1	Town of Richmond
2	Selectboard Meeting
3	Minutes of March 18, 2024
4	1711111111 10, 202 1
5 6	Members Present: Adam Wood, Bard Hill, David Sander, Jay Furr, Lisa Miller
7 8	Absent: None
9 10	Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager
11	Others Present: Meeting was recorded by MMCTV, Andrew Bessette, Cara LaBounty, Connie van
12 13 14 15	Eeghen, Dave Thomas, Erin Wagg, Fran Thomas, Ian Bender, Jake Marin, Jeanne Agner, Judy Bush, Kate Kreider, Kendra Ziskie, Laurie Dana, Marcy Harding, Mark Fausel, Martha Nye, Megan Andrews, Michael Storrs, Peter Halvorsen, Sam Pratt, Sheri Lynn, Susan Wells, Tess Storrs, Velma
16 17	MMCTV Video: https://youtu.be/CUFAx1WrgsM?si=0gjnu9aL2YQz8kJA
18	Call to Order: 7:00 pm
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20	Welcome by: Furr
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22	Public Comment: None
23 24 25	Additions or Deletions to Agenda: None
26 27	Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present
28	Town Meeting follow up: Thanks to voters and candidates
29	Timestamp: 0:01
30	1
31 32	People who participated in discussion: Furr, Miller, Sander, Hill
33 34	Furr offered thanks to various people including Jeff Forward whose term on the Selectboard ended with Town Meeting and Adam Wood for stepping up to serve on the
35 36	Selectboard. Furr stated that he was very pleased at how everybody remained civil and really shared a lot of ideas. Miller and Sander agreed that everyone was civil, and it is a
37	wonderful community. Furr reviewed that having Town Meeting and voting the budget
38	in person gives people the chance to make amendments where Australian ballot does not,
39	but it gives significantly more people the chance to vote. Hill thanked the moderator,
40	Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, and the Justices of the Peace for keeping the wheels
41	of democracy turning. Furr reviewed that the Richmond Senior Center provided hotdogs
42 43	and other things. Sander stated that the Boy Scouts did a lot of legwork on the floor.
43 44	Reorganization: Selection of Chair and Vice Chair, Board Secretary, Official
45	Newspapers
46	Timestamp: 0:05
47	Timesmirp, 0.00
48 49	People who participated in discussion: Furr, Miller, Hill, Sander, Wood
50	Miller moved to appoint David Sander as Selectboard Chair. Hill seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Wood in favor. Sander abstains. Motion approved. Furr moved to appoint Lisa Miller as Selectboard Vice Chair. Wood seconded. Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Miller abstains. Motion approved. Furr moved to appoint Duncan Wardwell as Selectboard Secretary. Miller approved. Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved. Furr moved to designate the Burlington Free Press, Times Ink!, Williston Observer, and Seven Days as the official newspapers of Richmond. Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved. Reminder of March 29, 2024 deadline for expressing interest in the home elevation or buyout programs Timestamp: 0:15 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Miller Arneson reviewed that FEMA and the State work on programs for home elevations and buyouts that are in the flood-plain and anyone should contact him to get onto the list as the actual applications aren't due until later in the spring. Miller stated that they are planning on setting up a long-term recovery group as a mechanism for after people have applied for something. Consideration of appointment of delinquent tax collector Timestamp: 0:17 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/03/3d_Delinque ntTaxLaurieBrisbin.pdf People who participated in discussion: Sander, Brisbin, Miller, Furr Miller moved to appoint Laurie Brisbin as Delinquent Tax Collector for a term ending on Town Meeting day 2025. Furr seconded. Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved. Consideration of request from Radiate Art Space to use the Town Center campus for the annual Art Crawl on September 29, 2024 Timestamp: 0:19 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Bush, Furr Bush confirmed that Radiate provided an outline and it's pretty much exactly the same as

Bush confirmed that Radiate provided an outline and it's pretty much exactly the same as last year. Bush stated that the Art Crawl is an annual event that Radiate sponsors along with other businesses in Richmond that centers around 40 or 50 local artisans. Bush confirmed that they use the parking lot and work with the Post Office, Jericho Settlers Farm, the Library, the church across the street, and the Police.

Furr moved to approve the closure of the Town Center parking lot for the Radiate Art Space's Art Crawl on Sunday, September 29, 2024 from 8am – 5pm. Miller seconded.

101 Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.

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Update from Recreation Committee

104 Timestamp: 0:22

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People who participated in discussion: Sander, Lynn, Kreider, Fausel, Furr, Miller, Hill, LaBounty, Thomas, Ziskie

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Lynn summarized that the Committee would only have one current member continuing and it's time to discuss having a three-town Recreation Committee. Lynn reviewed that they reduced the membership to five with three-fifths Richmond residents. Lynn stated that some restructuring of the Rec Committee's work depends on the pieces of other committees.

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Furr stated that he has no objection to having a greater Richmond Rec committee if there's people to be on it. Lynn confirmed the progress to make sure that it promotes stuff happening in Bolton, Richmond, and Huntington. Hill stated that it seems plausible to have members on the Rec committee from other towns, but the broader question is relative to the 3-Parks Committee and the plans for the ARPA funding. Sander stated that there is consensus to continue with the three-town representation of Richmond, Huntington, and Bolton. LaBounty recommended opening it up to Richmond residents first then include other towns as an advisory, non-voting position. Thomas reviewed her experiences on the Recreation Committee which had a mission but did not have anything written down for their job. Thomas summarized that she managed the budget and would present it before the Selectboard. Thomas stated that the Recreation Committee needs a formal mission as to their job. Thomas stated that besides having a viable Recreation Committee, they need to have more office support to manage and promote recreation. Thomas reviewed that other towns participate in programs. Thomas stated that the Town really needs to work on what they want from the Recreation Committee before they go out and solicit volunteers. Arneson stated that Little League runs autonomously with their own board, volunteers, and field maintenance. Thomas stated that Little League and soccer need to interact with the Recreation Committee for scheduling and work that needs to be done on most on the fields. Arneson confirmed that the Town Office keeps a calendar based on requests for Little League, soccer, birthday parties. Lynn stated that the Recreation Committee does have written vision/mission/goals and summarized the specifics. Sander suggested a task where the Recreation Committee collaborates with other committees. Ziskie confirmed that the 3-Parks Committee has a member who attends all the Recreation Committee meetings and Mark Fausel attends all of their meetings, so we do collaborate. Hill stated that improvements with ARPA funds will require maintenance and replacement over time. Hill confirmed that the Recreation Committee has no actual authority, it makes proposals to the Selectboard.

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Discussion of process for preserving Browns Ct. for recreation in perpetuity

144 Timestamp: 0:51

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People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Furr, Thomas, Hill, LaBounty, Marin, Harding, Miller, Agner, Wood, Storrs

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Arneson reviewed that the proper way to do it is with an easement, otherwise it could be overturned by a future Selectboard so you need to find a partner like Richmond Land

- 151 Trust that would be the easement holder for development rights. Arneson stated that the
- Town would still own the property, but it would be very thoughtful in how to write what
- can be put on that land. Arneson reviewed the two ways to go about adopting that
- depending on a petition. LaBounty stated that they want to give away commercial and
- residential development rights. Marin stated that he disagrees with the concept that no
- one in the future is ever going to know as good as we do now, and he doesn't understand
- why we would need something like that. Hill stated that if they were going to do a
- permanent restriction, they'd want input from all of the voters in a 20–50-year easement.
- LaBounty stated that the perpetuity is to acknowledge the donation and accept the
- donation for the purpose of its intent. Harding reviewed her approval of the intent of the
- donor. Hill stated how much this is about defining what's not allowed in terms of
- 162 commercial and residential building. Miller stated that since it's owned by the Town,
- they have complete control over its destiny. Wood stated that the best use may morph
- over time. Furr stated that a 20–25-year easement would certainly suffice because by that
- point anything likely to be built up there will have been. Sander stated that a piece of
- paper that says this board felt this way today, another board could do something totally
- different. Furr suggested leaving open the question of perpetuity of 20 years and
- reaching out to our Town attorney and the Richmond Land Trust to see if either is
- interested in being the easement holder. Arneson confirmed that he would bring back
- more information. LaBounty stated that if you're going to hire a lawyer to do all this
- work, they shouldn't fear perpetuity.

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Update from the Volunteers Green and Browns Court Parks Committee

174 Timestamp: 1:16

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- 176 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Ziskie, Thomas, Hill, Arneson, Furr,
- 177 Miller, Wells, LaBounty, Fausel

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- 279 Ziskie summarized the Committee is putting together a full plan and asked to extend the
- deadline to November 1 to ensure the plans are fully vetted out.

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- 182 Furr moved to extend the deadline for the Volunteers Green and Browns Court Parks
- 183 Committee from March 31, 2024 until November 1, 2024. Miller seconded.
- 184 Roll call vote follows discussion.

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- Arneson stated that the ARPA guidelines stated that you have to have a contract in hand
- by December 1, 2024 and he worries that two months is a short time. Arneson reviewed
- that VLCT has a mechanism available to other Towns that he is checking with the
- auditors. Arneson confirmed that if it is under \$15,000, it is efficient but over \$15,000
- 190 requires a sealed bid process. Ziskie stated that the Committee isn't comfortable bringing
- it forward until the other parks are also close. Hill stated that it is not going to work for
- all these contracts and suggested an earlier date like October 1.

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- 194 Hill moved to amend the motion to extend the deadline for the Volunteers Green and
- 195 Browns Court Parks Committee March 31, 2024 until October 1, 2024. Furr seconded.
- 196 Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.

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- 198 Thomas reviewed the habitat of Round Church, Volunteers Green, and Browns Court and
- has quotes from tree companies and wants to move forward on that. Ziskie stated that
- these are hanging trees over areas like the playground and is in the name of safety.

Arneson stated they have a Landscaping and Tree Maintenance budget item that could be overspent, or they could use ARPA funds that have not been allocated. Hill stated that it should be ARPA funds. Thomas confirmed that she walked with Caitlin Littlefield, the Tree Warden, in October plus two people with quotes.

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Furr moved to authorize the spending of up to \$15,000 of ARPA money for the tree and stump removal projects on the three parks of Volunteers Green, Round Church, and Browns Court. Miller seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.

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Thomas reviewed that Chris Haggerty did the study of the elevations and the Bandstand platform is still too low, and the Committee thinks the Town needs to discuss what to do with Volunteers Green. Thomas asked if there is anything they can do within the regulations to allow them to get up to the platform. Thomas stated that if they cannot move the Bandshell then they need to repair the Bandshell. Furr summarized that if they don't modify the footprint of the Bandstand, it can stay there but if they make changes, it's an unpermitted structure unless perhaps ADA ramps. Ziskie stated that if you've removed the playground, keep the same footprint, and move it to a different spot, it is the same overall flood impact footprint. Thomas stated that even fixing the ballfields and restroom facility is a problem for Volunteers Green. Wood stated her concern for putting the playground so close to the river and the road. Arneson suggested a special Selectboard meeting, open to the public, and keyed in on a few folks. Fausel stated that it's going to take a long time to work through the technicalities. Arneson reviewed that Tyler Machia will explain that in the meeting because there are things that come up.

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Discussion of next steps for the Town Center and Library Buildings Committee after the Town Center bond was not approved

228 Timestamp: 1:48

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/03/3i_Town_Center_and_Library_Committee_Minutes_3-7-2024.pdf

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People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Marin, Miller, Hill, Dana, Wood. Halvorsen, Storrs, Furr, LaBounty

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Arneson reviewed that the consensus of the Committee asked what the Selectboard wants the task to be going forward. Sander reviewed some of the priorities of the building and the budget to fix the building is a lot smaller. Marin asked if the Committee exists anymore as they feel they have done what was asked of them. Miller stated that they need to do something for the staff. Dana stated that there's work on two fronts that needs to be done, the building itself and the funding portion. Wood stated that many people were more concerned about not knowing the total impact of the education tax. Wood summarized that sorting out the financing and the tax implications of this project might not be off the table. Halvorsen stated that the Town presentation did not offer any numbers on alternatives and the Committee should solicit more input from the community and establish that new direction. Storrs stated that he did not understand why the parking lot had to be completely redesigned and why the windows in the basement were being replaced when it is storage. Furr stated that if some fire does make the stairwell here inaccessible, there's not a good way out and nothing to put the fire out. LaBounty stated that they should stop deferring maintenance. LaBounty suggested that the mission of the Committee is to determine the biggest health risk to the public.

251 252 Sander stated that they should still have a Committee as it was a great product and a great 253 proposal. Marin stated that the Chair of the Committee has always been a Selectboard 254 member. Hill suggested still moving forward with this building and charging the 255 Committee with pursuing funding sources. Halvorsen suggested establishing a vision 256 statement with the new Committee rather than a presumption to stay with a building. 257 258 Update on preparations for eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024 259 Timestamp: 2:19 260 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/03/3j Link to e clipse_webpage.pdf 261 262 263 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Furr 264 265 Arneson reviewed that the State is expecting a large influx of people and we have met as 266 a staff to strategize about the biggest influx of people at Volunteers Green. Arneson 267 confirmed that a police officer will respond to any issues and the website refers people to 268 the timing. Arneson reviewed the map for parking and educational opportunities. 269 Arneson stated they might have a request to close Esplanade St because they're right next 270 to Volunteers Green. Arneson sent emails to businesses to let them know about Sunday 271 and Monday and the schools closing full day on Monday. Furr expressed concern about where people are going to park on both sides of the road to leave room for ambulances. 272 273 Consideration of setting a date to amend Municipal Park Ordinance 274 275 Timestamp: 2:27 276 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/03/3k Municipa 277 1 Park Ordinance with proposed amendments and maps as of 3-13-24.pdf 278 279 People who participated in discussion: Sander, Hill, LaBounty, Furr, Miller 280 281 Sander summarized that if the Selectboard would like to move forward with a hearing, 282 the earliest date would be set Monday April 15. 283 284 Furr moved to set a hearing date of Monday, April 15, 2024 at 7pm to consider 285 amendments to the Municipal Park Ordinance. Miller seconded. 286 Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved. 287 288 Consideration of approval of applying for the Class 2 Roadway Grant and 289 Structures Grant, approval of Certification of Compliance, and approval of TA-60 290 **Annual Financial Plan** 291 Timestamp: 2:31 292 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/03/311 Certifica 293 tion of Compliance Codes and Standards to sign.pdf 294 295 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/03/312 FY25 T 296

A 60 Annual Financial Plan PDF Form - Richmond.pdf

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https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/03/313 Class 2 Roadway Grant Application.pdf

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301	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/03/314_Structure
302	s Grant_Application.pdf
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304	People who participated in discussion: Sander. Miller, Arneson, Wood
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306	Sanders summarized that the structures grant is to replace a failing and undersized culvert
307	on Stage Rd and the paving grant is for two miles of paving on Huntington Rd with a
308	20% Town match for both grants.
309	
310	Miller moved to approve form TA60, the Certificate of Compliance for Town Road and
311	Bridge Standards, and to apply for the Structures and Highway grants and to name Pete
312	Gosselin as the Grant Program Manager. Wood seconded.
313	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
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315	Discussion of painting fog lines in FY24 that are budgeted for FY25
316	Timestamp: 2:34
317	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/03/3m_ARPA
318	Committments_as_of_3-7-24.pdf
319 320	People who participated in discussion: Sander, Furr, Miller, Hill, Wood, LaBounty
320 321	reopie who participated in discussion. Sander, Furt, Willer, Hill, Wood, Labounty
321	Sander reviewed the requests to put the fog lines in place in May even if those funds are
323	not available until July 1. Furr stated that fog lines are an effective way of slowing
324	vehicles as they basically give the visual impression of a narrower road while giving the
325	actual mark to pedestrians and cyclists. Furr reviewed that the original ARPA survey
326	included pedestrian/bicyclist/road safety as a very popular suggestion. Furr reviewed
327	options for Huntington Rd. Arneson confirmed that they can decide on funding at the
328	April 15 meeting.
329	
330	Review of the Local Emergency Operations Plan 2024 update
331	Timestamp: 2:44
332	https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2024/03/3n_LEMP_R
333	ichmond_2024_with_annexes_DRAFT.pdf
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335	People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Miller, Furr, Hill
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337	Arneson reviewed that last year they focused on the shelters, and it will come back at the
338	next meeting for approval. Arneson stated that it's a good thing to have in place because
339	they have a disaster plan.
340	
341	Open Meeting Law and Code of Ethics training and discussion of creating an
342	instructional video with MMCTV
343	Timestamp: 2:47
344	Doople who participated in discussion, Sandar Armason Furr
345 346	People who participated in discussion: Sander, Arneson, Furr
340 347	Arneson reviewed that VLCT offers conflict of interest training, but the legislation is
347 348	potentially changing Code of Ethics Statewide. Furr expressed interest in an MMCTV
349	video training.
JFJ	raco daming.

350 351	Approval of Minutes, Furchase Orders, Warrants Timestamp: 2:50
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353	Minutes:
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355	Furr moved to approve the Minutes of 3/4/24 as presented. Miller seconded.
356	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
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358	Purchase Orders:
359	Mill I. DOWARD MILC E. T. LET ID TO C. D. I.
360	Miller moved to approve PO# 4859 to Vhb for Engineering and Final Design for Bridge
361	St Sidewalk – northern section for not to exceed \$49,493.00. Furr seconded.
362 363	Roll Call Vote: Wood, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.
364	Furr moved to approve PO# 4861 for Police Coverage from Hinesburg – January 2024
365	for not to exceed \$35,470.00. Miller seconded.
366	Roll Call Vote: Wood, Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander in favor. Motion approved.
367	Non Can voic. Wood, I arr, Ital, Intact, Sander in Javor. Monon approved.
368	Furr moved to approve PO# 4862 for Police Coverage from Hinesburg – December 2023
369	for not to exceed \$33,435.00. Miller seconded.
370	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
371	July
372	Warrants:
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374	Furr moved to approve the general warrants on 3/18/24 as presented. Miller seconded.
375	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
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377	Next Meeting Agenda
378	*ARPA funds
379	*Intersection of Bridge St & Huntington Rd
380	
381	Executive Sessions:
382	Agreement with Police Union
383	Millon moved to find that promature public browledge about negatiations with the New
384 385	Miller moved to find that premature public knowledge about negotiations with the New
386	England PBA would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Furr seconded.
387	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
388	Rou Cau voie. Furr, Itui, Miller, Sanaer, wood in Javor. Mollon approved.
389	Furr moved that we enter into executive session to discuss negotiations with New
390	England PBA under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(1) and to invite Town Manager
391	Josh Arneson into the executive session. Miller seconded.
392	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
393	7
394	Furr moved to exit executive session. Miller seconded.
395	Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.
396	
397	Furr moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the New England Police
398	Benevolent Association Inc. Local 415 and the Town of Richmond regarding stating pay
399	rate for newly hired police officers. Miller seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved. Discussion of police department hiring Furr moved to find that premature public knowledge about candidates for the Richmond Police Department would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved. Furr moved that we enter into executive session to discuss candidates for the Richmond Police Department under the provisions of 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(4) and to invite Town Manager Josh Arneson into the executive session. Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved. Furr moved to exit executive session. Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved. Adjourn Furr moved to adjourn. Miller seconded. Roll Call Vote: Furr, Hill, Miller, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at: 10:46 PM Chat file from Zoom: None