

**TOWN OF PLAINFIELD  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

Hampshire, ss:

The annual Town Meeting was held outside behind the Town Offices at 304 Main St. on a chilly Saturday May 1, 2021. The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by the Town Clerk at 1:11 pm

**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, 2021, or take any other action relative thereto.

**All budgets Items passed**

**Article 3.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the broadband enterprise:  
Salaries/Stipends \$6,000.00, Expenses: \$270,657.00 Extra/Unforeseen:  
\$20,459.00, and that the amount of \$297,116.00 be raised as follows:  
\$297,116.00 from Broadband Departmental Receipts, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Select Board and MLP Manager Supported by the Finance Committee*

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 4.** To see if the town will vote to allow the Mohawk Trail Regional School District to borrow a sum of money, not to exceed \$318,000 for repair work to Sanderson Academy, Ashfield, Massachusetts, to include rebuilding or resurfacing of parking lots and certain walkways; repair/replacement/upgrading of certain flooring, siding, doors and windows; addition of roof snow bars and heating cables to certain roof areas; replacement of the fire alarm control panel and system sensors; completion of essential service on the sanitary sewer water treatment system; replacement of refrigeration condenser units; replacement of restroom exhaust fans; and replacement of removable wall partition; and including costs incidental or related thereto, which purpose of the projects will materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve the asset capable of supporting the required educational program. Said sum is to be expended under the approval of the School Committee's Building Subcommittee and, to meet said appropriation, the District Treasurer, with the approval of the Chair, is authorized to borrow said sum under MGL Ch. 44 or any other enabling authority.

*Inserted by the MTRSD*

***Passed Unanimously***

**Article 5.** To see if the town will vote to allow the Mohawk Trail Regional School District to borrow a sum of money, not to exceed \$382,850 for work at Buckland Shelburne Elementary in Shelburne, Massachusetts, to include rebuilding or resurfacing of parking lots and certain walkways; replacement of the fire alarm control panel and related sensors; replacement of a pneumatic heating control system; replacement of a heating system boiler and domestic hot water tanks; and replacement of restroom exhaust fans; and including costs incidental or related thereto, which purpose of the projects will materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve the asset capable of supporting the required educational program. Said sum is to be expended under the approval of the School Committee's Building Subcommittee, and to meet said appropriation, the District Treasurer, with the approval of the Chair, is authorized to borrow said sum under MGL Ch. 44 or any other enabling authority.

*Inserted by the MTRSD*

**No Action Taken**

**Article 6.** To see if the town will vote to allow the Mohawk Trail Regional School District to borrow a sum of money, not to exceed \$665,000 for work at Mohawk Trail Regional School in Buckland, Massachusetts, to include replacement of the heating boiler control system; resealing of parking lots; replacement of the fire alarm control panel and related sensors; replacement of/upgrades to certain domestic hot water heaters, condenser units, heating system hot water control valves, and freeze prevention system; construction of a second means of egress from the main electrical switchgear room; installation of additional safety railings to sections of the outside bleachers; replacement of the movable gymnasium partition; and replacement of floor covering in the library; and including costs incidental or related thereto, which purpose of the projects swill materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve the asset capable of supporting the required educational program. Said sum is to be expended under the approval of the School Committee's Building Subcommittee, and to meet said appropriation, the District Treasurer, with the approval of the Chair, is authorized to borrow said sum under MGL Ch. 44 or any other enabling authority.

*Inserted by the MTRSD*

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 7.** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Broadband Stabilization Fund under the provisions of M.G. L. Chapter 40, Sec. 5B for the purpose of funding the operational and capital expenses of the broadband enterprise, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the MLP Manager*

*Supported by the Select Board*

**Requires a 2/3 vote**

**94 Yes and 0 No**

**Article 8.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$17,542 from the Broadband Retained Earnings Account to the Broadband Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the MLP Manager*

*Supported by the Select Board*

**PASSED**

**Article 9.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$14,600 from the Stabilization Fund to the Town Hall Fire Escape Account established by special article at a prior town meeting to take effect in FY'21, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Buildings Committee*

*Supported by the Select Board*

**Requires a 2/3 vote**

**87 Yes and 0 No**

**Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$10,600 from the Stabilization Fund to the Highway Garage Roof Account established by special article at a prior town meeting to take effect in FY'21, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Buildings Committee*

*Supported by the Select Board*

**Requires a 2/3 vote**

**89 Yes and 0 No**

**Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$24,600 from the Stabilization Fund for Hathaway Hall interior renovations to take effect in FY'21, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Buildings Committee*

*Supported by the Select Board*

**Requires a 2/3 vote**

**Passed 86 Yes and 3 No**

**Article 12.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$14,572.00 from Free Cash and \$10,428.00 from the Stabilization Fund to paint the exterior of the Town Hall to take effect in FY'22, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Buildings Committee*

*Supported by the Finance Committee*

**Requires a 2/3 vote**

**Passed 89 Yes and 0 No**

**Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to borrow \$120,000 for up to five years for the purchase of a used grader to take effect in FY'22 or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Highway Superintendent      Supported by the Finance Committee*

**Requires a 2/3 vote**

**Not carried      Yes 43      and      49 No**

**Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$5,000 from the Stabilization Fund for an additional building at the transfer station to take effect in FY'22, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Board of Health      Supported by the Finance Committee*

**Requires a 2/3 vote**

**Passed 93 Yes      and      0 No**

**Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$240.50 from the FY'21 Town Counsel Account to the Prior Years Bills Account to pay an FY'20 KP Law invoice received after the close of FY'20, or take any action relative thereto.

*Submitted by the Town Accountant*

**Requires a 4/5 vote**

**Passed 83 Yes      and      0 No**

**Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the amount of \$95.00 from the Buildings Maintenance Account to the Prior Years Bills Account to pay and FY'20 American Pest invoice received after the close of FY'20, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Town Accountant*

**Requires a 4/5 vote**

**Passed 80 Yes      and      0 No**

**Article 17.** To see if the Town will authorize the Assessors to apply \$80,000.00 from Free Cash to reduce the Fiscal 2022 tax rate, or take any other action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Town Accountant  
Committee*

*Recommended by the Finance*

***Passed Unanimously***

**Article 18.** To see if the Town will vote that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary the executive body of the Town of Plainfield previously known as the Board of Selectmen, shall be known as the Select Board, and shall have the powers and authority of a Board of Selectmen under any general or special laws, and the town hereby authorizes the Board of Selectmen to file special legislation to effectuate this change if needed.

*Inserted by the Board of Selectmen*

***Passed with 1 No***

**Article 19.** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the proposed Zoning By-Law amendments as presented at the public hearing of March 17, 2021 (see handout for text), or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Planning Board*

**Requires a 2/3 vote**

**Passed 88 Yes and 1 No**

**Article 20.** To see if the Town will vote to replace Article IX Control of Domestic Animals of the BY-LAWS for the TOWN OF PLAINFIELD with the newly amended Article IX Animal Control By-Law (see handout for text), or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Animal Control Officer*

**Requires a 2/3 vote**

**Amended Section 9 Change from Vet to Veterinarian**

**Passed 94 Yes and 0 No**

**Article 21.** To see if the Town will vote to add to the By-Laws of the Town of Plainfield the proposed demolition delay by-law entitled “The Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings” (see handout for text), or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Historical Commission*

**Requires a 2/3 vote**

**Voted unanimously to take no action**

**Article 22.** To see if the Town will vote to add to the By-Laws of the Town of Plainfield a proposed by-law regarding the use of “Jake Brakes” (see handouts for text), or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by Matt Stowell*

**Requires a 2/3 vote**

**Article withdrawn by Matt Stowell. Voted to take no action**

**Article 23.** 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 24.** To see if the Town will vote to accept as available funds any and all monies from the Executive Office of Transportation for Fiscal 2022.

*Inserted by the Select Board*

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 25.** 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 26.** 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 27.** 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 28.** To see if the Town will vote to leave the care, operation, maintenance, and repair of the Broadband municipal light plant telecommunications system, including buildings or other structures and the land surrounding them and any extensions or expansions of said system or plant, in the charge of the Select Board, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 164 of the Massachusetts General Laws, or take any action relative thereto.

*Inserted by the Select Board and the MLP Manager*

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 29.** 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 30.** 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 31.** 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.

**Passed Unanimously**

**Article 32.** To see if the Town will vote to transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

**Passed Unanimously**

Town Meeting was adjourned at 3:24 by the Moderator.

**A true record to the best of my knowledge.**

**ATTEST: Ruth E. Osgood, Town Clerk**

**A True Copy:**

**ATTEST: Ruth Osgood, Town Clerk**

**May 5, 2021**