



# SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024

7:00 p.m. at Beatrice Wood Elementary School  
72 Messenger Street



## A Message From The Select Board

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

Dear Plainville Residents,

We invite you to join us for Plainville's Special Town Meeting on Monday, Oct. 7. Although we have not held a Special Town Meeting in recent years, this year's agenda includes several critical items that could not be addressed at our Annual Town Meeting in June. The Select Board unanimously recommends approving all Warrant Articles.

The most crucial items are Articles 1 and 2, which propose constructing a new water treatment plant at the corner of East Bacon and George Street. This facility is not just an infrastructure investment but also an investment in the health, safety, and prosperity of every resident. It will significantly increase our water capacity to meet current and future demands and comply with state and federal mandates to remove harmful contaminants, including PFAS. Additionally, it will address long-standing issues with elevated iron and manganese levels, improving both water quality and taste.

This project is essential for Plainville's economic vitality. A reliable, high-quality water supply will attract new businesses and stabilize property values, contributing to a stronger local economy and more stable tax rates. With significant state funding, low and no-interest loans, and potential grants, we will minimize the financial burden on residents. The new plant will also ensure compliance with federal and state regulations, avoiding costly fines and penalties.

Given the significance of this investment and its benefits to all residents, we propose that the cost be shared between water ratepayers (covering 2/3) and the general fund (covering 1/3). While non-water customers may not directly use the plant's services, they will benefit from its broader public health, environmental, economic, and social advantages.

We will also decide whether to approve Articles 3, 4, and 5. Article 3 proposes using existing funds to replace the over 35-year-old and unreliable HVAC system at the Plainville Public Library. Article 4 seeks to amend the Town Bylaws to allow flexibility in scheduling the Annual Town Meeting. Article 5 involves utilizing Community Preservation Act funds to extend a water supply line to the Plainville Athletic League and to preserve our history by installing new windows and doors at the James Humphrey House.

We appreciate your thoughtful input leading up to this meeting and encourage you to continue sharing your views. While we may not agree on every issue, we make better decisions when all voices are heard.



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## **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

### Article I

The Town Meeting will vote on whether to approve \$25.6 million to design, build, and equip a new water treatment plant, covering all related costs. The Treasurer, with Select Board approval, would be authorized to borrow the funds through the MA Clean Water Trust. The Select Board may also seek and accept ARPA funds, grants, or donations from federal, state, or private sources for this project. The Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval.

### Article II

The Town Meeting will consider repurposing \$1,389,274.39 in borrowed funds to reduce costs for the water treatment plant or the new well project, both of which would otherwise require bonding for a similar purpose and term. This vote, requested by the Finance Director, would close borrowing accounts for completed projects and redirect the remaining balance. The Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval.

**Learn more about the Turnpike Lake Water Treatment Plant Replacement Project**

**Read Frequently Asked Questions**

### Article III

The Town Meeting will consider transferring \$154,451.44 from available funds for the installation and costs of a replacement HVAC system at the Plainville Public Library. The total project cost is \$300,000, with the remaining balance covered by Federal ARPA funds. The Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval.

### Article IV

The Town Meeting will vote to consider amending the bylaws regarding the timing and location of the Annual Town Meeting to align with the Town Charter. This article provides flexibility for the Select Board to adjust the date and location of the meeting.

### Article V

The Town Meeting will vote to consider the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee, to allocate \$160,000 to design and construct a water supply line to the Plainville Athletic League Field and \$50,000 for the window and door improvements at the historic James Humphrey House. The Finance Committee unanimously recommends approval.

**In Case You Missed It: View the Tri-County Debt Resolution Planning Presentation**