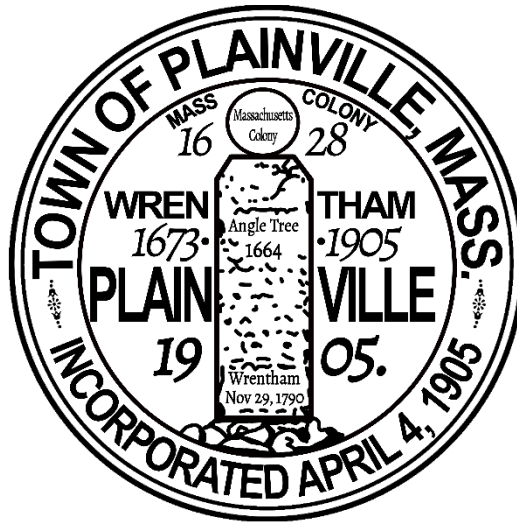


TOWN OF PLAINVILLE



Transcript of Articles in the Warrant for the

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Report of the Finance Committee

Monday, May 19, 2025

At 7:00 p.m.

Please bring this report to the meeting for use in the proceedings at the

BEATRICE H. WOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
72 Messenger Street

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- IMPORTANT -

This Warrant contains Articles, explanations, recommendations, and appendices. Only the Articles are part of the “official” call to Town Meeting. The explanations and appendices are editorial, and the recommendations expressed are those of the Finance Committee. Only the Articles are part of the official Town Meeting warrant.



The Select Board

To the Townspeople of Plainville,

The Town experienced continued growth this year, though the recent surge in new development has paused as several projects remain in the planning and construction phases. We anticipate it will take a few budget cycles before the full value of these efforts is realized. Nonetheless, we remain incredibly proud of the level of service we are able to provide and firmly believe Plainville rivals any community in value per tax dollar.

Several major projects are on the horizon, including the new water treatment plant approved at last October's Special Town Meeting and the construction of a new Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School, approved by a district-wide vote in October 2023. While Plainville's finances have significantly rebounded in recent years—putting us in the strongest financial position we've seen—it is now time to prepare for the known and unknown expenses that lie ahead.

The Select Board introduced "The Bridge Plan"—a proactive strategy to create a special reserve account to help offset any unforeseen revenue shortfalls over the next four years until new growth can be fully realized and significant liabilities for pension assessments are reduced in the budget. This year, we are seeking Town Meeting approval to deposit \$2 million from Free Cash into that account. If needed, these funds will help prevent reductions to staff or services and delay any need for a Debt Exclusion or Proposition 2½ override.

The Town Charter was reviewed this year and has proven to be a resilient and effective governing document. While a few articles in this warrant address minor oversights, they largely reaffirm the Charter's overall strength and functionality

Our achievements have been made possible through the collective efforts of Town employees, elected officials, and engaged residents. We are confident that Plainville will face its future challenges with the same sense of unity and purpose.

Thank you for being here this evening—and for your continued support in shaping Plainville's future.

THE SELECT BOARD

Brian Kelly, Chair
Maggie Clarke, Vice-Chair
Jeffrey Johnson, Clerk

TOWN OF PLAINVILLE



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, May 19, 2025

At 7:00 o'clock in the Evening

at the Beatrice H. Wood Elementary School, 72 Messenger Street

Norfolk, ss

To any of the Constables of the Town of Plainville, in said County of Norfolk, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Plainville, who are qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet at the Beatrice H. Wood Elementary School, 72 Messenger Street, in said Plainville, on Monday, the 19th day of May, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.; then and there to act upon the enclosed articles, to wit:

In case all articles in the foregoing Warrant shall not be acted upon at the Meeting called for on Monday, May 19, 2025, to meet in Adjourned Sessions at such time and place as the meeting shall determine.

This building is accessible to the handicapped and designated parking is provided. If requested, at least one week before the meeting, warrants with large print can be available. Please call the Town Clerk's office at least one week before the Town Meeting at 508-576-8451.

**Town of Plainville
Report of the Finance Committee**

Dear Plainville Taxpayers,

The Finance Committee is pleased to present a balanced budget for your consideration tonight.

In the course of over a dozen meetings held over five months, the Committee, in consultation with the Town Administrator, the Finance Director, and department heads, worked to construct an operating budget that maintains critical services, while accounting for substantial increased costs related to the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School construction project, retirement, and health insurance benefits.

Tonight, you will hear about the “Bridge Plan” to pay for some of these cost increases. The Committee is fully committed to the “Bridge Plan,” which utilizes our free cash wisely. The “Bridge Plan” also avoids any tax override or debt exclusion to pay for the Tri-County construction, which the Town has made clear that it does not desire.

The Finance Committee also recommends approval of a set of Warrant Articles related to Plainville’s Capital Budget, enterprise funds, continued investment in infrastructure maintenance, acceptance of grant funding, and updates to the Town’s personnel compensation tables. Specifically, the Committee approves funding for a new fire engine, upgraded school technology, public safety equipment, and additional funding for road improvements, among other requests.

The Finance Committee has carefully reviewed each Article in this Warrant with a commitment to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and the long-term health of the Town’s finances. Our recommendations reflect months of analysis, collaboration with department heads and officials, and a shared goal of maintaining the high quality of services Plainville residents expect while preparing for future challenges.

These Warrant Articles represent prudent, forward-thinking investments in our infrastructure, schools, and financial stability. We respectfully urge Town Meeting to support these proposals and thank the community for its continued engagement and trust.

With warm regards and anticipation,

The Plainville Finance Committee,

Mark Johnson, Chairman

Joseph Marino, Vice-Chairman

Nicholas Sammarco, Clerk

Richard Comeau

David Rabinovitz

Paula Sheerin

Chris Brenneis

Town of Plainville
FY26 Revenue & Expenditure Budget Estimate
Includes Other Sources of Funds

Revenue & Expenditures	FY2026
REVENUE:	
Property Taxes	
Prior Year Levy Limit	\$ 31,528,162
Proposition 2.5	788,204
New Growth	325,000
Override	
Tax Levy limit	32,641,366
Debt Exclusion (Town)	348,681
Debt Exclusion (Sewer)	264,162
Allowance for Abatements/Exemptions	(100,000)
Maximum Allowable Tax Levy	\$ 33,154,209
State Aid:	
Cherry Sheet Receipts	4,532,631
Cherry Sheet Assessments	(1,134,918) \$ 3,397,713
Local Receipts:	
Local Receipts	4,319,302
Transfers from Enterprise Funds	725,093 \$ 5,044,395
Other Available Funds:	
Gaming Stabilization Fund	2,156,188
Bridge Stabilization Fund	839,264 \$ 2,995,452
Total Operational Revenue	\$ 44,591,769
Free Cash	\$ 3,367,934
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 47,959,703
EXPENDITURES	
Total Appropriations (Budgets)	44,463,188
Transfer to Enterprise	128,581
Tax Title	0 \$ 44,591,769
Reserve for Articles	3,316,575
Transfer to General Stabilization	0
Transfer to Capital Stabilization	51,359 \$ 3,367,934
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 47,959,703

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Appropriation: An authorization to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is granted by Town Meeting and is usually limited in time and amount as to when it may be expended. Any part of the general appropriation not spent or encumbered by June 30th automatically reverts to surplus, which may become Free Cash. A specific appropriation is carried forward from year to year until spent for the designated purpose or transferred by Town Meeting vote to another account.

Assessed Valuation: A valuation set upon real or personal property by the Board of Assessors as a basis for levying taxes.

Budget: A plan of financial operation consisting of an estimate of proposed expenditures for a given period and the means of financing them. The budget is voted at the Annual Town Meeting for the fiscal year that begins the following July 1st.

Capital Budget: A plan of proposed capital outlays and the means of financing them for the current year.

Cherry Sheet: An annual statement received from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue detailing estimated payments to the Town for the next fiscal year and the estimated state and county government charges payable by the Town. The Assessors in setting the tax rate use these amounts. The actual receipts and charges may vary from the estimates.

Community Preservation Act (CPA): The Town adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in 2019. This Act allows the Town to collect up to a 3% surcharge (Plainville has voted 1%) on property tax bills (the funds can be matched up to 100% by the state when funds are available), which creates the Community Preservation Fund, to use for Community Preservation purposes. Each year, the town must appropriate, or reserve (but not necessarily spend), 10% of the funds for each of the three Community Preservation purposes: Open Space, Historic Resources, and Community Housing. The remaining 70% of the funds can be appropriated or reserved for any of the three purposes and for Recreation and/or for administration.

Consent Agenda: A consent agenda's purpose is to act expeditiously upon certain types of articles that historically have generated no controversy and can reasonably be voted upon without debate. With a consent agenda, several articles can be addressed with a single vote, thereby ensuring that a greater proportion of the town meeting's time is dedicated to articles that are the subject of genuine debate. See the Appendix in the back of this Town Meeting Warrant.



Debt or Capital Exclusion: The Town can assess taxes in excess of the levy limit by voting a debt exclusion or capital outlay exclusion. This amount does not become a permanent part of the levy limit base but does allow the Town to assess taxes for a specific period in excess of the limit for payment of debt service costs or payment of capital expenditures.

Debt Service: Payment of interest and repayment of principal to holders of the Town's debt.

Enterprise Fund: An Enterprise Fund is a type of municipal accounting mechanism used to manage the finances of a specific service or utility—such as water, sewer, or solid waste (trash and recycling)—in a manner similar to a private business. Under an enterprise fund, all revenues and expenses associated with providing the service are tracked separately from the general fund. The service is intended to be self-supporting, meaning that user fees and charges (rather than taxes) are the primary funding source.

This approach promotes transparency and ensures that the true cost of providing the service is visible to both administrators and ratepayers. It allows for better long-term financial planning, including capital investment, maintenance, and debt service for the utility. Enterprise funds are authorized under MGL Chapter 44, Section 53F½ and must be formally adopted by Town Meeting. Once established, the fund operates with its own budget, and any surplus (retained earnings) may be used for future utility-related needs, subject to appropriation.

Excess Levy Capacity: The difference between the Town's tax levy limit and its actual tax levy for the current year. It is the additional tax levy that could be raised without asking for an override.

Fiscal Year: A 12-month period, commencing July 1 and ending June 30th, to which the annual budget applies. Fiscal years are often denoted FYXX with the last two numbers representing the calendar year in which it ends, for example, FY26 is the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Free Cash: Free cash is the portion of the unreserved fund balance available for appropriation. It is not cash but rather is approximately the total of cash and receivables less current liabilities and earmarked reserves also reduced by reserves for uncollected taxes. This is also referred to as "available cash". The amount is certified annually by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

General Fund: The major town-owned fund is created with town receipts and is charged with expenditures payable from revenues.

Grant: A contribution of assets by one governmental unit or other organization to another. Typically, these contributions are made to local governments from the state and federal governments. Grants are usually made for specific purposes.

Line-Item Budget: A format of budgeting that organizes costs by type of expenditure such as expenses, equipment, and salaries.

New Growth: The amount of property tax revenue that the Town can add to its allowable tax levy as a result of new construction, alterations, subdivisions or change of use which increases the value of a parcel of land by more than certain amounts.

OPEB: Other Post-Employment Benefits. Benefits that an employee of the Town will receive in retirement. OPEB does not include pension benefits paid to the retired employee. Other benefits include insurance premiums, healthcare premiums, and deferred-compensation contractual arrangements.

Overlay: The amount set aside to allow for uncollected property taxes. An amount for the overlay is added to the appropriations and other charges. Overlay Surplus – see below.

Overlay Surplus: The unused amount of the overlay from prior years, which may be transferred, by a vote of the Town, to the reserve account or used for extraordinary items.

Override: An amount, voted by the Town, which is permanently added to the levy limit. A majority vote of the Select Board allows an override question to be put on the ballot. Override questions must be presented in dollar terms and must specify the purpose of the override. Overrides require a majority vote of approval by the Town.

Property Tax Levy: The amount produced by multiplying the assessed valuation of property by the tax rate. The tax rate is expressed "per thousand dollars" of assessed valuation.

Reserve Fund: Money set aside by Town Meeting to be allocated by the Finance Committee for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures.

Stabilization Fund: A special reserve funded by Town Meeting for future expenditures.

Tax Classification Tax Allocation: Before setting the tax rate each year, a classification hearing is held by the Select Board to determine the shares of the tax levy to be paid by each class of property in the community, and whether to allow an open space discount, residential exemption, or small commercial exemption. The Assessors provide information about the impact of these options at the hearing. The decisions of the Select Board are reported to the Bureau of Accounts and are referred to as the "Classification Tax Allocation."

Tax Levy Limit: The maximum amount of the tax levy for a period under the restrictions of Proposition 2½. It is calculated as the prior year limit plus new growth plus 2.5% of the prior year levy limit.

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TOWN OF PLAINVILLE



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Monday, May 19, 2025

At 7:00 o'clock in the evening
at the Beatrice H. Wood Elementary School, 72 Messenger Street



ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will accept the reports of its Officers, Boards, Departments, Committees, and Commissions, as printed in the 2024 Annual Report; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Select Board

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds the sum or sums of money required to pay obligations of the prior fiscal year or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Finance Director

This article provides funds to cover obligations (bills) of the Town that were incurred in the prior fiscal year. The funds were provided for in the prior year's operating budget, but invoices were not presented for payment until after June 30, 2024. A Town Meeting vote is required under Massachusetts General Law.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval of this article in the amount of \$3,721. One invoice in the amount of \$3,030 will be charged to the Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings and the other invoice in the amount of \$691 to Free Cash.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to establish a special purpose stabilization fund to be known as the "Bridge Stabilization Fund" as allowed under MGL Chapter 40, §5B, or any other enabling act, and raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money for future operational needs, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

The Select Board has adopted a funding approach—referred to for descriptive purposes as "The Bridge Plan"—under which the Town will avoid a debt exclusion to fund its share of the Tri-County building assessments this year. Instead, the Town anticipates that future new growth and expected reductions in the Norfolk County Retirement assessment will help offset these costs. In the interim, the Town will use available funds from this stabilization fund to bridge the gap until the projected growth and assessment relief are realized.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article in the amount of \$2 million from Free Cash.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote, under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 41, §108, or any amendments thereto, to fix the salaries of all elected officials for the Fiscal Year 2026, and raise and appropriate any sum or sums therefore, and further raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds any sum or sums of money for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, and other necessary charges, in accordance with the amount recommended by the Finance Committee as shown in the final column of the Warrant;

FISCAL 2026 OPERATING BUDGET

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FY2024 ACTUAL	FY2025 APPROPRIATED	FY2026 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS
122	SELECT BOARD				
	PAYROLL	\$ 310,218	\$ 323,438	\$ 335,794	\$ 335,794
	EXPENSES	66,100	80,200	62,200	62,200
	DEPT TOTAL	376,318	403,638	397,994	397,994
131	FINANCE COMMITTEE				
	EXPENSES	190	250	250	250
	DEPT TOTAL	190	250	250	250
132	RESERVE FUND				
	EXPENSES	-	100,000	100,000	100,000
	DEPT TOTAL	-	100,000	100,000	100,000
135	FINANCE DIRECTOR/ACCOUNTANT				
	PAYROLL	290,548	296,579	322,515	322,515
	EXPENSES	50,011	56,150	89,150	89,150
	DEPT TOTAL	340,559	352,729	411,665	411,665
141	BOARD OF ASSESSORS				
	PAYROLL	164,204	170,350	174,212	174,212
	EXPENSES	43,786	45,967	47,650	47,650
	DEPT TOTAL	207,990	216,317	221,862	221,862
145	TREASURER/COLLECTOR				
	PAYROLL	238,692	259,318	271,607	271,607
	EXPENSES	90,297	87,720	102,720	102,720
	DEPT TOTAL	328,989	347,038	374,327	374,327
151	TOWN COUNSEL				
	EXPENSES	51,365	60,000	60,000	60,000
	DEPT TOTAL	51,365	60,000	60,000	60,000

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FY2024 ACTUAL	FY2025 APPROPRIATED	FY2026 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS
155	TECHNOLOGY				
	PAYROLL	92,385	93,407	98,052	98,052
	EXPENSES	127,397	149,025	152,029	152,029
	DEPT TOTAL	219,782	242,432	250,081	250,081
161	TOWN CLERK				
	PAYROLL	200,960	214,797	231,390	231,390
	EXPENSES	18,293	26,980	25,580	25,580
	DEPT TOTAL	219,253	241,777	256,970	256,970
162	ELECTIONS				
	PAYROLL	13,415	32,250	12,500	12,500
	EXPENSES	20,266	22,250	14,500	14,500
	DEPT TOTAL	33,681	54,500	27,000	27,000
170	PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT				
	PAYROLL	81,873	120,600	126,880	126,880
	EXPENSES	2,050	5,030	5,020	5,020
	DEPT TOTAL	83,923	125,630	131,900	131,900
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT		1,862,051	2,144,311	2,232,049	2,232,049
210	POLICE				
	PAYROLL	2,504,902	2,986,256	3,126,704	3,126,704
	EXPENSES	776,665	714,763	830,680	830,680
	DEPT TOTAL	3,281,567	3,701,019	3,957,384	3,957,384
220	FIRE				
	PAYROLL	3,186,415	3,382,793	3,495,826	3,495,826
	EXPENSES	288,560	296,509	313,570	313,570
	DEPT TOTAL	3,474,975	3,679,302	3,809,396	3,809,396
231	AMBULANCE				
	PAYROLL	23,056	11,975	20,475	20,475
	EXPENSES	138,792	142,900	163,000	163,000
	DEPT TOTAL	161,848	154,875	183,475	183,475
225	CALL FIRE				
	PAYROLL	7,060	10,000	10,000	10,000
	EXPENSES	893	7,500	7,700	7,700
	DEPT TOTAL	7,953	17,500	17,700	17,700
230	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY				
	PAYROLL	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
	DEPT TOTAL	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
241	INSPECTIONS				
	PAYROLL	213,844	241,287	237,065	237,065
	EXPENSES	1,364	9,500	9,500	9,500
	DEPT TOTAL	215,208	250,787	246,565	246,565
244	SEALER WEIGHTS/MEASURE				
	EXPENSES	5,036	5,500	6,540	6,540
	DEPT TOTAL	5,036	5,500	6,540	6,540
292	ANIMAL CONTROL				
	EXPENSES	-	25,000	25,000	25,000
	DEPT TOTAL	-	25,000	25,000	25,000
TOTAL PUBLIC SAEFTY		7,146,587	7,843,983	8,256,060	8,256,060
300	LOCAL SCHOOLS				
	EXPENSES	9,399,300	9,696,038	10,072,620	10,072,620
	DEPT TOTAL	9,399,300	9,696,038	10,072,620	10,072,620
350	REGIONAL SCHOOLS				
	EXPENSES	9,534,313	10,342,255	11,175,191	11,175,191
	DEPT TOTAL	9,534,313	10,342,255	11,175,191	11,175,191
TOTAL EDUCATION		18,933,613	20,038,293	21,247,811	21,247,811

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FY2024 ACTUAL	FY2025 APPROPRIATED	FY2026 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS
294	TREE WARDEN				
	EXPENSES	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
	DEPT TOTAL	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,500
422	HIGHWAY				
	PAYROLL	266,053	382,600	400,600	400,600
	EXPENSES	328,820	230,900	242,400	242,400
	DEPT TOTAL	594,873	613,500	643,000	643,000
423	SNOW/ICE CONTROL				
	PAYROLL	32,444	33,825	33,825	33,825
	EXPENSES	239,406	258,300	258,300	258,300
	DEPT TOTAL	271,850	292,125	292,125	292,125
424	STREET LIGHTING				
	EXPENSES	120,036	130,878	138,000	138,000
	DEPT TOTAL	120,036	130,878	138,000	138,000
492	FACILITIES				
	PAYROLL	315,107	370,383	381,864	381,864
	EXPENSES	371,265	401,500	405,000	405,000
	DEPT TOTAL	686,372	771,883	786,864	786,864
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS		1,678,631	1,813,886	1,865,489	1,865,489
510	BOARD OF HEALTH				
	PAYROLL	132,633	155,283	167,124	167,124
	EXPENSES	12,530	31,105	31,105	31,105
	DEPT TOTAL	145,163	186,388	198,229	198,229
541	COUNCIL ON AGING				
	PAYROLL	214,890	244,522	234,841	234,841
	EXPENSES	35,160	34,900	35,400	35,400
	DEPT TOTAL	250,050	279,422	270,241	270,241
543	VETERAN'S SERVICES				
	EXPENSES	91,839	128,000	109,107	109,107
	DEPT TOTAL	91,839	128,000	109,107	109,107
TOTAL HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE		487,052	593,810	577,577	577,577
610	LIBRARY				
	PAYROLL	177,419	191,827	197,701	197,701
	EXPENSES	85,414	84,145	85,345	85,345
	DEPT TOTAL	262,833	275,972	283,046	283,046
650	PARK & RECREATION				
	PAYROLL	75,636	106,600	108,200	108,200
	EXPENSES	-	-	-	-
	DEPT TOTAL	75,636	106,600	108,200	108,200
691	HISTORICAL COMMISSION				
	EXPENSES	7,100	8,191	8,191	8,191
	DEPT TOTAL	7,100	8,191	8,191	8,191
TOTAL CULTURAL & RECREATION		345,569	390,763	399,437	399,437
710/750	DEBT SERVICE				
	DEBT SRV PRINCIPAL	1,898,849	2,062,556	1,947,656	1,947,656
	DEBT SRV INTEREST	1,078,381	1,040,142	919,069	919,069
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE		2,977,230	3,102,698	2,866,725	2,866,725
914	INSURANCE & BENEFITS				
	EXPENSES	5,791,007	6,266,276	7,018,040	7,018,040
	DEPT TOTAL	5,791,007	6,266,276	7,018,040	7,018,040

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	FY2024 ACTUAL	FY2025 APPROPRIATED	FY2026 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS
TOTAL UNCLASSIFIED/EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS		5,791,007	6,266,276	7,018,040	7,018,040
	TRANSFER TO ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR INDIRECT COSTS (USAGE)	121,454	122,733	128,581	128,581
GENERAL FUND TOTAL		\$ 39,343,194	\$ 42,316,753	\$ 44,591,769	\$ 44,591,769

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND BOARDS

Moderator	\$25 per meeting	Town Clerk	\$101,848
Select Board		Board of Health	
Each Member	\$120	Each Member	\$120
Library Trustees		Planning Board	
Each Member	\$120	Each Member	\$120
School Committee		Constable	\$15/hour
Each Member	\$120		\$5/posting
Board of Assessors			
Each Member	\$120		

or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Finance Committee

This Article advances the Operating Budget for the Town for the Fiscal Year that begins on July 1st. The Finance Committee has balanced the available revenue with the department requests and is advancing this budget for the approval of the Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article as presented in the “Finance Committee Recommends” column.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to purchase and outfit a fire truck, including all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Fire Chief

This article proposes funding for the replacement of Engine 2, a 1996 Pierce Lancer fire engine currently serving as the Town’s mechanical backup. Originally purchased used in 2009, Engine 2 is now 29 years old and no longer reliable. The plan is to replace it with a new, state-of-the-art 2026 Rescue Pumper and move the current 2008 Engine 3 (with approximately 103,000 miles) to reserve status.

The new apparatus will feature a 1,000-gallon water tank, a 1,500 gallon-per-minute pump, NFPA-compliant lighting, and will fully meet all NFPA 1901 standards. Designed to match

our current fleet, this custom-built vehicle will improve operational safety and reliability, reduce maintenance costs, and enhance emergency response capabilities for the community. Refurbishing Engine 2 was evaluated but found to be neither fiscally responsible nor supported by vendors. Delivery is estimated within 18–24 months.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article in the amount of \$970,000.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, bond or otherwise provide the sums recommended, or any other sum or sums, for Capital Outlay for the Town Departments, as set forth in the following schedule:

Department	Item Description	Department Request	Finance Committee Recommends	Source of Funds
Fire	Life Pak Defib/Monitor (Qty 2)	\$ 123,000	\$ 123,000	Overlay Surplus
Police	Taser (X-2) Replacement	17,526	-0-	
Police	Police Cruisers (Qty = 3)	254,462	254,462	Overlay Surplus
Police	Replace Motorola APX 6000 Radios	25,307	25,307	Free Cash
IT	Computer Refresh Cycle	30,000	30,000	Article Repurpose
Library	Carpet Replacement	50,000	-0-	
Park & Rec	Lawnmower	18,000	18,000	Free Cash
School	Clear Touch Interactive Panels	20,000	20,000	Free Cash
School	Chromebooks	67,500	67,500	Free Cash
School	Staff Computers	19,500	19,500	Free Cash
School	Network Switches	7,700	7,700	Article Repurpose
School	Wood Audio Amplification System	35,000	35,000	Article Repurpose
School	Playground Refresh	35,000	35,000	Article Repurpose
		\$ 702,995	\$ 635,469	

or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Finance Committee

This Article provides for the capital requests from the town departments.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article as stated in the “Finance Committee Recommends” column.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, bond or otherwise provide the sum recommended, or any other sum or sums, to be expended under the direction of the Director of Public Works for roadway resurfacing and related construction, maintenance of public ways, engineering, installation and/or maintenance of street drainage, tree planting, trimming or removal or any other necessary and proper expense related to the public ways of the Town; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Director of Public Works

This article addresses the additional needs of our roads, including repair, maintenance, drainage planning, construction, traffic calming, and tree work.

The Finance Committee endorses this article with a proposed allocation of \$400,000. This investment aligns with the Town's broader infrastructure development and maintenance commitment. MassDOT estimates the town's roads and infrastructure to be valued at \$600 million. Sustaining and enhancing this infrastructure demands ongoing maintenance, funded through a combination of state and town resources.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum for Information Technology Management Services contracts or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Information Technology Director

The article provides funding to outsource the management and support of specialized or sensitive software to an external vendor, covering routine maintenance and high-security applications.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article in the amount of \$50,000.



ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for state or federal grants, and to expend any monies received, as outlined in the appropriate grant application; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Select Board

The Town Meeting must authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept, and use any funds available to the Town under state or federal grants.

The Finance Committee endorses this article. The acquisition of funds through grants alleviates the strain on the General Fund.



ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend any sum or sums of money that may be available from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Massachusetts Department of Transportation) for Chapter 90 type construction, improvements, and/or reconstruction of public ways and associated equipment; and to authorize the Select Board to enter into contracts relative thereto, and to appropriate said sum or sums in anticipation of reimbursement from the Commonwealth; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Director of Public Works

This article permits the Town to accept and spend money appropriated to the Town by the Commonwealth for road repairs and related expenses.

The Finance Committee recommends in favor of this article as it enables the Town to accept and utilize funds provided by the Commonwealth, specifically designated for the maintenance, improvement, and reconstruction of public roads and associated infrastructure under Chapter 90. This vital allocation not only facilitates essential repairs and enhancements but also signifies a collaborative effort between the state and the Town to ensure the safety and efficiency of our municipal roadways. Therefore, we urge the Town Meeting to vote in favor of this article, recognizing its significance in bolstering our community's infrastructure.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money to cover the Health Insurance deficit(s) in FY2025 (current year) and/or FY2026, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Finance Director

Fiscal Year 2025 was particularly challenging for the Town's health insurance program. Like many communities, we experienced a high volume of claims due to norovirus, respiratory infections, COVID-19, and rising prescription drug costs—most notably from GLP-1 medications such as Ozempic™, etc. While these medications offer important health benefits, their widespread use and high cost have significantly impacted health budgets. As a result, the Health Insurance Fund will end the fiscal year with a deficit, and we are concerned that the rising cost of healthcare will carry forward into FY2026.

The Finance Committee recommends this article in the amount of \$700,000.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to cover costs incurred as a result of the Federal government's disallowance of certain claims submitted by the Town under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in FY2025 (the current year), or take any other action relative thereto.

Requested by the Finance Director

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was enacted in March 2020 to provide Federal relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town submitted multiple reimbursement claims under this program through its expiration in December 2021. Following a federal audit, \$15,577 in previously approved expenses were retroactively disallowed. This article seeks funding from Free Cash to cover the disallowed amount.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article in the amount of \$15,577.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money to operate the Water Enterprise Fund as shown below:

	FY25	FY26
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 476,350	\$ 476,350
Operation & Maintenance	890,580	917,580
Debt Service	1,253,945	1,478,158
<i>TOTAL:</i>	\$ 2,620,875	\$ 2,872,088

And that this sum be raised as follows:

	FY25	FY26
Water Revenue	\$ 2,589,469	\$ 2,841,267
(User fees)		
Tax Levy (Town usage)	31,406	30,821
<i>TOTAL:</i>	\$ 2,620,875	\$ 2,872,088

or take any other action relative thereon in relation thereto.

Requested by the Director of Public Works

The article authorizes the Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Water Department. It permits the use of dedicated funds collected for the services provided to be spent within the fiscal year on the expenses of operating the Water Department.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money for replacing the water meters, including all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by transfer from available funds, including retained earnings, by borrowing, or otherwise; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Director of Public Works

The Town's current water meters are over 14 years old and are experiencing a high rate of failure due to age. Funding to replace one-third of the meters was previously secured through a federal grant under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The new meters are significantly more accurate, transmit water usage data electronically, and reduce the need for staff involvement. They also provide customers with access to real-time usage information through a user-friendly app.

The requested amount will fund the purchase and installation of the remaining two-thirds of the system, completing the town-wide upgrade.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article in the amount of \$800,000.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money to operate the Sewer Enterprise Fund as shown below:

	FY25	FY26
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 272,950	\$ 272,950
Operation & Maintenance	727,640	754,640
Debt Service	308,593	305,029
<i>TOTAL:</i>	\$ 1,309,183	\$ 1,332,619

And that this sum be raised as follows:

	FY25	FY26
Sewer Revenue (Usage Fees)	\$ 1,288,304	\$ 1,306,632
Tax Levy (Town usage fees)	20,879	25,987
<i>TOTAL:</i>	\$ 1,309,183	\$ 1,332,619

or take any other action relative thereon in relation thereto.

Requested by the Director of Public Works

The article authorizes the Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Sewer Department. It permits the use of dedicated funds collected for the services provided to be spent within the fiscal year on the expenses of operating the Sewer Department.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends in favor of this article as outlined above.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money to operate the Cable Enterprise Fund as shown below:

	FY25	FY26
Operations & Maintenance (North TV)	\$ 40,000	\$ 140,000
<i>TOTAL:</i>	\$ 40,000	\$ 140,000

And that this sum be raised as follows:

	FY25	FY26
Cable Revenue (Cable Fees)	\$ 32,000	\$ 135,000
Cable Retained Earnings	8,000	5,000
<i>TOTAL:</i>	\$ 40,000	\$ 140,000

or take any other action relative thereon in relation thereto.

Requested by the Select Board

The article authorizes the Enterprise Fund for the operation of Public Access and Educational Cable Access. It permits the use of dedicated funds collected for the services provided to be spent within the fiscal year for the expenses of operating the Cable

Enterprise. The Cable license was recently renegotiated, and the fund is provided by a 4.5% surcharge on Comcast Xfinity™ subscriptions.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money to operate the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund as shown below:

	FY25	FY26
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 77,255	\$ 82,049
Operation & Maintenance	847,320	864,351
TOTAL:	\$ 924,575	\$ 946,400

And that this sum be raised as follows:

	FY25	FY26
Solid Waste Revenue	\$ 775,048	\$ 789,867
(User Fees)		
Tax Levy (Town Usage)	70,488	71,773
Utility Revenue	2,972	3,031
(Water \$1,693/Sewer \$1,338)		
Solid Waste Retained Earnings	76,107	81,729
	\$ 924,575	\$ 946,400

or take any other action relative thereon in relation thereto.

Requested by the Board of Health

This article authorizes the Enterprise Fund to operate the Solid Waste program. It permits the use of dedicated funds collected for the services provided to be spent within the fiscal year on the program’s expenses.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to transfer current year funds from the Special Education Reserve Fund (85-300-3590-0000-0000) to the Supplemental Special Education Reserve Account (02-300-5200-2400-0000), or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Finance Director

The Special Education Reserve Fund is capped under M.G.L. Chapter 40. To provide additional protection against unforeseen special education costs that may arise mid-year, the Town voted at the June 2023 Annual Town Meeting to establish a Supplemental Special Education Article.

This article transfers the portion of funds exceeding the statutory cap from the original Special Education Reserve Fund to the Supplemental Article, ensuring the full amount remains available to meet potential needs.

The Finance Committee will provide its recommendation at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to further fund the Town of Plainville’s OPEB Trust Fund (Other Post-Employment Benefits), such funds to be expended under the direction of the Town Treasurer/Collector; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Finance Director
and Treasurer/Collector

This article transfers money from Overlay Surplus to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article in the amount of \$50,000.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town, with the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, will reserve from FY26 Community Preservation Fund - Estimated Revenues, the sum of \$14,375 for administrative expenses, 10% (\$28,750) for open space purposes; 10% (\$28,750) for historic preservation; 10% (\$28,750) for affordable housing; and the remainder of \$186,875 to the FY26 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve; or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Community Preservation Committee

This article follows Massachusetts General Law that requires the reserving of certain percentages of the Community Preservation Act funds for specific purposes. This is done annually at Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article.



ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during FY26 beginning on July 1, 2025 for the revolving funds established in Town By-laws for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ as follows:

<i>Revolving Fund</i>	<i>Authorized to Spend</i>	<i>Use of Funds</i>	<i>Revenue Source</i>	<i>FY26 Limit</i>
Dog Licenses & Fines	Select Board	Expenses related to animal control	Licenses & Fees	\$65,000

<i>Revolving Fund</i>	<i>Authorized to Spend</i>	<i>Use of Funds</i>	<i>Revenue Source</i>	<i>FY26 Limit</i>
Senior Center Rental	Council on Aging	Expenses related to the operation of the Senior Center	Rental Fees	\$10,000
Assessor's Map and Record Copying Fees	Board of Assessors	Expenses related to the operation of the Assessing Department	Fees for copies of the Assessor's maps and records	\$5,000
Fire Alarm Fees	Fire Chief	Expenses related to the fire alarm system	Fees associated with the provision of the fire alarm system	\$100,000
Police Report Copy & Printing Fees	Police Chief	Expenses related to the Police Department Records Division	Fees for copies of police records and reports	\$0
Firearms Licenses	Police Chief	Expenses related to the Police Department	Fees for firearms licenses	\$25,000
Use of Police Cruisers on Private Details	Police Chief	Expenses related to the maintenance of police cruisers	Fees charged for the use of police vehicles or equipment on private details	\$35,000
Use of Traffic Citations	Police Chief	Expenses related to the purchase of police cruisers	Fines and fees associated with traffic citations	\$70,000
Library Fines	Board of Library Trustees	Expenses related to the Public Library	Fines issued by the Public Library	\$3,500
Passport Fees	Board of Library Trustees	Expenses related to the Public Library	Fees paid for passport-related services	\$25,000
Council of Aging Advertising	Council on Aging	Costs associated with the printing of the Council on Aging Newsletter	Fees or payments received from advertising	\$10,000
Parks and Recreation Fees and Funds	Park & Recreation Commissioners	Costs associated with Parks & Recreation projects	Funds received by the Parks and Recreation Department	\$300,000
Planning and Development Fees & Funds	Director of Planning & Development	Costs associated with Planning and Development projects	Funds received by the Planning and Development Department	\$150,000
Wetlands Protection	Conservation Commission	Costs associated with the operation of the Conservation Commission	Fees received by the Conservation Commission in relation to WPA claims and approvals	\$50,000

or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Finance Director

This article seeks to renew the authorization to use the funds collected through fees to support that department's activities. The funds are established under the Town's bylaws however, the Town Meeting still needs to authorize the spending limit each fiscal year. There have been no changes to the spending limit in the article since last year.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaw §515 Personnel Policies and Compensation by amending "Appendix A" as follows:

FY26 Wage & Compensation Plan

A.	Management Level	Range		Base/Hourly
		Minimum	Maximum	
	Principal Assessor	\$ 64,531	\$ 102,500	Salary

Continued.

		Range		Base/Hourly
		Minimum	Maximum	
	Park & Recreation Director	\$ 62,658	\$ 81,860	Salary
	Council on Aging Director	\$ 66,300	\$ 86,700	Salary
	Director of Planning & Development	\$ 86,700	\$ 119,433	Salary
	Public Works Director	\$ 120,426	\$ 145,760	Salary
	Public Works Operations Manager	\$ 90,000	\$ 105,080	Salary
	Water Superintendent	\$ 90,000	\$ 105,080	Salary
	Library Director	\$ 68,661	\$ 80,111	Salary
	Building Commissioner	\$ 91,555	\$ 109,242	Salary
	Facilities Director	\$ 88,434	\$ 112,363	Salary
	IT Director	\$ 88,434	\$ 112,363	Salary
	Treasurer/Collector	\$ 98,838	\$ 124,848	Salary
	Town Accountant	\$ 90,000	\$ 114,444	Salary
	DPW Business Manager	\$ 70,000	\$ 95,450	Salary
	Health Director	\$ 83,232	\$ 98,791	Salary
	Health Agent	\$ 53,550	\$ 85,313	Salary
	Conservation Agent	\$ 25.00	\$ 40.00	Hourly
B.	Library			
	Page	\$ 16.32	\$ 17.17	Hourly
	Library Technician I	\$ 16.83	\$ 17.95	Hourly
	Library Technician/Passport Agent	\$ 16.83	\$ 17.95	Hourly
	Library Technician II	\$ 17.85	\$ 20.50	Hourly
	Associate Librarian	\$ 25.30	\$ 27.36	Hourly
	Children's Librarian	\$ 22.44	\$ 28.09	Hourly
C.	Council on Aging			
	Departmental Assistant	\$ 28.09	\$ 35.37	Hourly
	Administrative Assistant	\$ 25.49	\$ 32.46	Hourly
	Outreach Coordinator	\$ 25.49	\$ 32.46	Hourly
	Transportation/Dispatch/Driver	\$ 21.07	\$ 26.72	Hourly
	Maintenance/Custodial	\$ 16.50	\$ 22.00	Hourly
D.	Park & Recreation			
	Lifeguard	\$ 15.00	\$ 26.00	Hourly
	Water Safety Instructor	\$ 15.00	\$ 26.00	Hourly
	Recreation Aide	\$ 15.00	\$ 26.00	Hourly
	Program Aide	\$ 15.00	\$ 26.00	Hourly
	Laborer	\$ 15.00	\$ 26.00	Hourly
E.	Facilities			
	Facilities - Supervisor	\$ 22.95	\$ 33.40	Hourly
	Facilities - Laborer	\$ 20.40	\$ 31.21	Hourly
F.	Other			
	Custodian	\$ 18.73	\$ 22.89	Hourly
	Traffic Control Officer	\$ 20.81	\$ 26.01	Hourly
	Public Health Nurse	\$ 22.89	\$ 36.41	Hourly
	Health Part-time Assistant	\$ 22.89	\$ 36.41	Hourly
	Labor - Recycling Center	\$ 18.36	\$ 24.48	Hourly
	Departmental Assistant – Administration	\$ 30.95	\$ 43.70	Hourly
	Departmental Clerk - Administration	\$ 16.50	\$ 30.93	Hourly
G.	Inspector(s)			
	Building Inspector/Alternate	\$ 42.00	Per Hour or Per Inspection, whichever is higher	
	Wiring Inspector/Alternate	\$ 42.00	Per Hour or Per Inspection, whichever is higher	
	Plumbing & Gas Inspector/Alternate	\$ 42.00	Per Hour or Per Inspection, whichever is higher	

or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Select Board

The Personnel Policies and Compensation Bylaw should be reviewed and adjusted annually as necessary. This bylaw sets forth the wage and compensation policy for non-union town employees.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Perfluoroalkyl/Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Special Revenue Account under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, §53K, or to establish a Special Stabilization Fund under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, §5B, or any other enabling act, for the receipt of current or future year PFAS Settlement funds to be used for the specific purposes of PFAS mitigation without necessitating further appropriation or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Finance Director

The Town is a participant in a class action lawsuit against the manufacturers of PFAS chemicals. As settlements are reached and funds are distributed, any monies received by the Town will be set aside specifically for PFAS mitigation efforts. These funds may be used to offset costs associated with PFAS treatment, such as the PFAS equipment to be installed in the new water treatment plant.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends in favor of this article.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will correct a bylaw adopted at the June 7, 2021 Annual Town Meeting (Article 16) specifically as follows, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Currently:

Section 128-1 reads in part:

D.

For three year terms on the Plainville School Committee:

- i. One member every three years in 2022 and going forward.
- ii. Two members every three years in 2023 and going forward.
- iii. Two members every three years in 2024 and going forward.

Proposed Change:

D.

For three year terms on the Plainville School Committee:

- i. **Two members** every three years in 2022 and going forward.
- ii. **One member** every three years in 2023 and going forward.
- iii. Two members every three years in 2024 and going forward.

Requested by the Town Clerk

This article corrects a mistake in the bylaw and reflects the election order we have been using for many years.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90, Sections 17C and 18B as amended, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Select Board

This law authorizes the Select Board to establish a speed limit of 25 miles per hour on any roadway inside a thickly settled or business district in the town on any way that is not a state highway and further to establish a designated safety zone on, at or near any way in the town which is not a state highway with a speed limit of 20 miles per hour.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation to amend the Charter of the Town as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill submitted, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and further that the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

An Act Relative to the Town Charter of the Town of Plainville

To amend the Town Charter, Section C-2-3 FINANCE COMMITTEE, as follows:

Proposed addition(s) in **bold** and underscored:

There shall be a finance committee appointed by the select board **chair, finance committee chair, and the town moderator** of such a number of members and for such a term of years in the manner set forth in the town by-laws.

or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Charter Review Committee

The creation of the Charter altered the process of appointing finance committee members. This amendment returns to the original process, involving the select board chair, finance committee chair, and town moderator.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation to amend the Charter of the Town as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill submitted, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and further that the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

An Act Relative to the Town Charter of the Town of Plainville

To amend the Town Charter, Section C-3-2 (a) SELECT BOARD, as follows:

Proposed addition(s) in **bold** and underscored, deletions by ~~strike through~~:

- (a) ...No person shall serve on the select board while at the same time serving as a town employee. **Members of the select board shall be ineligible to serve in any other elected position established by this charter or by-law. Members of the select board shall be ineligible to serve on multi-member bodies established by this charter or by by-law to which the select board is the appointing authority, except where such appointment anticipates that the board member will represent the select board on such multiple-member body.**

And further remove the second paragraph in sub-paragraph (b):

~~Members of the select board shall be ineligible to serve on multi-members bodies established by this charter or by by-law to which the select board is the appointing authority, except where such appointment contemplates that the board member will represent the select board on such a multi-member body.~~

or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Charter Review Committee

This article corrects a drafting error in the Town's charter. The eligibility criteria for Select Board members were intended to appear in a single sub-section; however, they were inadvertently split, and the sentence prohibiting members from holding more than one elected office was omitted. This article restores the original intent by consolidating the eligibility requirements into one section and reinstating the omitted language.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation to amend the Charter of the Town as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill submitted, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and further that the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

An Act Relative to the Town Charter of the Town of Plainville

To amend the Town Charter, Section C-4-1 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, to change the title to "TOWN MANAGER" and to make any necessary revisions wherever it appears in the Charter.

or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

The primary distinction between a “strong” Town Administrator and a Town Manager is that a Town Manager typically has direct oversight of the Police Chief and Fire Chief, whereas in most cases – even with a “strong” Town Administrator – those positions report to the Select Board. Updating the title now to reflect the actual responsibilities of the role will be important when recruiting a future Town Manager, as it will help attract a higher caliber of candidates and ensure the authority of the position is clearly understood.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation to amend the Charter of the Town as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill submitted, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and further that the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

An Act Relative to the Town Charter of the Town of Plainville

To amend the Town Charter, Section C-5-2 ALTERNATIVE OR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, as follows:

Proposed addition(s) in **bold** and underscoring:

- (a) Notwithstanding any general special law to the contrary, the select board may appoint not more than two associate or alternate members to each multi-member body elected under this charter, other than the school committee and the housing authority, or otherwise authorized by the General Laws. **The alternate or associate members shall be appointed for a term of 1 year.** Alternate or associate members may participate in any and all matters pending before such body.

And:

- (b) The chairman of each multi-member body may designate an associate or alternate member to **temporarily sit as a full member** on the multiple-member body in the event of absence, inability to act or conflict of interest on the part of any member of the body or in the event of a vacancy on the body.

or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

The amendments clarify the roles of associate and alternate members. They would be voting members only when temporarily sitting in place of a full member.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation to amend the Charter of the Town as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill submitted, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and further that the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

An Act Relative to the Town Charter of the Town of Plainville

To amend the Town Charter, Section C-6-3 ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS, as follows:

Proposed addition(s) in **bold** and underscored, deletions by striking through:

- (a) The select board, ~~after consultation~~ **in collaboration with the town administrator, finance director, and finance committee chair**, shall issue a ~~policy statement that shall establish the general guidelines for the next town budget.~~ **written directive to department heads outlining the overarching principles and priorities to guide in the preparation of budget requests for the next fiscal year.**

Or take any other action relative thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Charter Review Committee

This change reflects the current practice and updates the Charter.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will amend the zoning bylaws of the Town by adding a new section, § 500-25.1, to read as follows:

§ 500-25.1 Accessory Dwelling Unit

A. Purpose and Intent

- 1.) An Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) is an alternative type of housing that provides Plainville with additional housing supply options without requiring additional land development. The design and implementation of an ADU is expected to fit on a lot in a single-family residential zoning district.
- 2.) ADUs are permitted As of Right per Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter (c) 40A, §§ 1A and 3.. The Town has established §500-25.1 of these Zoning Bylaws in addition to 760 CMR 71.00 in order to provide further guidance and to reasonably regulate the construction of ADUs within single-family zoning districts, while preserving the residential character of a neighborhood.
- 3.) Nothing within this Bylaw shall be construed to conflict with MGL c 40A, or 760 CMR 71.00.

B. Definitions

The following terms shall have the following meanings for the purposes of this bylaw.

- 1.) ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU). A self-contained housing unit, inclusive of sleeping, cooking and sanitary facilities on the same Lot as a Principal Dwelling, subject to otherwise applicable dimensional and parking requirements, that: (a) maintains a separate entrance, either directly from the outside or through an entry hall or corridor shared with the Principal Dwelling sufficient to meet the requirements of the Building Code for safe egress; (b) is not larger in Gross Floor Area than $\frac{1}{2}$ the Gross Floor Area of the Principal Dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller; and (c) is subject to such additional restrictions as may be imposed by a municipality including, but not limited to, additional size restrictions, and restrictions or prohibitions on Short-term Rental as defined in section 1 of chapter 64G; provided, however, that no Municipality shall unreasonably restrict the creation or rental of an ADU that is not a Short-term Rental.
- 2.) BUILDING, ATTACHED: A building having any portion of one or more walls in common.
- 3.) BUILDING, DETACHED: A building completely surrounded by open space on all sides.
- 4.) DWELLING UNIT: A single housing unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation. This definition does not include a trailer, however mounted.
- 5.) LOT: An area of land within definite boundaries that is used, or available for use, as the site of a structure or structures, regardless of whether the site conforms to requirements of Zoning.
- 6.) PROTECTED USE ADU: An attached or detached ADU that is located, or is proposed to be located, on a Lot in a Single-family Residential Zoning District and is protected by M.G.L. c. 40A, § 3, provided that only one ADU on a lot may qualify as a Protected Use ADU. An ADU that is nonconforming to Zoning shall still qualify as a Protected Use ADU if it otherwise meets this definition.
- 7.) PRINCIPAL DWELLING: A structure that contains at least one Dwelling Unit and is located on the same lot as an ADU.
- 8.) SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING: A structure on a Lot containing not more than one Dwelling Unit.
- 9.) SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICT: Any Zoning District where Single-Family Residential Dwellings are a permitted or an allowable use, including any Zoning District where Single-Family Residential Dwellings are allowed as of right, by special permit, variance, waiver, or other zoning relief or discretionary zoning approval.
- 10.) TRANSIT STATION: A Subway Station, Commuter Rail Station, Ferry Terminal or Bus Station.

C. Procedural Requirements:

- 1.) A Building Permit application for an ADU shall be filed with the Building Commissioner.
- 2.) The ADU shall comply with the dimensional standards in §500-17 and the use regulation schedule in § 500-19.
- 3.) The ADU and the principal dwelling shall remain on the same Lot and shall not be divided onto two (2) separate lots.
- 4.) The Zoning Board of Appeals shall make a finding, when applicable, on the placement or addition of an ADU on a pre-existing non-conforming lot in accordance with MGL Chapter (c) 40A, § 6.

D. Use and Dimensional Requirements

- 1.) The Building Commissioner shall issue a Building Permit authorizing the installation and use of an Protected Use ADU to a principal single-family dwelling in a single-family zoning district provided the following conditions are met.
 - a. The Protected Use ADU shall only be located in a single-family residential zoning district on a lot with an existing principal dwelling. The principal dwelling shall be the primary use while the Protected Use ADU shall be an considered an accessory.
 - b. The Protected Use ADU may be located in the principal dwelling.
 - c. The principal dwelling may be altered to include a Protected Use ADU.
 - d. The Protected Use ADU shall consist of a complete, separate housekeeping unit containing both kitchen and bath.
 - e. The habitable area of the Protected Use ADU shall not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ the gross floor area of the principal dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller.
 - f. All Protected Use ADUs must comply with all applicable requirements of law including of those of the building, fire, sanitary, department of public works, and stormwater state codes and/or local Bylaw, regulations, and policies.
 - g. The Protected Use ADU is located on the lot so it does not impede vehicular access and circulation of the Lot, roadways, and sidewalks.
 - h. Sufficient and appropriate space for one (1) additional parking space shall be provided by the owner to serve the Protected Use ADU on a lot located outside a .5-mile radius of a Transit Station; lots within a 0.5-mile radius of a Transit Station shall have no requirement to provide for such an additional parking space. Said parking space shall have vehicular access to the driveway. Stacking of vehicles for the different dwelling units shall not be allowed. A separate driveway opening for the ADU shall not be allowed.

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will amend § 500-40(B) Floodplain of zoning bylaws of the Town by adding a new section to read as follows:

- 1.) By amending § 500-40(B) as follows:

"B. Floodplain Overlay District. The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district. The district includes all special flood hazard areas within the Town of Plainville designated as Zone A or AE on the Norfolk County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. The exact boundaries of the district may be defined by the 100-year base flood elevations shown on the FIRM, and further defined by the Norfolk County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, both dated July 68, 2021 2025. The FIRM and FIS report are incorporated herein by reference and are on file with the Town Clerk and Planning Board.";

- 2.) By amending § 500-40(F)(7)(b) as follows:

~~"(b) In Zones A1-30 and AE, along watercourses that have a regulatory floodway designated on the Town's FIRM, encroachments are prohibited in the regulatory floodway which would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.~~ In Zone AE, along watercourses that have a regulatory floodway designated on the FIRM, encroachments are prohibited, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development within the adopted regulatory floodway unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analysis performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.";

- 3.) By amending § 500-40(F)(9)(c) and (d) as follows:

- "(c) NFIP State Coordinator
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
~~251 Causeway Street, Suite 600-~~
~~700 Boston, MA 02114-2104~~
- (d) NFIP Program Specialist.
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I
~~99 High Street, 6th Floor~~
~~Boston, MA 02110~~";

- 4.) By amending § 500-40(F)(12) as follows:

"Recreational vehicles. In ~~A1-30, AH, A~~ and AE Zones, all recreational vehicles to be placed on a site must be elevated and anchored in accordance with the zone's regulations for foundation and elevation requirements, or be on the site for less than 180 consecutive days, or be fully licensed and highway ready."

- 5.) By amending § 500-40(K) as follows:

"K. Requirement to submit new technical data. If the Town acquires data that changes the base flood elevation in the FEMA mapped special flood hazard areas, the Town will, within six months, notify FEMA of these changes by submitting the technical or scientific data that supports the change(s). Notification shall be submitted to:

FEMA Region I Risk Analysis Branch Chief ~~99 High Street, 6th floor~~
~~Boston, MA 02110~~

and copy of notification to:

Massachusetts NFIP State Coordinator.
~~MA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation~~
~~251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114~~"

or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Planning Board

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has updated the Town's floodplain maps, and accordingly, the Town has revised its floodplain bylaw to remain in compliance.

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will amend §500-24, Senior Village Overlay District of the zoning bylaws of the as follows:

- 1.) By amending § 500-24(B)(4) by adding after "...height" to include the following:

"(4) No building in the SHD shall be more than two stories in height. ~~"Basement" or "Cellar" shall not be considered a story per this requirement."~~

- 2.) By amending § 500-24(B)(10) as follows:

"(10) Occupancy qualifications. All SHD dwelling units shall be subject to an age restriction described in a deed, deed rider, restrictive covenant, or other document approved by the Planning Board that shall be recorded at the Registry of Deeds or Land Court. ~~The age restriction shall limit dwelling units to at least one senior, age 55 years of age or older; provide for time limited guest visitation rights in the range of not more than one month per year. The restriction, if the Planning Board so approves and specifies in its special permit, may authorize special exceptions that allow persons of all ages to live in a dwelling unit together with a senior resident for purposes such as care of a senior in ill health or enabling seniors to fulfill legal responsibilities of guardianship or custody.~~ Such restriction shall be in accordance with the Federal Fair Housing Act, 42 USC Section 3607(b), as amended, the regulations promulgated thereunder at 24 CRF 100, 300 et seq., Subpart E – Housing for Older Persons, as amended, and the Massachusetts Fair Housing Law, M.G.L. c.151B, Section 4, but shall require that one hundred percent (100%) of all SHD dwelling Units shall be occupied by at least one individual who is fifty-five (55) years of age or older. The special permit including the age restriction shall run with the land in perpetuity and shall be enforceable by any owner(s) of SHD dwelling units. In the event of the death of the qualifying owner or occupant(s) of a dwelling unit, or foreclosure or other involuntary transfer of a unit within the SHD, a one-year exemption to the restriction shall be allowed for the transfer of the unit to another eligible occupant."

or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Planning Board

In an effort to create more opportunities for seniors wishing to remain in the community, the Planning Board is offering the following bylaw amendments to make our Senior Village Overlay District more inviting to developers and more accommodating to seniors.

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to accept a parcel of land to be donated to the Town of Plainville as bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point at the northeasterly corner of the intersection of Cross Street and High Street in the Town of Plainville, thence running:

N 26° 54' 16" E	a distance of 25.24 feet to a point, thence turning and running
S 63° 36' 34" E	a distance of 75.00 feet to a point, thence turning and running
S 70° 55' 00" E	a distance of 125.00 feet to a point, thence turning and running
S 72° 42' 02" E	a distance of 350.00 feet to a point, thence turning and running

S 67° 32' 05" E a distance of 155.00 feet to a point, thence turning and running
S 49° 43' 13" E a distance of 509.36 feet to a point, thence running

Along a curve to the left having radius of 155.00 feet, an arc length of 170.35 feet, and a central angle of 62° 58' 12" to a point, thence running

N 67° 18' 35" E a distance of 251.10 feet to a point, thence running

Along a curve to the right having radius of 10,050.00 feet, an arc length of 488.75 feet, and a central angle of 2° 47' 11" to a point, thence running

S 21° 49' 01" E a distance of 10.00 feet to a point, thence turning at a point of non-tangency and running

Along the northerly boundary of Cross Street along a curve to the left having radius of 10,040.00 feet, an arc length of 729.12 feet, and a central angle of 4° 09' 39" to a point, thence running

Along a curve to the right having radius of 175.00 feet, an arc length of 202.07 feet, and a central angle of 66° 09' 33" along Cross Street to a point, thence running

N 49° 51' 20" W a distance of 16.32 feet along Cross Street to a point, thence turning and running

N 53° 09' 23" W a distance of 131.50 feet along Cross Street to a point, thence turning and running

N 47° 27' 22" W a distance of 65.01 feet along Cross Street to a point, thence turning and running

N 48° 59' 02" W a distance of 44.80 feet along Cross Street to a point, thence turning and running

N 51° 20' 46" W a distance of 79.43 feet along Cross Street to a point, thence turning and running

N 49° 03' 10" W a distance of 176.54 feet along Cross Street to a point, thence turning and running

N 56° 52' 21" W a distance of 28.52 feet along Cross Street to a point, thence turning and running

N 71° 40' 14" W a distance of 23.38 feet along Cross Street to a drill hole, thence turning and running

N 71° 22' 25" W a distance of 100.93 feet along Cross Street to a drill hole, thence turning and running

N 70° 28' 45" W a distance of 86.03 feet along Cross Street to a point, thence turning and running

N 69° 11' 01" W a distance of 13.58 feet along Cross Street to a point, thence turning and running

N 70° 56' 27" W a distance of 73.22 feet along Cross Street to a point, thence turning and running

N 70° 12' 29" W a distance of 64.82 feet along Cross Street to a point, thence turning and running

N 69° 11' 18" W a distance of 53.18 feet along Cross Street to a point, thence turning and running

N 70° 46' 00" W a distance of 37.76 feet along Cross Street to a drill hole, thence turning and running

N 70° 46' 00" W a distance of 9.41 feet along Cross Street to the point of beginning.

Said parcel containing an area of 40,710 square feet (0.93 acres), more or less, or take any action relative thereto.

on such terms and conditions as the Select Board may determine, and authorize the Select Board to execute any and all documents and/or instruments to carry out the purposes of this Article, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Planning Board

Town Meeting approval is required to accept a land donation. This approval will also authorize the Select Board to execute all necessary documents on behalf of the Town to complete the acceptance process. This action ensures that all legal and administrative procedures are properly followed, allowing for a smooth and lawful transfer of the property into the Town's stewardship.

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, bond or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money into the Capital Stabilization Fund to fund future capital purchases or debt service for capital expenses, effective beginning on July 1, 2025 or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto.

Requested by the Select Board

The purpose of this article is to transfer available funds into the Capital Expenditure Stabilization Account. Any future appropriations from this account will require a majority vote at Town Meeting.

The Finance Committee unanimously recommends this article in the amount of \$51,359.

ARTICLE 36: To see if the town will vote to accept as a public way, the street shown as Ellen Drive in its entirety from Walnut Street across Valerie Drive and extending beyond the driveways of 27 and 29 Valerie Drive Reference of Ellen Drive as indicated on a definitive plan of a subdivision entitle "Walnut Terrace, Plainville, Mass., December 1962, Scale 1" = 60'. The W.T. Whalen Engineering Co.," which plan is recorded with the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 216, as No. 182 or 1964.

Further reference of this land, identified on the sale of several parcels of land by Lewicki Brothers to Walnut Park Associates (S Lewicki, W Lewicki, and R Perry), date of sale August 3, 1988 as recorded at the Norfolk Registry of Deeds on 08/04/1988: Book 8057 page 443-444:

"Definitive plan Walnut Park, Plainville, Massachusetts" dated February 8, 1988. Revised June 6, 1988 by Sankey and Hall Engineers to be recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds herewith, to which plan reference may be made for a more particular description of the premises:

Together with the land in fee simple shown on said Plan as Field Drive, Cliff Drive, and Water Drive; and together with the land situated on the easterly side of Valerie Drive to the west of Lot 23 on said Plan bounded:

Northerly by Land of Ronald and Deborah Tucker, 139.27 feet;
Easterly by said Lot 23, 50+/- feet;
Southerly by said Land of Patricia J. Sibilia, 139.27 feet; and
Westerly by Valerie Drive, 100 feet.

Requested by Citizens' Petition

ARTICLE 37: To change the Plainville Charter Section C-3-2 Select Board from three members to five members.

Requested by Citizens' Petition

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting copies thereof attested by you in writing in each of six public places in the Town at least fourteen days before the time for holding the meeting called for in the Warrant. Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk of said Town on or before the 4th day of May 2025.

Given under our hands this 23rd day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-five.

THE SELECT BOARD



Brian Kelly, Chairman



Maggie Clarke, Vice-Chairman

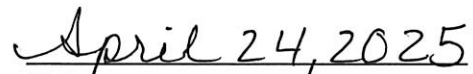


Jeffrey Johnson, Clerk

Attest:



Cynthia Bush, Town Clerk



Date

NORFOLK, SS.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have posted six (6) copies in six (6) locations in and have returned one signed copy to the Town Clerk.

Constable

Date

MAY REMOVE AFTER MAY 20, 2025

APPENDIX 1: Town Meeting Parliamentary Procedure

Parliamentary procedure has a long history. Originating in the early English Parliaments, it came to America with the first European settlers and became uniform in 1876 when Henry Robert published his manual, known as “Robert’s Rules of Order.” Our Town Meeting proceedings are governed by the rules contained in “*Town Meeting Time: A Handbook of Parliamentary Law*” except as modified by the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapters 39 and 43A.

Parliamentary procedure means that everyone may be heard and to come to decisions without confusion. It means democratic rule, flexibility, the protection of rights and most importantly a fair hearing for everyone.

The basic parts of parliamentary procedure provide for the presentation of motions, the seconding or the expression of support of another’s motion, an opportunity to debate, and ability to make a decision.

There are five general types of motions:

- Main Motions: These introduce subjects for consideration.
- Subsidiary Motions: This motion changes how the main motion is handled. (They are voted on before the main motion.)
- Privileged Motions: These motions concern special or important matters not related to the pending business. In general, they are considered before other types of motions.
- Incidental Motions: These are questions of procedure that arise out of other motions, and they must be considered before the other motion.
- Motions that bring a question again before the assembly: These enable certain items to be reconsidered. In general, they are brought up when no business is pending.

Some questions relating to motions:

- Is it in order? Your motion must relate to the business at hand and be presented at the right time. It must not be obstructive, frivolous or against the law.
- May I interrupt the speaker? Some motions are so important that the speaker may be interrupted to make them. The original speaker regains the floor after the interruption has been attended to.
- Do I need a second? Usually, yes, A second indicates that another member would like to consider your motion and it prevents spending time on a question that interests only one person.
- Is it debatable? Parliamentary procedure guards the right to free and full debate on motions. However, some subsidiary or privileged, and incidental motions are not debatable.
- Can it be amended? Striking out or inserting wording, or both, can change some motions. Amendments must relate to the subject as presented in the main motion.
- What vote is needed? Most require only a majority vote (more than half the members present and voting). But, motions concerning the rights of the town meeting, borrowing, and some other miscellaneous subjects may require “supermajorities” of $\frac{3}{4}$ or 9/10’s, depending on the applicable state law.
- Can it be reconsidered? Some motions can be debated again and revoted to give members a chance to change their minds. The motion to reconsider must come from the “winning” side.

How Do I Present My Motion?

Obtain the Floor:

- Wait until the previous speaker is finished.
- Rise and address the Moderator. Say, “Mr. Moderator.”
- Wait until you are recognized.
- State your name and address for the record.

Make your motion (motions must be submitted in writing to the Town Moderator):

- Speak clearly and concisely.
- State your motion affirmatively. Say, “I move that we do....” Instead of “I move that we do not...”
- Stay on the subject and avoid personal attacks.

You wait for a second:

- Another member will say, "I second the motion."
- Or the Moderator will call for a second.
- If there is no second, your motion will not be considered. (Motions made at the direction of a board or committee (more than one person) do not require a second.)

The Moderator states your motion:

- The Moderator must say, "It is moved and seconded that we..."
- After this happens, debate or voting can occur.
- Your motion is now "assembly property," and you can't change it without the consent of the body.

You expand on your motion:

- As the person who made the motion, you are allowed to speak first.
- Direct all comments to the Moderator
- Keep to the time limit for speaking.
- You may speak again after all other speakers are finished.
- You may speak a third time by a motion to suspend the rules with a 2/3 vote.

The Moderator puts the question:

- The Moderator asks, "Are you ready for the question?"
- If there is no more debate, or if a motion to stop debate is adopted, a vote is taken.
- The Moderator announces the result.

The method of voting on a motion:

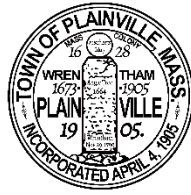
- Voice: The Moderator asks those in favor to say "aye" and those opposed to say "no." A member may move for an exact count.
- General Consent: When a motion isn't likely to be opposed, the chair says, "If there is no objection..." Members show consent by their silence. If someone says, "I object," the matter must be put to a vote.
- Show of hands: Members raise their hands to verify a voice vote, or as an alternative to it. This does not require a count. A member may move for an exact count.
- Ballot: Members write their vote on a slip of paper, and this is done when secrecy is desired.

More Motions:

A motion to lay on the table: This motion is used to lay something aside temporarily to take care of more urgent matters. It should not be used to prevent debate or to kill a question. Members can "take from the table" a motion for reconsideration. This must happen by the end of the town meeting.

A motion to indefinitely postpone: This is a parliamentary strategy. It allows members to dispose of a motion without making a decision for or against. This is useful in case of a badly chosen main motion for which either a "yes" or "no" vote would have undesirable consequences.

APPENDIX 2: REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD



PLANNING BOARD

April 17, 2025

Ms. Cynthia Bush, Town Clerk
Town of Plainville
190 South Street
Plainville, MA 02762

RE: Planning Board Report – Proposed Zoning Articles for 05/19/2025 Town Meeting

Dear. Ms. Bush,

Please be advised that at its meeting held on April 17, 2025, after review of the public comments, and upon motions duly made and seconded, the Planning Board voted to submit the following report to the Town Meeting regarding three proposed zoning articles.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Plainville General Code by adopting a new Section 500-25.1-Accessory Dwelling Unit.

This Article stems from the passage of the Affordable Homes Act by the Massachusetts legislature in August 2024. Among other components, this law changes the way municipalities are allowed to regulate Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) through their zoning by-laws. The law establishes one ADU as a protected use in any district that allows single-family homes to be built as-of-right. This ADU is limited to 900 sq. ft. or half the size of the principal dwelling, whichever is smaller. This means the Town cannot prohibit compliant ADUs in these zones or require a special permit to build them. It further prohibits municipalities from mandating that an ADU or the principal dwelling be owner-occupied. While the use is protected, there are other constraints that still apply including building codes, Title V septic regulations, height limits, and setbacks. The state law took effect on February 2, 2025, and supersedes municipal zoning. Plainville's Zoning By-law currently has no language addressing ADUs at all. This article inserts a new section to clarify the parameters, procedures, and purposes relative to ADUs. It is based on the model by-law provided by the state and is compliant with the new law. The purpose of adding this by-law is to avoid ambiguity by laying out clear standards for property owners in Plainville who are interested in constructing an ADU. This article also allows the Town to prohibit short-term rentals in ADUs. While the state law is already in effect, the Planning Board believes it is in the Town's best interest to codify it into the Plainville Zoning By-law.

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Plainville General Code §500-40 Floodplain review by (1) updating the FIRM effective date in §500-40(B), (2) amending the text in §500-40(F)(7)(b) to further clarify prohibited encroachments, (3) amending §500-40(F)(9)(c) and (d) to

remove the addresses from the text, (4) amending § 500-40(F)(12) to update the effected zones, and (5) amending § 500-40(K) to remove the addresses from the text.

This Article is being driven by regulations from FEMA. In order for homeowners in Plainville to continue participating in FEMA's Flood Insurance Program (where applicable) the Town must adopt certain language in its floodplain regulations by July 8, 2025. This has been a prescriptive and semantic process, with a model by-law provided by FEMA and a liaison assigned at the state level to work with municipalities toward compliance. The changes needed to our By-law at this time are minimal and have all been pre-approved by our liaison.

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws of the Plainville General Code § 500-24, Senior Village Overlay District by (1) adding language to § 500-24(B)(4) to clarify how building height is determined and (2) by amending § 500-24(B)(10) to bring age-restriction language into accordance with the Federal Fair Housing Act.

The Board seeks to make amendments to the Senior Village Overlay District in order to refine and clarify language for potential future developments. First. The district has a two-story height limitation. The proposed added language makes clear that a basement does not count as a story. This clarifies the height limit, which could become confusing with varying topographies and style of houses. The second change proposed is a housekeeping measure that brings the District's age restriction into alignment with the Federal Fair Housing Act, to avoid potential conflicts.

Sincerely,

JUSTIN ALEXANDER

Plainville Planning Board, Chair

cc: Cynthia Bush, Town Clerk
Luke Travis, Town Moderator
Brian Noble, Town Administrator
Select Board

APPENDIX 3: Finance Committee's Recommendations (Sources of Funds)

Article	Department	Description	Department Request	Finance Committee Recommends	Source of Funds							Note
					Raise & Appropriate	Free Cash	Repurpose Article	Enterprise Fund(s)	Gaming / Bridge Stabilization	Capital Stabilization	Overlay Surplus	
1	Select Board	Accept Town Reports	- 0 -									
2	Finance Director	Prior Year Bill(s)										
		Schools EDMS Invoice	\$ 691	\$ 691		691						
		DPW - Itron	\$ 3,030	\$ 3,030				3,030				
3	Select Board	Create "Bridge Stabilization" Fund	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000		2,000,000						
4	Finance Committee	FY2026 Operating Budget	\$ 44,591,769	\$ 44,591,769	40,871,224			725,093	2,995,452			
5	Fire Department	Fire Truck	\$ 970,000	\$ 970,000						970,000		1
	Fire Department	Life Pak Defib/Monitor (Qty 2)	\$ 123,000	\$ 123,000							123,000	
	Police Department	Taser (X-2) Replacement with Taser 10	\$ 17,526	- 0 -								
	Police Department	Police Cruisers (Quantity = 3)	\$ 254,462	\$ 254,462							254,462	
	Police Department	Replace Motorola APX 6000 portable radios	\$ 25,307	\$ 25,307		25,307						
	Information Technology	Computer Refresh Cycle	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000			30,000					
	Library	Carpet Replacement	\$ 50,000	- 0 -								
	Park Department	Lawnmower	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000		18,000						
	School Department	Clear Touch Interactive Panels	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000		20,000						
	School Department	Chromebooks	\$ 67,500	\$ 67,500		67,500						
	School Department	Staff Computers	\$ 19,500	\$ 19,500		19,500						
	School Department	Network Switches	\$ 7,700	\$ 7,700			7,700					
	School Department	Wood School Audio Amplification System	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000			35,000					
	School Department	Playground Refresh	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000			35,000					
7	Director of Public Works	Supplemental Roadway Repair & Maintenance	\$ 500,000	\$ 400,000		400,000						
8	Information Technology	Managed Services	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000		50,000						
9	Select Board	Apply & Accept State & Federal Grants	- 0 -	- 0 -		-						
10	Director of Public Works	Accept Chapter 90 Funds	- 0 -	- 0 -		-						
11	Finance Director	Health Insurance Deficit	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000		700,000						
12	Finance Director	CARES Act Federal Decline	\$ 15,577	\$ 15,577		15,577						
		- Water Articles -	\$ -	\$ -								
13	Director of Public Works	Water Enterprise Fund	\$ 2,872,088	\$ 2,872,088	30,821			2,841,267				
14	Director of Public Works	Water Meter Replacement Phase 2 & 3	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000				800,000				1
		- Sewer Articles -										
15	Director of Public Works	Sewer Enterprise Fund	\$ 1,332,619	\$ 1,332,619	25,987			1,306,632				
16	Select Board	Cable Enterprise Fund	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000				140,000				
17	Board of Health	Solid Waste Enterprise Fund	\$ 946,400	\$ 946,400	71,773			874,627				
18	Finance Director	Transfer Funds from Special Education Reserve to Supplemental Special Education Article										
19	Finance Director	OPEB Transfer	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000							50,000	
20	CPC	Community Preservation FY26 Funding	\$ 287,500	\$ 287,500								2
21	Finance Director	Authorize Revolving Fund Spending Limits	- 0 -	- 0 -								
22	Select Board	Update §515 Appendix A (Non-Union Personnel)	- 0 -	- 0 -								
23	Finance Director	Transfer PFAS Settlement Funds to Stabilization or Special Revenue Fund										
24	Town Clerk	Correction to Town Bylaw §128-1 adopted ATM 6/21	- 0 -	- 0 -								
25	Select Board	Adopt Chapter 90, §17C & 18B (Speed Limits)	- 0 -	- 0 -								
26	Charter Committee	Amend C-2-3 Finance Committee Appointments	- 0 -	- 0 -								
27	Charter Committee	Amend C-3-2 Select Board hold only one elective office	- 0 -	- 0 -								
28	Charter Committee	Amend C-4-1 Change Town Admin to Town Manager	- 0 -	- 0 -								
29	Charter Committee	Amend C-5-2 Define Alternate/Associate Membership	- 0 -	- 0 -								
30	Charter Committee	Amend C-6-3 Annual Budget Process	- 0 -	- 0 -								
31	Planning Board	Accessory Dwelling Units Bylaw Adoption	- 0 -	- 0 -								
32	Planning Board	Floodplain Bylaw Update	- 0 -	- 0 -								
33	Planning Board	Senior Village Overlay District Bylaw Adoption	- 0 -	- 0 -								
34	Planning Board	27 Cross St. Sidewalk Acceptance of Land Donation	- 0 -	- 0 -								
35	Select Board	Transfer to Capital Stabilization	\$ 51,359	\$ 51,359		51,359						
36	Citizens Petition	Accept an Extension of Ellen Drive as a Town Way	- 0 -	- 0 -								
37	Citizens Petition	Expand Select Board to 5 members	- 0 -	- 0 -								
			\$56,014,027	\$ 55,846,502	\$40,999,805	\$3,367,934	\$ 107,700	\$ 6,690,649	\$ 2,995,452	\$ 970,000	\$ 427,462	

Notes:

1 - Bond

2 - Community Preservation Act

2025 Plainville Annual Town Meeting Consent Agenda



A consent agenda's purpose is to act expeditiously upon certain types of articles that historically have generated no controversy and can reasonably be voted upon without debate. With a consent agenda, several articles can be addressed with a single vote, thereby ensuring that a greater proportion of Town Meeting's time is dedicated to articles that are the subject of genuine debate.

When the Consent Agenda is called, the Moderator will read out the number of each article, one by one. If a voter has a question or concern about an article's inclusion on the Consent Agenda, s/he should say "hold" when the article's number is called. If the purpose of the "hold" is only to ask a simple question, the Moderator will attempt to get the question answered quickly with the goal of leaving the article on the Consent Agenda. If the article fails to do that, or if it is held for debate, it will be removed from the Consent Agenda. After each article has been called, the Moderator will ask Town Meeting to pass all articles on the Consent Agenda that have not been otherwise removed in a single vote. It is hoped that voters will remove articles from the Consent Agenda only in cases where genuine concerns exist.

The Consent Agenda included below, will be taken up before Article 1 of the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, May 19, 2025.

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to take out of order Articles 1, 9, 10, & 21 and that they be "passed by consent" in accordance with the motions shown on the "2025 Plainville Annual Town Meeting Consent Agenda" as presented below.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will accept the reports of its Officers, Boards, Departments, Committees, and Commissions, as printed in the 2024 Annual Report, or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto. (Requested by the Select Board)

MOTION: I move that the Town hear and act upon the reports of the Officers, Boards, Departments, Committees, and Commissions as printed in the 2024 Annual Report.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for state or federal grants, and to expend any monies received, as outlined in the appropriate grant application; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto. (Requested by the Select Board)

MOTION: I move that the Town Authorize the Select Board to apply for state or federal grants and to expend any monies received as set forth in the appropriate grant applications.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend any sum or sums of money that may be available from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Massachusetts Department of Transportation) for Chapter 90 type construction, improvements, and/or reconstruction of public ways and associated equipment; and to authorize the Select Board to enter into contracts relative

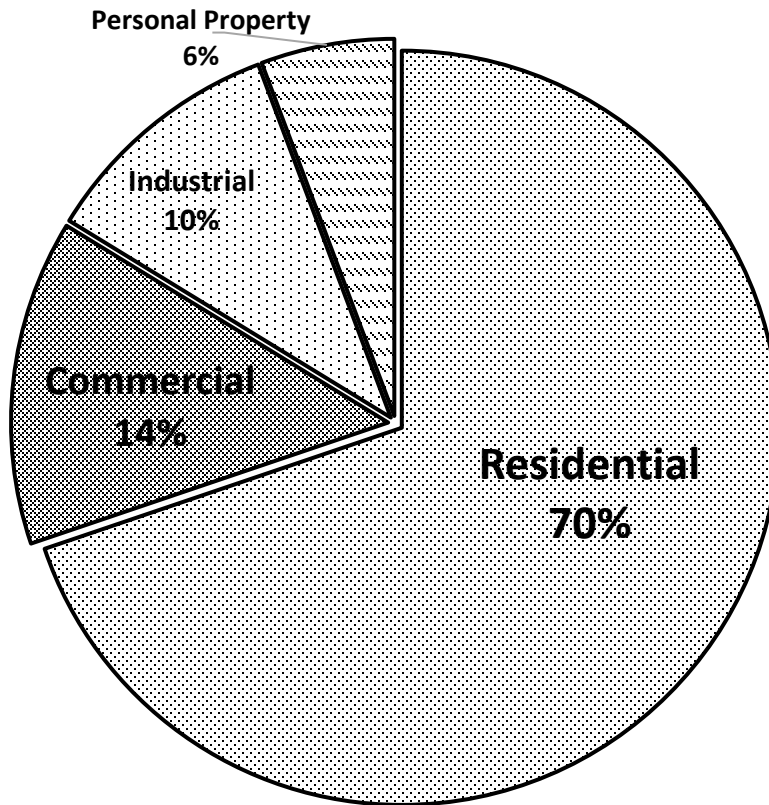
thereto, and to appropriate said sum or sums in anticipation of reimbursement from the Commonwealth; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto. (Requested by the Director of Public Works)

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to accept and expend any sum or sums of money that may be available from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for Chapter 90 type construction improvements or reconstruction of public ways and associated equipment, further to authorize the Select Board to enter into contracts relative thereto and to appropriate said sum or sums in anticipation of reimbursement from the Commonwealth.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during FY26 beginning on July 1, 2025 for the revolving funds established in Town By-laws for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½; or take any other action thereon or in relation thereto. (Requested by the Finance Director)

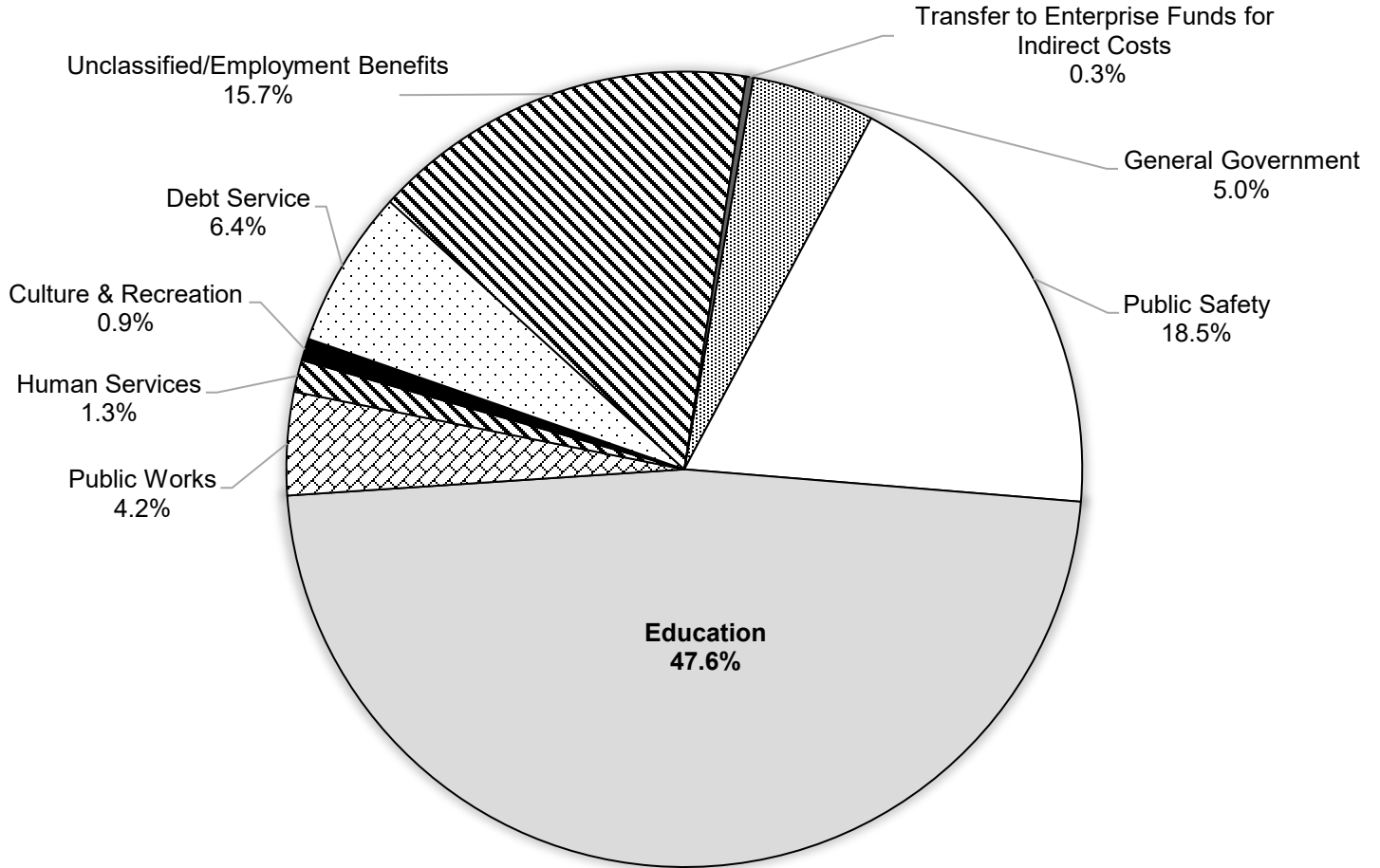
MOTION: I move that the Town fix the maximum amount that may be spent during the fiscal year 2026 beginning July 1, 2025 for the revolving funds established in the town bylaws for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies, or officers in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, as presented in Article 21 of the May 19, 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Property Values FY2025



Classification	Value (FY22)	Value (FY23)	Value (FY24)	Value (FY25)
Residential	\$1,255,044,470	\$1,408,731,744	\$1,487,030,128	\$1,645,107,230
Commercial	305,191,230	319,356,980	321,104,474	328,556,520
Industrial	83,372,700	146,510,400	253,419,350	248,409,850
Personal Property	105,133,740	117,413,930	132,776,490	134,811,720

Appropriation by Sector Proposed FY2026



General Government	\$	2,232,049	5.0%
Public Safety	\$	8,256,060	18.5%
Education	\$	21,247,811	47.6%
Public Works	\$	1,865,489	4.2%
Health & Human Services	\$	577,577	1.3%
Culture & Recreation	\$	399,437	0.9%
Debt Service	\$	2,866,725	6.4%
Unclassified/Employment Benefits	\$	7,018,040	15.7%
Transfer to Enterprise Funds for Indirect Costs	\$	128,581	0.3%
Total	\$	44,591,769	100%

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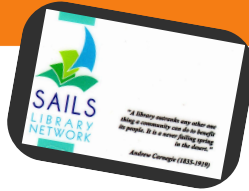
Library Hours:

Monday and Tuesday 9:00am - 5:00pm

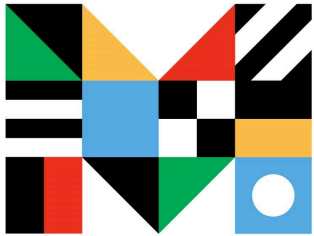
Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am - 8:00pm

Friday 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Saturday 9:00am - 1:00pm



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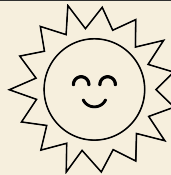
Visit our online calendar to see all events

Storytimes for ages 0-5
Teddy Bear Picnic at Telford Park
Children's programming
4 Different Book Clubs
Meditation Classes for Adults
Virtual Author Talks

LEARN MORE about our

Unique Services

Secure Shredding Box
Package Pick-up
Copy/Fax/Mobile Print
Little Free Art Gallery
Library of Things:
Rug Cleaner, Power Washer,
Outdoor Games



Summer Reading

Kids can register in June.
8 weeks of fun for all ages,
through August 15.
Adults & Teens can play
Plinko for Prizes



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Educator Partnerships

Signed every teacher up for a
library card to benefit classroom
learning and reading groups
Homeschool Meetings to support
local learners and share ideas



Discount Museum Passes

Zoos, movie tickets, art, science,
history and children's museums.
Book Online.



Community Support

Someone Cares Shelf for
personal care items
Pumpkin Decorating Contest
for Food Pantry
Toys for Tots drop-off

Plainville
Public Library



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198 South Street

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