

1 **Town of Richmond**
2 **Selectboard Meeting**
3 **Minutes of September 5, 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; Keith Osborne, Town Planner; Tyler Machia, Zoning Administrator; Dennis
11 Gile, Fire Chief; Gerald Levesque, Assistant Fire Chief; Anthony Cambridge, Hinesburg
12 Police Chief
13

14 **Others Present:** Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Amie Curran, Amy Wardwell.
15 Bryan Davis, Cara LaBounty, Cathleen Gent, Christy Witters, Colm Curran, Connie van
16 Eeghen, Dave T, Graham Wolfson, James Debay, Jan, Jeanne Adams, Joanna, Judy
17 Rosovsky, Karen Yaggy, Kendra Ziskie, Kyle Austin, Laurie Dana, Margo Austin, Mark
18 Hall, Mary Ann Debay, Mary Houle, Megan Andrews, Pam, Pat Carinias, Patty Brushett,
19 Richard Dana, Sam Kneely, Stefani Hartsfield, Susanne Parent, Terry Bambrick, Virginia
20 Clarke, Wafic Faour
21

22 **MMCTV Video:** <https://archive.org/details/RichmondSelectbd09052023>
23

24 **Call to Order:** 7:00 pm
25

26 **Welcome by:** Furr
27

28 **Public Comment:**
29

30 Furr: Happy Birthday to David Sander.
31

32 Houle: I'd like an update on the saga that continues on Maple Wind Farm. This
33 Thursday through next Thursday, we're going to be getting about five inches of rain, so
34 flash flooding is imminent. If Maple Wind Farm doesn't have a contingency in order for
35 the six units they have down in the field, they should be prosecuted if they lose a single
36 bird.
37

38 Furr: During the previous big flood, Maple Wind Farm did lose quite a few turkeys to
39 drowning. We have been asking some questions and trying to see what legal steps should
40 be followed at this point.
41

42 Arneson: Andy Squires completed his report and submitted it to Chief Cambridge for
43 review prior to submitting it to the State.
44

45 Houle: The dead bird issue is a biohazard.
46

47 Forward: If anybody needs crutches all you have to do is post on Front Porch Forum.
48

49 **Additions or Deletions to Agenda:** None
50

51 **Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**

52

53 **Consideration of approving a vendor for the purchase of a rescue truck for the Fire**
54 **Department**

55 Timestamp: 0:03

56

57 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Arneson, Levesque, Forward, Miller, Giles

58

59 Levesque reviewed the process for replacing a truck in 2027 in the Capital Plan.

60 Levesque stated the Midwest Truck bid came in at \$531,000 but it did not meet two
61 specifications that we sent. Levesque stated that the Spencer bid came in at \$576,000 and
62 Shakerley came in at \$604,482. Levesque stated the members on the committee took a
63 vote and because of the good service from Shakerley, we recommend that we put in the
64 Capital Plan and sign the agreement. Levesque reviewed that it will be ready 800 days or
65 160 weeks after we sign the agreement, roughly the 2027 budget. Levesque stated that
66 we'd have to pay for the chassis at about a year out is approximately \$135,000. Levesque
67 confirmed they changed some of the options like on-spot chains, a console in the middle
68 of the truck for all the radios/meters in one place and charging and a refrigerator.

69 Levesque confirmed the lifespan of the truck at 20 years.

70

71 Forward asked about how it into the Capital Plan. Arneson reviewed that Unassigned
72 funds in this year's budget and then Reserve funds at \$150,000 in FY24, and \$250,000 in
73 FY25, FY26, FY27, FY28, which is the approved Capital plan now. Arneson reviewed
74 that we could take a loan with the voters' approval. Forward asked if we went to the
75 voters for a loan, they turned it down then what would happen to the \$130,000 deposit.
76 Arneson confirmed we would still buy the truck with taxes and Reserves. Levesque
77 confirmed that they could save \$31,115 if they pay 90% up front.

78

79 *Sander moved to purchase a rescue fire truck from Shakerley at a price not to exceed*
80 *\$604,482. Miller seconded.*

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

82

83 **Consideration of appointing members to the Volunteers' Green and Browns Court**
84 **Project Committee**

85 Timestamp: 0:15

86 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3b_VGBCPr
oject-JeanneAgner.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3b_VGBCPr
oject-JeanneAgner.pdf)

88

89 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3b_VGBCPr
oject-KendraZiskie.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3b_VGBCPr
oject-KendraZiskie.pdf)

91

92 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3b_VGBCPr
oject-MeganAndrews.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3b_VGBCPr
oject-MeganAndrews.pdf)

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95 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3b_VGBCPr
oject - Denise Barnard.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3b_VGBCPr
oject - Denise Barnard.pdf)

97

98 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Forward, LaBounty, Arneson, Miller, Hill

99

100 Furr reviewed that ARPA money is designated for the Volunteers Green and Browns
101 Court Project Committee to ensure the money is spent in a fashion according to the
102 wishes of the Town. Furr stated that there are four letters of application in the packet,
103 Jeanne Agner, Kendra Ziskie, Megan Andrews, and Denise Barnard. Forward stated that
104 these appear to be good candidates but four is probably not a good size for this
105 Committee. Forward suggested setting the number of people for this Committee at
106 seven. LaBounty asked if the fifth position be held by Town Manager Josh Arneson
107 because he brings a lot of expertise with all the departments. LaBounty stated that the
108 Committee should be five members to move forward because of a concern of delays for
109 the end of March. LaBounty also suggested that the Town Planner might have a level of
110 expertise to bring to the table. Arneson stated that he doesn't have time to fit in a full
111 Committee membership, but he and Keith Osborne would help provide support.
112 LaBounty requested that you could start with five to avoid having a problem with a
113 quorum.

114
115 *Forward moved to nominate Denis Barnard, Jeanne Agner, Kendra Ziskie, and Megan*
116 *Andrews to the Volunteers' Green and Browns Court Project Committee with the size of*
117 *the Committee set at seven members. Miller seconded.*
118 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Miller in favor. Sander not in favor. Hill abstains.*
119 *Motion approved.*

120
121 **Update on Police Chief hiring process and next steps for the Police Department**
122 Timestamp: 0:24

123
124 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Arneson, Hill, Forward, Miller, Sander,
125 Brushett, LaBounty,

126
127 Arneson stated that one remaining candidate recently interviewed with the hiring
128 committee and the Selectboard. Arneson stated that he made the decision not to continue
129 with the hiring process with this candidate. Arneson reviewed the options of reopening
130 the hiring process for a full-time Chief, reopening the process to look for an interim
131 Chief, or we wait a few months to see how things play out with Hinesburg. Forward
132 stated that it seems we had more coverage in Town than in quite some time. Forward
133 thinks that Hinesburg has been responsive. Forward suggested taking it off our plate for
134 a while and reevaluating next spring. Miller agreed that we need to let this ride as it's
135 going and see where it goes. Sander stated that this is a fantastic short-term solution, and
136 he is very happy with the service from Hinesburg. Sander stated he has doubts as to
137 whether it's a sustainable long-term solution. Hill reviewed that we could change our
138 mind at any time, and he would like to see how it goes and keep tabs on it in real time.
139 Furr stated that he is very pleased with the level of service that the Hinesburg Police
140 Department has provided, and it is pretty cost effective.

141
142 Brushett stated that there's pretty much unanimous support for the job that's being done
143 right now by the Hinesburg Police and by the Chief. Brushett stated that Chief
144 Cambridge would do an excellent job hiring Richmond Police and building our
145 department.

146
147 Hill reviewed that the Hinesburg Public Safety strategic plan review is imminent and that
148 is the starting gun for the next round of communication between Hinesburg and
149 Richmond.

150 LaBounty asked about a Richmond cruiser parked in a former Selectboard member's
151 driveway. Arneson stated that the car was there because there were some complaints of
152 speed in that area. LaBounty asked if the average citizen wants a police cruiser parked in
153 their yard, do they contact Josh. Arneson confirmed trying to park cruisers in other
154 locations.

155

156 LaBounty asked about the Police cars sitting in the lot. Arneson confirmed that one of
157 them just got stripped and ready to be sold and the other one is waiting for that same
158 treatment.

159

160 Furr confirmed that the radar signs and cruisers would be an agenda item at the next
161 meeting.

162

163 **Discussion of process to adopt policies for the Richmond Police Department**

164 Timestamp: 0:45

165

166 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Arneson, Hill, Miller

167

168 Furr confirmed that the contract that was signed by both the Hinesburg Selectboard and
169 the Richmond Selectboard states that the Hinesburg Police working in our Town will
170 comply with Richmond Policing Policy. Furr reviewed that at various times the
171 Selectboard passed various resolutions and made various motions about policy. Furr
172 stated that he does not know if it is written down in one place. Furr stated that the State
173 statute (24 § 1931. Police officers) is the direction of control of the entire police force,
174 except as otherwise provided shall be vested in the Chief of Police; if the Chief of Police
175 is absent or disabled, or vacant, the appointing authority may appoint another officer to
176 discharge the duties. Furr stated that we appointed Anthony Cambridge through the
177 Chiefing contract to provide those services. Furr stated that legally speaking, the
178 designation of both policies is kind of circular. Furr confirmed a list of preferences
179 originally created by the Richmond Racial Equity Committee as a starting point. Furr
180 stated that if we wanted to enact a policy, we would have to get it into a properly legal
181 format. The State statute says that Anthony will set policy, the contract says Anthony
182 will follow our policies.

183

184 Arneson clarified that Chief Cambridge found the policy book, a three-ring binder, and is
185 reviewing all of our policies. Arneson stated that the next steps to contemplate a new
186 policy is a lengthy process. The Selectboard could make an advisory vote to Chief
187 Cambridge to adopt that policy as Richmond Police Policy, which similar to the way
188 we've worked with Fair and Impartial Policing a couple years ago.

189

190 Hill suggested taking the State statute and posting a letter in the spirit of the law and
191 having a conversation with the Chief about what does racial equity, diversity, equity
192 inclusion look like. Miller stated that it really sets us up for a future relationship, it's a
193 great opportunity.

194

195 **Update on police data**

196 Timestamp: 0:52

197

198 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Miller, Hill, Forward, Brushett

199

200 Furr stated that a lot of people want to know how our officers spend their time, how many
201 arrests have been made, how many tickets have been made. Furr stated that there is a
202 monthly police activity report posted on the website:
203 <https://www.richmondvt.gov/departments/police/police-department-activity-reports>
204
205 Furr confirmed that this is not in full police blotter format. Furr stated that we've talked
206 to the Chief about getting more data and posting it periodically to the Town website and
207 Front Porch Forum. Furr confirmed that data is available in the Valcour database that the
208 State police agencies use to track all this activity. Furr and Arneson met with the Town's
209 IT provider to see if they could be of assistance in doing something along the lines of
210 what the city of Burlington has done.
211
212 Miller stated that the word "shall" seems to be a requirement so it's a bit confining or
213 restrictive. Miller suggested using "may" or "timely." Forward stated that this is a work
214 in progress, figuring out the data and what fields should be reported. Forward suggested
215 having Chief Cambridge work with the Richmond Racial Equity group on a format of
216 data. Forward suggested asking Chief Cambridge to report to us monthly or quarterly.
217 Hill stated that there are several things around Police as a future agenda item to give more
218 time to the Chief. Hill stated that it's appropriate to invite Richmond Racial Equity but
219 not be limited to their observations and recommendations. Hill suggested setting up a
220 time where the Chief hears from them as well as others. Brushett stated that she plans to
221 reach out to the Chief to see if he would be willing to be at a community forum,
222 hopefully in October.
223
224 **Presentation from Affordable Housing Committee**
225 Timestamp: 1:01
226 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3f1_Affordab](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3f1_Affordable_Housing_Site_Research_in_Richmond-8-23-Final.pdf)
227 [le_Housing_Site_Research_in_Richmond-8-23-Final.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3f1_Affordable_Housing_Site_Research_in_Richmond-8-23-Final.pdf)
228
229 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3f2_Housing
230 [Committee_Activities_to_Date_2020_-_2023_-Final.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3f2_Housing)
231
232 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3f3_Housing
233 [CommitteeCharge_8-23-23-Final.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3f3_Housing)
234
235 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Hall, Miller, Hill, LaBounty, Clarke,
236 Forward, van Eeghen, Houle, Brushett, Machia
237
238 Hall reviewed the members of the Housing Committee
239 (<https://www.richmondvt.gov/boards-meetings/housing-committee>)
240 Hall stated that there are three items to share. The first is the report in the packet on
241 Affordable Housing Site Research, which looks into affordable housing opportunities
242 throughout our Town. Hall stated that Virginia Clarke is also going to review a number
243 of other activities that we have been working on and completed. Hall stated that the
244 Housing Committee will talk about some updates to our Committee charge.
245
246 Hall presented the Affordable Housing Site Research document.
247
248 Miller stated that the gentle infill has only been a concept for 6-9 months and seems like
249 the lowest hanging fruit. Miller reviewed that there's higher density allowances in the

250 Village Residential North and South with the intent for landowners' families to build a
251 dwelling. Miller stated that it is going to be a great thing over the next five years. Hall
252 stated this particular project was more on what is possible in those larger developments.
253 Miller observed that mortgage rates right now are prohibitive and some of the friction in
254 this moving towards affordable housing.

255
256 Hill described a semantic error in describing mobile home parks as being lower density.
257 LaBounty stated that you can't build on top of each other. LaBounty stated that it's high
258 density in the sense of you can have mobile home parks very close to each other but not
259 stories high. Clarke stated that the density is about 2.2 dwelling units per acre on that
260 whole parcel, which is pretty low.

261
262 Hill asked about the ways the Selectboard might consider creating incentives for
263 affordable housing like either zoning or tax revenue. Hill reviewed that the Selectboard
264 doesn't directly control zoning as it is part of the Planning Commission before coming to
265 the Selectboard. Hill stated that setting aside funds to do something is either as part of a
266 budget conversation or defer to a vote to create a bond fund or incentives. Hill stated that
267 it would be helpful to get more specific proposals about what you would want the Town
268 to do in terms of how much money is construed and over what period of time.

269
270 Forward asked about the Riverview Commons current zoning allows for four units per
271 acre for mobile home sites. Forward stated that the density is currently at 1.4 and with
272 the additional 65 to 85 units, it would be 2.2. Forward asked why you would need a
273 zoning change to five units per acre. Clarke stated that the new Act 47 does require five
274 units per acre, but it's only in areas that are served by municipal water and sewer. Clarke
275 confirmed that it's probably not correct that this has to change to five units per acre.
276 Clarke stated that they do claim that they have enough septic for their increased capacity,
277 but they're not contemplating putting multi-unit housings.

278
279 LaBounty stated that the State of Vermont is encouraging us to do the accessory dwelling
280 units and the Town of Richmond has changed some zoning through the Planning
281 Commission to help encourage that. LaBounty stated they could waive the fees for
282 anybody who wanted to put an accessory dwelling either in a garage or in their actual
283 home. LaBounty stated that she prefers homeowners putting in accessory dwellings.
284 LaBounty asked about an inventory and definition of affordable single-family housing.
285 Hall confirmed that the definition of affordable housing is no more than 30% of
286 household income, including the mortgage and the taxes. Hal did not think there was an
287 inventory of looking at everyone's income and matching up their housing expense.
288 LaBounty asked if you would define an affordable single-family home in the Town of
289 Richmond as \$200,000 or \$400,000. LaBounty stated that every single one of your
290 parcels, nobody wants affordable housing projects unless the Town's going to help pay
291 for it. Clarke stated that since the traditional affordable housing projects don't seem to be
292 very feasible at the moment, maybe we want to think about making housing that's just
293 more affordable to people. Clarke stated that the goal of the Planning Commission is
294 removing some of the barriers so that you can have three- and four-unit buildings, you
295 can have duplexes, you can have AD use. Clarke reviewed that single family housing
296 isn't the most affordable, multifamily housing is more affordable overall, because it's
297 cheaper to create.

298
299

300 van Eeghen asked if the Selectboard is interested in being an active agent in increasing
301 affordable housing. van Eeghen stated that there is not a way of actually making it
302 happen other than an individual property owner deciding that they're really excited about
303 affordable housing. Furr stated that the problem right now is pieces of land don't sit
304 around vacant, they seem to get closed very quickly. Furr stated that the idea of tax
305 breaks if you build an affordable housing unit is the kind of thing he'd be interested in
306 exploring with some feedback from VLCT. Furr stated that snapping up pieces of
307 property as soon as they come on the market is outside our reach.

308
309 Miller stated that it would help to know what current dwellings in Town would qualify
310 for what we're looking for. Clarke confirmed that we can only depend on the data that
311 exists but is not sure that is going to be revealed. Hill stated that mortgage and taxes
312 would determine what family income would have to be to pay for all that work. Hill
313 observed that not much is going to be affordable outside of mobile home park. Hill
314 suggested raising funds for something like a million dollars to buy a piece of land. Hill
315 stated that the Selectboard is better asking for specific proposals and responding to them
316 than coming up with specific proposals.

317
318 Brushett stated that there is a perception of affordable housing as being the projects in
319 New York City. Brushett stated that the neighbors of Brown Court could be pulled
320 together with Champlain Housing to find out people's fears and concerns and ways to
321 address them. Brushett stated that we should look at Browns Court as it is not really
322 being utilized well. Clarke stated that the work to increase the density of housing, we
323 need to balance the quality of life and open space concerns. Clarke stated that there are
324 reasons to preserve that piece of open land, because it's one of our very few open public
325 green spaces in the Village. Miller stated that the Volunteers Green is a consolidated,
326 huge open space that people in the Village can access with 50 or 60 footsteps. Miller
327 stated that's the only way that infill in the Village actually works is by having that green
328 space.

329
330 Clarke commented that the Housing Committee was formed by the Selectboard to
331 address the affordable housing question. Clarke stated that this report has taken the
332 traditional affordable housing concept as far as we can take it. Clarke asked the
333 Selectboard if they have any other particular goals. Clarke stated that this was an end
334 point in terms of looking at traditional affordable housing in our area that just doesn't
335 seem to lend itself to that concept. Miller asked to find where it had worked elsewhere.
336 Miller stated that we can get some data to look for that. Clarke stated that it sounds like
337 you're not talking about affordable housing, as it is defined, but talking about housing
338 that is more affordable to people. Clarke confirmed that multifamily housing is more
339 affordable because it's cheaper to build and it's less desirable with less land associated
340 with it. Clarke stated that there are very exact metrics and parameters that makes
341 something into traditional affordable housing. Forward stated that zoning is the next
342 opportunity relative to density. Forward confirmed that it is better for the Selectboard to
343 consider a proposal on affordable housing or housing that is more affordable.

344
345 Machia stated that the actual permitting costs for new home construction of a single-
346 family homes is \$0.40 a square foot. Machia also stated the new homes fire impact fee of
347 \$218.70. Machia suggested for most homes permitting fees are between \$1,000-\$1,400.

348

349 **Review of process that led to installation of temporary speed humps on Cochran Rd.**

350 Timestamp: 2:08

351

352 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Davis, Miller, Hill, Adams, Forward,

353

354 Furr stated that Richmond Rescue confirmed that speed bumps might add 10 to 15
355 seconds to the overall response time for emergency vehicles. Furr reviewed that the
356 speed bumps that we have in place are removable and will be taken out for winter. Furr
357 stated that they will be evaluating how they worked as part of a larger study of Cochran
358 Rd. Furr stated that the Cochran Rd Scoping and Feasibility study is looking at the
359 middle segment outside the 25 mile an hour zones. Furr confirmed a more detailed
360 scoping study will be performed on the western and eastern ends to evaluate and
361 recommend traffic calming measures. Furr stated that Brian Davis from the Chittenden
362 County Regional Planning Commission will speak to this issue.

363

364 Davis thanked those who participated in the Richmond Walk Bike Trails plan. Davis
365 confirmed that the plan identified Cochran Rd as one of the top areas for residents. Davis
366 stated that they could more quickly respond to resident concerns about speeding on the
367 western end of Cochran Rd through some different traffic calming measures, including
368 the placement of the speed feedback signs as well as some vertical traffic calming
369 features. Davis stated that he checked out the speed bumps over the weekend and the
370 temporary speed humps are typically longer in width, they're usually 7 to 14 feet long in
371 the direction of travel. Davis stated the ones that are on the ground are maybe two feet or
372 so, the speed bump category. Davis stated that traffic counters captured some of that data
373 earlier this summer, then later this month those tubes will go down again. Davis stated
374 that recommendations on speed limits will be provided in the upcoming study.

375

376 Adams asked when the temporary speed bumps will be removed. Arneson confirmed
377 that there is not an exact date but certainly before the snow flies so that we can plow.
378 Adams requested some information showing what the average speed is now that they're
379 in and then when they're gone as well. Adams asked how the Bridge St, Cochran Rd,
380 Hinesburg Rd intersection changes impact the 25 mph zone. Hill stated that the
381 Transportation Committee has been looking at that and it's a reasonable question for us to
382 ask as that comes forth. Davis stated that the results from the study should be ready by
383 late spring, at least in draft form. Hill stated that the Selectboard felt compelled last
384 summer to do something, and a speed table was one physical modification. Hill stated
385 that the environment led to this unusual step of doing something without a more
386 thorough, thoughtful study.

387

388 **Discussion of swale between Esplanade St. and Church St.**

389 Timestamp: 2:23

390 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3h_Petition](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3h_Petition_Regarding_Esplanade.pdf)
391 [Regarding_Esplanade.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3h_Petition_Regarding_Esplanade.pdf)

392

393 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Machia, Austin, Hill, Forward, M. Debay,
394 C. Curran, Houle

395

396 Furr stated that the residents of Esplanade and Church St have sent a petition about a
397 swale that lies between Esplanade and the southern side of Church St, a depression in the

398 ground that collects stormwater. Furr reviewed that the residents believe it is causing
399 health hazards, including rats, mosquitos, and evidence of raw sewage. Furr stated the
400 residents have asked for immediate mitigation.

401
402 Machia stated that we've received over an excess of 27 inches of rain so far this year and
403 there really isn't anywhere else for that water to go. Machia stated that the issue is tricky
404 because the swale isn't a mad-made piece of infrastructure that is owned by the Town, it
405 is owned by each individual property owner where the swale runs. Machia reviewed that
406 the Town Manager or Highway Foreman witnessed that the water runs down into the
407 swale from Jericho Settlers Farm rather than flowing from the swale through the farm.
408 Machia stated that there really isn't a neat thing that the Town can do as we don't own the
409 property, so it'd be up to the individual property owners or owner. Machia reviewed that
410 all of that area is located in the Special Flood Hazard Overlay District, which makes it
411 even more challenging to do deal with from a permitting standpoint. Machia summarized
412 two items that to pursue. One is a new drainage or channel management project that
413 requires Conditional Use approval by the Development Review Board. Machia stated that
414 the State may come back and say we don't want you to do anything to it. Machia also
415 suggested that there is also new bridges, culverts, docks or other public projects, which
416 are functionally dependent to stream access or stream crossings that also requires
417 Conditional Use Review. Machia stated there isn't really a stream, it's just a swale, so
418 that might be new drainage or channel management projects. Machia stated that it is
419 dealing with drainage and trying to get water to flow away from the swale on Esplanade
420 and into the wet area that runs behind Jericho Settlers Farm and Richmond Rescue and
421 then runs down into the Winooski River. Machia stated you cannot fill in the swale or
422 anything inside of the Flood Hazard Overlay District.

423
424 Austin stated she has lived at Church St since 2004 and this has never happened before.
425 Austin stated that on July 9th, a manhole cover that sits on private property and is part of
426 the sewer system was erupting with raw sewage into the swale. Austin stated that they
427 are on Town water and sewer so even if this is a private property issue, this becomes a
428 Town issue. Austin stated that they have had standing water and running water since this
429 issue so clearly it isn't just the water hasn't absorbed, there is moving water. Hill stated
430 that putting in sealable sewer manhole covers is something to contemplate. Hill stated
431 that if you seal that up it will just keep going further and pop up somewhere else. Hill
432 asked if there is a way to put backflow checks in something as large as a sewage main.
433 Hill observed recently that there was standing water on Jericho Farm, like three inches
434 deep here, two inches deep there so it seemed pretty apparent the ground is saturated out
435 there. Hill asked if there is anything else we do to try to reduce stuff going in there from
436 other places. Hill asked what we do to reduce things like the possibility of wastewater
437 infiltration. Hill asked if there is anything that can be done if water is coming off the
438 farmland and going into Town as opposed to the other way to the river.

439
440 Forward stated that the Emergency Watershed Protection Program by the Natural
441 Resources Conservation Service will be a sponsor to look into engineering solutions for a
442 different stormwater problem on Tilden Ave. Forward asked if it would be possible to
443 have more than one application to NRCS. Arneson stated that there is not a limit on how
444 many applicants but there is a deadline of September 7. Arneson stated that he could draft
445 that form letter and have Bard sign it as Vice Chair and get it in. Machia stated that you'd
446 have to get approval from Jericho Settlers Farm. Arneson stated that the next step is a
447 representative will come out to review the situation and determine if it's eligible.

448

449 Debay stated she lives on Esplanade and does not want to fill it, we're really looking for
450 mitigation efforts. Debay stated that it's only been a couple days that we've had no water,
451 so we can probably start some excavating there. Debay stated that the rats and the
452 sewage are the parts that aren't okay.

453

454 *Hill moved to request federal assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation*
455 *Service to address the flooding and the swale between Esplanade and Church St.*

456 *Forward seconded.*

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

458

459 Machia stated that excavating, grading, or anything like that is a Conditional Use permit.
460 Machia stated that draining it out would probably be the only thing that you wouldn't
461 need a permit.

462

463 Curran stated that he lives on Church St and wanted the Selectboard to know that the
464 swale does take in the Towns drainage infrastructure at two points. The swale forms a
465 part of the stormwater system for the Town. Curran stated that compensation was a
466 solution to the landowners the Town should consider for that water to drain away to the
467 Winooski River. Curran witnessed the runoff at Tilden Ave coming all the way to that
468 swale in some of the rainfall. Curran stated that it floods on West Main St, it comes
469 across the railroad, goes across the lumber yards and straight through the back of my
470 property and into the swale. Curran stated that there is a significant catchment whenever
471 it's raining heavily. Curran stated it was his understanding of it was higher and would
472 drain out through the farmyard and to the Winooski River. Curran stated his concern
473 about silt that prevented it from draining out. Curran stated that maybe some of the
474 construction resulted in more water, but the typical catch basins couldn't take all the
475 runoff that was flowing.

476

477 Hill stated that if you walk around in a heavy rain, it comes from all over the place from
478 above the interstate, past Tilden Ave, past Rt 2 on its way to the river is a really difficult
479 thing because of the floodplain being between the river and the mountainside. Hill stated
480 that the swale is lower than the Village as a whole. Arneson confirmed that the way the
481 law works in Vermont is essentially when you put in stormwater infrastructure if it still
482 drains to the same spot, you are not liable for where that water ends up because it's still
483 flowing to where it used to be. Arneson stated that unfortunately the downhill property
484 owner continues to deal with the water that comes out of their property. Hill stated that
485 we should do a follow up with wastewater and if there is anything to do.

486

487 Machia stated that the swale does store water and that it's an existing natural feature of a
488 low point. Machia stated that stormwater infrastructure might exacerbate the amount of
489 water, but it was not deliberately installed by anybody to store water, it's just something
490 that's there. Machia confirmed each part of that soil is just owned by each individual
491 property owner. Houle stated that if somebody did some development, they're liable for
492 everything downhill. Houle stated that upper landowners shall not direct something that
493 does not occur naturally. Curran suggested that an engineer survey it to determine the
494 elevations in the swale. Debay observed an old culvert that eroded so much of the dirt it's
495 been underground, and she didn't see it until it just dried. Furr stated that Tyler and Josh
496 should follow up on items.

497

498 **Update from Town Center and Library Buildings Committee**

499 Timestamp: 2:58

500 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3i1_Richmond_Town_Center_Conceptual_Site_Plan.pdf

501

502

503 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3i2_RITC -](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3i2_RITC_-_Project_Budget_Worksheet_v3.pdf)

504 [_Project Budget Worksheet v3.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3i2_RITC_-_Project_Budget_Worksheet_v3.pdf)

505

506 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3i3_FAQ_Co](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3i3_FAQ_Cost_Estimates_Itemized.pdf)

507 [st Estimates Itemized.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3i3_FAQ_Cost_Estimates_Itemized.pdf)

508

509 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3i4_FAQ_To](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3i4_FAQ_Town_Center_Renovation.pdf)

510 [wn_Center_Renovation.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3i4_FAQ_Town_Center_Renovation.pdf)

511

512 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Forward, Miller

513

514 Forward stated that the Town Center Library Committee had hoped to come for a bond
515 vote in November, but we are not doing that. Forward reviewed that the preliminary cost
516 estimates from the architect was on the order of \$10 million. Forward stated that the
517 Committee would work with the architects to reduce the overall cost. Forward confirmed
518 they want to organize a robust public engagement and outreach for proposed solutions.
519 would be. Forward stated that they would present to the Selectboard in December a more
520 detailed presentation and definitive proposal for the Town Meeting. Forward confirmed
521 a bunch of materials in the packet and on our website. Forward confirmed that there is a
522 pipe trench around the perimeter of the Post Office, and it is below the floodplain.
523 Forward stated that the solution is quite involved and expensive.

524

525 **Discussion of the State's 3-acre stormwater rule as it pertains to the Southview Dr.,**
526 **Hidden Pines, and Mary Dr. subdivisions**

527

528 TABLED until September 18.

529

530 **Consideration of applying for Natural Resources Conservation Service funding**

531 Timestamp: 3:04

532 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3k1_Emerge](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3k1_Emergency_Watershed_Protection_EWP_program.pdf)
533 [ncy Watershed Protection EWP program.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3k1_Emergency_Watershed_Protection_EWP_program.pdf)

534

535 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3k2_VT_NR](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3k2_VT_NR_CS_EWPP_Fact_Sheet.pdf)
536 [CS_EWPP_Fact_Sheet.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3k2_VT_NR_CS_EWPP_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

537

538 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3k3_VT_NR](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3k3_VT_NR_CS_EWP_Assistance_Request_Letter_Instructions.pdf)
539 [CS_EWP_Assistance_Request_Letter_Instructions.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3k3_VT_NR_CS_EWP_Assistance_Request_Letter_Instructions.pdf)

540

541 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3k4_EWP_A](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3k4_EWP_Assistance_Request_Letter_for_Richmond.pdf)
542 [ssistance_Request_Letter_for_Richmond.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3k4_EWP_Assistance_Request_Letter_for_Richmond.pdf)

543

544 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Forward, Miller

545

546

547

548 *Forward moved to request federal assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation*
549 *Service to address an undersized stormwater inlet at 102 Tilden Ave. Miller seconded.*
550 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

551

552 **Review of FEMA buyout, elevation, and relocation options for private homeowners**

553 Timestamp: 3:07

554 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/31_FEMA_Buyout_Relocation_and_Elevation_Programs.pdf

555

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

557

558 Forward stated that the deadline for people to apply for FEMA assistance has been
559 extended by 30 days and now it's October 7. Forward stated that people should really get
560 their request in now and he put a reminder in Front Porch Forum. Hill requested that they
561 invite Stephanie Smith from Vermont Emergency Management to come back on
562 September 18.

563

564 **Review of Rt. 2 Pinch Points study and discussion of next steps**

565

566 TABLED to September 18.

567

568 **Discussion of the certificate of deposit maturation and consideration of**
569 **recommending to the Treasurer to purchase another 6-month certificate of deposit**

570 Timestamp: 3:07

571

572 People who participated in discussion: Furr, Forward, Miller

573

574 Furr stated that one of the CDs that we bought in February for \$500,000 has earned
575 \$11,450.19 in interest on 4.6%. Furr confirmed that our Finance Director says the
576 account is currently healthy enough where we could do another \$500,000 CD and some
577 rates are listed in the memo for various durations.

578

579 *Forward moved to recommend to the Treasure that the Town set up a six-month*
580 *certificate of deposit in the amount of \$500,000. Miller seconded.*

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

582

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

584 Timestamp: 3:12

585

586 **Minutes:**

587

588 *Sander moved to approve the Minutes of 8/21/23. Miller seconded.*

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

590

591 *Sander moved to approve the Minutes of 8/23/23. Miller seconded.*

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

593

594 **Purchase Orders:**

595

596

597 *Miller moved to approve PO# 4702 to Iroquois Truck Mfg for New Foreman's Plow*
598 *Pickup not to exceed \$12,907.00. Forward seconded.*
599 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*
600
601 *Forward moved to approve PO# 4720 to Hunger Valley Construction for Renovation of*
602 *five windows located on the spires of the library not to exceed \$10,000.00. Sander*
603 *seconded.*
604 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*
605
606 *Forward moved to approve PO# 4725 to Hinesburg Police Department for Police*
607 *Coverage from Hinesburg PD August and 6 days in July not to exceed \$28,655.00.*
608 *Miller seconded.*
609 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*
610
611 **Warrants:**
612
613 *Sander moved to approve the general warrants as presented on 9/5/2023. Miller*
614 *seconded.*
615 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*
616
617 **Next Meeting Agenda**
618 *Tabled items
619 *Police vehicles
620 *Speed radar cameras
621 *Police Chief data report
622 *VG/BC committee update
623 *Update on Esplanade swale culvert
624
625 **Discussion of Attorney Client Communication regarding policing**
626 Timestamp: 3:17
627
628 *Forward moved to find that premature public knowledge about confidential attorney-*
629 *client communication made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the*
630 *Selectboard would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Sander*
631 *seconded.*
632 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*
633
634 *Forward moved that we enter into executive session to discuss attorney-client*
635 *communication related to the police department under the provisions of 1 VSA*
636 *313(a)(1)(F) and invite Town Manager, Josh Arneson, to join. Sander seconded.*
637 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*
638
639 *Hill moved to exit executive session. Miller seconded.*
640 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*
641
642 **Adjourn**
643
644 *Sander moved to adjourn. Miller seconded.*
645 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*
646

647 **Meeting adjourned at:** 10:45 pm

648

649 **Chat file from Zoom:**

650 00:54:31 Patty Brushett:I didn't hear a resolution on the question of next steps for
651 police chief.

652 00:58:28 Patty Brushett:Thank you Jay for all this data research and data cleaning

653 00:59:23 Connie van Eeghen, she/her: Reacted to "Thank you Jay for al..." with 👍

654 01:57:06 Patty Brushett:Thank you for clarifying Virginia

655 01:57:35 Connie van Eeghen, she/her: Reacted to "Thank you for clarif..." with 👍

656 03:07:18 Hartsfield: Why is consideration of FEMA buyout or mitigation being
657 put off?