



TOWN OF RICHMOND

RICHMOND TOWN CENTER
203 Bridge Street, P.O. Box 285
Richmond, Vermont 05477



In August, 2001, the Town acquired a Emergency One pumper with 1,500 gallon tank. This truck was expected to last 20 years, with replacement authorized in 2020 and acquired in 2021. This truck is commonly known as Engine #3, and was heavily relied upon until early this year. When its annual vehicle inspection came due, severe frame rust was identified and Vermont Department of Transportation was brought in to inspect. While the vehicle passed inspection, concern was expressed by the inspectors over the condition of the frame. Since then, the frame has been reinforced with welded supports, however, this is a temporary fix. The engine has also undergone engine and water tank repairs in the past six months. The determination of the fire department is that this vehicle has little life left for Richmond as its problems will continue to worsen. While it is roadworthy today and capable of fighting fires, the decision was made to request a replacement ahead of its intended cycle by about 2.5 years.

The lead time in bidding, awarding and delivering a fire truck is 12-15 months. The Selectboard has decided that this issue cannot wait, and has scheduled a bond vote for September 26, 2017. The Selectboard is asking the voters to consider replacing the fire engine, at approximately \$395,000, using indebtedness to cover most of the costs. The value of the old engine is estimated to be less than \$15,000. Being early in the cycle, there are little reserve funds available for this replacement.

Over a proposed seven-year repayment cycle, the principal amount would be \$57,142 per year and interest is estimated to be \$6,281 in the first year at 3%. This would add approximately 1.4 cents to the tax rate in Fiscal Year 2020 – we would not incur the debt until delivery of the engine in FY2019, and not begin to pay the debt until FY2020. Our two previous bond approvals have been for lesser amounts over a shorter term, costing about \$55,000 per year over five years, and the last payment on the current bonded engine will be November 16, 2020 – meaning a one-year overlap of debt payments for fire engines will occur.

Current Fire Vehicle and Apparatus Inventory

	Year Acquired	Cost New	Est. Replacement Year
Engine #1	2011	\$343,950	2031
Engine #2	2015	\$455,000	2035
Engine #3	2001	\$210,000	2021 (2018)
Brush Truck	2009	\$52,198	2029
Utility Truck	2005	\$215,000	2025

The vote is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2017 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM in the Town Clerk’s Office at 203 Bridge Street, Richmond, however, you may vote early by absentee ballot by contacting Linda Parent, Town Clerk at 434-2221. The Selectboard will hold the required public information session on this question at their regular meeting of September 18, 2017 at the Town Center Meeting Room located at 203 Bridge Street in Richmond, at 7:00 PM. If you have any questions on the Fire Truck, you may contact the Town Manager, Geoffrey Urbanik, at 434-5170 or email townmgr@gmavt.net