

**ANNUAL REPORTS
FOR THE
TOWN OF PLAINFIELD
MASSACHUSETTS
2017**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agricultural Commission	31
Board of Assessors	20
Board of Health	27
Board of Registrars	31
Board of Selectman	6
Broadband Committee	30
Buildings Committee	32
Building Inspector	32
Cemetery Committee	28
Conservation Commission	29
Council on Aging	28
Cultural Council	28
Electrical Inspector	28
Energy Committee	30
Emergency Management	25
Finance Committee	20
Fire EMS Department	24
Hampshire Council of Governments	34
Highland Ambulance EMS	36
Highway Department	25
Hilltown Community Development Corp	33
Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative	33
Historical Commission	33
Mary Lyon Foundation	24
Plainfield Light and Telecommunications	30
Planning Board	27
Police Department	26
School District	21
Shaw Memorial Library	24
Tax Collector	20
Town Accountant	16
Town Meeting Minutes	7
Town Officers	4
Treasurer	19
Tree Warden	31
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District	27
Veterans Graves Officer	27
Whiting Street Fund	24
Zoning Board of Appeals	32

Cover photography by Michael Lumsden





Kay Dilger Metcalfe

Mary Kathryn (“Kay”) Dilger Metcalfe passed away peacefully at home on February 21, 2018, at the age of 105. Kay had a long history in Plainfield, beginning at age 12, when her family camped out on Windsor Pond. In 1946 her father bought the farmhouse on Main Street, and she and her husband, Tris, came to live there full-time in 1988. In her elder years, Kay was blessed to have the love and support of family living nearby—her son, Tristram Metcalfe III, her grandson, Andy Stevens, and his family, and her daughter, Susan LaRock, who moved back East from California to live with her mother, providing loving care in the final years.

Kay was proud to be the oldest person in Plainfield, an honor she had held since August 19, 2012, when the selectmen presented her with the town’s Gold Headed Cane. She made the most of her long life, sharing her talents, her friendship, and her sense of humor with all who knew and loved her. Toward the end of her life, she also shared her reflections on life and aging through her writings and words of wisdom.*

- On being old:
“I am 90 years old and much is to be said for this age. . . . This ‘Looking Glass’ space one enters finally releases so many misconceptions. . . . Here one ponders not on regrets, remorse. Even guilt is erased.”
- From “Ah, Change,” a poem written in 2008:
*New times ask for new methods,
New men and women
Things advance
Some laws best in our Fathers’ time
Have outgrown their usefulness
Better and wiser schemes
Will be found
By the steady growth of truth.*
- On watching adult children make important life decisions:
“I try to think back to what I did when I was their age, and I realize that I should just let them be. Whatever they do, in the long run, it turns out okay. It really does.”
- On dealing with illness and loss:
“These things happen in life, and you have to cope with them the best you can. . . . I’m emotional about things, but I’m not overly emotional.”
- On dealing with the unexpected:
“If you aren’t happy with it, try to be happy with it. It works out in the long run.”
- On how to cope with aging:
“Find a way to stay interested. Do some writing. Whatever you do, keep your mind moving. And if you can’t remember things, don’t get alarmed. Write it down.”

This edition of the Annual Report of the Town of Plainfield is dedicated with honor and respect to the memory of Kay Dilger Metcalfe.

*All quotations are from Kay’s writings or interviews conducted by Rebecca Mlynarczyk in 2007 (available on the website of the Plainfield Historical Society at <http://plainfieldmahistory.org/kay-dilger-metcalfe/>).

ANNUAL ELECTION

OFFICE	NAMES	TERM EXPIRES
Board of Assessors – 3 years		
	Claude E. Dupont III	2018
	Dudley Williams	2019
	Helene Tamarin	2020
Board of Health – 3 years		
	Ellen Dupont, Chairman	2019
	David Crowell	2018
	Linda Carver	2020
Board of Selectman- 3 years		
	Howard Bronstein, Chair	2020
	Winton Pitcoff	2019
	Hilary Weeks	2018
Constables – 3 years		
1st	Merton Taylor, Sr.	2019
2nd	Edward E. Morann	2019
Councilor, Hampshire Council of Governments – 2 year		
	Peg Keller	2018
Library Trustees – 3 years		
	Sandra Morann	2018
	Ann Kohn	2019
	Lynn Robbins	2020
Moderator – 1 year		
	Laurie Israel	2018
School Committee – 3 years		
	Heather Davis	2019
	Dudley Williams (remainder of term)	2020
Town Clerk – 3 years		
	Ruth E. Osgood	2019
Tree Warden – 1 year		
	Winton Pitcoff	2018
Whiting Street Fund Disbursement Committee – 3 years		
	David W. Alvord, Chairman	2020
	Ellen Baer	2018
	Robert Persing	2019

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

POSITION	TERM EXPIRES
Accountant	Three Year
Paula J. King	2016 2019
Ad Hoc Road Status Committee	One Year
William Sheppard	2016
2018	
Merton Taylor Jr.	2016
2018	
Edward Morann	2016
2018	
Americans with Disabilities Act Committee	One Year
William Adams	2016
Vacant	
Agricultural Commission	Three Year
Anna Hanchett	2015
Paul Dileo	2014
Anne Williams	2015
Ed Stockman	2013
Sarah Stull	2017
David Crowell, Alternate	One Year
2016	
AMCO Officer	One Year
Philip Lococo	2016
Animal Aid Committee	One Year
Ronald A. Scott, Chairman	2016
Animal Control Officer	One Year
Casey Dwyer	2017
Warren Kirkpatrick, Certified	2017
Board of Registrars	Three Year
John F. Westwood, Chairman	2014
Linda J. Melle	2015
Ruth Osgood	2016
Robert Fusco	2016

POSITION	TERM EXPIRES
Broadband Committee <i>DISBANDED 3/28/2017</i>	Three Year
Building Committee	Three Year
+Appt. by Moderator David Alvord	2017
	2020
Appt. by Finance Com. Claude Dupont	2015
Appt. by Moderator Jeff Prost	2017
Appt. by Select board Phillip Sargenski	2017
Appt. by Moderator Vacant	
Burial Agent	One Year
Ruth Osgood	2017
Carl Nilman Scholarship Com. Representative	One Year
Allen Irvine	2017
Cemetery Committee	Three Year
Merton D. Taylor, Sr.	2016
Theresa A. Thatcher	2015
Ruth Osgood	2016
Conservation Commission	Three Year
Judith B. Williams, Chairman	2017
Nina Inchari	2015
Eric Burcroff	2015
John Burns	2017
John Nelson	2017
Alice Schertle	2016
CORI Officer	One Year
Edward Morann	2017
Council on Aging Three Year	
Shirley Tood Wood replaces Jay	2015
Phil Allessio 2015	Resigned 2018
Elaine Sidney	2017
Ann Kohn	2015
Anne Irvine	2015
Alternate Vacant	One Year
Emergency Management	One Year
Merton D. Taylor, Jr., Chairman	2017
Dennis Thatcher, Co-Chairman	2017
Stacey Hudson	2017
Emergency Response Coordinator	
Merton Taylor, Jr.	2017
Field Driver	One Year
David Crowell	2017
Fire Department	One Year
Dennis A. Thatcher, Chief	2017
Fire Chief David W. Alvord, Assistant Chief	2017
Appoints Edward E. Morann, Captain	2017
Fire Officers Merton D. Taylor, Jr., Captain	2017
Matthew Hardwick, Lieutenant	2017
Ellen Dupont, Lieutenant-Medical Officer	2017
Flags & Flowers Committee	One Year
Vacant	
Susan M. Lococo	2017
Sandra J. Morann	2017
Bonnie Phillips	2017
Vacant	
Franklin Regional Transit Authority	One Year
Howard Bronstein	2017
Geneologist	One Year
Betsey Howes	2017
Grant Writing Committee	Three Year
Kimberly Longley	2017
Vacant	
Hazardous Materials Officer	One Year
Dennis A. Thatcher	2017
Highland Ambulance - Town Representative	Three Year
Ed Morann	2017 Vacant
Highland Valley Elder Services	One Year
Ann Kohn	2017
Hilltown Community Development Corp. Rep.	One Year
Vacant	
Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative	One Year
Vacant	

POSITION	TERM	EXPIRES	POSITION	TERM	EXPIRES
John Nelson, (Recycling Coordinator)		2017	Tax Collector	Two Year	
Historical Commission	Three Year		Heather Davis		2016
Judy A. Williams, Chairman		2015	Tax Collector Assistant	One Year	
Lori Austin		2015	Vacant		
Dario Coletta		2017	Town Clerk Assistant	One Year	
Dudley Williams		2016	Theresa Thatcher		2017
Bettie Briggs		2015	Town Treasurer and Two Year Tax Title Custodian		
Inspector of Gas Fittings	One Year		Allan Kidston		2016
Donald Lawton		2017	Treasurer Assistant	One Year	
Inspector of Plumbing	One Year		Vacant		
Donald Lawton		2017	Town Perambulator	One Year	
Inspector of Wiring	One Year		Vacant		2017
David Rhinemiller		2017	Town Administrative Assistant/Secretary	Three Year	
IT Director One Year			Paula King		2015
Donald Hall Vacant	2017 Resigned		Uniform Procurement Officer	One Year	
Master Street Address Guide Committee	One Year		Winton Pitcoff		2017
Edward E. Morann, Chairman		2017	Veteran's Agent	One Year	
Robert L. Persing		2017	Brian Brooks		2017
Dennis A. Thatcher		2017	Veterans' Graves Officer	One Year	
Theresa A. Thatcher		2017	Dudley Williams		2017
Laurence D. Wood, Jr.		2017	Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Service District	One Year	
MBI Community Representative (Point of Contact)	One Year		Phillip S. Lococo		2017
Disbanded			Zoning Board of Appeals	Three Year	
Mohawk Municipal Advisory Committee	One Year		Joan Wattman		2017
Disbanded			Peg Keller		2017
Moth Superintendent	One Year		Laurie Israel appointed 7/12/16 2016	Resigned 2/17/18	
Judy A. Williams		2017	Ann Irvine, Alternate		2017
Municipal Hearing Officer - M.G.L. Chapter 148A	One Year		Sandra J. Morann, Alternate		2017
William Adams - Cumington 2/13/18			Appointments done in April - Done by State Calendar		
Plainfield's Delegation - Wired West	One Year		Inspector of Animals	One Year	
Leslie Rule, Delegate	resigned 9/12/17 2017		Casey Dwyer		2017
David Kramer, Alt Delegate	Resigned 2017		Appointments done in September		
Kimberly Longey, Delegate through	June 30, 2018		Cultural Council	Three Year	
Brian Hawthorne Alt Delegate through	June 30, 2018		Michal Lumsden		2015
Plainfield Energy Committee	One Year		Stephen Bushway		2017
Stephen Bushway		2017	Cynthia Poirier		2017
Conrad Liebnow		2017	Lina Berstein		2015
Tim Walter		2017	Lynda Christie		2015
Judy Williams		2017	Allen Irvine		2015
Planning Board	Three Year		Suzie Westwood		2015
Peter LaPointe (PVPC Commissioner)		2016	Appointments/Hires not done by Selectmen		
Roberta Wooldridge		2017	Assessors' Assistant - Assessor's Hire this position	One Year	
Claude Dupont		2015	Catherine Hall		2017
Robert Silberberg (PVPC Alternate)		2017	Finance Com. (Town Moderator appoints this com.)	Three Year	
Brian Hawthorne, Chairman		2015	Robert L. Persing		2016
Police Department	One Year		Robert Baker		2017
Stacey Hudson, Chief		2017	David Kramer		2016
Police Chief			Lew Robbins, Chairman		2015
Appoints Joshua Shearer, Regular Officer		2017	Paul (Tim) Walter		2015
Police Officers			Roberta Wooldridge		2015
Edward Morann, Regular Officer		2017	Sylvane Stockwell	2017 Resigned	
Bernard Forgea, Special Officer		2016	Library Director-Library Trustee's hire this position	One Year	
Sandra Morann, Special Officer		2017	Denise M. Sessions		2017
Merton D. Taylor, Sr., Special Officer		2017	Vocational Ed Advisory Com	One Year	
Recreation Committee	Three Year		Paula King		2017
Sandra Morann, Chairman		2015	Heather Davis, Alternate		2017
Heather Davis		2015	Appointments/Hires done by Selectmen		
Justina Harrison		2015	Building Commissioner	One Year	
Kenneth Magdycz		2015	Gerald Garner 2017		
Roxanne Shearer		2017	Building Inspector - Local	One Year	
Alternates	One Year		Vacant		
Vacant			Highway Superintendent	One Year	
Right to Know Officer	One Year		Merton Taylor Jr.		2017
Gregor B. Prentice	(Moved)	2016	Tax Collector Deputy	One Year	
Safety Coordinator	One Year		Point Software		2017
Gregor B. Prentice	(Moved)	2016	Town Counsel	One Year	
Surveyors of Wood & Lumber	One Year		Atty Ronald Berenson		2017
Vacant			KP Law		2017
Claude DuPont III		2017	Town Custodian	One Year	
			Bonnie Phillips		2017

SELECT BOARD

The Select Board's annual report gives us a chance to look back at the hard work done by us and others on behalf of our community as stewards of Plainfield's public business. A prime example: what had been the Broadband Committee last year, has transformed into the Plainfield Municipal Light Plant, the name an official designation from the state. More importantly to the town, Manager Kimberley Longey and Assistant Manager Brian Hawthorne now oversee a town department, Plainfield Broadband! As we near our goal of access to high-speed internet for all residents there is much work to be done. Kimberly and Brian are directing a dedicated and hard working group of volunteers in designing, financing, building, and soon maintaining our own high-speed network that will link us to the rest of the world.

In doing the town's business in the last year we realized a public declaration of how this Board functions and stating the expectations for us and the public we serve would be useful. We implemented a Code of Conduct and now ask all elected and appointed officials to sign off on this when taking their oath of office. The Code also includes expectations for civil public discussions from officials and the public, who we encourage to come participate as we do your town's business on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of each month.

People being sworn in will also be asked to sign a Social Media Policy statement, as our town internet use under Brian Hawthorne's leadership has expanded to include official email addresses. The policy explains the responsibilities that come with having an official town email address. The web site, in addition to informing, serves as the official and required document retention repository for all minutes of every board and committee. We support and appreciate making Plainfield's web site an official and useful resource.

Another major resource project begun by the current Board is to bring Plainfield's organizational structure and human resources practices into current best practices for managing personnel and town work. We have a patchwork of policies and procedures adopted by various bodies over the years, but no single comprehensive set of rules to follow. The Select Board began an initial effort at revising job descriptions, but quickly realized that we need help to create the human resource infrastructure any modern organization

needs to operate. And the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is providing that help.

The State's Community Compact Program has provided us a grant to hire a consultant to develop a wage plan for all town employees, update personnel policies and procedures, and provide a framework for performance and operational management ensuring all town employees are held to the same standards. The State offers this help in recognizing and implementing best practices and the Select Board looks forward to using this assistance to better manage our town.

We have also worked closely with the Finance Committee and Chair Lew Robbins. We support the Committee's approach to developing departmental budgets based on real spending history and building long term budgets for capital spending for vehicles, buildings and infrastructure planning one year, five years, and ten years into the future. This effort will continue and will also incorporate the findings of the grant-driven salary study as this Board and the Committee are committed to best practices, fairness, and equity in how we compensate employees and staff.

We began working with the Hilltown Community Development Corporation on a grant to review our town facilities and their current compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our previous review is more than a decade old and represents work accomplished in the previous century.

We are always addressing neighbors and folks with challenges and changes to the local landscape. After the hard-working Plainfield Zoning Board of Appeals completed a Special Permit the Select Board was able to sign a PILOT (PAYMENT IN Lieu of Taxes) agreement with a commercial solar company. We hosted public meetings concerning the proposed marijuana cultivation facility, and worked with Franklin Land Trust and local land owners on a land conservation project. We continue to work closely with the Energy Committee, as they work to plan and implement upgrades resulting from the Green Community grant they secured for our town.

As this report began so it ends...the Select Board will continue to work with the other dedicated and diligent citizens who work on behalf of our town, Plainfield.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Bronstein



Michael Lumsden

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

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%

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 provide 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 Comm.
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 Dept. Recommended by the Finance Comm.
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 Comm
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 Comm
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 its 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



Elaine Holder

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Plainfield qualified to vote in town affairs, to assemble at the Town Hall, Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. then and there to act on the following articles, to wit

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts to be added to the corresponding FY'18 appropriations:

\$173.00 to the Tax Collector Salary
\$181.00 to the Accountant's Salary
\$173.00 to the Treasurer's Salary
\$304.00 to the Administrative Secretary Salary
\$ 86.00 to the BOH/Compactor Attend. Salaries
\$340.00 to the Shaw Memorial Library

and to approve 3% salary increases for the police chief, police officers, the custodian, the total amount of each not to exceed the amounts approved at the May 6, 2017 Annual Town Meeting, or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Select Board & Finance Committee Supported
by the Select Board and Finance Committee

Passed Unanimously

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$45,000.00 from the Stabilization Fund for the purchase of a new one ton dump truck for the Highway Department, or take any action relative thereto.

Inserted by the Highway Superintendent and the Select Board
Supported by the Finance Committee Requires a 2/3 vote

Passed Unanimously

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

No new business brought forth

A true record to the best of my knowledge.

ATTEST: Ruth E. Osgood, Town Clerk

A True Copy:

MAY 6, 2017 TOWN ELECTION RESULTS

Turn out for Town Election held on Saturday, May 6, 2017 was 91 voters out of a total of 476 registered voters. This was a 19 percent turnout.

OFFICE	NAME	VOTES	BLANK	WRITE-IN
Board of Assessors	Helene Tamarin	85	1	
Board of Health	Linda Carver	80	11	
Board of Selectman	Howard Bronstein	85	6	
Library Trustees	Lynn Robbins	83	8	
Moderator	Laurie Israel	79	10	2
School Committee	Leslie Rule	80	10	1
Tree Warden	Winton Pitcoff	83	7	1
Whiting Street Fund	David Alvord	89	2	

REFERENDUM QUESTION:

Shall the Town of Plainfield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued to pay for a fully equipped dump truck?

YES: 72 NO: 17 BLANK: 2

TREASURER'S REPORT

From 07/01/2014 to 06/30/2015

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

To: The Residents of Plainfield

CASH BALANCES as of June 30, 2017

Easthampton Savings Bank	Vendor & Payroll	\$ 109,440.51
Easthampton Savings Bank	Investment & State Payments	527,996.65
Easthampton Savings Bank	Municipal Light Plant - Grant	250,000.00
Citizens Bank	Deputy Collector	25,552.57
Peoples United Bank	Trust - Septic Loan Fund	60,663.49
Citizens Bank	Trust - Various	17,672.18
Greenfield Savings Bank	Trust - Cemetery Funds	14,926.58
Mass Municipal Deposit	Trust Stabilization	609,490.09
Total Cash Balances June 30, 2017		\$1,615,742.07

RECEIPTS

July, 2016	229,875.47	February	326,440.00
August	225,779.21	March	92,745.67
September	44,452.33	April	461,222.99
October	155,228.02	May	245,725.81
November	205,581.77	June, 2017	342,049.22
December	281,217.96		
January, 2017	159,100.34	Total FY 2017	2,769,418.79

DEBT OUTSTANDING

	<i>Outstanding as of June 30, 2016</i>	<i>Outstanding as of Retirements</i>	<i>June 30, 2017</i>
Public Service Bldg	\$305,163.00	\$9,537.00	\$295,626.00
Hwy Loader	82,530.00	27,510.00	55,020.00
Truck	115,510.00	0.00	115,510.00
Totals	\$503,203.00	\$37,047.00	\$466,156.00

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Grossman, Richard	Lower Liberty St.	14, 0, 30.1	1,735.21
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Tax Title Total - June 30, 2017			\$111,133.02

Footnote: The amounts shown above do not include treasurer's interest which accrues at 16%, any attorney fees and/or other legal/court costs incurred, or redemption fees. Subsequent to yearend several of the above accounts have been paid in full or entered into payment agreements. Six of the above accounts are in the foreclosure process.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan L. Kidston, CMMT, Treasurer



Michael Lumsden

ALL DEPARTMENTS EXPENDITURE REPORT

From 07.01.2017 to 06.30.2017

GENERAL FUND

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	CARRY FWD	ORIG BUD	AMENDED	ENCUMB	EXPEND	UNENCUM BAL	% EXP
Board of Selectmen		5,000.00			5,000.00		100.00 %
Town Office Expense		11,000.00			10,866.59	133.41	98.78 %
Treasurer		11,516.00			11,516.00		100.00 %
Administrative Secretary		20,300.00			20,300.00		100.00 %
Moderator		30.00			30.00		0.00 %
Accountant		12,054.00			12,054.00		100.00 %
Tax Title Expense		10,000.00			4,270.33	5,729.67	42.70 %
Training/Seminar Expense		500.00			500.00		0.00 %
Town Counsel		6,000.00			1,415.99	4,584.01	23.59 %
Assistant Town Clerk Salary		507.50			507.50		100.00 %
Assessors		6,315.00			5,671.06	643.94	89.80 %
Assessors Salaries		42,112.00			42,040.66	71.34	99.83 %
Tax Collector		12,075.00			9,320.77	2,754.23	77.19 %
Collectors Salaries		11,516.00			11,516.00		100.00 %
Town Clerk		6,000.00			2,734.83	3,265.17	45.58 %
Town Clerk Salary		11,673.00			11,673.00		100.00 %
Conservation Commission		500.00			429.38	70.62	85.87 %
Finance Committee		150.00			129.00	21.00	86.00 %
Planning Board		1,400.00			1,400.00		0.00 %
Zoning Board		200.00			200.00		0.00 %
Hamp. Council of Govt.		402.28			402.28		100.00 %
Highway Salaries		196,461.00	-5,000.00		183,632.13	7,828.87	95.91 %
Highway General		50,000.00			49,816.76	183.24	99.63 %
Machinery Upkeep		65,000.00	5,000.00		69,419.36	580.64	99.17 %
Dump Truck		100,000.00	115,510.00		215,510.00		100.00 %
Winter Roads		70,000.00	29,100.00		99,033.60	66.40	99.93 %
Street Lights		700.00			546.97	153.03	78.13 %
Mohawk Reg. School Operat		711,024.00			711,024.00		100.00 %
Mohawk Regional School		19,926.00			19,926.00		100.00 %
Vocational Tuition		178,473.00			56,657.18	121,815.82	31.74 %
School Committee Expense		775.00			775.00		100.00 %
Shaw Memorial Library		17,207.00			17,207.00		100.00 %
C. Frank.Vet. Dist.		1,044.00			1,019.41	24.59	97.64 %
Cemetery Commission		4,350.00			3,898.41	451.59	89.61 %
Veterans' Graves/Mem. Day		400.00			261.44	138.56	65.36 %
Police Department		16,805.00			12,494.43	4,310.57	74.34 %
Radio Repair & Maint.		2,000.00			127.50	1,872.50	6.37 %
Police Salaries		14,210.00			7,835.62	6,374.38	55.14 %
Fire Department		22,336.00			21,605.59	730.41	96.72 %
Highland Ambulance EMS		18,881.00			18,881.00		100.00 %
Highland Ambulance Capital		387.00			387.00		100.00 %
Blackboard Connect		2,000.00			1,602.71	397.29	80.13 %
Fire Chief Salary		5,000.00			5,000.00		100.00 %
Highland Ambulance/EMS Bldg. Cap.		4,203.00			4,010.00	193.00	95.40 %
Generator & Expenses	8,000.00	12,000.00			19,466.76	533.24	97.33 %
Building Alarms		1,240.00	126.92		1,366.92		100.00 %
Building Inspector		9,000.00			8,520.00	480.00	94.66 %
Plumbing Inspector		1,800.00			1,800.00		100.00 %
Electrical Inspector		2,670.00	25.00		2,695.00		100.00 %
Emergency Management/CD		1,000.00			985.00	15.00	98.50 %
Animal Control Officer		1,000.00			1,000.00		100.00 %
Animal Control Off. Exp.		600.00			600.00		0.00 %
Animal Control Vehicle		5,000.00			1,400.00	3,600.00	28.00 %
Barn & Cattle Inspector		200.00			200.00		100.00 %
Immunizations		500.00			500.00		0.00 %
EMT Training		2,000.00			470.00	1,530.00	23.50 %
Tree Warden		3,000.00			3,000.00	6,000.00	100.00 %
Compactor		24,409.00			17,931.44	6,477.56	73.46 %
Compactor Salary		5,731.00			5,291.74	439.26	92.33 %
Hilltown Res. Mgmnt Coop		2,424.00			2,423.37	0.63	99.97 %
HRMC MRF Container Assessment		1,358.00			1,357.15	0.85	99.93 %

GENERAL FUND

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	CARRY FWD	ORIG BUD	AMENDED	ENCUMB	EXPEND	UNENCUM BAL	% EXP
Loader Loan		27,510.00				27,510.00	100.00 %
Public Safety Bldg. Bond Prin.		9,537.00				9,537.00	100.00 %
Int. Long-term Debt		15,879.00				15,878.11	99.99 %
Int. Short-term Debt		1,000.00				1,000.00	0.00 %
Insurance		62,005.00				45,840.53	73.93 %
Town Building Repair	8,297.00	15,000.00	550.00			23,847.00	100.00 %
ADA		100.00				100.00	0.00 %
Twn. Bldg. Operations		46,000.00				45,172.56	98.20 %
Twn. Bldg. Sup/Maint/Cust		20,000.00				12,431.04	62.15 %
Town Reports		1,000.00				812.20	81.22 %
Council on Aging		737.00				737.00	0.00 %
Recreation Committee		2,450.00				1,186.98	48.44 %
Flags/Flowers		300.00				128.53	42.84 %
Historical Commission		1,300.00				692.08	53.23 %
Agricultural Commission		200.00				199.03	99.51 %
County Retirement		61,172.00				61,172.00	100.00 %
Medicare		5,000.00				4,283.10	85.66 %
Unemployment		4,200.00				1,554.52	37.01 %
Chapter 32B Medical Ins.		56,306.00				55,842.16	99.17 %
Reserve Fund		3,000.00	-701.92			2,298.08	0.00 %
Total	19,297.00	2,072,060.78	149,610.00		2,027,512.72	213,455.06	
Total GENERAL FUND	19,297.00	2,072,060.78	149,610.00		2,027,512.72	213,455.06	
Grand Total	19,297.00	2,072,060.78	149,610.00	0.00	2,027,512.72	213,455.06	



Michael Lumsden

GENERAL ACCOUNT ASSETS

CASH	Assets	Liabilities
General Cash	966,063.10	
TOTAL FOR CASH		966,063.10
PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES	Assets	Liabilities
Personal Prop Taxes F2012	377.22	
Personal Prop Taxes F2014	83.19	
Personal Prop Taxes 2016	180.96	
Personal Prop Taxes F2017	244.50	
Personal Prop Taxes F1998	3.00	
TOTAL FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES		888.87
REAL ESTATE TAXES	Assets	Liabilities
Real Estate Taxes F2004	143.50	
Real Estate Taxes F2008	783.61	
Real Estate Taxes F2010	34.49	
Real Estate Taxes F2012	5,336.88	
Real Estate Taxes F2013	197.82	
Real Estate Taxes F2014	908.86	
Real Estate Taxes F2015	488.49	
Real Estate Taxes F2016	12,517.87	
Real Estate Taxes F2017	54,109.46	
Real Estate Taxes F1999	0.33	
TOTAL FOR REAL ESTATE TAXES		74,521.31
MOTOR VEHICLE EX TAXES	Assets	Liabilities
Motor Vehicle Ex F2009	415.95	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2010	703.68	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2011	1,520.86	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2012	948.28	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2013	1,379.51	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2014	480.31	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2016	2,137.79	
Motor Vehicle Ex F2017	9,407.19	
TOTAL FOR MOTOR VEHICLE EX TAXES		16,993.57
FARM EXCISE TAXES	Assets	Liabilities
Farm Animal Excise	4,352.30	
Forest Products Cut	5.00	
TOTAL FOR FARM EXCISE TAXES		4,357.30
TAX TITLES & POSSESSIONS	Assets	Liabilities
Tax Titles	110,383.64	
TOTAL FOR TAX TITLES & POSSESSIONS		110,383.64
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	Assets	Liabilities
Highway Chapter 291B	185,956.44	
TOTAL FOR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		185,956.44
LOANS AUTHORIZED	Assets	Liabilities
Loans Authorized	1,130,000.00	
Due frm Whiting Strt Fund	391.09	
TOTAL FOR LOANS AUTHORIZED		1,130,391.09
GRANTS	Assets	Liabilities
FY'14 EMPG Grant	1,500.00	
TOTAL FOR GRANTS		1,500.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,491,055.32	

GENERAL ACCOUNT LIABILITIES

REAL ESTATE TAXES	Assets	Liabilities
Real Estate Taxes F2018		1,120.20
TOTAL FOR REAL ESTATE TAXES		1,120.20
MOTOR VEHICLE EX TAXES	Assets	Liabilities
Motor Vehicle Ex F2015		99.75
TOTAL FOR MOTOR VEHICLE EX TAXES		99.75
REVENUE	Assets	Liabilities
Revenue Fiscal 2018		114,886.58
TOTAL FOR REVENUE		114,886.58
AGENCY	Assets	Liabilities
Federal Withholding	385.58	
Medicare Withholding	47.14	
State Withholding	185.28	
County Retirement	357.72	
Dental Insurance With.	83.53	
License to Carry/State	368.75	
BC/BS - Officials	1,250.44	
Health Insurance Withholdings	298.32	
Unclaimed checks	187.93	
TOTAL FOR AGENCY		3,164.69
GRANTS	Assets	Liabilities
Library Grant		21,397.99
Cultural Council		3,740.70
Cult Council Enrich Fund		660.00
Council on Aging - State		29.87
Town Hall Project Gifts		660.00
Town Hall Association		4,256.40
Dog Kennel Gift		50.00
Emergency Management/FEMA		2,297.00
Homeland Security Grant		167.74
Septic System Rpr. Grant		64,030.15
Community Policing Grant		527.10
Health Bd Emer Prep Grant		1,469.30
Public Safety Bldg. Complex Grant		300,000.00
BoH Small Scale Grant		4,800.00
Solarize Mass Grant		305.72
Direct Energy Solar Gift		3,200.00
Police Dept. Donations		7,788.66
Council on Aging Gifts		2,577.76
Library Gifts		3,671.44
Cemetery Gifts		300.00
Cemetery (Funds Approp. for Use)		17.87
Recreation/General		4,315.64
Baseball Activities Donations		1,000.00
Playstructure @ Ballfield		2,478.85
Flag Gifts		160.16
WiredWest Donations		4.76
Library Addition		1,497.63
Historical Comm Donation		11.74
TOTAL FOR GRANTS		431,416.48
REVOLVING	Assets	Liabilities
Deputy Tax Collector Fees		483.00
Off-Duty Police Detail		189.00
Insurance Claim		6,856.33
Insurance Claim - Fire House		5,660.58
Ch 148A Municipal Enforcement Fines		200.00
Loans Authorized Unissued		1,130,000.00
TOTAL FOR REVOLVING		1,143,388.91

RCPTS RESVRD FOR APPROP	Assets	Liabilities
Cemetery Lot Int./Perpet. Care		1,490.39
Conservation Comm/Wetland		1,938.71
ZBA Consultant Services		3,901.07
Library Sales & Fines		164.48
TOTAL FOR RCPTS RESVRD FOR APPROP		7,494.65

OVERLAYS RES FOR ABATE	Assets	Liabilities
Overlay F2017		80,727.18
TOTAL FOR OVERLAYS RES FOR ABATE		80,727.18

REVENUE RESERVED UNTIL COL	Assets	Liabilities
Tax Title & Poss. Rev.		110,383.64
Motor Vehicle Excise Rev		16,993.57
Special Tax Revenue		4,357.30
Hwy Chapter 291B Revenue		185,956.44
Cemetery Lot Revenue		15,112.56
CDBG Housing Rehab Repayment		17,339.32
TOTAL FOR REVENUE RESERVED UNTIL COL		350,142.83

SURPLUS REVENUE	Assets	Liabilities
Surplus Revenue	358,614.05	
TOTAL FOR SURPLUS REVENUE		358,614.05

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$2,491,055.32

TRUST FUNDS ACCOUNTS	Assets	Liabilities
Trust Cash	623,795.39	
Due To General Fund		391.09
Cemetery PC Fund		2,709.32
Arts Lottery Fund		951.26
M. Arvilla Dyer Lib. Fnd		2,792.90
Martha Smith Library Fund		3,885.63
Whiting Street Fund		3,575.10
Stabilization		609,490.09
TOTAL	623,795.39	623,795.39

LONG TERM DEBT	Assets	Liabilities
Inside Debt Limit	466,156.00	
Hwy Dump Truck		115,510.00
Public Safety Building Loan		295,626.00
Loader Loan		55,020.00
TOTAL FOR LONG TERM DEBT	466,156.00	466,156.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

CASH BALANCES as of June 30, 2017

Easthampton Savings Bank	Vendor & Payroll	\$ 109,440.51
Easthampton Savings Bank	Investment & State Payments	
527,996.65		
Easthampton Savings Bank	Municipal Light Plant - Grant	250,000.00
Citizens Bank	Deputy Collector	25,552.57
Peoples United Bank	Trust - Septic Loan Fund	60,663.49
Citizens Bank	Trust - Various	17,672.18
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Respectfully submitted,

Allan L. Kidston, CMMT, Treasurer

TAX COLLECTOR

	Real Estate Balances As of June 30, 2017	Personal Property Balances As of June 30, 2017	Motor Vehicle Balances As of June 30, 2017	Other Excise Balances As of June 30, 2017
2017	54,090.15	244.5	9,407.19	4357.30
2016	12,517.87	180.96	2,137.79	
2015	488.49	0	-54.95	
2014	908.86	83.19	454.16	
Prior Years	6,484.67	380.22	5,451.11	0.00
Totals	74,490.04	888.87	17,395.30	4,357.30
Grand Totals:	97,131.51			

All payments are due on the quarterly system, with dues dates as follows:

First Quarter: August 1, Second Quarter: November 1, Third Quarter: February 1, Fourth Quarter: May 1.

To keep postage to a minimum, I send out First Quarter and Second Quarters together and the Third and Fourth are mailed out separately.

Respectfully submitted

Heather Davis
Tax Collector

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Tax Rate Recapitulation for Fiscal Year 2017 July 1, 2016 thru June 30, 2017

Total amount to be raised:	\$2,178,837.27
Total estimated receipts and revenues from other sources:	503,711.00
Net amount to be raised by taxation (Tax Levy)	1,675,126.27

Valuation by Class

Residential	\$67,136,336.00
Commercial	7,581,508.00
Industrial	794,100.00
Personal Property	10,570,542.00

Total Property Valuation \$86,080,486.00

Levy by Class

Residential	\$1,306,434.18
Commercial	147,536.15
Industrial	5,453.19
Personal Property	205,702.75

Total Tax Levy \$1,675,126.27

Tax Rate \$19.46

Number of real estate transfers received in calendar year 2016 37

Number of motor vehicle excise bills sent:

For registration year 2016.	123	\$ 7,517.76
For registration year 2017	754	\$69,056.13

Number of motor vehicle abatements granted:

For registration year 2016	12	999.46
For registration year 2017	13	1,450.26

Exemptions for real estate granted 8 \$ 4,050.00

Abatements for real estate granted 5 344.42

Abatements for personal property 2010 & 2011

Verizon ATB Case 1,441.41

Tax Exempt Property:

Value: Town, State, Charities, Audubon:	9,181,300.00
70 parcels exempted tax dollars	\$178,668.10

Respectfully Submitted,

Claude DuPont III, Chairman
Dudley Williams
Helene Tamarin



Michael Lumsden

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mohawk Trail Regional School District

During 2017, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MA DESE) launched a celebration campaign to share the performance of MA public schools relative to the rest of the nation and the world. The big picture message put forth by MA DESE was that our public school students are performing at a very high level, which includes the Mohawk Trail Regional School District and the Hawlemont Regional School District.

- MA public schools and students are #1 in the U.S. in reading and math according to the 2015 NAEP exam (National Assessment of Educational Progress), which is a national assessment of student knowledge in various subject areas. MA public schools are also #1 in the nation for the 4th straight year in the Education Week Research Center's annual Quality Counts 2018 report.
- MA public schools and students are #1 in the world in reading according to the 2016 PISA exam (Program for International Student Assessment), which is an international assessment that measures 15-year-old students' reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years.
- MA public schools and students are #1 in Advanced Placement (AP) success in the country (2017), which is measured by the percentage of students who scored 3 or higher on college level AP exams. Approximately 44.1% of the students in the Massachusetts' class of 2016 took at least one AP exam while they were in high school, and 31% of these students scored 3 or higher out of a possible 5. Many colleges and universities grant credit for scores of 3, 4 or 5 on AP exams.

The results of the 2017 MA Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) indicate that Mohawk students continued to meet the high bar reflected in Massachusetts' several #1 academic performance rankings being touted by MA DESE. In order to graduate from high school, Mohawk students must demonstrate proficiency on the MCAS in three subject areas: (1) English Language Arts, (2) Mathematics and (3) Science, Technology and Engineering. In 2017, Mohawk high school students scored within 2 points, plus or minus, of the state average in all three subject areas. In terms of college readiness, 70 Mohawk students took a total of 107 AP exams last year. These tests ranged from English to Math to Science to Social Studies. Of the 107 AP exams taken, 67.3% achieved a grade of 3 or higher, which was also within 2 percentage points of the state average. With regard to the SAT college entrance exam, Mohawk has outperformed the state in reading, writing and math over the past 5 years. Each year, approximately 80% of Mohawk graduates attend either a 4-year or 2-year college. Examples of colleges attended by Mohawk students in 2017 include George Washington University, Mount Holyoke College, Clarke University, Franklin Pierce University and UMASS Amherst (Commonwealth Honors College).

2017 also marked the closing of Heath Elementary School, which was a recommendation that resulted from the 2016 strategic planning process entitled Building Educational Sustainability and Trust (BEST) led by the Mohawk School Committee. Ultimately, the voters of Heath decided that enrollment in their local school was too low and that their children would receive a higher quality education in nearby Hawlemont Regional Elementary School. In the fall of 2017, over 30 Heath students attended Hawlemont through a tuition agreement reached by the Mohawk and Hawlemont School Committees. This school building restructuring saved the Mohawk District approximately \$400,000 in expenses while simultaneously benefitting Hawlemont approximately \$350,000 in tuition revenues. Most importantly, the Heath elementary students are now attending a vibrant school and are receiving a high quality education.

Hawlemont Regional Elementary School is in the midst of a renaissance that has been driven largely by the school's transition to a hands-on, agriculturally-based curriculum, which is informally referred to as the HAY Program (Hawlemont, Agriculture and You).

Since the introduction of the HAY Program just 2 years ago, enrollment at Hawlemont has increased dramatically from 102 students to 164 students! Approximately half of this growth is from families outside of the district choosing Hawlemont through School Choice, and the other half is from the tuitioning of Heath students to Hawlemont after the closure of Heath Elementary. All of this enrollment growth, however, is connected to the overwhelmingly positive community response to the HAY Program. Additionally, the influx of tuition revenues has strengthened both educational programming and the financial sustainability of Hawlemont.

Other highlights from 2017 include (1) the Mohawk District revised its vision, mission and core values; (2) preschool enrollment increases at Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School and Sanderson Academy are driving long-term growth in both schools; (3) Colrain Central School is exploring the creation of a service learning educational program; (4) Mohawk and Greenfield Community College collaborated to create a new high school Robotics course to be offered in the spring of 2018; (5) Mohawk began exploring the potential move of 6th grade to Mohawk in the fall of 2019; (6) the Mohawk and Hawlemont school communities expressed interest in exploring an alternative structured learning program more informally referred to as a Blizzard Bag program; (7) the Mohawk School Committee and the Mohawk District Education Association reached agreement on a new 3-year contract; (8) half of the BSE asbestos removal project was completed; and (9) the Mohawk and Hawlemont districts supported the MA Rural Schools Coalition efforts to advocate on behalf of rural public schools across the Commonwealth.

While every school year is chock-full of activity, I do wish to take a moment to express our collective sincere gratitude to our townspeople for making all of this important work possible. On behalf of our students, I thank the entire Mohawk and Hawlemont school communities for your dedicated support of our children's education. THANK YOU!!

Respectfully submitted,
Michael A. Buoniconti
 Superintendent of Schools

CO-PRINCIPALS

Mohawk Trail Regional High School

Over the course of this year, Mohawk faculty, students, and members of the Local Education Council (LEC), which is composed of parents, faculty, students, and community members, have been engaged in developing a graphic representation of our shared vision for a Mohawk graduate. Our evolving vision document features habits of mind such as perseverance, creativity, curiosity and self-reflection, as well as habits of the heart such as openness, integrity, kindness, and empathy, in addition to skills for college and career readiness, such as reasoning, problem-solving, research and evaluation of information, and effective written and oral communication. Through a series of conversations and professional collaboration, our school community has been examining how the curriculum and instruction can prepare students for the future and provide opportunities for all students to hone these skills.

Mohawk's middle school is located in its own wing of the school, providing a supportive environment for students making the transition from elementary school. Middle school students spend most of their day in classes taught by a team of educators who have a common planning time and who work together to support and challenge students. Each middle school team is composed of teachers of core courses as well as a Learning Specialist with expertise in Special Education and instructional strategies. Adjustments to the middle school schedule this year provided for a daily homeroom/advisory period, as well as a body break for physical activity and social interaction. Middle school students also explore a variety of enrichment topics through the Related Arts programming that introduces them to subjects they can study in

more depth in high school, including Spanish, French, woodshop, art, band, and chorus.

In the high school students have a variety of choices as they fulfill graduation requirements, including ten Advanced Placement (AP) offerings: Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Environmental Science, Physics, U.S. History, and World History. Many students take numerous Advanced Placement courses over their time at Mohawk, and the Class of 2017 had nine students who earned the designation of AP Scholar with Distinction, awarded to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 (out of 5) on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Educators innovate by developing new courses and increasingly work together to support the needs of diverse learners.

As part of Mohawk's ongoing commitment to strong STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education, this year the school is partnering with Greenfield Community College to offer a Robotics course at Mohawk that students can take for college credit. The STEM curriculum in 8th grade emphasizes engineering design and cross-disciplinary applications through project-based learning. All middle school students take a Digital Literacy course, assuring that they have a foundation of computer skills and critical literacy. High school students can take the Exploring Computer Science course which uses a national curriculum developed through university and industry collaboration with the National Science Foundation. Mohawk educators across disciplines frequently use Google Classrooms applications and Chromebooks in their instruction. Over the past few years we have shifted to a math curriculum that emphasizes inquiry and problem-solving, and we work closely with faculty from Westfield State University and neighboring school districts to support our teachers in the use of inquiry-based learning approaches.

Expanding our arts offerings, Mohawk introduced an Arts Integration position in the middle school this year. In addition to teaching a studio art course as part of the middle school Related Arts rotation, our Arts Integration teacher partners with classroom educators in the 7th and 8th grade on projects that integrate the arts with core curriculum, such as the 8th grade math lessons associated with the work of Sol LeWitt, the artist whose colorful mural graces Mohawk's front foyer. The Mohawk Arts and Education Council, composed of faculty and staff who are passionate about the arts, continues to provide leadership for our drama programming and other interdisciplinary artistic endeavors at our school, including the all-school musical "Shrek" that featured performances by students from elementary through high school.

This year we introduced two new programs that will become annual traditions. In March Mohawk hosted its first Interactive Open House, featuring presentations and student work from students throughout our district, from elementary to high school. This event brought students, parents and community members into our school to experience the curriculum and participate in learning activities. Another innovation this year was the expansion of the annual Step Up Day activities in early June. Traditionally Step Up Day has focused on providing 6th grade students with an opportunity to visit the middle school in preparation for their experience as incoming 7th graders. This year we used the day as a Step Up Day for all grades. Current 7th grade students visited the 8th grade team of educators, 8th grade students visited high school classes, 9th and 10th graders all went on college visits (choosing among Westfield State University, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Williams College, and MCLA [Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts]) and the juniors began their planning for the Senior Capstone project they complete as a graduation requirement. On another day in June a team of educators led a field trip to visit a number of colleges in Boston, introducing students to more post-secondary options. Activities like the Interactive Open House and the expanded Step Up Day strengthen connections between our school and the community.

Mohawk's diverse athletic programming offers many opportunities for students in grades 7-12 to participate. In the

2016-2017 school year, 60% of Mohawk students (259) participated in at least one afterschool sport. This is a summary of the varsity sports offered over the course of the year:

Winter 2016-2017	9 Varsity Sports	13 teams (HS-JV-MS)
girls basketball, boys basketball, girls alpine skiing, boys alpine skiing, boys nordic skiing, girls nordic skiing, boys indoor track, girls indoor track, wrestling		
Spring 2016-2017	7 Varsity Sports	11 teams (HS-JV-MS)
boys track, girls track, softball, baseball, girls tennis, boy tennis, girls lacrosse coop		
Fall 2017-2018	8 Varsity Sports	13 teams (HS-JV-MS)
golf, boys cross country, girls cross country, boys soccer, girls soccer, volleyball, field hockey, football		

At the mid-point of the 2017-2018 school year, enrollment in grades 7-12 is 398. The seventh grade has 55 students and the eighth grade has 82 students. There are 64 students in grade 9, 57 in 10th grade, 67 juniors, and 66 seniors. Seven students are enrolled in our post-graduate program.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn R. Dole and Marisa Mendonsa
 Co-Principals

PRINCIPAL

Sanderson Academy

It is my pleasure to continue to serve as the Sanderson Academy principal. 2017 saw generally strong academic performances from students, some staffing additions, and work continuing on a number of mandates from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Our enrollment as of the end of the 2017 was 150 students in grades preschool through sixth grade. The number of students at each grade level was as follows: 46 children in the preschool, 20 children in kindergarten, 12 children in first grade, 18 children in grade two, grade three had 14 students, fourth grade had 17 students, fifth grade had 12 students and 11 students were in our sixth grade class. All classes were grouped heterogeneously.

The faculty for the 2017-2018 school year consisted of eleven full-time classroom teachers, one special education teacher, one full-time reading teacher, and one full-time math interventionist. This includes the addition of one kindergarten class. Specialists providing services in our school include a school adjustment counselor three days per week, a speech/language pathologist that services students four days per week, a full time nurse, and occupational and physical therapists, each for less than one half day per week. We have art, music, and physical education teachers instructing three days per week each. They provide students with one hour of class time weekly in each subject area. Additional time is offered for band and chorus students in the upper grades. We also have a part-time library manager and twelve paraprofessionals. We welcomed Chrissy Schoellkopf as the second kindergarten teacher. We welcomed Deb Hatt as a paraprofessional. Denise Sessions transitioned from the Cafeteria Manager to the School Secretary with the retirement of Jacki Clark. We wish Jacki a wonderful retirement after 31 years at Sanderson Academy. Wendy Mimitz returned to the Cafeteria Manager position she held in the past. In addition, we have four part-time before and after-school staff. The program allows students in grades preschool through second grade to receive care from 7:30 to 8:30 and until 5:30 each day for a daily fee.

The spring of 2016 saw Sanderson Academy students again per-

forming well on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Achievement System (MCAS) tests. In the three areas assessed, English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology, our students performed at levels, which were similar to or better than the performances of other students in our District or State.

The wood pellet heating system came online in December of 2017. The previous oil system was reaching the end of its service life and will function as a back-up heat source, while the pellet boilers will provide 90% of the heating needs. The boilers are low emissions and fully automated.

By making this necessary heating system replacement with a pellet boiler, the project was eligible for a DOER SAPHIRE grant. The grant covers 75% of the cost. The SAPHIRE Program promotes renewable thermal heating and cooling and efficiency upgrades in public schools and state public housing.

School safety remains a focus at Sanderson Academy. We have monthly fire drills, at least three lockdown drills a year, and school evacuation drills. Many of these drills include local and state emergency service personnel. We appreciate the support of the Ashfield and Plainfield emergency personnel.

Thank you citizens of Ashfield and Plainfield for all you do to support your community school!

Respectfully submitted,

Emma Liebowitz M.Ed.
Principal

SPECIAL EDUCATION and PUPIL SERVICES

The Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional Special Education Department serves students in the Sanderson, Colrain, Hawlemont, Buckland-Shelburne, and Mohawk Middle and High Schools. The primary function is to ensure that students with an IEP (Individual Education Plan) or a 504 are being serviced at a level required to make effective progress with supports outlined in their IEP or 504. According to state data, The Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont district have about 21% and 24% respectively of their student population receiving special education services. Those services are in several areas; speech and language, occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), counseling and academics. With the closing of Heath Elementary for the school year 2017-18, the support services were shifted to the Hawlemont Elementary School. Every school has at least one special education teacher. The OT and PT spend about one day in each school, Mohawk has a full time Speech Language Assistant and a part time Speech Language Pathologist, BSE has a full time Speech Language Pathologist and Assistant, Colrain and Hawlemont share a full time Speech Language Pathologist and each have a full time Speech Assistant, and Sanderson has a four day a week Speech Pathologist. Sanderson has three days of a School Adjustment Counselor and is sharing a School Psychologist from the Middle School/High School one day a week, BSE and Colrain share an Adjustment Counselor and each have a School Psychologist two and one days a week respectively, Hawlemont has a four day a week School Psychologist, and the Middle and High School have a full time Adjustment Counselor and School Psychologist four days a week. The level of services in each building is based on population and level of services legally required by an IEP. Changes made from last year were due to the shifting of Heath students to Hawlemont and the increased population of Pre-School students at BSE, Sanderson and Hawlemont.

The district is legally obligated to support a SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Committee). Over the past year the parents that had worked hard to initiate this group, have been unable to continue. We thank them for their support and for the best SEPAC the district has supported in many years. We continue to advocate for a SEPAC and offer parent workshops throughout the year.

The district continues to support a substantially separate program for students requiring the support of BCBA (Board Certified

Behavior Analyst). The program is located at BSE and currently serves six students. When the program began, students spent more than 50% of their time within the program. Currently those students are in their mainstream classes more than 60% of the time.

The district initiated a Language Based Program at Colrain Elementary School this year. The LBP (Language Based Program), supports students with a primary disability in reading. They require a high level of support both in their general education classroom and direct reading instruction from a Special Education Teacher also certified as a Reading Specialist. The program is supported by Colrain's Special Education Teacher and a part time reading specialist.

To support students district-wide with a specific learning disability in reading; three teachers (Sanderson, Hawlemont, and BSE) took a summer intensive course and were certified in Orton Gillingham. Orton Gillingham is an instructional approach intended primarily for use with individuals who have difficulty with reading, spelling, and writing of the sort associated with dyslexia. It is most properly understood and practiced as an approach, not a method, program, system, or technique. In the hands of a well-trained and experienced instructor, it is a powerful tool of exceptional breadth, depth, and flexibility.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leann Loomis
Director of Pupil Personnel Services

CARL H. NILMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Fund was established under the provisions of the will of Carl H. Nilman for the purpose of providing scholarships. Recipients shall reside in the School District and be graduates of the Mohawk Trail Regional High School who desire and are deemed worthy of post high school education or training and who are in need of financial assistance.

This year the Awards Subcommittee read 68 applications, 24 were from seniors and 44 were from graduates. \$34,150.00 was our allotment for scholarships which we used 30% for seniors and 70% for graduates. The Committee feels that seniors have multiple scholarship opportunities from other sources while graduates have fewer resources. 22 scholarships totaling \$10,000.00 were awarded to seniors (92% of applicants) and 32 scholarships totaling \$24,150.00 were given to graduates (73% of applicants). From 1991-2017 a total of \$944,125.00 has been awarded in scholarships. Mohawk seniors have received \$290,775.00 and \$653,350.00 has been awarded to graduates.

The same formula for determining what percentages of the fund should be distributed as scholarships, which had been established by the School Committee and the management firm of Bartholomew and Co., was used again this year.

Once again the applications are available on line for the graduates and the seniors can pick up their application at Mohawk.

Press releases were published in both the Independent and the Greenfield Recorder in March containing information about the Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Fund.

There are fifteen members on the Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Fund, one from each of the nine member towns in the district, three at large members appointed by the School Committee, plus a past School Committee, current School Committee member and the chairman of the School Committee Members from the nine towns are: Sheila Graves (Ashfield), Marion Scott (Buckland), Marge Porrovecchio (Charlemont), Michelle Hillman (Colrain), Gloria Fisher (Heath), Alice Parker (Hawley), Allen Irvine (Plainfield), Marion Taylor (Shelburne) and Laurie Pike (Rowe). Suzanne Crawford is the representative to the School Committee.

Officers are: Marge Porrovecchio and Robin Hartnett, Co-Chairs. and Marion Scott is Secretary. Subcommittees are: Finance: Marion Taylor, Robin Hartnett and Eric Sumner. Scholarship: Marge Porrovecchio, Sheila Graves, Michelle Hillman, Marion Scott and Allen Irvine.

MARY LYON FOUNDATION

Innovative Support of Local Education

The Mary Lyon Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides innovative support for local education in the nine West County towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, Rowe and Shelburne. Named in honor of Buckland-born educator Mary Lyon, who founded Mt. Holyoke College in 1837, the organization provides services and programs to enhance the quality of local education. We are generously supported by many individuals and businesses. Major support this year was provided by the United Way of Franklin County, the Myrtle Atkinson Foundation, People's United Community Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Our donors, grants and events help support the Harper Gerry Student Assistance Fund, scholarships, mini-grants, Gift Catalog for classroom supplies, annual Community Spelling Bee and a wide variety of pro-active programs.

We were privileged this year to host nationally acclaimed author Luis Urrea for the culmination of our Big Read program which featured his book *Into the Beautiful North*. Presentations were held at Greenfield Community College, Holyoke Community College and the Care Center. This program was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Creative educational projects designed by teachers pre-K through grade 12 were awarded more than \$8,000 this year through the popular Mini-Grant program. Representatives from each school meet to select innovative, replicable, educational classroom projects. The Mini-Grant program is supported by the United Way and annual Community Spelling Bee which was held this year on November 16. Grand Champions were the Spelling Beans - Curtis Rich, Kathy Lytle and David Henry - sponsored by Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters. Winner of the Best Dressed award was the Mohawk Team LED comprised of Lynn Dole, Emily Willis and Drue Johnson.

The student assistance program generated more than \$10,000 for needy children and their families for such basic necessities as eye-glasses, food vouchers, warm clothes and prescriptions. We received backpacks and school supplies from Blackmer Insurance Agency and the United Way and distributed bags of groceries through the United Way's *Supper for Six* program. This fall the Mary Lyon Foundation received slots for 50 children to participate in Warm the Children. An anonymous donor once again delivered two truckloads of Christmas trees that were decorated by the Mohawk Vocational Program and given to needy families, and the Betty Allen DAR chapter in Northampton contributed warm hats, mittens and scarves.

The Mary Lyon Foundation office is located at Mohawk Trail Regional School. Members of the Board of Directors are Marion Taylor (Past President), Sylvia Orcutt (President), Katherine McKay (Recording Secretary), Karen Fairbrother (Treasurer), Susan Schuman, Peter Stevens, Nancy Eisenstein, Brenda Parrella, Emily Willis and Mohawk Trail Regional School student representatives Violet Rawlings and London Summers. Longtime board members Sharon Hudson and Hugh Knox were recognized for their contributions to local education and given Honorary Lifetime Board of Directors status. Regular volunteers Sandy Gilbert and Rita Jaros are greatly appreciated! Gina Sieber is our Business Manager, and Co-Executive Directors are

Respectfully submitted

Sheila Damkoehler and

Susan Samoriski, Co-Executive Directors

SHAW MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Throughout the year the library has purchased over 300 new books, 30 CDS, and 25 DVDS, we also subscribe to several magazines.

Over the past year we ordered over 600 books, cds, and dvds through (CWMARS) inter-library which is located in Oxford, MA.

We hosted several programs the most popular being our annual Valentine Tea with treats. In the spring we had a poetry reading in honor of Henry Thoreau's 200th birthday. We did a sugar-on-snow in March, but attendance was poor. We had our regular book sale Labor Day weekend, but profit was down do to the rainy weather, so we had an ice cream social/book sale end of September which was well attended.

For the first time we had a Celebration of the Holidays with a cookie exchange/ making of holiday crafts, hot chocolate with Christmas music playing in the background. This was well attended and a good time was had by all.

"Build A Better World" the theme for the summer reading program was offered but we had no children participate this year.

The following Plainfield residents shared their crafts in our meeting/reading room. Corey Powers displayed his plant stands and other end tables. Pleun Bouricius showed her photo's of the bog behind her house. Gary Rzaab hung playful, colorful painting's and Ann Barbanti displayed her unique pottery. If anyone has a craft or hobby they would like to display, call the library and will be happy to set up a time.

We have several museum passes for the public to borrow and return. Norman Rockwell, Berkshire Museum, Mass MoCa, The Clark, and the State Park Pass.

We also have two computers for the public to use, as well as wifi so you can use your own laptops.

I wish to thank Gail Fusco for filling in on Tuesday afternoons.

Library Hours: Tuesday 2 -8
Thursday 5-8
Saturday 9- noon

Respectfully submitted

Denise Sessions-Library Director

Ann Kohn -Chairman

Sandy Morann- Secretary

Lynn Robbins

THE WHITING STREET FUND

In June 1875 a wealthy Springfield man, Whiting Bradley Street wrote his last will and testament. In it he bequeathed the sum of \$99,000 to be distributed to 1 towns in western Massachusetts. Plainfield was a beneficiary of the amount of \$750 to be used to assist residents in times of financial need. The original deposit went into Plainfield's account in 1922 and the principal amount has grown over the years. The intent of the money has not changed over the 142 years since Mr. Street made his gift. There, the residents of Plainfield who may need financial assistance may still look to Mr. Street's gift for help. In the past it has prevented phone service from being disconnected, has filled tanks with oil and has made rent pavements. Three citizens, who were elected by the town's people, administer the Fund. If you are in need, or know a neighbor who is, contact the Committee. The request must be in writing, stating the reason for the request and the amount requested. It should be sent to one of the Committee members. The members will act on the request in a timely manner and all requests will be kept in confidence.

Respectfully submitted,

David Alvord

Ellen Baer

Robert Persing, Chair

POLICE DEPARTMENT

2017 has been busy for all of the Plainfield Services. Plainfield Police Dept. responded to 255 calls

Our department was able to purchase 2 new pagers and one new 3 BAND hand held radio this year.

We struggled through the summer with CJS computer problems. With the help of the Cummington Chief, Mike Perkins we were able to eventually fix the problem and continue issuing LTC to Town residents.

The demands of being on a small Town department has become greater for Officers. The yearly education and training requirements increase every year. It creates a great demand on officers that already work 40 hours a week at a regular job, thus making it hard to recruit and retain officers.

Small Town departments with minimal budgets work on an on-call basis, wearing a pager and responding to calls when available. State Police are dispatched when Town police are not available.

Thank You To Officer Josh Shearer for his continued efforts to serve our department. Josh and his family have moved to Heath. Josh will be serving as a on duty officer, as time permits him, on patrol.

We operate 2 cruisers. A 2000 Crown Vic and the newer 2010 Ford Explorer.

Respectfully Submitted

Stacey Hudson, Chief
Edward Morann, Officer
Josh Shearer, Officer
Mert Taylor Sr, Special Officer
Sandy Morann, Special Officer

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2017 was another quiet year — no State of Emergency was declared for Plainfield.

I attended meetings that MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) holds for Emergency managers, and stayed in communication with them on any current situations or potential threats.

An Emergency Management Planning Grant for \$2,220 was applied for and finally approved by MEMA in December — The Fire Department will use this money to purchase water flotation safety vests and another portable radio which is needed to communicate with mutual aid towns in Franklin County.

As I always have done, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the emergency response personnel that Plainfield is truly fortunate to have — most get paid nothing for what they do (respond to emergencies, training, inspections, meetings and assisting in the maintenance/repair/acquisition of equipment, etc.)

Respectfully Submitted

Merton Taylor Jr
Emergency Management Director

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

2017 started out in the midst of a typical Plainfield winter- we received 104" of snow and sleet. Plowing and sanding the snow, sleet, and ice took most of our time into early April. We even had 1" on the morning of May 14! Potholes, mud, drainage issues, and tree/branch cleanup were also dealt with during this time.

Spring and Summer started once again with mud issues on a couple sections of gravel roads — then, as in every other year, work consisted of filling potholes/washouts, cleaning ditches, replacing culverts, grading and raking gravel roads, roadside mowing, brush cutting, line painting, paving, and sand clean up. No paving

projects were done in 2017 because some of the Chapter 90 funds were used to purchase a 4 wheel drive 30,000#GVW dump truck. A new 4 wheel drive pickup truck with dump body was also approved and ordered in 2017. Both will soon be delivered as of this writing. The dump truck ordered in the previous year arrived in March 2017, a much needed and welcome addition to our fleet.

Autumn work included a continuation of Spring and Summer work, along with leaf blowing, plow sticks, and winter preparations of the equipment.

A new oil burner furnace was installed in November 2017 - I wish to thank the Buildings Committee for their assistance and support with that project.

The first plowable snow occurred on December 9 (6"), starting the 2017-2018 winter season.

As written in the preceding paragraphs, we are in the midst of replacing old/worn out equipment (some which we can no longer obtain parts for) I would like to repeat for the third year that considerable time and expense is being spent on keeping the old equipment operational and able to pass State Inspection — (2) 1996 (model year) dump trucks, a 1964 (model year) grader, (2) 1986 (model year) pickups, and a 1987 (model year) backhoe are all in need of replacement. We also assist in the maintenance of fire apparatus. I thank my crew Frank "Sparky" Skaling, Karl Dewkett, and Keith Bohonowicz for their work throughout the year. I also thank Ed Morann, Dennis Thatcher, Stacy Hudson, The Selectboard, The Buildings Committee and Town Office staff for their assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merton Taylor, Jr
Highway Superintendant

PLAINFIELD DOG LICENSES

159 dogs were licensed in Plainfield during 2017 for a total of \$531 collected. The fee remains the same as in years past. \$6.00 for non-neutered or non-spayed animals. \$3.00 for neutered and spayed animals. Dogs are licensed from April 1 to June 1. After June 1 the late fee is \$10.00 per animal. After August 1 the late fee is \$25.00 per animal.

On March 18, 2017 a Rabies Clinic organized by Animal Control Officer, Casey Dwyer was held at Hathaway Hall. The Town Clerk was present to register dogs at that time.

The breakdown of dogs registered for 2017 is as follows:

• 11 Male dogs @ \$6.00 each	\$66.00
• 64 Neutered Male dogs @ \$3.00 each	\$192
• 7 Female dogs @ \$6.00 each	\$42.00
• 77 Spayed Female dogs @ \$6.00 eac	\$231.00

In addition to the license fees collected, a **TOTAL of \$665** was collected in late registration fees.

Respectfully Submitted

Ruth Osgood,

VITALS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

There were seven deaths recorded in Plainfield for 2017

There were four births recorded in Plainfield for 2017. Two males and two females.

There were three marriages recorded in Plainfield for 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Osgood,
Theresa Thatcher, Merton Taylor Sr.

PLAINFIELD FIRE EMS DEPARTMENT

Duane Meehan and Brandon Niven joined the department. Duane was a member and an officer of the Hatfield Fire Department.

In May, the following received their service pins for years being an EMT: Chief Dennis Thatcher received his 40 year pin, Assistance Chief David Alvord received his 35 year pin, Robert Shearer and Stacey Hudson each received their 15 pin. Each year an EMT spends many hours to retain their credentials to be an EMT.

In May, we held a tanker shuttle drill on a Sunday morning involving Cummington, Ashfield, and Hawley Fire Departments. We were able to flow almost 650 gallons per minute over 68 minutes for a total of 43,000 gallons.

In November, we received a grant from the Dextra Baldwin McGonagle Foundation, Inc. They are based in Vermont. Thank you to Bob Corash and Assistant Chief David Alvord for your hard work.

In the winter, we rewrote our Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) to bring them up to the current standards practiced in the Fire Service. We added a lot of SOG's to reflect the current changes in the Fire Service.

We added specialized stabilization equipment, which was funded by the Plainfield Volunteers Firefighters Association. This can be used to stabilize automobiles in a motor vehicle accident, and to stabilize a building after a Fire. Another item the Plainfield Volunteers Firefighters Association purchased was a stair chair, which is used when the stretcher will not fit.

One area we needed to improve was communication with our Franklin County towns. We have purchased two radios with two grants from Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. The Plainfield Volunteer Firefighters Association is raising funds to complete this project.

I want to thank the firefighters and EMTs for their dedication and support this past year. Special Thanks to Assistance Fire Chief David Alvord and Lieutenant Ellen DuPont for all the hard work and dedication to the Fire Department and the town during my absences.

We responded to the Addiction Center 49 times this year. This has placed a burden on our personal.

Calls for the year are:

Medicals	116	Alarm Sounding	13
MVA	12	CO Alarm	2
Power Lines Down	6	Gasoline Leak	1
Stove Fire	1	Hazards Materials	1
Illegal Burn	1	Ice Rescue	1
Mutal Aid			
Windsor 2	Cummington 8	Ashfield 6	
Savoy 1	Highland 1		

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Thatcher



Conrad Liebenow

VETERANS' GRAVES OFFICER

Two Plainfield veterans passed away in 2017: Gilbert M. Smith and Raymond G. Adams, Jr.

Gilbert Smith served his country during the Korean War in the U.S. Army.

Ray Adams served his country during the Vietnam War in the U.S. Army. He served two tours in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. He was awarded the Bronze Star, pinned on by Colin Powell.

208 flags were placed on the veterans' graves in the Hilltop Cemetery, in the West Hill Cemetery, and on the Veterans' Memorial in front of the Plainfield Congregational Church. As required by State Law, the flags are set before Memorial Day, and are removed after Veterans' Day to prevent them from becoming frayed and faded during the winter.

Respectfully submitted,

Dudley D. Williams, Veterans' Graves Officer

VETERANS SERVICES

We ended the year by being named "Veterans' Services District of the Year" by the state. Our district has now been in operation for 2 ½ years. We are the largest district by community count and square miles covered in the state. Below are just some of the programs and services we help veterans' and their dependents with:

- M.G.L. Ch 115 benefit – Needs based program of financial and medical assistance to eligible veterans and their dependents
- Assistance to veterans and dependents to help file for health care, pensions, and service-connected disabilities
- Homeless prevention assistance to veterans and their families
- Employment help with job searches, resumes, and job interview skills
- Burial assistance to include government markers, flag holders, internment, and VA burial reimbursement
- Veterans records retrieval and storage
- Referral to other public and private agencies to include housing, fuel assistance, employment, training, education
- Attend area outreach events (fairs, festivals, health care expos)

We have continued to work hard helping veterans and dependents file for VA benefits due them. Our awarded claims have outpaced CY16 bringing in close to \$423,000.00 in new claim money for our clients. Overall the district has over \$1,923,000.00 in VA awards flowing into our towns on a monthly basis.

We forecast the Ch 115 caseload to remain flat for the foreseeable future for our towns. Although reimbursed back to the towns at 75%, this takes over a year to get back from the state, so reducing payouts up front has freed up funds for the member towns.

For the coming year we will continue to assist veterans, and will emphasize programs for the dependents of veterans, particularly the elderly population. Our major projects for the future involve veterans' gravesites locations and conditions, and training 1st responders on veterans' issues and resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Niejadlik, Director

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

BOARD OF HEALTH

We are continuing to make improvements at the Town Recycling Center and Compactor. Since we switched from divided recycling containers to separate containers we saved around \$1000.00 dollars from trucking and monthly rental charges, this is for the paper and cans. In 2017, we recycled 51.54 tons of bottles, cans, paper, bulky

plastic, and metals. That is 32.6% of all the materials, but not including textiles, Styrofoam, pellet bags, TV's etc. which would have the result look even better. We still are recycling bulky plastic items, Styrofoam, pellet bags and Universal Waste. You can talk to Allan or Desiree for lists of items. We want to thank Desiree for stepping in and taking over Allan's time at the Recycling Center when he couldn't make it. We have the funds now to have two people working on Saturdays. This should help out in recycling and moving through more quickly. Dumps hours are Saturday 9 - noon, Sunday 4-6 and Wednesday 6-7.

We inspected all food establishments, issued permits for wells, septic system repairs and new septic systems. We also issued permits for septic installers and pumping companies.

The Board of Health is responsible for having the Plainfield Pond beach water tested weekly during the swimming season, monitoring and the results, and forwarding those reports to the state.

We want to thank Jack Nelson for attending most of our meetings and helping to keep us informed and working smoothly with HRMC, and helping out at the Recycling Center. He does this voluntarily.

The Board of Health meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen DuPont, chair

Linda Carver, David Crowell

PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board began the year by electing a new chair, Brian Hawthorne, and a new secretary, Peter Lapointe. Throughout the year, the board tracked the status of several projects within the town, including the 27 Broom Street LLC/Medi-Spa medical marijuana business, the Plainfield Solar LLC project, and the town Broadband project. The board reviewed several ANR plans for parcels that landowners wished to divide, and reviewed notices from abutting towns regarding proposed bylaw changes and projects in their towns. The board considered material received from the Pioneer Valley Planning Association regarding a moratorium on retail sales of recreational marijuana. We determined that given Plainfield's existing requirement for special permits for nearly all business uses, no moratorium was needed.

The board also began a lengthy process of reviewing the town's zoning bylaw. This began by reviewing issues with the construction of the business use section, progressed to a proposal to adopt the "use table" approach which many towns are now using, and ended the year with meeting with members of the ZBA to begin a more comprehensive review of several sections of the bylaw, including also site plan review, special permit granting authorities, and other uses. This process will continue in 2018, with public information sessions anticipated.

Several projects in town led to questions about the status of public ways in town. The board began the process of interpreting the historical public way acceptances and discontinuances compiled by the late Arvilla Dyer, with the goal of generating a map showing the status of each roadway in town and the location, where possible, of all accepted public ways. This project will continue in 2018, with the board anticipating making recommendations for transfers from Hampshire Council of Governments of county ways to the town with acceptance by town meeting, possible discontinuances by town meeting, and possible declarations by the selectboard of unmaintained sections.

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Plainfield COA has once again gone through a few changes this year. Ruby Goodoff and Phil Alessio, each with their own unique cooking style and personalities, have left the COA board. Elaine Sidney has joined the board and taken on the position of our cook.

Our foot care clinic continues the first Tuesday of every other month, Blood pressure clinic takes place the second Wednesday of each month during our luncheon and the annual flu clinic in fall. We have added more entertainment to our popular luncheons and hope to add more informational programs in the future.

The outreach program, Plainfield Cares, is moving slowly, but surely, as it continues to make contact with our seniors.

The COA newsletter has expanded its content to inform the hilltown seniors of all the activities and events that are in our region. The newsletter is now available Online for those who would prefer to receive it that way. The Hilltown Easy Ride van is up and running, driving Plainfield seniors where they need to go.

The refrigerator in the town hall had to be replaced and additional chairs purchased.

Overall, I think the COA had a good year.

Respectfully submitted:

Deborah Thibault, COA Coordinator

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Plainfield Historical Commission continues to support the Plainfield Historical Society in its efforts to reorganize the Society's collections housed in the Shaw Hudson House.

Respectfully,

Dario Coletta, Chair

CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Plainfield Cultural Council met during 2017 to discuss and implement two tasks: the annual Massachusetts Cultural Council grant cycle funding for FY2018 and the 2017 ArtsFeast exhibit. The council received \$4,400 from the commonwealth.

For the FY2018 funding cycle, the council received 29 grant applications. The council met in December and voted to award \$5,676 to 22 individuals and organizations. This total funding amount included the \$4,400 from the commonwealth for the 2018 grant cycle and \$1,276 from 2015 and 2016 grant recipients who did not request reimbursement for their grants by the required deadline.

There were many worthwhile grant applications to consider and we supported projects that provided the most benefit for our community. Funding was awarded to several area theater groups, including Ashfield Community Theater, Double Edge Theatre, Hilltowners Playing, and Hilltown Theatre Anonymous. The council also awarded funds to many popular music events, including the Friday Night Café at the Cummington Village Congregational Church, the Concerts at 7 at the Plainfield Congregational Church, the Sevenars Concerts series, and the musical performance at the Plainfield Firefighter's Barbecue. In addition, individual artists and presenters — including Jennifer Lee, Pleun Bouricius, Kathryn Jensen, and Patty Kimura and Bill Latimer — received funding for upcoming exhibits, workshops, and projects.

The ArtsFeast exhibit was held during the Volunteer Firefighter's barbecue. Because of torrential rain, the barbecue itself was moved into the public safety complex, but the ArtsFeast exhibit remained in the meeting room at the library. Despite the weather and the venue change for the main event, the ArtsFeast still welcomed many visitors who enjoyed and purchased work from Plainfield artists. Thanks to Denise Sessions and the Plainfield Library for the exhibit space. Plainfield residents are encouraged to contact any member of the cultural council if interested in participating in the 2018 ArtsFeast.

The council's new chair assumed responsibility in October when Sarah (Sadie) Stull's term expired, and the council elected a new secretary in December. The council thanks Sadie and Lynda Christie for serving.

The Plainfield Cultural Council looks forward to supporting arts and cultural programs for the town of Plainfield in the coming year. For more information about local cultural councils or the Massachusetts Cultural Council, contact a council member or visit www.massculturalcouncil.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Michal Lumsden, chair
Susi Westwood, treasurer
Stephen Bushway, secretary
Lina Bernstein
Allen Irvine

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

Garage	1
New Dwelling	0
Commercial Rough-in	0
Final Inspections	26
Additions	6
Furnaces	1
Pools	0
Solar	12
Residential Rough-in	18
Services 100 Amp.	0
Services 150 Amp.	0
Services 200 Amp.	3
Services 400 Amp.	0
Services 600 Amp.	0
Services 800 Amp.	0
Services 1200 Amp.	0
Services Reconnect on Old	3
Services Temporary	0
Renovations	5
FA Systems	0
Miscellaneous Inspections	
Board of Health	0
Building Inspector	0
Complaints	0
Fires	0
Insurance Companies	1
Loan Agencies	2
Power Company	5
State Inspectors Office	0
State Police	0
State Police Fire Marshal	0
Inspections Made	83
Permits Granted	26

Respectfully submitted,

DB Rhinemiller
Chief Electrical Inspector

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Each town and city in Massachusetts has a Conservation Commission, which is charged with protecting the town's wetlands resources under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (1972) (General Law Chapter 131, Section 40). This law (www.state.ma.us/dep) prohibits the removal, dredging, filling or altering of wetlands without a permit. Residents planning construction or alteration on their property should contact a member of the Plainfield Conservation Commission for a Request for Determination (RDA) to determine if their property falls under our jurisdiction. We will inspect your property and issue a positive or negative determination. A negative determination which implies there is no negative impact, states that the area/work does not fall under our jurisdiction, approves resource area boundaries, or approves alternative analysis. Under some negative determinations the project may go forward but certain conditions might apply. A positive determination indicates that the area/work does fall under the jurisdiction of the Act and therefore a Notice of Intent must be completed and submitted to the Conservation Commission and Department of Environmental Protection. The four members of the Plainfield Conservation Commission work with property owners to insure that all interests are addressed.

The Plainfield Conservation Commission's public meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. The Commission's usual business includes reviewing applications for building permits and forest cutting plans in order to ensure compliance with the Wetlands Protection Act (1972) and the more recent Rivers Protection Act (1996). Members of the Commission also make site visits to help property owners identify possible resource areas and buffer zones. The Commission also serves an educational role for the community. Members attend workshops on conservation issues and can in turn serve to raise community awareness of Plainfield's rich natural history and needs.

During 2017 the Plainfield Conservation Commission conducted the following business:

Public Hearing:

A Public Hearing was held to review an NOI prepared by SVE Associates for applicant Plainfield Solar, LLC, of Boston, MA. The project under review was a 2.54 megawatt DC large ground mounted solar photovoltaic facility on property located at 29 Union Street. The hearing was continued to March 29 when a unanimous vote of the members of the Con Com approved the NOI submitted by Plainfield Solar subject to conditions set forth in the Wetland Protection Act and the special conditions in the Order of Conditions.

Special Meeting:

A special meeting was held March 26 to discuss an Order of Conditions for the large ground mounted solar photovoltaic facility at 29 Union St.

The members of the Con Com reviewed the ZBA special permit and site plan approval for the Union Street solar project. Both the ZBA and the Con Com approved the project with multiple conditions.

Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA)

Eversource Energy submitted an application to widen the cleared area on transmission line 312 right of way through Plainfield by 100 feet. This would have involved 5.23 acres of buffer zone. The members of the Con Com issued a "positive determination" that this work was subject to protection under the wetland protection act and would require the filing of a Notice of Intent (NOI). The consultants for Eversource responded that they would not file an NOI and there would be no work done in the buffer zone.

Made Site Visits to:

- 29 Union St., Feb. 22 with Kelley Fike of SVE Associates to view 16 acre site for location of 2.54 megawatt DC ground mounted solar photovoltaic facility.
- 9 Union St. on March 13 with 3 members of the Con Com, Ed Stockman, Associate member, Anthony Wonseki of SVE and Ward Smith of Wendell Wetland Services. Abutter of the property, David Kramer, joined the group.
- Waryjasz property on Main St. This land is under an agricultural restriction but is tied up in legal procedures because of nonpayment of taxes. Judy & Jack visited the site with selectman, Winton Pitcoff to view a site visible on Google Maps where building materials and other farm equipment have been dumped. Every effort will be made to clean up the property and keep it in agricultural use.
- 86 Grant St., Aug. 17, plans for building a garage were reviewed
- North Union St., Sept. 26, Laurie Holmes, construction of a small porch
- Alden Lane, Nov. 9, owner Marti Patten was advised that the site he planned to build a house on was within 200 feet of a perennial stream. This would not be permitted under the Rivers Protection Act unless there was no reasonable

alternative.Enforcement Order:

The Plainfield Dept. of Public Works was issued an Enforcement Order that required restoration of a wetland adjacent to the shoulder of the road on Bow St. Fill was removed and the wetland will be restored to its original condition.

Review of forest cutting plans:

Alison Wright, Service Forester, identified 3 completed plans:

1. Harding property on Hawley St. approved
2. Potter property on West Main St. approved
3. Ison property on West St. disapproved

A forest cutting plan was received from James Page for property on Central St. West St. & 116, Rich Potter, firewood cut of 5000 board feet

Building permit sign offs:

Shearer, 267 Prospect St. deck construction
Hanson/Wayne, 33 Stetson, continuing work
Wooldridge, 63 South Central St., free-standing solar array

Other Business:

- Articles from Mark Stinson's newsletter were reviewed.
- The members of the Con Com voted to endorse a non-binding resolution formulated by the Citizens Climate Lobby regarding implementation of a carbon fee and dividend to address the issue of climate change.
- Members of the Con Com reviewed a draft Priority Habitat Map from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.
- A slide presentation prepared by Mark Stinson, Circuit Rider, on siting solar arrays to avoid negative impacts to wetlands and including construction procedures and erosion control measures was viewed by the members of the Con Com.
- The Wetlands Compliance Informational Sheet given to residents applying for building permits was revised by Jack Nelson and approved by members of the Con Com.
- The Town of Plainfield acting through the Con Com agreed to co hold a Conservation Restriction on property owned by Jack Nelson/Jeanne Sargent. This is part of a state grant obtained by the Franklin Land Trust for the Swift River Project land acquisition.
- Wetlands maps provided by Mark Stinson have been placed in the town garage, town offices, and Con Com meeting room.
- John Burns was welcomed as a new member of the Conservation Commission.

Respectfully submitted:

Erik Burcroff
John Burns
Jack Nelson
Alice Schertle
Judith Williams (Chair)

ENERGY COMMITTEE

It took 5 years and 4 town meetings for Plainfield to pass the Green Community (GC) criteria, but on 1 February 2017 the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources awarded our town a \$137,575 GC Designation Grant. This also makes Plainfield eligible for future GC competitive grants, but not until the designation grant money is expended on energy conservation measures, which are to reduce Plainfield's energy consumption by 20%.

The Plainfield Energy Committee (PEC) has been consulting with the Plainfield Building Committee, which has the authority on how to spend these funds, before final approval by the Selectboard (SB). Thus far about \$18,000 has been approved for Light Emitting Diode (LED) fixtures for the Hallock Building (the library and town offices), town hall, and outside the safety complex.

A large part of the funds may be spent on insulating the highway garage, but this is complicated because the garage roof will have to be replaced within the next 5 years or so, and GC funds may not be spent for this purpose.

The GC Designation Grant may be spent on solar photovoltaic, but competitive grants may not. Therefore solar installations are being considered, in order of fastest payback time, on the safety complex roof (subject to structural engineering approval), ground-mount near the highway garage, and/or a picnic canopy roof behind the library.

The PEC also applied for and won \$12,500 in Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grants, which enable consultants to do energy audits to recommend the best ways to expend the GC grant. This means none of the GC grant needs to be spent on consultants. In addition we won a \$5,000 grant from the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) for a general consultant.

The SB also approved Plainfield joining 3 community solar projects through the HCOG. This will provide the town a 15% discount on this electricity.

At the annual town meeting on 6 May 2017 the town approved a non-binding resolution favoring a Carbon Fee and Dividend by a vote of 49 For, 8 Opposed, and 1 Abstain.

In September the Mass. Clean Energy Center announced a \$10 million addition to its income-qualified solar loan program (see mass-solarloan.com).

Nexamp corporation has applied to the ZBA for a 2.54 megawatt (AC) community solar installation on Union Street.

Meanwhile atmospheric carbon (the main greenhouse gas) levels have increased from 406 parts per million (ppm) in Jan. 2016 to 409 ppm in Jan. 2017. During the pre-industrial age, ending about 1750, the levels were about 280 ppm. As carbon dioxide levels go up in Earth's atmosphere, they trap more heat and worsen global warming. Never before 2017 had there been more than one Category 4 or worse hurricanes in the north Atlantic in one season. This year there were three: Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

The PEC meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Walter, Chair

Conrad Liebenow, Vice Chair

Steve Bushway, Secretary

Judy Williams

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Spring clean up at The Hilltop Cemetery and The West Hill Cemetery was performed and the two cemeteries were mowed and trimmed four times during the season.

A utility shed was purchased for the storage of Town Cemetery tools and equipment. It is located at the Hilltop Cemetery. There were two cemetery plots sold in 2017 at \$200 each. There was one cremation burial in the West Hill Cemetery. There was four cremation burials in the Hilltop Cemetery.

Respectfully Submitted,

BROADBAND COMMITTEE

The broadband committee was established as an advisory committee to the board of Selectmen. Accomplishments for FY2017 included:

Staying abreast of the changes in state-level public policy, including changes to the "Last Mile" program and the abandonment of MBI's plan to work with WiredWest for a multi-town regional build.

Championing Plainfield's needs and interests with regard to broadband in the region, in the legislature and in the Baker administration.

Representing Plainfield in the regional WiredWest municipal light plant cooperative.

Working with our Selectboard, Finance Committee, Town Accountant, Town Treasurer and others to complete the MBI "readiness process" to position Plainfield to receive state grant funding to cover 1/3 of the estimated network costs.

The broadband committee was disbanded in March 2017 and replaced with a "MLP staff" team of appointed special town employees, working as volunteers, to carry out the activities associated with building Plainfield's town-owned fiber network. More information is available on our page of the town's website.

Respectfully submitted

Brian Hawthorne, Chair

PLAINFIELD LIGHT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Plainfield Light and Telecommunications Department was created in 2011. In March 2017 the Selectboard appointed Kimberly Longey as MLP Manager and authorized the appointment of additional individuals to round out the staff team. Our near term work is devoted to building Plainfield's fiber optic broadband network, expected to be complete in late winter 2018/early spring 2019. Our recent accomplishments include:

Finalized Plainfield's vision, values and approach to construction of a town-owned fiber to the home network that will pass 100% of premises in town and provide high speed internet to every home and business.

Developed a scope of work for the MLP Manager and clarified role and responsibilities for MLP team members.

Applied for and secured \$650,000 in funding from the Executive Office of Housing and Community Development for the Last Mile project.

Negotiated a contract with Westfield Gas and Electric (WG+E) for professional design and engineering services to help us design, engineer, and procure construction services for our network.

Maintained active participation within the WiredWest regional MLP cooperative.

Conducted two town-wide information sessions to inform townspeople of changes in the approach to bringing broadband to our community.

Established an email list to directly communicate to residents and provide project status reports.

Provided significant advice and support to our counterparts in neighboring communities also preparing to build their own networks.

Additional information is available on our page of the town website. Sign up there to receive periodic status reports via email.

Respectfully,

Kimberly Longey, Manager

Brian Hawthorne, Assistant Manager

Michal Lumsden

Rebecca Coletta

Sally Silberberg

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

We began the year with a well-attended talk on pesticide residue in food. This was a continuation of our focus in 2016 on increasing awareness of GMO's, their effect on our environment and on our health.

This year the Agricultural Commission has focused primarily on the distressing decline of pollinators and their habitat. This is a worldwide problem but we have tried to educate Plainfield residents about their part in the vital restoration of these beings, the keystones to our food supply and much of the other vegetation in the world which is the sustenance of many other types of animals.

We presented a resolution about pollinator protection at the Town Meeting in May for a vote. The resolution encouraged the town residents and town departments to use practices which would not be harmful to the habitat on which pollinators depend. This would include minimal use of pesticides and lawn care which would incorporate awareness of the needs of pollinators such as bumble bees which are some of the primary pollinators in a cool and damp climate such as ours. This resolution passed with only a couple of negative votes. We have sponsored a bi-weekly column in the Post about pollinators, their plight, and suggestions for local residents to incorporate in the care of their property. We are also working with some teachers in the Mohawk school district, helping them to incorporate concern for pollinators into their curricula. This is an area we hope to expand in the future.

We ended the year with a showing of parts of the film, "Hometown Habitat," followed by a very informative discussion led by 4 local experts experienced in native plants and pollinator needs. The audience included people from several other Valley and Hill towns as well as Plainfield residents.

We hope to continue and expand this work in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Manning-Hanchett, Chair

TREE WARDEN

Slow and steady progress has been made in removing and trimming town trees that threaten roads, power lines, or structures due to decay. Some trees that posed the most imminent danger were removed in 2017 – some at the town's expense, and some by crews hired by utility companies.

At the same time, Eversource has identified trees that pose a hazard to power lines and has marked those that they have determined should be removed. Those trees have been marked with blue tags and spray paint, and crews are expected to be in town in early 2018 to cut them down.

If you have a roadside tree that you're concerned about and that hasn't been marked, please contact the Tree Warden, Winton Pitcoff, at 634-5728, or winton@pitcoff.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Winton Pitcoff

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

The year began with 481 registered voters consisting of 126 Democrats, 37 Republicans, 4 Green Rainbows, 1 Interdependent 3rd Party, 4 United Independent Party and 303 unenrolled

The year ended with 477 registered voters consisting of 133 Democrats, 32 Republicans, 5 Green Rainbows, 1 Interdependent 3rd Party, 5 United Independent Party and 303 unenrolled

Respectfully submitted
John Westwood, Chair
Linda Melle
Robert Fusco
Ruth Osgood



Conrad Liebenow

THE BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

The past year has been a very busy year for the Building Committee members. Almost monthly meetings with the Energy Committee, as both committees worked on how best to take advantage of the Green Energy Grant awarded to the town this past year. This led to many on site visits of our five town buildings with Energy Committee members as well as green energy contracting specialists. Special level 2 energy audits have been performed on most town properties. Currently, we are focusing on upgrading the town Highway Garage, a 45 year old building that needs significant energy upgrades.

An LED lighting upgrade for both interior and exterior lighting fixtures on multiple town buildings, paid for via the Green Energy grant, was finally completed this past winter.

Beyond working with the Energy Committee, the Building Committee completed many project repairs on all town building. This included a new shingled roof on the Police Dept; repair of a damaged door at Hathaway Hall, temporary repair of leaking roof and installation of new bio-fueled furnace at the Highway Garage; repair of blocked propane furnace exhaust pipes and leaking drain pipe on interior propane furnace as well as overseeing repair of new generator (lightning strike), and repair of damaged exterior west wall at the Public Safety Complex; re-painting interior ceilings and walls at the Town Library. This is a partial listing of work done to maintain our town buildings.

Concerns for the coming fiscal year include, but not limited to the following. New roof on the Highway Garage, repair or replacement of malfunctioning elevator in the Town Hall, and depending on outcome of elevator work, replacement of second floor fire exit on the building. Repair of ongoing water issues in the Town Office basement.

The Building Committee is also responsible for interior town office/Library cleaning, fire extinguisher and pest control maintenance, as well as the contracting of town property lawn care and snow shoveling (always a challenge).

Respectfully submitted,

Claude DuPont, Chairman

Jeff Prost

David Alvord

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals is responsible for hearing and acting on requests for special permits, variances, site plan review and appeals of the Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer decisions, in accordance with the Town of Plainfield's Zoning By-law. The major activity in 2017 was the reviewing and granting of a Special Permit to Nexamp for the construction of a commercial solar array on sixteen acres off of Union Street. This was the first application pursuant to the new amendment to the Zoning By-law covering commercial solar arrays.

The Board also began working on updating the permit application form and fact sheet to clarify the process. Additionally, the Zoning Board members began meeting with the Planning Board members to examine possible revisions to the existing Zoning By-law. Potential changes being considered will focus on clarifying and rationalizing the provisions for businesses in town, the density regulations, particularly the determination of dimensional setbacks as well as the respective roles of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Board would like to encourage residents to carefully review the Zoning By-law and meet with the Building Inspector prior to making any changes in residential or business uses or undertaking any construction or renovation work.

The Zoning Board meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall, unless otherwise posted. Meeting and agenda

notices are posted 48 hours in advance at the Town Hall and Town Offices and minutes are posted on the Town's website.

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Keller, Chair

Laurie Israel, Clerk

Joan Wattman

Ann Irvine, Alternate Member

Sandra Morann, Alternate Member

BUILDING INSPECTOR

The Building Inspection Department ensures that all new construction, alterations, renovations, repairs and demolitions are in conformance with 780 CMR, the Massachusetts State Building Code, Massachusetts General Laws, Town of Plainfield Zoning By-Laws and all other applicable Codes and Statutes enforced by the Building Inspector.

A total of 36 permits were issued for FY 17.

Job
Code

1	New Residential Homes	2	7	Additions and Alterations	
1A	Foundation only	2		Commercial	0
2	Additions/Alterations- Residential	16	9	Garage Residential	0
3	Accessory Buildings	1	10	Signs	0
4	Pools	0	11	Stoves	2
5	Demolition	2	12	Fences	0
6	Other	5	13	Commercial / New	0
				Solar	6

Total Job Values.....\$ 924,303.00

The new Massachusetts State Building Code was adopted on January 1, 2018 and is based on the 2015 International Building Code (IBC), 2015 International Residential Code (IRC), 2015 International Existing Building Code (IEBC), and all appurtenant ICC reference volumes with Massachusetts amendments. Implementation of this code was delayed from its January 1, 2017 take off date due to pending legislation.

I would like to thank the Board of Selectman for their appointment to this position and all of the departments for their cooperation and dedication of service. I again look forward to working with the citizens of Plainfield and assisting them in their endeavors to make this an enjoyable community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald W Garner

Building Commissioner / Inspector of Buildings

*Special thanks to
Michael Lumsden, Elaine Holder, Conrad Liebenow,
and Sandra Powers for contributing their photographs
to this town report.*

HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC) was created in 1989 by a group of dedicated volunteers who had the vision to seek a regional solution to help small towns attain sustainability and environmental objectives.

The member-Towns that comprise the HRMC include: Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington. Each Town appoints two representatives to serve on the HRMC Board. Board Officers for FY17 included: Joe Kearns, Chair (Middlefield); John Chandler, Vice Chair (Chesterfield); and, Paul Wetzel, Treasurer (Williamsburg).

The HRMC assists hilltown member-communities with managing their solid waste including: municipal waste hauling and disposal bid administration, recycling administration, hazardous waste disposal, and, DEP compliance and technical assistance. In FY17 those services included:

- Liaison between Towns and MassDEP on compliance matters.
- Execution of an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event
- Program management of Transfer Station Recyclables including collection, hauling and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste (including free recycling of mercury thermostats and re-chargeable batteries), and Freon removal from appliances.
- Transfer Station operations and compliance monitoring including informal HRMC site visits as well as the formal, annual DEP 3rd Party Inspection and Reporting.
- Preparation and submittal of DEP annual surveys and reports.
- DEP Grant Administration including grant writing and reporting.

In addition to the managing the day to day business and program operations of the HRMC, the HRMC Administrator also serves as a representative on behalf of its member Towns to the MRF Municipal Advisory Board, the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee and, the Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinator group; advocates with local, regional, and State officials; and, is available to serve as a liaison to the DEP on transfer station operations and compliance related issues.

In FY17, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced their Recycling Dividend Program Grants under the annual Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). All ten HRMC member-towns were eligible for and received grants submitted for them through the HRMC. In total, the HRMC Towns received \$ 24,200.00 in grant funding to be used to further enhance recycling programs within their communities. Grant applications for FY18 were submitted in June 2017 for a total of more than \$ 42,000 in funding requests.

The HRMC has an annual operation's assessment that is approved by each Town at their annual Town meeting. The annual Assessment Budget is based on tonnage and population. In FY17, the combined assessment for all ten towns was \$ 49,575. The Assessments offset base operating expenses. Recycling program collection costs (other than MRF recyclables) are pass-thru expenses from the HRMC to the Towns to best maximize the economy of scale and to enable the HRMC administrator to have review and oversight of vendor relations, and program operations. In FY17, the HRMC acquired one new MRF container in an on-going plan to remove containers from the HRMC fleet (purchased 1989) that are no longer road-worthy. Cost for the new container was shared by those Towns utilizing the HRMC fleet.

During the past year, the HRMC member-Towns collectively diverted 975 tons of recyclable materials to the Springfield MRF. In addition, the Town of Plainfield diverted bulky rigid plastics; the Towns of Cummington, Plainfield, Westhampton and Williamsburg diverted EPS (Styrofoam); and, the Towns of Plainfield and Williamsburg diverted pellet bags. The Town of Williamsburg continued to serve as the HRMC regional mattress recycling facility. The Town of Westhampton served as the host-site for the HRMC's annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event. In FY17, all Towns began recycling household fire extinguishers through a free program administered by HRMC in collaboration with George Propane and Pittsfield Fire.

Last year, 8 member-Towns adopted recycling goals of 50% with the intent of increasing quantity and improving the quality of materials being recycled at their transfer stations and to reduce waste being landfilled. In 2016, the HRMC Towns had an average recycling rate of 32.1% and in 2017, 31.9%. In 2016, The Town of Plainfield had a recycling rate of 31.4% and in 2017, 32.9%. The Town recycled 47 tons of recyclables at the MRF in 2017.

This past year, HRMC re-invigorated the Compost Bin distribution program and the Towns of Chesterfield, Westhampton, and Williamsburg offered special subsidized pricing to encourage at home composting for their residents.

For more information about HRMC programs, visit us online at www.hrmc-ma.org or by emailing hrmc@hrmc-ma.org

Respectfully submitted

Kathleen A. Casey, HRMC Administrator

HILLTOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Hilltown Community Development Corporation (Hilltown CDC) was created in 1981 with a mission to "improve the quality of life for hilltown residents by addressing economic, housing, educational, social and community needs while preserving the rural character of the area." Its core service area includes the ten towns of Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington. In recent years its small business assistance program has expanded to serve 20 Hilltowns. Hilltown CDC's four major program areas are affordable housing, small business assistance, social services and community development/planning. Hilltown CDC also administers a regional grant program that secures federal grant funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to ensure housing and services are provided to the homeless through a Continuum of Care (CoC) model which serves Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties.

Hilltown CDC works with the community to identify and secure financial resources to serve the community development needs of the region. In 2015, Hilltown CDC helped the hilltown region care for the elderly, provided safe affordable housing to seniors and low income families, improved many hilltown homes and began initiatives that support local agriculture such as the Keep Framing initiative and the formation of a Transportation committee looking at the transportation needs of the hilltown region.

Social Services: Hilltown CDC's Hilltown Elder Network (HEN) Program delivered in-home caregiving assistance (primarily chore and transportation assistance) to low-income Hilltown elders at no cost to the participants. HEN staff provided transportation for medical visits and other purposes, including snow removal. Community Development Block Grant funding was awarded allowing Hilltown CDC to provide CDBG funded HEN services. This grant allowed these services to be delivered through calendar year 2016. Funding is also provided by Highland Valle Elder Services, Hampshire County United Way and the Eleanor Schwartz Charitable Foundation.

The following social service programs provided assistance to residents in the hilltowns with CDBG funds:

- **The Health Outreach Program for Elders (HOPE)**, administered by Hilltown Community Health Centers (HCHC), provided free in-home nursing care and podiatric services to homebound elders.
- **The Hilltown Food Pantry** distributed food to hilltown individuals. The Pantry is administered by the Northampton Survival Center at the Goshen Town Hall.
- **Child Care Subsidies**, hilltown families were provided subsidies through this program to assist them with child care expenses.

Economic Development/Small Business Assistance:

- Provided individualized business consulting and/or training to hilltown businesses, ranging from one hour to 30 hours per business.
- Published the 2017 Hilltown Business Directory, distributed to 16,000 hilltown households in 21 towns, with contact information and descriptions of 317 hilltown businesses in 94 categories. The Directory is also on-line at www.hilltowncdc.org.

Affordable Housing: We actively pursue opportunities to preserve and create affordable housing to meet the needs of low and moderate income Hilltown residents.

- **Westhampton Woods Senior Housing:** Hilltown CDC owns and operates Westhampton Woods Senior Housing which provides 15 apartments for low-to-moderate income seniors over 60 years old.
- **Rental Housing:** Hilltown CDC completed the renovation of 24 units of scattered affordable rental housing in six properties located in Williamsburg, Westhampton and Chesterfield in 2016. Hilltown CDC hired a local contractor to complete this project.
- **New Project Development:** Hilltown CDC began construction of 10 rental units of affordable senior housing. Hilltown CDC secured \$2.6 million to develop this project. Construction should be complete and full occupancy is expected by June 2018.

Housing Rehabilitation Program: This program provides zero percent interest, deferred-payment loans to income eligible homeowners for use in making a wide variety of repairs to their homes, including roofs, septic systems, electrical, plumbing, and heating. In addition, the program provides a source of steady year round employment for area contractors.

In 2017:

- Hilltown CDC rehabilitated 18 homes in the Towns of Williamsburg, Cumington, Chesterfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Peru and Plainfield.

Community Planning: We also work closely with municipalities and community groups in our service area to plan for, raise funds for and/or manage a range of projects. During 2017 HCDC:

- Through extensive community engagement and planning, Hilltown CDC began operating the FRTA Senior Van in 2017 providing essential transportation services to seniors in the northern Hilltowns.
- Hilltown CDC entered into a fiscal sponsorship agreement to support new Art and Culture programming in the region. We helped sponsor the Hilltown Chautauqua series held at the Bryant Homestead. See <http://hilltownchautauqua.org/> for more information.

Please visit www.hilltowncdc.org for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Christopolis,
Executive Director

Hilltown Community Development Corp.

HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

HCG Overview

HCG supports communities by empowering local, sustainable, and efficient economies. The organization helps cities and towns, schools, nonprofits, and businesses get the most value by pooling their buying power. HCG's Hampshire Power provides electricity services, including green and locally produced electricity. The HCG Purchasing Co-op makes it easy for towns, cities, and nonprofits to save money, time, and effort on major and everyday purchases. HCG's Group Insurance Trust helps communities keep health insurance costs low. And HCG supports communities with uniquely effective service programs: RSVP of the Pioneer Valley and the Hampshire-Franklin Tobacco-Free Community Partnership. Every cent HCG earns goes back to supporting the communities of Western Massachusetts. HCG is funded by its own revenue and grants.

FY2017—Continued program expansion and revenue growth

HCG has consistently demonstrated a high return on investment for our member communities: this year has been no exception. HCG experienced continued growth in both revenue and net results with an unaudited cash year end position of \$374,891 in excess revenue.

General Fund Net: (\$548,328)

Electricity Fund Net: \$923,219

Total Net Result: \$374,891

About our Programs:

Hampshire Power

Hampshire Power is the only Massachusetts based nonprofit energy supplier. Hampshire Power offers fixed-rate, and green electricity. Hampshire Power facilitates a donation to the United Way of Hampshire County for every customer that signs up for local power.

Gross Revenue: \$6,698,867

Net Result: \$923,219

Hampshire Renewables

Hampshire Renewables net metering program is a simple way to share in locally owned and managed solar, or cow power.

1.8 MW of net metering credits sold

Energy Credits

HCG is the local choice to sell your Massachusetts Renewable Energy Credits. HCG makes it easy to maximize your energy investment. HCG has expanded its energy credit broker service to include Alternative Energy Credits (AECs) in addition to Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs), beginning in 2018. In the last few years, revenue has gone from \$3,437 (FY13), to \$103,574 (FY17). As of the end of FY17 HCG managed \$3.4 million worth of renewable energy credits.

HCG Purchasing Co-op

The Purchasing Co-op aggregates buying power to save money, time, and effort.

During FY2017, the Purchasing Co-op launched three new bids for Highway-related services and products. A new Tree Services bid was also developed for use by area towns. We collaborated on a program to add frozen local vegetables as part of our annual School and Cafeteria bid, and conducted research in the areas

of Human Resource Services, as well as Custodial Supplies needs. New customers added in FY2017 included schools, towns, councils on aging, and other nonprofits. The Purchasing Co-op finished in the black for the first time ever in FY17 and continued to grow in terms of total value of goods and services sold. Total value of goods and services sold: \$10,959,550
FY17 net results: \$12,554

HCG Group Insurance Trust

The Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (GIT) delivers the highest possible level of health insurance benefits at the lowest consistent price.

GIT provides health and life insurance to over 10,000 individuals. The GIT's revenue increased from \$49,097,910 to \$53,770,883 over the past fiscal year: a 9.5% increase. 11 out of 15-member towns use the GIT in place of the state plan. Member towns secured \$2.9 million in savings through the GIT.

Hampshire IT

The Hampshire IT program offers Western Massachusetts the best information technology service at highly competitive rates. Hampshire IT is a partnership with the region's largest IT company, Paragus IT. By hiring Paragus through HCG, customers are able to receive a discounted rate on IT services.

Hampshire Web

Businesses, residents, and visitors look to your town website for important information. Hampshire web is a partnership between HCG and Virtual Towns and Schools. Pool resources to create professional websites for a fraction of the cost of contracting on your own.

RSVP of the Pioneer Valley

RSVP of the Pioneer Valley is the volunteer connector for people 55 and over. The volunteers use their expertise to benefit

their communities and focus on helping seniors remain independent and in their own homes, increasing food security in the region, and building nonprofits' capacity to do great work through fundraising and program support.

Partner Organizations: 56

Volunteers: 648

Volunteer Hours Served: 100,004

RSVP trained volunteers lead free weekly Healthy Bones & Balance exercise classes, designed to increase participants' strength, mobility, flexibility, and balance.

Hampshire-Franklin Tobacco-Free Community Partnership

The Hampshire-Franklin Tobacco-Free Community Partnership has a mission to encourage and support smokers in Franklin and Hampshire County to quit. It also aims to create awareness of harmful, smokeless tobacco products that are often marketed towards young people.

New Smoke Free Units: 937

Regional Accounting

As part of HCG's mission to serve our smaller communities, we provide a regional accounting service to towns without municipal accountants. These financial services include town accountant services, bookkeeping, and payables.

Community

HCG also supports the community by participating in:

- The Downtown Northampton Association
- The Awesome Foundation
- *Legislative Summit*



Sandra Powers

HIGHLAND AMBULANCE EMS

Operations. Highland Ambulance is the primary ambulance service provider for the towns of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield and Williamsburg. Highland also provides primary back-up in the town of Worthington in support of Hilltown Ambulance of Huntingdon. Paramedics are on duty at Highland's station in Goshen from 6 AM until midnight seven days a week. During the midnight to 6 AM time period, Highland EMT's are assisted by Paramedics from other ambulance companies when the service of a Paramedic is required. Highland's active roster as of June 30, 2017 consisted of 36 members including 19 Paramedics and 17 EMT's.

Dr. Raymond Conway, our long term Medical Director, retired and is replaced by Dr. Peter Morse, MD.

Mission. The mission of Highland Ambulance EMS, Inc. is to provide the full range of emergency medical services to the member communities. These services include:

- Providing training and certification testing for all first responders
- Providing mandatory inoculations for all first responders
- Running blood pressure clinics for residents of the six towns
- Developing and practicing emergency response plans with the schools and camps in the member towns
- Conducting health and safety classes for the schools
- Working with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Homeland Security to develop emergency response plans for the member towns
- Providing mutual aid and paramedic intercept services to the neighboring communities
- Providing transport services
- Providing standby service for major emergency situations, e.g. house fire
- Providing standby service for major community events such as the Chesterfield Parade, the Ashfield Fall Festival and the Cummington Fair
- Responding to all 911 calls that may require emergency medical services

Emergency Responses. During FY 2017 Highland responded to 626 emergency calls of which 143 were no service. These are broken down by Town as follows:

Ashfield	109	Chesterfield	80	Cummington	65
Goshen	70	Plainfield	73	Williamsburg	195
Other	34				

Training. The following is a partial list of special training events held:

- CPR trainings for Emergency Service Personnel, Police, & fire-fighters.
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)
- Medical Management Classes.
- ALS/BLS interface classes for area EMTs.
- Several Paramedics had the opportunity to participate in a cadaver lab to practice bone injections and advanced airways.
- Mass Casualty Incident training class for all area EMT's and 1st Responders.
- Basic EMT refresher courses.
- Paramedic refresher courses.

Community Involvement. Highland provided support to our communities including:

- Ambulance Coverage for Community events including the Chesterfield 4th of July Parade, the Cummington Fair, the Ashfield Fall Festival, Hilltown Junior Olympics.
- Evacuation drill at the Sanderson Academy in Ashfield
- On April 19th, 2017 Highland hosted a Board & Finance committee meeting with all 6 of our participating towns.
- Met with the administrators of the new Swift River Addiction Center in Plainfield to discuss 911 responses.
- Highland hosted a Red Cross blood drive here at our station
- EMT coverage at the Chesterfield Gorge for a 5K run.

Operating Expenses in FY 2017: \$622,113.06

Cash On Hand June 30, 2017

Operating Funds	-\$ 1,990.75
Ambulance Fund	\$151,173.67
Memorial Fund	\$ 7,455.30
Dresser Fund	\$ 4,062.89
Net Income	\$ 10,167.63

Our six towns contributed \$238,430 of our total operational budget, based upon town assessments. The balance came from billings to insurance companies, Medicare, Medicaid and contributions. Our collection rate is approximately 94% of our billables.

Grants. We applied for a grant through the AFG (Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant) in the Fall of 2016 for power stretchers to help reduce lifting injuries. The grant was unsuccessful due to lack of funding. We will apply again in the next round.

Building Project. During this fiscal year, Highland Ambulance completed the building of our permanent facility for its operations and moved in during July of 2016. On July 17th, 2016, Highland held a formal open house and flag raising ceremony dedicating the facility to the memory of Christopher (Kit) Smith, our long term president of the Board and the Williamsburg representative who had passed away several months prior. Anticipated costs of the entire project were close to \$1,000,000 with a mortgage loan for \$600,000 from Greenfield Savings Bank, which means that direct cash contributions and in kind donations had a value of approximately \$400,000. The Board and staff are deeply appreciative for all the dollar donations and in-kind services we received over the year to make possible the construction of our new facility.

Respectfully Submitted,

Highland Ambulance Board of Directors:

Ashfield - Patricia Thayer Goshen - Donald Boisvert
 Chesterfield - Spencer Timm Plainfield - Edward Morann
 Cummington - Amanda Savoie
 Williamsburg - Leslie Smith
 At-Large - Bernard Forgea (Cummington)
 At-Large - Cassandra Morrey (Goshen)
 At-Large - Douglas Mollison (Ashfield)



Michael Lumsden