



# TOWN OF RICHMOND

RICHMOND TOWN CENTER

203 Bridge Street, P.O. Box 285

Richmond, Vermont 05477



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** November 2, 2017  
**To:** Selectboard  
**From:** Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager  
**RE:** Budget Discussions for November 6, 2017

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What we have in this budget is an all-in budget with personnel changes and most capital plans that we have so-far talked about. As you can see, we're about \$220,000 over last year's spending. The bulk of this is attributed to higher pay and benefits costs, with some attributions to capital in Police (vehicles), Fire (building) and Highway (some comes off, some goes back in). It should be noted that recently three employees who had been opting-out of our health insurance have opted in. Now, most of our employees are covered by health insurance, representing a significant cost.

I believe there is still work to be done to finalize the salary lines for both Police and Highway. Additionally, I believe that we should examine using some of the town's "unrestricted surplus" to fund improvements to the fire station. This surplus is the result of several good years where the net position of the town has increased due to favorable operations. Using this as a revenue would 1) offset the planned expenses on the fire department building without affecting taxes and 2) allow us to do even more work than what the \$30,000 as proposed would allow. It would also represent a one-time revenue matched with a one-time expense that avoids a situation where we would have to defer taxation to a later year, as would be the case if we tried to offset operational costs.

We still have a long way to go. Some capital ideas bounced around are the development of a parking lot on Cochran Road (although we may be able to do that in this fiscal year) as well as the Rivershore stabilization project, which may need to be funded with a short term note. While the Breadloaf assessment is not yet ready, most of those improvements are expected to come from the Town Center rental fund and have minimal impact on taxpayers.

The revenue section is not yet complete and not in the packet. I expect non-tax revenues to be similar to last year, and the grandlist to change very little, perhaps offsetting \$10,000 of spending.

