

Town Counsel - Kopelman and Paige, P.C.

Town House Building Committee – Fred Svenson, Robert Karling, Christine Joy

Wage & Personnel Board – Diane Coyne (2005), Irving Butler (2006), Marilyn Thompson (2007)

Web Site Design and Maintenance Committee

Jon Wilhelmsen (2007), Maxwell West (2006), Debbie Anderson (2006), Carolyn DeCristofano (2006), Robert Green (2006), Steven Ziglar (2006), Christine Joy (2005), David Proudman (2005), Brian Wick (2005)

Zoning Board of Appeals –Stephen Mattern (2007), William McClellan (2006), Scott Sauchuk (2005); alternate – Edward Murray (2005)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

This past year has been fiscally challenging for your local officials' as our budgets were level funded and/or reduced for the second straight year. Departmental "belts were tightened", the heat was turned back (everyone bundled up), and significant time was spent planning for and tracking expenditures to ensure we stay within the budgets you voted at Town Meeting.

The legislature provided much needed fiscal flexibility with the Municipal Relief Act of 2003. This act allowed the Selectmen to transfer a maximum of 3% of a department's budget, with approval of the department head, to another budget line in order to pay bills the last month of the fiscal year. Your department heads pulled together and through a "team effort" we were able to pay all outstanding bills, ending fiscal year 2004 with a clean slate.

Plympton residents supported three debt exclusions for elementary, junior, and high school renovation/addition projects. We are now feeling the effect of these votes in our wallets. This Board is cognizant of the fact that many of our residents are struggling to make ends meet. We hear your pleas and are committed to avoiding a prop 2-½ override to fund operating budgets and have made fiscal responsibility our highest priority.

With the hope of groundbreaking on our long awaited industrial park this summer, desperately needed tax relief is on the horizon. Your board fully supports the development of our industrial park and is doing what we can to help expedite the process.

We set tangible goals for 2004 to assist us in providing more focused leadership. Many of our goals reflect our commitment to frugal budget management. Our goals are as follows:

- Periodic review of all department budgets/expenditures
- Improve communication/coordination between boards
- Continue to look for opportunities to save money
 - Transfer station
 - Network the BOH high speed connection
 - Bidding insurance

- Participate in County Oil bid
- Improve control of Town Counsel expenses
- Use Plymouth CC to print Town Report
- Provide training for Town boards through utilization of free seminars provided by Kopelman & Paige
- Formalize application process for appointed/clerical positions. Continue to promote openings on boards and commissions through media and website.
- Sign for Town House

Some of the cost savings achieved through are goals were substantial, such as networking the Board of Health high speed connection to save each department the monthly dial up fees and reduced fuel costs through participation in the county oil bid. MIIA was chosen to provide the Town's property and casualty insurance coverage for \$5,000 less than our previous insurance carrier. Unfortunately, during this process we determined Town property--buildings and contents, were significantly undervalued, so the savings dissipated once the proper coverage was secured. To better control Town Counsel expenses we adopted a stringent policy for contacting counsel, also the Town's insurance carrier has provided counsel for three lawsuits against the Town at a cost of \$5,000 (our deductible) per lawsuit which has kept our legal expenses under budget thus far. We plan to shop around to find the least expensive means of printing this report, possibly a high school print shop or through Plymouth County Correctional facility.

We continue to attempt to work with the Board of Health to try to find ways to reduce costs at the transfer station and are working with the Silver Lake Regional High School Voc Ed department to design and create a Town sign to promote town and community events.

We welcomed Rob Vautrinot to the Board last May to fill the seat vacated by Selectmen Rick Springer. Rob grew up in Plympton and recently moved back with his wife and four children. We look forward to working with Rob on the issues facing our community.

Rick Springer wasn't ready to retire from public service and was elected to the Finance Committee last May. Rick made many important contributions to our board—we thank him for his commitment to Plympton and know he will do the same as a member of our Finance Committee.

Thank you to John Klepper, who assisted us in the daunting task of comparing "apples to apples" in our analysis of the insurance bids. Thank you to the many volunteers who serve on Town boards and committees. Without your service, town government would cease to exist. Your time and dedication is appreciated.

It is both a privilege and honor to represent the good people of Plympton and we are truly grateful for this opportunity. Together, we will meet today's challenges and plan for Plympton's future.

Respectfully submitted,
 Christine Joy Chairman Joseph Freitas Robert Vautrinot

SELECTMEN'S EXPENSE

Appropriated	15,399.01
Expended:	<u>15,394.56</u>
Returned to Treasurer 6/30/04	\$4.45
TOWN HOUSE	
Appropriated	26,979.00
Expended:	<u>26,979.00</u>
BLANKET INSURANCE	
Appropriated	50,000.00
Expended:	<u>50,000.00</u>
STREET LIGHTS	
Appropriated	5,487.00
Expended	<u>5,487.00</u>
TOWN COUNSEL	
Appropriated	30000.00
Transfer	27,522.66
Expended	<u>57,522.66</u>
MEMORIAL DAY	
Appropriated	412.00
Expended	<u>412.00</u>

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of **PLYMPTON**

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in Elections to vote at:

PLYMPTON TOWN HOUSE

5 PALMER ROAD

on **TUESDAY, THE SECOND DAY OF MARCH, 2004**, from 7:00 A.M TO 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Presidential Primary for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH
STATE COMMITTEE MAN PLYMOUTH BARNSTABLE DISTRICT
STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN.PLYMOUTH BARNSTABLE DISTRICT

TOWN CLERK.TOWN OF PLYMPTON

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this 17th day of FEBRUARY 2004

Christine M. Joy Joseph A. Freitas Richard L. Springer
(signed)
Selectmen of Plympton

You are directed to post five (5) copies of this warrant, one at each of the public bulletin boards at the Plympton Town House, Plympton Public Library, Dennett Elementary School, Plympton Pizza, Plympton Post Office, hereof, fail not and make due return of your doings thereon at the place of said meeting. I have posted five (5) copies as directed.

Constable: Dana L. Fowler Date: 2/24/04

A true copy,
ATTEST:
Nancy J. Butler, CMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

**PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2004**

The polls opened at 7:00 a.m. at the Plympton Town House. All Election Officials were sworn in by the Town Clerk including, Warden: Lenore S. Swanson, Clerk: Patricia Kaufman-Vaughan, Tellers: Jeraldine Batchelder, Patricia Harlfinger, Patricia Leslie, Elaine McKeown.

The Town Clerk, Election Officials and the Police officer inspected the ballot box.

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS: 1881
TOTAL VOTES CAST: 237

TOTAL DEMOCRATIC VOTES CAST: 201

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

Richard Gephart	1
Joseph Lieberman	1
Wesley K. Clark	1
Howard Dean	5
Carol Moseley Braun	0
John Edwards	59
Dennis J. Kucinich	1
John F. Kerry	130
Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr	0
Al Sharpton	1
Hillary Clinton	1