Preliminary Minutes
Plymouth Annual Town Meeting
Monday, March 3, 2025 @ 7:00 P.M.

Moderator Tom Harris opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. by asking the audience to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom then stated the rules of conduct following Roberts Rules of Order and that only legal voters of the Town may speak and vote at the meeting. He asked that all motions and remarks be addressed to him. He requested that you stand and identify yourself and speak into the microphone so everyone can hear you. He then read the Warning in its entirety to the audience.

Article 1 was read: To elect Town Officers for the ensuing years by Australian Ballot (on Tuesday, March 4, 2025): Moderator, Selectman, Lister, Trustee of Public Funds, Cemetery Commissioner, and Constables.

Article 2 was read: To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will vote, by Australian Ballot, to eliminate the Office of Listers and approve the Select Board to appoint an assessor.
Tom Harris said that we could have a conversation about Article 2, but it will be voted on by Australian Ballot, tomorrow.
Bob Lambert stood up and asked if someone could please explain this to them.
Keith Cappellini began by stating that there are two (2) offices and we have had complaints. This is our way to find a solution to the problem.
Jay Kullman added that a Level 3 Assessor Certificate is required.
Richard Ruggiano asked two (2) questions. Are you changing structure because of personalities? Will it cost more?
Rick Kaminski answered by saying that it is on the ballot for two of our neighboring towns. We can ask Charlie Kimball about this. We will advertise for the position and appoint an assessor. He also added that two (2) out of three (3) of our listers are in favor of an assessor. Rick could not see where it would cost more.
Bruce Pauley added that if people have concerns with what the one (1) person says versus the three (3) person there are steps. You can go to the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) then up to the Supreme Court.
Karen Evans spoke that she is in favor of an assessor versus listers.

Article 3 was read: To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will vote $13,589.50 for Human Services. **Karen Evans made a motion to approve the article as read. Steve Radonis seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Article 4 was read: To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will vote to appropriate the sum of $2,500.00 to the Okemo Valley Technical Rescue Group, to support Emergency Technical Rescue Services for the Town of Plymouth.

Steve Radonis made a motion to approve the article as read. James Allen seconded the motion. Open for discussion. James Allen talked about the Okemo Valley Technical Rescue Group and its purpose. The group includes Ludlow Fire, Proctorsville, Mount Holly, Cavendish and

Plymouth Fire. The group will train in things such as technical rescue, high angle rescue as well as other specialized rescues. **The motion passed.**

Article 5 was read: To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will vote to raise $1,592,689.50 in taxes to pay estimated expenses in the amount of $1,999,739.50?

Jay Kullman made a motion to approve the article as read. Bruce Pauley seconded the motion. Open for discussion: Jay Kullman noted that the real estate taxes have decreased by $28,000.00. He added that the Town has received reimbursement from FEMA in the amount of $773,000 to date for flood damage. There is $852,000 in the general fund, with another 1 million in reserve fund, $130,000 of which is transferred to the highway equipment fund every year. Jay also added that there is nothing scheduled for replacement in 2025, but the Town does plan to replace the grader and pick-up truck in 2026. **The motion passed.** Ed Mazzella did comment that he has never seen taxes go down.

Article 6 was read: To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will fix the salaries of the Select Board the same as last year in the amount of $1,600.00 annually. **Karen Evans made a motion to approve the article as read. Anne Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Article 7 was read: To see if the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth will collect taxes on real property in installments to be paid to the Treasurer, Town of Plymouth on September 2, 2025 and February 2, 2026, and must be delivered to the Town Treasurer on or before the due date. Post marked envelopes will ne be accepted as timely payments. **James Allen made a motion to approve the article as read. Bobbi J. Lambert-Lynds seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

A young man in attendance, Griffin, spoke about the good environment at the Woodstock School. There was also a video that was played on the big TV from kids of all ages who attend Woodstock School system and they expressed their gratitude to the teachers as well as the programs offered there.

Tom Harris spoke about his role as the Town Moderator. He spoke that he was looking to step-down if there is another mature person in Town who would like to take the role. He was just putting it out there.

The Town Meeting and Voting itself was adjourned at 7:45 pm; however, Tom Harris gave Vermont State Representative, Charlie Kimbell the floor to speak briefly about what was happening in Montpelier.

Kimbell discussed a law that passed in 2023 that requires the state to do a better job of assessing properties. He discussed the fact that there are still dozens of towns in the state that need be assessed by 2030.

Kimbell then discussed the education system stating that there are currently 52 supervisory unions across the state, and a new proposal to eliminate the supervisory unions and convert to five school districts. That's five elected school board members representing all of Vermont's schools and

students. There was additional discussion about the cost per child. Kimbell said they're in the process of digging into the numbers, and expect to have a better plan by mid-June, at the end of the legislative session.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Kissell
Town Clerk
Recording Secretary