

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

5 **Members Present:** David Sander, Jeff Forward, Lisa Miller
6

7 **Absent:** Jay Furr, Bard Hill
8

9 **Staff Present:** Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town
10 Manager; Keith Osborne, Town Planner; Anthony Cambridge, Interim Richmond Police
11 Chief
12

13 **Others Present:** Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Angelike Contis, Bonny Steuer,
14 Cara LaBounty, Charlie Baker, Connie van Eeghen, Dave Thomas, Denise Noble, Emily
15 (Amy M), Fran Thomas, Gretchen Paulsen, Joanna, John Rankin, Josh Hulett, Kirsten
16 Santor, Mark Fausel, Marshall Paulsen, Mary Houle, Patty Brushett, Ryan Dinneen,
17 Sarah Craig, Stefani Hartsfield, Stephen Eichenberger, Virginia Clarke, Wafic Faour
18

19 **MMCTV Video:** <https://archive.org/details/RichmondSelectbd10022023>
20

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

23 **Welcome by:** Arneson
24

25 Arneson: I'm opening the meeting for lack of a Chair and a Vice-Chair this evening. Our
26 first order of business is for the Selectboard to determine which member would like to
27 Chair the meeting tonight.
28

29 *Forward moved to appoint David Sander to the Chair of the meeting tonight. Miller*
30 *seconded.*

31 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*
32

33 **Public Comment:** None
34

35 **Additions or Deletions to Agenda:**
36

37 LaBounty suggested moving Items (n) and (o) to after (p). Sander confirmed moving
38 those items.
39

40 **Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**
41

42 **Reminder of Oct. 10, 2023, FY25 budget meeting which will also include a review of**
43 **FY23 fourth quarter financials and FY24 first quarter financials and discussion of**
44 **financial policies**

45 Timestamp: 0:04
46

47 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, LaBounty, Forward
48

49 LaBounty asked how much in advance of the October 10 meeting will the FY23 fourth
50 quarter financial be available to review the information. LaBounty stated that it's

51 important to know where you stand and where you've been in the last year to know what
52 you're planning for a budget going forward. LaBounty stated that she has been
53 participating with Reserves and Unallocated funds. LaBounty requested that Josh have
54 the graph presented at the Town Meeting in March to plot last year's activity with the
55 Unallocated funds. Arneson confirmed that this is the first pass of the budget with
56 meetings in October, November, and December. Arneson stated that the first meeting is
57 for the Department heads to put together what it's going to take to run the Department for
58 FY25, what products they have planned, how it ties to the capital plan. There is no actual
59 decision. The proposed budget for FY25 isn't really finalized by the Selectboard until
60 January so there's months of feedback still ahead before we get to the voters in March.
61 LaBounty stated that the public might have limited input having just seen numbers.

62

63 **Update on status of pre-appraisal and post-appraisal lists of property data**

64 Timestamp: 0:07

65

66 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson

67

68 Arneson stated that we've got those lists from our assessor and emailed them to Cara last
69 week.

70

71 **Consideration of appointment to the Volunteers' Green and Browns Court Project**
72 **Committee**

73 Timestamp: 0:08

74 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3c_Volunteer](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3c_Volunteers_Green_and_Browns_Ct._Committee_-_Fran_Thomas.pdf)
75 [s_Green_and_Browns_Ct._Committee_-_Fran_Thomas.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3c_Volunteers_Green_and_Browns_Ct._Committee_-_Fran_Thomas.pdf)

76

77 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, ThomasF, Forward

78

79 Sander stated that one applicant came forward when the agenda was put together and a
80 second applicant was received over the weekend.

81

82 *Forward moved to appoint Fran Thomas and Theresa Storrs to the Volunteers' Green*
83 *and Browns Court Project Committee. Miller seconded.*

84 *Roll Call Vote follows discussion.*

85

86 Thomas stated that she expressed her opinion to ARPA to spend money to bring
87 Volunteers Green up to date. Thomas stated that the men's softball league used to take
88 care of Browns Court. Thomas stated that the Round Church Green has been neglected
89 by the Town except for mowing and wondered if this committee could also consider the
90 Round Church Green. Forward suggested bringing that to the Committee. Forward
91 stated that the ARPA Committee came up with criteria for evaluating proposals and to
92 think in terms of legacy projects. Forward agreed that that our all our park facilities have
93 not received routine maintenance and we don't budget for much. Thomas stated that
94 routine maintenance would be part of the Recreation Committee.

95

96 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

97

98

99

100 **Consideration of supporting MMCTV's application for a Low Power FM license**
101 **with letter stating the antenna may be placed on the Town Center building**

102 Timestamp: 0:16

103 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3d_MMCTV
104 [Low Power FM Info.pdf](#)

105

106 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Contis, Miller, Forward

107

108 Contis stated that Richmond has everything it needs except for a radio station so we are
109 interested in applying for a low power FM radio license. Contis stated that this
110 opportunity comes up every 10 years. Contis stated that the most logical place to put the
111 antenna would be near us, even though there's a lot of mountains between Jericho and
112 Underhill, who are a little higher up. Contis reviewed that they have hired a radio
113 engineer who also works for Central Vermont Radio and WRUB and has done a bunch of
114 these FCC applications. Contis stated that sometimes the analog solutions are very
115 helpful when the other things break down. Contis reviewed that this is a Federal
116 Communications Commission license available for non-commercial entities. Contis
117 stated that they can have underwriters but cannot have actual commercials. The FCC has
118 limitations and rules about public service announcements and things like that and there's
119 a bit of a learning curve. Forward stated that the highest point in the building is not the
120 bell tower, it's on the flat part and I think that would be an ideal location and nobody
121 would see it. Forward stated that it would be cool to have and does not see a downside.

122

123 *Forward moved to support MMCTV's application for a Low Power FM license with a*
124 *letter stating the antenna may be placed on the Town Center building. Miller seconded*
125 *Roll Call Vote follows discussion.*

126

127 Miller asked about requesting a call sign. Contis stated that might be a fun way to get
128 involved in the community. Contis reviewed that the radio engineer will get back about
129 the actual number that's available and in terms of the name, there's a little flexibility
130 there. LaBounty asked about insurance. Contis stated that will be looked at with
131 magnifying glass.

132

133 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

134

135 **Consideration of closing Esplanade St. and Pleasant St. for Halloween**

136 Timestamp: 0:24

137 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3e Request t](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3e_Request_t)
138 [o close Esplanade St. on Halloween.pdf](#)

139

140 People who participated in discussion: Sander, PaulsenM, PaulsenG, Forward

141

142 PaulsenM stated that we're requesting the same setup that we've done other years.
143 PaulsenM reviewed that they don't close the street, there's always access and a full lane
144 but to discourage vehicles on the street to be more comfortable for a block party.
145 PaulsenG stated that we have a sign made years ago that says Road Closed and a sign on
146 the telephone pole weeks in advance of Halloween.

147

148 *Forward moved to close Esplanade St. and Pleasant St. on October 31, 2023 from 4pm –*
149 *9pm to allow for trick or treating with the requirement that both streets be open for first*

150 *responder vehicles and that Esplanade St. be open for vehicles that need to access the*
151 *Wastewater Treatment Facility. Miller seconded.*
152 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

153

154 **Next steps on discussion of the swale between Esplanade St. and Church St.**

155 Timestamp: 0:30

156

157 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, ThomasF

158

159 Arneson stated that he is meeting with some representatives from Esplanade and Church
160 St on Wednesday afternoon with Pete Gosselin, Bard Hill, Tyler Machia and Keith
161 Osborne. Thomas stated that when the developer developed the end of Church St, they
162 were supposed to have a path from Church St over to Esplanade. Thomas reviewed being
163 shown that you could put in a canoe or a rowboat there was so much water in there.
164 Thomas was not sure if that also happened before the development but thinks it got
165 aggravated by the development.

166

167 **Review of rate proposal from Casella for the solid waste drop off center**

168 Timestamp: 0:32

169 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3g_Richmond_2024_price_update_1.pdf

170

171 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Dinneen, Forward, Miller, ThomasF

172

173
174 Dinneen stated that he works for Solid Waste Management and runs the Richmond Drop-
175 Off along with a bunch of other ones across the northern part of the State. Dinneen stated
176 that this was the designated time for us to pitch a proposal for changing rates. Dinneen
177 stated that with inflation, he is bringing costs in line with what it takes to get stuff out of
178 the transfer. Dinneen stated that large volumes of things like a truck load of recycling
179 come in with a 15-gallon bag of trash. Dinneen requested a thing where the recycling
180 would be up to a 45-gallon container bag beyond what a \$3 bag would cover. Dinneen
181 reviewed that the actual price raise is in line with CSWD, so there's no difference
182 between what you would do at Redmond Rd and us. Dinneen stated that cardboard, it's
183 like \$5 per yard like if you filled up a pickup truck load. Dinneen stated that yard waste
184 would be two yards free per day. Dinneen stated that tires go up \$2, freon to \$20 across
185 the board, and mattresses are \$20-25-30-35. Forward stated that he liked the attitude
186 about focusing on serving households not commercial enterprises as CSWD had
187 challenges with the ReUse shed and commercial enterprises. Dinneen stated that he was
188 thinking of putting a stop sign next to the shed to see if you're allowed to put something
189 in there. Miller stated the concern about people faced with paying something or just
190 chucking it out the window. Dinneen reviewed that the fee for being over 45 gallons is
191 \$1.25 for the next 45 gallons.

192

193 *Miller moved to approve the rate proposal from Casella as presented to the Selectboard*
194 *tonight for the Solid Waste Drop-Off center in Richmond. Forward seconded.*

195 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

196

197 **Discussion of representatives from the Selectboard attending a Recreation**
198 **Committee meeting**

199 Timestamp: 0:49

200

201 People who participated in discussion: Arneson, Fausel, Miller, Santor, Sander, Forward,
202 ThomasF

203

204 Arneson reviewed that shortly after the Volunteers Green and Browns Court Project
205 Committee was formed, members of the Recreation Committee felt passed over. The
206 Rec Committee has two members, one from Bolton and Huntington. Arneson stated that
207 the idea was to form a committee to focus just on those projects. Arneson reviewed that
208 the Rec Committee members were concerned that the Selectboard wasn't hearing what
209 they have been doing over the last couple of years. Arneson stated that if the Rec
210 Committee gave an update, then the Selectboard would hear that, but the board doesn't
211 really hear from committees or follow up with committees. Arneson stated that Bard
212 suggested that we send two representatives from the Selectboard to a future Rec
213 Committee meeting to hear some of their frustrations now or building for a couple of
214 years. Arneson stated that an upcoming meeting on November 7, the Rec Committee
215 would like to have a couple of Selectboard members at that meeting.

216

217 Miller stated that this goes beyond the Rec Committee as we have 14 Committees and
218 Commissions. Miller stated that she has learned a lot listening to different committee
219 meetings in public or on Zoom. Arneson stated that this committee in particular is
220 feeling some stress and strain more so maybe there's time for a little bit more focus.

221 Fausel stated that the Selectboard decided to spend \$450,000 on Rec Committee stuff
222 without stating we're going to make our own ad-hoc committee and do you want to know
223 about it. Fausel wondered why the Rec Committee was not asked if there is any
224 information you can provide to help facilitate this ad hoc committee's process. Fausel
225 felt that there wasn't faith in the Rec Committee competence, efficiency, and
226 productivity. Fausel reviewed that the Selectboard decided to give the Huntington and
227 Bolton members voting privileges. Fausel stated that if the Selectboard has no respect for
228 the Rec Committee then maybe it should be dismembered and remade the way you want.
229 Santor stated that it is a perception, and the biggest goal is to have that conversation.
230 Sander stated that Mark hit the nail on the head, it's a communication issue and there's a
231 huge difference between explaining something and justifying something. Sander stated
232 that communication and prioritization is a problem. Sander stated that there were parallel
233 conversations and projects going on, there was a lack of communication. Miller reviewed
234 there should be a spot on the agenda for a committee or two a month to review whatever
235 they are doing.

236

237 Thomas stated that when she was on the Recreation Committee, and on the Selectboard,
238 the Rec Committee participated in Selectboard meetings maybe 2-3 times a year to
239 provide input and updates. Thomas stated that a Selectboard member would be assigned
240 to work with each committee and department if they had any issues. Thomas asked how
241 the Rec and Volunteers Green and Browns Court Project Committees are supposed to
242 work together. Forward stated that we have a lot more committees now than back then
243 and some of them are very controversial. Forward stated that the issue of what to do with
244 ARPA money in Volunteers Green was a firestorm but that Richmond residents should
245 decide how to spend that money. Forward reviewed that appointing a specific time
246 limited committee does focus on this specific issue. Forward stated that the membership
247 of seven people was to get a variety of viewpoints, hash it out and bring back a consensus
248 opinion. Forward stated that it'd be great if somebody from the Recreation Committee
249 participated because of the institutional knowledge, you don't have to be a voting member

250 to have meaningful input. Forward apologized if he has contributed to the
251 miscommunication. Santor stated that the Rec Committee over the last 3 years has been
252 very focused on Volunteers Green and pulled in a variety of surveys. Santor stated that is
253 what we have been working on and it is kind of getting started again. Forward stated that
254 he is willing to attend the November 7 meeting.

255

256 **Annual report from Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission**

257 Timestamp: 1:24

258

259 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Baker, Forward, LaBounty

260

261 Baker stated that he is the director of the Regional Planning Commission. Baker
262 reviewed the FY2023 Annual Report. Baker stated that the budget last year was a little
263 over \$7,000,000 and \$500,000 of that came from municipalities. Baker reviewed the
264 specifics of things done in Richmond like the Bike-Ped master plan, the Gateway
265 feasibility study, the sidewalk scoping study, and Rt 2 targeted scoping on the improving
266 the shoulders. Forward stated that the transportation funding of this substantial.

267

268 Baker reviewed the Transportation Improvement Program around US2 Bridge over I-89,
269 US2 Resurfacing, Bolton-Richmond, US2 Culvert Rehabilitation, Mile Marker 2.25.

270 Bakers stated that the Cochran Rd scoping study was in this fiscal year's work program.

271

272 Baker stated that they really tried to up their game in terms of equity and public
273 engagement for underrepresented communities and hired staff person to focus on that.
274 Baker stated that federal requirements like Title Six say we need to make extra efforts to
275 reach community members that might not normally participate, marginalized or
276 underrepresented communities. Forward stated that he would like help trying to figure
277 out how to engage our mobile homes which are a dense neighborhood for Richmond.
278 Forward stated he would like help figuring out the connection between the Village and
279 mobile home park. Baker reviewed housing, energy, transportation, planning, clean
280 water, and emergency management issues.

281

282 Forward stated that there are a lot of rural towns with very small municipal buildings,
283 we're considering spending millions on this building and energy would be a big piece of
284 it. Forward asked if there was any insight as to whether there might be any money
285 leftover for non-energy burdened communities? Baker stated that the last 2-3 years the
286 legislature tried to make sure the rest of the State gets fair share of State funding. Baker
287 stated that those grant programs focus on the rest of the State first because Chittenden
288 County will consume what's left. Baker stated that it is still a little early to know how
289 many of those audit projects are going to turn into capital projects. Baker stated that this
290 money is revenue replacement money. LaBounty stated that outreach to the mobile home
291 park without giving services is worthless. LaBounty stated that the Transportation
292 Committee talks about walking paths, bike trails and sidewalks and one of the sidewalks
293 is from the school up to an affluent neighborhood. LaBounty stated that she hasn't heard
294 anything about a sidewalk from the mobile home park to the bus stop at the Park&Ride,
295 so put that on the CCRPC and Selectboard radar. LaBounty stated that maybe we don't
296 need a bike path from the Village of Richmond, which has a higher median average
297 income than the mobile home park. Forward stated that is included in the Gateway
298 Scoping Study, there's one proposal for tunneling underneath the interstate exit.
299 LaBounty expressed concern that the Gateway from the village out is not the same thing

300 as from the mobile home park in. Sander stated that the problem is because of all the
301 pinch points, interstate off ramps, Rt 117 intersection, and busy Park&Ride. Sander
302 reviewed that we still need to make this community connected to the Town as a whole.

303

304 **Update from VTrans on Rt. 2 repaving project**

305 Timestamp: 1:44

306

307 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Hulett, Arneson, Forward, LaBounty

308

309 Sander stated that he received several emails praising the flaggers on Rt 2. Hulett stated
310 that he is with VTrans as the resident engineer on Rt 2 roadway reconstruction and the
311 bridge project on the east end of the Town. Hulett stated that the contractor is on
312 schedule to complete the project next season, they are ahead of schedule. Hulett
313 reviewed that they will finish the wearing course on the east end of the project that's
314 currently from the Rt 2 overpass to the Bolton U-Haul dealership. Hulett reviewed that
315 the contractor will put some rumble strips in the centerline for safety, stripe that area,
316 following with shoulder backup of the roadway and driveway tie-ins. Hulett stated that
317 the area from Kenyon Rd to the Williston-Richmond town line will be completed. Hulett
318 reviewed that the project is not going to the bottom of French Hill because there is a
319 corridor they are responsible for and extending that footprint will mess with permits.
320 Hulett stated that the section of roadway will be repaved from the town line to the bottom
321 of French Hill, but it is done with different funds, by the middle of October. Hulett
322 reviewed that they're installing a new guardrail between the Village to the Park&Ride
323 that will probably stop somewhere on the Mobile station. Hulett stated that there is still a
324 mill and fill section from the Mobile station to the Checkered House Bridge that will take
325 place next season. Sander stated that on Kenyon Rd, you get to Rt 2 and look west, the
326 guardrail perfectly obstructs your vision. Hulett stated that there was no mention of sight
327 lines for that, but we can look at that. Hulett stated that in Town, they have to adjust
328 structures that will be done this season to the current base lift and fix the Jericho and
329 Bridge St intersection signal. Hulett reviewed that is night work, so they are waiting for a
330 time that hot mix is available. Hulett stated that replacing the traffic signal is next year's
331 work, but the contractor may request the work for the winter. Hulett confirmed that it
332 will have a left hand turning flashing light but with the same lanes.

333

334 Hulett stated that there are two new additions to the project. Hulett described putting in a
335 12-inch reveal curb to support the slope between the Town and the Park&Ride. Hulett
336 described the same type of curb by the cemetery that eliminates the ditch but gives an
337 extra foot of roadway. Hulett confirmed that the area will have the same width but a foot
338 more than planned. Hulett reviewed that one of the pinch points will be removed thanks
339 to the July 16th storm. Hulett stated there are barrels out there now that will be replaced
340 with a 48-inch steel pipe for a full width shoulder.

341

342 Hulett reviewed that next season the contractor would like to get in here as soon as
343 possible and start paving the wearing course through Town anytime around May with a
344 completion date currently of June 28. Hulett asked about the granite curb being installed.
345 Arneson stated he will follow up with Pete on that. Hulett confirmed the road widths of
346 32 or 30 feet. Hulett stated that the line striping now is temporary.

347

348 Hulett stated that the bridge contractor is doing very well, they brought in about 17,000
349 cubic yards of earth burrow to build that up. Hulett stated that abutment one will be

350 completed as of Thursday, the pier in the center of the island has the foundation and stem
351 poured. Hulett stated that the contractor has just started the wall of abutment two and
352 will be driving piles shortly. Hulett stated they will continue to address any concerns
353 about retaining soils along the garage business and are in the process of shop drawings to
354 install a change order design and place a wall in there. Arneson stated that the Fire Chief
355 has been very pleased with the way the contractor has worked with him for access to the
356 Fire Department. Arneson stated that he has had minimal interaction with the crew, but
357 when he does it has been awesome. Arneson reviewed that they really worked hard to
358 get it paved for the Fourth of July and that was much appreciated.

359
360 LaBounty stated that she has an intersection of a private road on Rt 2 in Jonesville,
361 Labonty Lane. LaBounty is very impressed with the hard work, but the concern is if the
362 pink stone is going to be removed then is the pavement coming on top of the apron.
363 Hulett stated that the plans require a 4-foot minimal apron away from residential and side
364 roads. Hulett reviewed that if it's a paved driveway or side road, when we finish, it will
365 be a paved apron. Hulett stated that there are situations that we can extend those.
366 LaBounty stated that it was level before, and we don't want to have to come up out of the
367 driveway to get onto the road because it is a 45 mile per hour section.

368

369 **Discussion of overnight parking and camping as addressed in the Traffic Ordinance**
370 **and the Municipal Park Ordinance and their impact on unhoused people**

371 Timestamp: 2:05

372 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3k1_Municipal_Park_Ordinance_Final_adopted_on_3-21-22_with_map.pdf

373

374
375 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3k2_Traffic_Ordinance_Effective_May_12_2023.pdf

376

377
378 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Forward, Arneson, Cambridge, Miller,
379 Forward, van Eeghen, LaBounty, Rankin, Brushett

380

381 Sander stated that this is a follow up discussion from the last meeting and both
382 ordinances are included in the packet for reference. Arneson asked what we do if
383 someone's causing a problem because you do not want to say no overnight parking if they
384 are not causing a problem. Cambridge reviewed that he told Bard to leave it alone and
385 we can handle it on a case-by-case basis, it's something that I've been doing for years
386 now. Cambridge reviewed that if somebody is coming through and no one calls the police
387 on them, they're going to stay and if somebody does call the police we will evaluate,
388 make sure that they're not a danger to themselves or somebody else. Cambridge
389 reviewed that if they are causing a disruption then we will tell them to move along.

390

391 Eichenberger stated that he lives in Southview and appreciates the approach that's been
392 taken in the past but he thinks it is insufficient to deal with the aggressive behavior on the
393 part of an individual who parked there, unsanitary conditions, and fire risk. Eichenberger
394 asked that this community put a simple sign that says, no parking, no camping overnight.
395 Eichenberger stated that the Selectboard members have been elected to ensure and
396 oversee public property in Richmond, we are not a homeless shelter.

397

398 Miller stated that we don't have a solution as far as housing or location. Miller stated that
399 if we make them move, they're going to go somewhere in some other neighborhood,

400 that's not a solution. Cambridge stated that if they're not respecting the people of
401 Richmond, we're going to tell them to move along. Cambridge reviewed that if they are
402 causing a problem, a sign is probably not going to stop them anyway. Eichenberger
403 stated that one of our residents was threatened and felt so concerned about his personal
404 safety that he did not pull into his own driveway and that doesn't sound like a police
405 response. Cambridge stated that they did respond to that and as soon as he started to
406 cause problems like that, we're going to take care of it at that point. Eichenberger asked
407 why not have a sign no parking, no overnight camping. Sander stated that we can't place
408 such a sign without an ordinance to back it up. Cambridge confirmed that if somebody is
409 causing a problem then we can tell them to move along. Eichenberger stated that he
410 doesn't understand the difficulty in a sign. Cambridge reviewed that if somebody is
411 causing a problem, it doesn't matter if there's a sign, we're going to take care of it. van
412 Eeghen stated that she is a member of the Housing Committee who were asked by a
413 member of the public to think about what is happening in Richmond in terms of care of
414 people who appear not to have housing in our parking overnight. van Eeghen wondered
415 if any data existed about the history and frequency of police force encounters with people
416 who are parking illegally overnight. van Eeghen stated that she thinks the Housing
417 Committee would have an opportunity to help think about this.

418
419 LaBounty stated the parking lot was talked about for recreational purposes 3 years ago
420 and the Parking Advisory Committee can be involved in what can and can't be done.
421 LaBounty stated that it can be done to have parking for recreational purposes only
422 established. LaBounty stated that the Selectboard has established committees to help.
423 LaBounty wondered if it's our residents that are homeless or are we trying to create a
424 homeless shelter for people outside Richmond, for the Richmond taxpayers to support.

425
426 Rankin stated that he was impressed with Chief Cambridge's point of view that so far it's
427 worked for him to not intervene immediately when there is someone residing in one of
428 these town parking areas, and then intervening if a problem arises. Rankin cautioned the
429 Selectboard to not quickly move and say all these people need to go to Burlington.
430 Arneson reviewed the ordinance states the only place that it actually prohibits parking
431 dawn to dusk is Volunteers Green, Browns Court and Overrockers. Arneson reviewed that
432 overnight parking is allowed in the Volunteers Green front parking lot area with the
433 exception of winter parking ban and in general overnight is allowed unless you are in
434 those three parking areas.

435
436 Forward liked the suggestion of having the Parking Committee and the Housing
437 Committee report back on this. Arneson reviewed that the Municipal Park ordinance
438 addresses overnight camping and Volunteers Green and Browns Court says no person
439 without written permission shall set up tents for campers. Forward stated that he would
440 like to think about this issue in terms of compassion for the people who find themselves
441 in this situation, as well as the health and safety of Town residents. Eichenberger
442 suggested that you focus first on the health and safety of Town residents. Cambridge
443 stated that we are dealing with tourists, people with mental health issues, and
444 homelessness. Cambridge stated that whether there's a sign up or not, we're going to take
445 the same approach and make sure that people are safe. Brushett stated that we should
446 leave this up to the Chief, it sounds like he's making very good decisions, case by case.

447
448 Sander asked if the will of the Selectboard is to change the ordinance. Forward stated
449 that he would like to wait and let this issue season with the Housing Committee and

450 Parking Advisory Committee. Forward reviewed that we could not adopt an ordinance
451 until middle of December at the earliest if we started tonight. Cambridge reviewed that if
452 you live in Richmond and there's a problem that makes you feel uncomfortable, call us
453 and we'll respond.

454

455 **Consideration of approval of design for police car logos**

456 Timestamp: 2:40

457

458 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Cambridge, Forward, Miller

459

460 Arneson shared the logo and wanted to run it by the Selectboard before we move
461 forward. Cambridge confirmed that Police Departments don't usually order painted white
462 doors anymore because of the vinyl sticker and the gray is a placeholder, probably our
463 badge. Cambridge stated that sometimes it takes a month to get an appointment.
464 Cambridge stated that he does not like the ghost graphics on the Tesla and thinks it
465 should be seen. Cambridge stated that this will probably be around \$800. Forward stated
466 it looks fine to him. Sander asked if this looks too urban. Cambridge stated that black
467 and white is more traditional.

468

469 *Forward moved to approve the logos for the police cars as presented. Miller seconded*

470 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

471

472 **Consideration of approval of FEMA buyout, elevation, and relocation options for 473 private homeowners in the flood zone**

474 Timestamp: 2:46

475 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3m_Final Of
476 ficialZoningMap Effective 06262023 1 1 .pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3m_Final_OfficialZoningMap_Effective_06262023_1_1.pdf)

477

478 People who participated in discussion: Forward, Arneson, LaBounty, Miller, Sander,
479 Hartsfield

480

481 Arneson stated that the programs are open to anybody in the FEMA Special Flood
482 Hazard Area, or if they were affected by the recent flooding. Arneson presented the map
483 and the Special Flood Hazard district. LaBounty stated that if you have one home that
484 decides they want to do the buyout, by removing that home it allows more flood capacity
485 in that area. LaBounty reviewed that the Selectboard should decide if they support the
486 buyout projects, and the town of Richmond is willing to participate in this process.
487 LaBounty stated that if you truly believe in the regulations that you put in place for the
488 Special Flood Hazard Area, then take a vote to say you support this. LaBounty reviewed
489 it's the homeowner's choice, but the Selectboard would be on record as saying we would
490 support people going through the buyout process. LaBounty stated that the map is
491 approved but the buyout process has not yet been approved. Arneson confirmed that the
492 map was requested to get an idea of the scope of the Special Flood Hazard Area and the
493 potential number of properties that could be affected. Arneson stated that it's a sign of
494 support to the homeowners, the Selectboard will help them out and be behind that.
495 LaBounty stated that the downside for the community is reducing the Grand List Value
496 for every structure you take off as the Town will be the owner of a vacant piece of
497 property. LaBounty confirmed that the State is trying to create support staff to help
498 Towns through this process.

499

500 *Forward moved to have the Town support property owners that are eligible for and wish*
501 *to participate in FEMA's buyout, elevation, and relocation programs. Miller seconded*
502 *Roll Call Vote follows discussion.*

503

504 LaBounty requested posting on Front Porch Forum to tell them that you're supporting and
505 helping them through this. LaBounty stated that the application is technically the Town's
506 application. Forward stated that this would become property that would require very few
507 services so it wouldn't cost the Town very much. Arneson reviewed that the Town has to
508 be the fiscal sponsor, make sure procurement rules are followed, and the money is
509 available for the homeowner.

510

511 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

512

513 Hartsfield stated that they should be prepared for questions about elevation and
514 mitigation on top of buyout. Hartsfield reviewed that there's such a shortage of resources
515 as far as getting quotes or contractors. LaBounty reviewed that some of the FEMA
516 buyout projects, and elevation projects sometimes require three bids. Hartsfield stated
517 that they have been waiting 4 weeks to get a bid back on elevation from the one person in
518 Vermont who still does it.

519

520 **Discussion of percentage increase for pay grid for first draft of the FY25 budget**

521 Timestamp: 2:57

522 <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cpi.pdf>

523

524 <https://www.bls.gov/charts/consumer-price-index/consumer-price-index-by-region.htm>

525

526 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Forward, Miller, LaBounty

527

528 Sander stated that when we prepare the first draft of the FY25 budget we will include an
529 update to the salary and benefits line that fits the current staffing levels, therefore we
530 need to have an estimate for how much the pay grade will increase. Sander reviewed that
531 this is a bit tricky to predict in the fall for something that will not occur until the
532 following June. Sander stated that in June, we will be looking at the CPI based on the
533 Department of Labor New England Region Consumer Price Index for the unadjusted 12
534 months versus the prior 12 months, the current change from August 2022 to August 2023
535 is 2.3%. Sander stated that the CPI has been decreasing since its peak in June 2022, but
536 has shown a slight uptick in the past two months. Arneson stated that if we get new
537 information by December, we can address all those numbers, but we just need a starting
538 point.

539

540 LaBounty stated that within the last two years, you have staffers that have had a 40% pay
541 increase. LaBounty stated her concern about the equitability as it wasn't those percent
542 increases in some of your lowest paid staff, it was some of your highest paid staff.

543 LaBounty stated that the cost-of-living increase is one thing but step increases are just for
544 showing up so merit should be part of this discussion. Arneson reviewed that the CPI
545 index is to make sure that we stay current and don't slip that. Forward stated that he
546 recalled going from 50th to 70th percentile in our data set because we were having
547 difficulty hiring and retention. LaBounty stated that you don't get aggressive with the
548 cost of living and go 8%. Forward liked the idea of merit as we have a lot of staffers who
549 have gone above and beyond this year. Miller stated that Josh should have latitude so if

550 he sees somebody who's really deserving, you're going to reward them. Arneson
551 confirmed that there is a difference between cost-of-living and step increases, where it is
552 about 2.2% between steps. Arneson stated that the CPI increase is subjective based on
553 what we see each time. Forward summarized that one purpose is to keep up with
554 inflation and the other is longevity.

555

556 Forward stated that the proposal for 3% as a placeholder is reasonable for the cost-of-
557 living increase. Forward stated that public employees are different than private
558 employees, the jobs have different worlds.

559

560 **Consideration of approval of contracts for cleaning of Town Center and Volunteers'**
561 **Green Restrooms after flood**

562 Timestamp: 3:22

563 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3n1_TCBasementComparisonBids.pdf

564

566 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3n2_ConcessionStandComparisonBid.pdf

567

569 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3n3_Basement4SmartProLLC.pdf

570

572 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3n4_BasementSRMJulianHogoboom.pdf

573

575 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3n5_Concession4SmartProLLC.pdf

576

578 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2023/09/3n6_ConcessionSRMChuckHarvey.pdf

579

580
581 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Forward, Arneson, Miller

582

583 Forward stated that the differences in the bids for this building between ServiceMaster, a
584 big company, and a very small company, which specializes more in janitorial services
585 was around \$25,000 to \$2,995. Forward stated that if we do this renovation, we're going
586 to be gutting the basement. Forward stated that \$25,000 on it this year and then gutting it
587 next year does not seem prudent. Arneson stated that there's a good amount of silt all the
588 way around that. Forward stated that ServiceMaster is estimating \$10,000 to do the
589 Concession Stand. Forward confirmed that he did call references on 4SmartProLLC, had
590 excellent references and people trusted him. Forward stated that he would start with him.
591 Forward stated that ServiceMaster is a big company with a lot of work right now. Miller
592 stated that to define cleaning is tough, but we set standards and if they meet them then
593 we're satisfied.

594

595 *Forward moved to enter into an agreement with 4SmartProLLC for the cleaning of the*
596 *Town Center basement and the Volunteers' Green restroom and concession stand.*

597 *Miller seconded*

598 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

599

600 **Update on free energy assessment audit for Town Center and Fire Department**

601 Timestamp: 3:31

602

603 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Forward

604

605 Forward stated that in order to apply for the Municipal Energy Resilience Program, you
606 have to get an energy assessment and those are at no cost. Forward stated that as the
607 Town Energy Coordinator he would like to apply for this building and the fire
608 department. Arneson stated that this was just to let the Selectboard know that we're
609 doing it and it's free.

610

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

612 Timestamp: 3:32

613

614 **Minutes:**

615 *Forward moved to approve the Minutes as presented of 9/18/23. Miller seconded.*

616 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

617

618 **Purchase Orders:**

619 *Forward moved to approve PO# 4667 to Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District*
620 *for Education Q1 not to exceed \$231,185.02. Miller seconded.*

621 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

622

623 *Miller moved to amend PO# 4702 to Iroquois Truck Mfg for new Foreman's plow pickup*
624 *not to exceed \$13,315.00. Forward seconded.*

625 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

626

627 **Warrants:**

628 Arneson stated that Mary Houle is going to come with a list of invoices she has for
629 Claussen's and other items she bought for the Town Center later, so we are taking it off
630 the warrants tonight.

631

632 *Miller moved to approve the general warrants as presented and amended on 10/3/2023.*

633 *Forward seconded.*

634 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

635

636 **Next Meeting Agenda**

637 *Miller attendance at Fire Dept 1st Mondays until 8 pm

638 *Committee check-ins for future meetings

639 *FEMA mitigation money for basement

640

641 **Executive Session: Discussion of legal advice on three-acre storm water rule**

642

643 *Forward moved to find that premature public knowledge about attorney-client*
644 *communication would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage.*

645 *Miller seconded.*

646 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*

647

648 *Forward moved that we enter into executive session to discuss the 3-acre stormwater rule*
649 *under the provisions of 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(f) and to invite Town Manager Josh Arneson to*

650 *join the executive session. Miller seconded.*
651 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*
652
653 *Forward moved to exit executive session. Miller seconded.*
654 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*
655

656 **Adjourn**

657
658 *Forward moved to adjourn. Miller seconded.*
659 *Roll Call Vote: Forward, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.*
660

661 **Meeting adjourned at: 10:55 pm**

662

663 **Chat file from Zoom:**

664 02:20:46 Patty Brushett:I think safety is a priority and letting the Chief deal with it
665 case by case is the way to go
666 02:23:20 Denise Noble (she/her): Agreed.
667 02:26:03 Patty Brushett:Some people might need to stop and sleep who are of no
668 danger.
669 02:33:34 Patty Brushett:I agree
670 02:36:26 Bonny Steuer: I appreciate the caring and considerate conversation around
671 this issue. Thanks also to the Chief for his department's measured response.
672 02:38:05 gretchen paulsen: I think the chief has a good approach to this issue
673 taking each case individually.
674 02:44:22 Denise Noble (she/her): Well stated, Patty I agree. It's important to
675 have compassion and be neighborly to those who might need help.
676 02:48:15 Patty Brushett:Thank you chief
677 02:48:24 Connie van Eeghen, she/her: Reacted to "Thank you chief" with 👍
678 02:49:16 Denise Noble (she/her): Thanks all for respectful, productive,
679 thoughtful, compassionate conversation!
680 02:50:50 Patty Brushett:Connie thank you for your valuable input
681 02:53:44 Patty Brushett:Reacted to "Thank you chief" with 👍