruption Act

The act seeks to make it illegal to purchase political influence.

The Act has three primary goals:

- **Stop political bribery** so special interests can't use job offers and donations to influence politicians. No lobbyist bundling.
- **End secret money** so people know who's buying political power. Ensure that all significant political fundraising and spending is immediately disclosed online and made easily accessible to the public.
- **Fix our broken elections** so that the people, not the political establishment, are the ones in control. **End gerrymandering.** Ensure accurate representation for all voters, regardless of political party.

Non-Binding Resolution Supporting State and Federal Legislation to Provide Greater Transparency in Political Donations and Limit the Influence of Money in Politics

The citizens of the Town of Plainfield, Massachusetts, support tough new anti-corruption laws to close loopholes in Massachusetts' campaign finance regulations that currently allows unregulated out-of-state money to infiltrate state and local elections; and we support the goals outlined in the American Anti-

Corruption Act to remove the corrupting influence of money on our political system. The Act prohibits politicians from taking campaign money from special interest groups including private industries and unions; increases transparency for campaign funding; empowers all voters through a tax rebate voucher to contribute to the candidates they support; prohibits representatives and senior staff from all lobbying activity for five years once they leave office; and places limits on superPACs.

The citizens of the Town of Plainfield implore our elected representatives in Boston, State Senator Adam G. Hinds and Rep. Stephen Kulik, and in Washington, Sen. Edward Markey and Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Rep. Richard E. Neal (or their successors) to lead this effort to enact these initiatives in Massachusetts and in the U.S. Congress.

The Clerk of the Town of Plainfield is hereby directed to give notice to the above representatives by sending a certified copy of this resolution to each of them. There will also be an informational meeting about this and several other resolutions before the Town Meeting in early May. Look for further announcements.

By Voter Request

YES Votes 51

NO Votes 3

ABSTAINED 5

Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to approve the following non-binding resolution:

Whereas access to health care is of great concern to ourselves and our neighbors; and

Whereas when the number of people who do not have access to quality health care increases, the health of our communities decreases, and

Whereas the money spent by Cities and Towns to cover their employees is a large cost to both employer and employee; and

Whereas Massachusetts has been a leader in providing coverage for quality health care for its people; and

Whereas there is an alternative means of providing health care for all that also provides better coverage, without co-pays and deductibles, and includes medical, dental and preventative care.

That this bill is the “Improved Medicare for All”, House Bill #1026, Senate Bill #619.

Therefore be it Resolved:

That the Town of Plainfield endorses the House and Senate Bill, “Improved Medicare for All”, and will communicate it’s support to the Town’s State Representatives and State Senator.

By Voter Request

YES Votes 50

NO Votes 0

ABSTAINED 7

Article 31. To see if the Town will vote to transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

No other business was brought before the Town Meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m .

A true record to the best of my knowledge.

ATTEST: Ruth E. Osgood, Town Clerk

A True Copy:

ATTEST: Ruth Osgood, Town Clerk