

1 **Town of Richmond**
2 **Selectboard Meeting**
3 **Minutes of August 21, 2023**
4

5 **Members Present:** Bard Hill, David Sander, Jay Furr, Jeff Forward, Lisa Miller
6

7 **Absent:** None
8

9 **Staff Present:** Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town
10 Manager; Connie Bona, Finance Director; Anthony Cambridge, Hinesburg Police Chief
11

12 **Others Present:** Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Angela Cote, Bonnitta Steuer,
13 Bruce LaBounty, Cara LaBounty, Chris Wasser, Connie van Eeghen, Denise Barnard,
14 Denise Noble, Gary Kessler, Hillary Holmes, Jay Moltz, Jim Accurso, Kendra Ziskie,
15 Martha Nye, Martha Waterman, Mary Ann Barnes, Mary Houle, Megan Andrews,
16 Patrick Coulombe, Patty Brushett, Peggy Jones, Scott Silverstein, Susan Wells, Wafic
17 Faour
18

19 **MMCTV Video:** <https://archive.org/details/RichmondSelectbd08212023>
20

21 **Call to Order:** 7:00 pm
22

23 **Welcome by:** Furr
24

25 **Public Comment:**
26

27 Steuer: This is a request to the Selectboard to move an agenda item forward,
28 Consideration of approval of agreement with Hinesburg for Police Chief Services. I
29 think there are some people present who might like to have brief public comment.
30

31 Furr: Does anybody have any objection to moving that up? We will be happy to do that.
32

33 **Additions or Deletions to Agenda:**
34

35 Furr: I think we can knock out Items a) and b) very quickly and then go on to Item m),
36 Consideration of approval of agreement with Hinesburg for Police Chief Services
37

38 **Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**
39

40 **Consideration of approval of makeup date for Round Church Women's Run**

41 Timestamp: 0:01

42 [2023 ltr to town mgr - reschedule.pdf](#)
43

44 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Arneson, Barnard, Andrews, Forward,
45 Holmes, Hill
46

47 Arneson stated that this event was originally scheduled for July 23 but postponed due to
48 flooding. They request a make-up date of September 10. Furr stated that they're also
49 requesting to authorize the closure of Farr Rd, Thompson Rd, and the eastbound lane of
50 Cochran Rd from 7:25am to 9:15am, on a Sunday.

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Hill moved to approve the Round Church Women's Run to be held on Sunday, September 10, 2023 and authorize the closer of Farr Rd, Thompson Rd. and the eastbound lane of Cochran Rd. from 7:25am to 9:15am on the date of the event. Sander seconded. Roll Call Vote follows discussion.

Barnard expressed concern about the complications every time Cochran and Huntington Rds get closed, especially now with the Rt. 2 construction. Barand stated that in the future other entities might be put off to 2025 until the bridge and Rt. 2 are done. Barnard stated that Richmond is being a little taken advantage of. Andrews stated she is on Thompson Rd and it's very inconvenient to shut down the only way out of her house. Andrews stated that Thompson and Farr Rds are the only way out or in. Forward asked about any police coverage. Holmes stated that the plan is to have police coverage to help with the closure of the race. Holmes stated that if police coverage is not available then they will contract with one of the flagging companies. Forward suggested contacting the Hinesburg Police Department. Furr suggested that people on Thompson or Farr Rds be let out and not tell them they're stuck for two hours. Holmes stated that historically Thompson Rd is truly closed for only about 10 minutes around the start time.

Hill moved to amend the motion to approve the Round Church Women's Run to be held on Sunday, September 10, 2023 and to authorize the closer of Farr Rd, Thompson Rd. and the eastbound lane of Cochran Rd. from 7:25am to 9:15am on the date of the event stipulating the road closures will be kept to minimum duration of time required and the access will be controlled by a uniform traffic officer or flaggers. Sander seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Consideration of holding a Richmond Historical Society concert at the Round Church Green and closing Round Church Road on September 24, 2023

Timestamp: 0:10
[Historical Society Concert.pdf](#)

People who participated in discussion: Furr, Arneson, Barnes, Hill

Barnes stated that they will close the Round Church Rd from around 4pm until 8pm on a Sunday evening and the neighbors have been notified. Hill reminded everyone that exceptions are always made for emergency vehicles, fire, and rescue.

Forward moved to approve the Historical Society to hold a concert on the Round Church Green on Sunday, September 24, 2023 and close the Round Church Road on the same date from 4:00 – 8:00pm. Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.

Consideration of approval of agreement with Hinesburg for Police Chief Services, possible

Timestamp: 0:13

People who participated in discussion: Furr, Arneson, Hill, Miller, Forward, Noble, Houle, Barnard, Wasser, van Eeghen, Brushett

100 Furr stated that this is an arrangement for police chief services. Arneson stated that the
101 Hinesburg Police Chief will essentially be the interim chief here in Richmond until July
102 27, 2024, or until Richmond or Hinesburg decides to end the agreement earlier. Arneson
103 stated that Hinesburg voted on it last week. Arneson stated that the Hinesburg Chief
104 would be directing patrol services and general services of their police department here.
105 Arneson reviewed that we already have an agreement for patrolling general services.
106 This allows the Chief to hire employees here in which we have uniformed officers into
107 positions. Arneson stated that they need to follow all the current Richmond policies and
108 procedures while they're policing in Richmond. Hill stated that this sets the structure
109 arrangement and reimbursement. Hill reviewed that here's a more formal role for the
110 Town Manager or if we were to hire a chief then some kind of transition over time.
111 Arneson stated the agreement did not discuss a physical office but did structure regular
112 meetings with the Town Manager.

113

114 Furr stated that he firmly agrees with the policy document that Richmond Racial Equity
115 submitted. Furr stated that the Police Chief and Police operations in Richmond have to
116 follow existing Richmond police policies. Furr reviewed that it is Richmond Police
117 policy to abide by fair and impartial policing. Furr stated it is not a good idea to say
118 we're just going to punt on having a Richmond Police Department, in order to keep our
119 options open. Hill reviewed that small towns would do better to join together into
120 municipal districts, but the challenging issue is the governing authority.

121

122 Steuer stated that she is strongly against the return to business as usual, with a short-term
123 chief who is unlikely to be able to build the kind of public safety department that's clearly
124 been asked for by our Town. Steuer stated that an interim chief would potentially derail
125 the process that we're embarking on with Hinesburg. Steuer stated she would love to see
126 us following through on this process to move towards community policing. Hill stated
127 that the hiring committee met to review the interim chief's candidacy and their consensus
128 was to move forward with the next steps in the process, an interview with the Selectboard
129 and another police chief.

130

131 Noble stated that we do need a huge change in the culture of policing. Noble observed
132 that Hinesburg's Chief Cambridge seems to be doing all the right stuff. Noble stated that
133 since the Hinesburg Chief of Police is a resident of Richmond, we should put the brakes
134 on interviewing the candidate for interim chief. Houle confirmed that since Hinesburg
135 has already approved the contract, it is a public document and should be available online.

136

137 Barnard asked about the hourly or monthly rate for the chief. Arneson stated it would be
138 \$100 per hour. Hill confirmed the contract says that Richmond agrees to pay Hinesburg
139 \$100 per hour for invoice chief services billed in 15 minutes increments.

140

141 Wasser stated that he supported the idea of working with Hinesburg Police Department as
142 it feels like both communities are so similar and it makes fiscal sense.

143

144 Van Eeghen stated that she hopes that the Chief of Police and any Police service includes
145 engaging in reporting on education and training on racial profiling, collecting and
146 reporting crime and traffic data, using alternative justice venues appropriately, and has a
147 thorough understanding of the agreement. Van Eeghen also stated that the Chief be
148 someone who meets regularly with community members in regular forums personally or
149 electronically to review police activities, data trends and future plans. Furr confirmed

150 with Arneson that the contract includes reporting on data and gathering of data. Arneson
151 confirmed the contract stated that the Police Chief participate in Richmond public
152 meetings regarding policing and receives information the Town Manager deems
153 necessary and appropriate for safe and efficient policing and to provide police data to the
154 public and meeting with the public as well. Hill stated that the contract also states that
155 the Chief will be provided with a copy of the collective bargaining agreement, as well as
156 any Richmond specific policies, procedures and orders. Arneson added that the contract
157 states the Police Chief shall adhere to all Richmond Police policies and procedures.

158
159 Brushett stated that she was confused about a new Richmond chief being in charge of the
160 Hinesburg Police officers. Brushett stated that she was very happy to hear that the Chief
161 services includes hiring Richmond police officers. Brushett stated that she does not know
162 why we are going to be paying two Chiefs.

163
164 *Forward moved to approve the agreement for Police Chief Services with Hinesburg. Hill*
165 *seconded*

166 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

167

168 **Update from Small Business Administration regarding programs for homeowners**
169 **and businesses affected by the flood**

170 Timestamp: 0:42

171 [SBA Information.pdf](#)

172 [USDA Information.pdf](#)

173 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Arneson, Forward, Cara LaBounty

174

175 Arneson stated that a representative from the Small Business Administration is here to
176 give a brief presentation on programs that are available to homeowners and private
177 property owners and business owners that are affected by the flood.

178

179 Accurso stated that he is a public affairs specialist with the Small Business
180 Administration, and we are here in Vermont, helping homeowners and renters, businesses
181 and nonprofits with the loans that we offer. Accurso reviewed that they can help
182 homeowners with losses to real estate up to \$200,000 and renters can get up to \$40,000 as
183 well as homeowners for contents including automobiles. Accurso stated there are nine
184 centers open here in Vermont. The closest is the disaster recovery center that we're
185 operating in accord with FEMA down in Waterbury at the armory. Accurso encouraged
186 anyone that has any concerns to come in and talk to us before the September 12 deadline.
187 There is also a deadline of April 15 next year for the economic injury loans, which would
188 be for any business that can tie a loss of revenue or any kind of economic loss between
189 July 7 and 17th. Accurso reviewed that 255 Home and Business Loans were approved
190 here in Vermont for nearly \$12 million, in Chittenden County, we had 39 applications,
191 29 Home and 10 business. Accurso stated that they approved 20 home loan applications
192 for more than \$571,000 here in Chittenden County. Accurso stated that mitigation
193 measures can get money in addition to their initial loan amount up to 20%. Accurso
194 encouraged everyone to not wait for an insurance settlement before applying. Accurso
195 stated that they look at credit history and ability to repay, so we really do want to help.
196 Accurso reviewed the terms of the loans are up to 30 years for the homeowners and
197 renters with interest rates as low as 4% for businesses, 2.375% for nonprofits, and 2.5%
198 for homeowners and renters. Accurso stated that the first thing to do is to register with
199 FEMA which can help them on the grant side. If you meet the FEMA requirements, they

200 will refer you to us for the loans. Accurso stated you can apply online,
201 <https://www.sba.gov/>. There is no obligation to take the loan once it's awarded, there are
202 no fees to apply for an SBA loan.

203
204 Forward stated that if anybody wants to know about any programs, they can call 211.
205 Forward observed that the disaster recovery centers are fabulous, it's like a mall for all of
206 the different programs that you're eligible for. Forward stated that a future agenda item
207 might be talking about buyouts. Hill stated that he was talking to somebody about the
208 possibility of elevating a house eight feet, because they're very close to the river.
209 Accurso stated that would be covered by one of our mitigation metrics. LaBounty stated
210 that FEMA has an application for elevation of a structure in the floodplain. For a buyout,
211 FEMA pays 75% while Vermont Emergency Management is putting forth ARPA money
212 and buying out structures at 100%. LaBounty suggested that the Selectboard put it on an
213 agenda item and have all experts from the State of Vermont talk about this.

214
215 **Review of financial policies**

216 Timestamp: 0:55

217 [Code of Ethics merged 08-10-23.pdf](#)

218 [Fund balance policy Richmond 08-10-23.pdf](#)

219 [Reserve Fund policy 08-10-23-23.pdf](#)

220 [Fund Balance Backup document.pdf](#)

221

222 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Miller, Arneson, Bona, Hill, Forward, Cara
223 LaBounty, Bruce LaBounty, Ziskie

224

225 Furr stated that Finance Director Connie Bona has been updating our Code of Ethics and
226 creating a Fund Balance policy and a Reserve Fund policy. Miller stated that the auditors
227 are coming next month and the Code of Ethics policy is something they are expecting to
228 see improved. Miller stated that the Reserve Fund policy keeps a cushion within different
229 fund lines. Miller stated that Bona would raise the cushion from 15% to 18%, history has
230 shown we don't know what kind of uncertainties we're going to have.

231

232 Bona stated that \$940,000 Restricted funds and Unassigned funds from end of FY22 were
233 utilized for this storm. Bona stated the FY24 projected end balance, if taking into
234 consideration what we decided to apply towards the FY24 budget would take us to about
235 \$276,000 not included any more FEMA. The Unassigned funds are about \$1,306,000 in
236 FY23. Bona stated that the policy that Lisa and I worked on have written up a 15% for
237 each one at this time.

238

239 Bona confirmed that the rest of that document is standard language from ethics and also
240 Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Bona stated that this is all new language to
241 Richmond and it is something that two different auditors have been suggesting, for
242 several years. Bona stated that some recommendations are you allow for replenishment,
243 and it is not in there because to me it sounds more like a rainy-day fund. Furr confirmed
244 that the recommendation was 18% instead of 15%.

245

246 Hill asked if we've been ending every year underspent already with the exception of these
247 outlying expenditures. Bona confirmed that was correct and that number looks good is
248 because the FEMA money finally came in this Spring from 2019. Bona stated that the
249 \$418,000 from July flooding expenses with not be reimbursed for at least three more

250 years. Miller asked if we put numbers in there and decide to raise or lower them later, is
251 that a big problem after being reviewed by the auditors. Bona confirmed that we can
252 change our policies as often as we want.

253
254 Forward stated that he liked 18% for the Restricted Highway and 15% for the Unassigned
255 funds. Miller confirmed that the Unassigned funds can go over to other lines.
256 LaBountyC stated she does not think you should pass policies tonight as she is strongly
257 opposed to going above the 15%. Five years ago, your auditors were in here saying the
258 15% is the high end of the range. LaBountyC stated that FEMA reimburses you and you
259 have the ability to do very low interest loans if an emergency arises. LaBountyC stated
260 that the Selectboard has a history, we saw the graph that Josh provided at the town
261 meeting of saving or over-taxing. LaBountyC reviewed that the Selectboard is banking at
262 the impact to affordable housing people who are having to pay higher taxes. LaBountyC
263 stated you should include a range of how low you should go on good or bad years and
264 what you're planning for. LaBountyB asked if this policy is at 15% and we're at 25%
265 does it state that we are to lower our taxes with that extra 10%? Bona confirmed that
266 anything above that 15% absolutely goes back to the budget. Bona reviewed that the last
267 two years, a million dollars went back into the budget between FY23 and FY24. Bona
268 stated that the recommendations over the years has been between 15% to 22%, or two-
269 months' worth of your budget. Hill confirmed that money we've already collected would
270 offset the taxes for that next year. Bona stated that if you look at the budget, you will see
271 where we are using Unassigned funds and Restricted funds. Ziskie recommended
272 sticking with the 15% as raising it higher in a bad year is just not great business and not
273 time value of money.

274
275 Furr suggested moving this discussion to about two meetings out. Bona stated that there
276 are two other policies to be addressed. Miller stated that the Code of Ethics and the
277 Conflict-of-Interest policy is pretty much VLCT's. Bona stated that the Fund Balance
278 policy is what we're already doing with the capital plan and the budget.

279
280 *Hill moved to approve the Code of Ethics as presented with modifications for same font*
281 *and font sizes before signatures. Forward seconded.*

282 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

283
284 **Consideration of recommendation by the American Rescue Plan Act Committee to**
285 **use \$450,000 in ARPA funds for improvements to Volunteers' Green and Browns**
286 **Court and to establish a committee to make recommendations on specific projects**

287 Timestamp: 1:19

288 [ARPA Project List 8-17-23.pdf](#)

289
290 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Forward, Miller, Barnard, Cara LaBounty,
291 Nye, Wells, Hill

292
293 Furr stated that there is an item in the packet that details how much money ARPA has
294 currently spent. Furr reviewed that at the last ARPA meeting they recommended
295 allocating \$450,000 to the Selectboard for recreation. Furr confirmed that the Recreation
296 Committee came with requests for certain funds. Furr stated that many people wanted to
297 see pickleball, tennis and basketball courts but one of the criteria was no ongoing
298 maintenance costs. Furr stated that the item that is actually for us tonight is the action by
299 the ARPA committee to put aside \$450,000 but to create a new committee whose sole job

300 would be to seek input from people such as baseball, band, Community Center, soccer,
301 gardening, restaurants, Farmers Market, youth, etc. Furr reviewed that the Recreation
302 Committee includes members who are not from Richmond.

303

304 Forward stated that he cast the dissenting vote and he didn't think it would be appropriate
305 to use ARPA money on recreation. Forward stated that we should be doing extensive
306 public outreach. Forward stated that this is an open ended \$450,000 for something that
307 we don't know what. Forward stated that the Selectboard should be thinking about a
308 larger maintenance budget for recreation, for Volunteers Green and Browns Court. Furr
309 stated that the one maintenance need is the Bandshell. Furr stated that the Bandshell and
310 stage are not remotely ADA compliant. Forward stated that restoring the Bandshell or
311 redesigning it for ADA access or orientation is totally appropriate for ARPA money.
312 Miller stated that the Selectboard can finalize it and run with it, you've done your work.
313 Forward compared the Volunteers Green discussion to the Andrews Community Forest
314 as it is a public recreational asset and it requires public input to make a decision.

315

316 Hill stated that this is more like raising a reserve fund for a plan to be developed later.
317 Hill stated that it would be straightforward to get an estimate for the Bandshell.

318

319 Barnard reviewed the criteria for the APRA funds. Barnard summarized how many times
320 Volunteers Green was listed in public feedback. Barnard stated that we haven't done any
321 repairs or maintenance on Volunteers Green. Barnard stated that the Recreation
322 Committee asked for \$249,000 for items, part of it was a play structure. Barnard stated
323 that she is not in favor of a play structure. Barnard stated there's no place to sit. Barnard
324 stated an interest in movable bleachers. Barnard stated that nothing has been done for the
325 youth of our Town with ARPA funds. Barard stated many maintenance requests from
326 Richmond Community Band and others. Barnard summarized she wanted to earmark up
327 to \$450,000 so it doesn't get spent on someone else's pet project. Barnard requested a
328 committee to talk to the different groups for Volunteers Green and Browns Court.

329

330 LaBounty summarized that the structured Bandshell was designed to mimic the Round
331 Church with an estimate for \$83,000 to do the work. LaBounty stated that wanted access
332 accessibility to the Bandshell and paved sidewalks. Labounty stated she did an inventory
333 of the benches and picnic tables, the wood on them is rotting. LaBounty stated that the
334 neighbors did not want the park changed at all. LaBounty stated that there are permanent
335 structures that are installed in the floodplain like the new sidewalks. LaBounty stated
336 that we have an accessibility issue for this community. Nye asked why a pickleball court
337 cannot be built on Volunteers Green? LaBounty stated that you don't want to put fencing
338 where floodwaters have to pass through. Labounty confirmed in Browns Court didn't
339 have a problem with flooding which is why pickleball wasn't recommended for
340 Volunteers Green. Nye state they just want more space for all of us, kids and seniors.

341

342 Wells stated that there was tremendous disagreement on what should be done with
343 Volunteers Green. Wells stated she would rather there be consensus on what is
344 recommended.

345

346 Furr stated that setting aside that money would be reasonable and having a public
347 outreach committee would also be reasonable.

348

349 *Hill moved to hold in reserve \$450,000 of ARPA funds for improvements to Volunteers*
350 *Green and Browns Court pending receipt of detailed proposals by the end of March 2024*
351 *or any remaining funds return to ARPA. Sander seconded.*
352 *Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Forward abstains. Motion*
353 *approved.*

354
355 *Hill moved to create the ARPA Recreation and Volunteers Green and Browns Court Park*
356 *Committee with a charge to reach out to key stakeholders and return to the Selectboard*
357 *with recommendations on how to spend the \$450,000 in ARPA funds designated for the*
358 *parks and recreation until March 2024. Miller seconded.*
359 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

360
361 **Consideration of request by the Town Center Committee to use \$10,000 from the**
362 **Town Center and Library Reserve Fund to renovate five windows at the library**

363 Timestamp: 2:02

364 [Richmond Library Historic Preservation RFP-HVC.pdf](#)

365

366 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Forward, Hill, Sander

367

368 Furr stated that a contractor, Alex Tolstoi of Hunger Valley, stated he would have time to
369 renovate the five historic windows that are located on the spires that were originally
370 included in the bid. Furr stated that the Town Center Committee recommends going
371 forward with this plan. Furr summarized the work is for window sashes only and
372 restoration includes stripping the paint, repairs to the sash, removing the glazing
373 reinstalling the glazing, replacing broken glazing, and repainting. Furr stated that we're
374 looking to spend \$10,000 on this work. Forward summarized the difficulty of finding
375 contractors and there is one on site now who can do it.

376

377 *Sander moved to approve the use of \$10,000 from the Town Center and Library Reserve*
378 *fund to pay for the renovation of five windows at the library. Hill seconded.*

379 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

380

381

382 **Consideration of request by the Town Center Committee to use \$1,000 from the**
383 **Town Center and Library Reserve Fund for an inspection of the upper portion of**
384 **the Library building**

385 Timestamp: 2:07

386

387 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Hill, Forward

388

389 Furr stated that Hunger Valley construction is currently using a lift for the current work
390 on the Library and they can conduct an inspection with photos of the upper section of the
391 library including the slate roof for \$1,000.

392

393 *Forward moved to approve the use of \$1,000 from the Town Center and Library Reserve*
394 *Fund to pay for an inspection of the upper portion and slate roof of the library building.*

395 *Hill seconded*

396 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

397

398 **Consideration of approval of the Green Mountain Stage Race to be held on Sunday,**

399 **September 3, 2023**

400 Timestamp: 2:07

401 [Green Mountain Stage Race.pdf](#)

402

403 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Sander, Hill

404

405 Furr stated there's more information in the packet, but this would not involve closing any
406 roads, it's simply allowing them to use Duxbury, Cochran, Huntington and Hinesburg
407 Rds.

408

409 *Sander moved to approve use of Duxbury Rd., Cochran Rd., Huntington Rd., and*
410 *Hinesburg Rd. by the Green Mountain Stage Race on Sunday, September 3, 2023. Hill*
411 *seconded.*

412 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller in favor. Sander absent. Motion approved.*

413

414 **Update on signage and temporary speed humps on Cochran Rd.**

415 Timestamp: 2:09

416

417 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Arneson, Forward

418

419 Arneson stated that the temporary speed humps on the west end of Cochran Rd should be
420 installed this week with the proper striping and signage. Arneson stated that the warning
421 sign is going to move further out toward the proper distance reduction of speed. Arneson
422 stated that a trail crossing sign near the cemetery was not preferred by the owner of that
423 property as it would draw more attention to that trail. Arneson stated that the Selectboard
424 should develop a plan for how to handle trails that intersect with Town roads.

425

426 **Review of monthly update from Planning and Zoning**

427 Timestamp: 2:12

428 [July-August 2023 P Z Monthly.pdf](#)

429

430 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Arneson, Hill, Forward

431

432 Arneson stated that the Planning Commission is working on next steps on Zoning and
433 reviewed the information in the packet. Arneson reviewed that we did not get the grant
434 on Jericho Road sidewalk. Arneson stated that the pinch point study on Rt. 2 is in the
435 final stages so there should be an update quickly. Arneson stated that the corridor study
436 is moving forward on Cochran Rd. Arneson summarized the study out for public
437 comment about the Thompson Rd, Huntington Rd, Bridge St, Cochran Rd intersection
438 south of the bridge. Arneson stated that the Western Gateway Scoping Study continues
439 with public outreach. Arneson summarized the recent DRB meetings. Arneson stated
440 that Tyler and Keith are getting their training and passing courses to be floodplain
441 managers. Forward asked about Planning and Zoning participating with the Andrews
442 Community Forest Committee to help facilitate meetings and consolidate a plan.

443

444 **Discussion of planning an employee and Richmond Rescue appreciation event**

445 Timestamp: 2:17

446

447 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Miller, Sander, Arneson, Forward, Hill

448

449
450 Furr stated that most departments seem to prefer a midweek event while Richmond
451 Rescue and Linda Parent would prefer the weekend. Furr summarized that the
452 Selectboard would try for a midweek evening and purchase pizzas and the Library would
453 be available as a rain location. Forward stated that going to obligation by my employer is
454 not necessarily on the top on my list of things to do. Forward suggested giving \$50 gift
455 certificates to one of our restaurants. Hill suggested doing both. Sander liked the idea of
456 Town employees being recognized with other employees and with people outside of their
457 professional circle. Miller stated an interest in a live event and standing behind a grill to
458 cook for people. Furr stated that pizza seems so impersonal, and he likes interacting with
459 people outside the department and with us. Arneson suggested Glory Burger. Hill
460 suggested for a future agenda item talking about volunteer recognitions. Arneson
461 suggested something from 4-6 pm so Highway can get out at 3 pm on a Tuesday,
462 Wednesday, or Thursday. Arneson stated we could plan on the Library lawn and have an
463 indoor option.

464
465 **Consideration of appointing a voting delegate to the VLCT, PACIF, and VERB**
466 **annual business meetings**

467 Timestamp: 2:29

468 [VLCT PACIF Annual Business Meeting.pdf](#)

469

470 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Miller

471

472 Furr summarized that Richmond has a vote and he and Josh are not available this year.

473

474 *Forward moved to appoint Lisa Miller as Richmond's Voting Delegate for the VLCT,*
475 *PACIF, and VERB annual business meetings. Hill seconded.*

476 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

477

478

479 **Approval of Minutes, Purchase Orders, Warrants**

480

481 **Minutes:**

482

483 *Sander moved to approve the Minutes of 8/7/23. Hill seconded.*

484 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

485

486 *Forward moved to approve the Minutes of 8/14/23. Sander seconded.*

487 *Roll Call Vote follows discussion.*

488

489 Miller stated that Jimmy should be spelled Zimny.

490

491 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

492

493 **Consideration of approval of use of Town Center Fund for work related to Town**
494 **Center Project**

495 Timestamp: 2:35

496

497 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Forward, Sander

498

499 *Forward moved to approve the warrant for payment from the Town Center and Library*
500 *Fund to Dan Begins for work related to the inspection of the post office roof assessment.*
501 *Sander seconded.*
502 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

503

504 **Purchase Orders:**

505

506 *Sander moved to approve PO# 4697 to Hinesburg Sand & Gravel for flash flood road*
507 *gravel not to exceed \$35,265.96. Hill seconded.*

508 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

509

510 *Sander moved to approve PO# 4699 to Richard Cowles LLC for loader and trucking for*
511 *flash flood road repairs not to exceed \$13,960.00. Hill seconded.*

512 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

513

514 *Sander moved to approve PO# 4695 to John Scott Excavating Inc for emergency road*
515 *repairs not to exceed \$77,835.00. Hill seconded.*

516 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

517

518 *Forward moved to approve PO# 4698 to Brad Lang for 196 loads of dense grade road*
519 *gravel for all damaged roads not to exceed \$40,845.00. Miller seconded.*

520 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

521

522 *Sander moved to approve PO# 4715 to Mow N Maintain Property for ground*
523 *maintenance summer/fall FY24 not to exceed \$20,610.00. Hill seconded.*

524 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

525

526 *Forward moved to approve PO# 4716 to Richmond Land Trust for Gillett Pond Dam not*
527 *to exceed \$50,000. Hill seconded.*

528 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

529

530 *Miller moved to approve PO# 4627 to F.W. Webb Co. for July flood culvert replacements*
531 *not to exceed \$12,907.20. Hill seconded.*

532 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

533

534 *Miller moved to approve PO# 4659 to Dirt Tech Company LLC for repair damage to*
535 *Stage Rd from 7/16/23 flash flood not to exceed \$168,858.60. Hill seconded.*

536 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

537

538 *Forward moved to approve PO# 4694 to McCullough Crushing Inc for 8" ditch stone not*
539 *to exceed \$10,887.00. Sander seconded.*

540 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

541

542 **Warrants:**

543

544 *Sander moved to approve the general warrants as presented on 8/21/2023. Hill*
545 *seconded.*

546 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

547

548

549

550 **Executive Session: Discussion of Attorney Client Communication regarding policing**

551 Timestamp: 2:48

552

553 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Forward, Hill

554

555 *Forward moved to find that premature public knowledge about negotiations with*
556 *Hinesburg for police coverage would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial*
557 *disadvantage. Hill seconded.*

558 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

559

560 *Forward moved that we enter into executive session to discuss negotiations with*
561 *Hinesburg Interim Police Chief Services under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1)(f) and*
562 *to invite Town Manager Josh Arneson into the session. Hill seconded.*

563 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

564

565 *Jeff moved to exit executive session. Hill seconded. All were in favor.*

566 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

567

568 **Adjourn**

569

570 *Forward moved to adjourn. Sander seconded.*

571 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

572

573 **Meeting adjourned at: 10:25**

574

575 **Chat file from Zoom:**

576 00:27:46 D Noble: This family totally agrees with that. Move forward with
577 Hinesburg Richmond collaborative policing. Please don't continue hiring a chief in
578 Richmond. Let's pursue the relationship with Hinesburg. They are doing exactly what so
579 many of us in Richmond feel is important in our nation right now. The culture of policing
580 needs to change. We need community policing that serves ALL people.

581 00:32:47 D Noble: Totally agree with Bonnie! I feel like we've made so much
582 project in both communities, let's keep moving forward!

583 00:37:09 D Noble: I'm sitting here with my son, Hunter Wasser who agrees
584 with what I've just said too.

585 00:41:56 D Noble: And my other son Vaughan is here too and agrees with
586 working with Hinesburg and making positive change.

587 00:43:58 D Noble: Thank you Connie! I totally agree. And great idea Jay to
588 look at and consider formally adopting suggested policy from RRE.

589 00:46:38 D Noble: Thank you all!!!

590 00:47:19 Chris Wasser: 👍

591 01:00:19 Connie: mic not working

592 01:01:05 MMCTV Erin: Please slide Lisa,s mic closer to her

593 01:03:24 Scott Silverstein: Thank you SB re: moving forward on a police
594 contract with Hinesburg. I believe a binding contract will increase stability in Richmond
595 and reduce our expenses, and it appears that the Hinesburg PD shares our values of
596 transparency and anti-racism.

597 01:41:00 Richmond Town Host: Rec VG

598 history...<https://www.richmondvt.gov/community/recreation/default-title>

599 01:52:13 Martha waterman she/her: People still do and will be on Cochran rd
600 with strollers and elderly parents. This is an immediate safety issue that must be
601 immediately. Agree that recreational courts are a low, low priority when we have
602 immediate safety concerns to mitigate with available funds
603