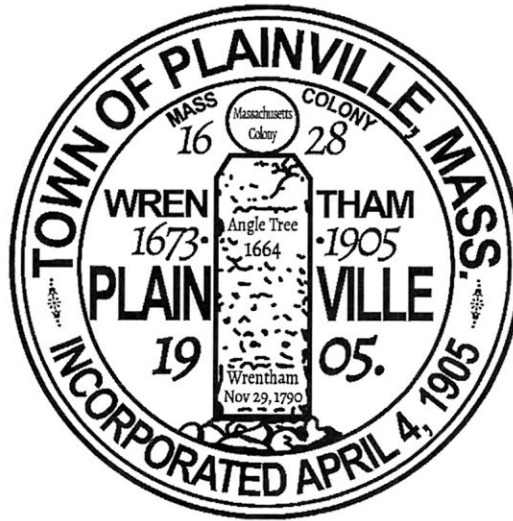


TOWN OF PLAINVILLE



Transcript of Articles in the Warrant for the

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Report of the Finance Committee

Wednesday, September 10, 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

Dear Plainville Residents,

The Select Board is calling a Special Town Meeting to consider a critical measure related to keeping the financing of the new Turnpike Lake Water Treatment Plant on track.

Last October, voters overwhelmingly approved funding for this project, including authorization to borrow a portion of the total cost. Since then, the Town has actively pursued additional sources of revenue, including a federal earmark and expected proceeds from the national class action PFAS litigation, to reduce the financial burden on local taxpayers.

However, the State Revolving Fund (SRF), which is the primary funding mechanism for this type of infrastructure project, has recently informed us that anticipated reimbursements, even those reasonably expected from the federal government or the legal settlements, cannot be counted toward our required local funding share. This technicality, though frustrating, must be addressed to move the project forward and secure the favorable financing terms the SRF provides.

This Special Town Meeting Article would permit an increase in the borrowing authorization as a temporary measure until those federal and legal reimbursements are received. This is not new spending. Rather, it is an administrative step required to comply with SRF rules and keep the project and our access to critical water infrastructure funding. It simply ensures we can move forward now, with the favorable financing of the SRF program (some borrowing a 0%) and use the PFAS legal settlements on the project as they arrive.

Thank you for your continued trust and engagement in the governance of our community

THE SELECT BOARD

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

August 11, 2025

TOWN OF PLAINVILLE



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

WARRANT FOR THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Wednesday, September 10, 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 Wednesday, the 10th day of September 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 Wednesday, September 10, 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.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Appropriation: An authorization to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. Town Meeting grants an appropriation 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 yearly 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 beginning 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.

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

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

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: This is the major town-owned fund, created with town receipts and 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 due to 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 the override's purpose must be specified. Overrides require a majority vote of approval by the Town.

Property Tax Levy: The amount produced by multiplying the assessed property valuation by the tax rate. The tax rate is expressed as "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, the Select Board holds a classification hearing 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 previous year levy limit.

Index of Articles for the Annual Town Meeting

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TOWN OF PLAINVILLE



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING Wednesday, September 10, 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 vote to amend the vote taken under Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting of October 7, 2024, by increasing the borrowing authorization by the addition of \$3,000,000 (three million dollars), for a total bond authorization of \$28,600,000; or take any other action relative thereto.

Requested by the Select Board

The State Revolving Fund (SRF) administrators have advised that expected reimbursements, such as the \$1.5 million federal earmark and at least \$1.5 million from PFAS settlement proceeds, cannot be included in the SRF funding formulary. As a result, the Town must authorize an alternative funding source to meet SRF requirements and finally secure financing.

The Finance Committee will give its report and recommendation at the Special Town Meeting.

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 15th day of August 2025.


Given under our hands this 11 th day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

THE SELECT BOARD




Brian Kelly, Chair

Attest:



Maggie Clarke, Vice-Chair



Marianne Nicastro
Assistant Town Clerk




Jeffrey Johnson, Clerk

August 11, 2025

Date

NORFOLK, SS.

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



Constable

8-12-25

Date

MAY REMOVE AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, 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 that decisions may be made without confusion. It also 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 the 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 unrelated 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 different motions.
- **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). However, motions concerning the rights of the town meeting, borrowing, and some other miscellaneous subjects may require "supermajorities" of 3/4 or 9/10, depending on the applicable state law.
- **Can it be reconsidered?** Some motions can be debated again and revoted to allow members 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 body's consent.

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 a badly chosen main motion for which either a "yes" or "no" vote would have undesirable consequences.