

**Town of Richmond
Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of September 15, 2025**

Members Present: Jay Furr, David Sander, Caitlin Filkins, Adam Wood

Absent: Bard Hill

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Matthew Cohen, Police Sgt

Others Present: MMCTV, Brendan Filkins, Cara LaBounty, Charlie Baker, Chelsye Brooks, Doug Thompson, Gretchen Paulsen, House 1 (Amy M) , Ian Bender, Jeanann Haskin, Jewels Hicks, Maria Poley, Margaret Cole, Mary Ann Kittenger, Mary Houle, Morgan Wolaver, Nick, Noa, Paige Kaleita, Patty Brushett, Robin Pesci, Sarah, Sarah Heim, Shaun Robinson, Tom Astle, Trevor Brooks

MMCTV Video: Recorded by MMCTV by Tom Astle
<https://youtu.be/RpEUIH1Tk70?si=VbCSgru8gam4Cg5D>

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Welcome by: Furr began the meeting with a land acknowledgement.

Public Comment: Houle acknowledged the assassination of Charlie Kirk.

Additions, Deletions or Modifications to Agenda: None

Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

Statement on mail to residents which falsely claims to be from the Selectboard or the Town Office

Timestamp: 0:02

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/09/3a_Mail_Falsely_Claiming_to_be_from_the_Town.pdf

Furr stated that those letters are not from the Selectboard, nor from any part of the Richmond Town government. The USPS Inspector General and local Police department are investigating. Furr stated that the Board would not be taking public comment on this agenda item.

LaBounty asked for a point of order stating that the agenda item was not warned as not taking public comment.

Furr stated that the Board will not be taking public comment on this and added “you can sue us later”. LaBounty started to reply to Furr’s comment. Furr cut her off and said “We know you love attention, you crave it, but we are going to move on.” LaBounty asked if the Selectboard was going to allow this and left the room.

The Selectboard took a recess due to Furr and LaBounty's argument. Filkins followed LaBounty out of the room and later returned and summarized that she talked with LaBounty and stated LaBounty had something helpful to add to the meeting regarding the mailings and asked Town staff to follow up with LaBounty. During the recess there was discussion about the conduct of the Board and the public. Furr made an apology for his actions.

Presentation of Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Annual Report

Timestamp: 0:10

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/09/3b_Richmond_CCRPC_FY25.pdf

Baker and Arneson summarized the annual customer service check in with the Town and Selectboard.

Announcement of the completion of the Rt. 2 bridge over I89 southeast of the Fire Station and brief review of future VTrans bridge projects

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/09/3c_Message_From_VTrans_regarding_completion_of_bridge_construction.pdf

Timestamp: 0:18

Furr summarized that there are still minor aspects of the project that are still open. Furr reviewed concerns of VTrans' next project with Jericho Rd and Kenyon Rd bridges.

Follow up on the possibility of creating a Union Municipal District to provide police services to Richmond and Hinesburg

Timestamp: 0:21

Furr summarized previous history of Richmond and Hinesburg police services. Arneson confirmed that Hinesburg is not interested in forming a Union Municipal District and reviewed other local possibilities. Filkins suggested a part-time Chief position. Sander observed that everybody is short of staff. Wood stated that there were many budget concerns for current staffing next year. Sander appreciated Cohen sticking with them to help navigate the field. Houle suggested that Richmond serves as a training station for officers and supported Cohen as a Chief. Filkins suggested contract options to support Cohen. Arneson stated that he is reaching out to other towns and Williston has more work than their current contract but would be willing to provide some patrol coverage.

Follow up on permitting process for the Black Lives Matter / All Are Welcome Here sign

Timestamp: 0:44

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/09/3e_Response_Regarding_Permit_for_BLM_Sign.pdf

Furr reviewed that the memo states the Town does not require a permit or zoning approval.

Discussion of the process to create a special assessment district for Southview 3 Acre Stormwater Permit

Timestamp: 0:45

Furr reviewed that the impermeable surface up in Southview is partly owned by the residents and partly owned by the Town. Filkins recused. Arneson reviewed that they need 50% of the owners to sign a consent form agreeing to the special assessment district. Once 50% of the property owners consent, the remaining property owners are then subject to the assessment, and all owners of the property must sign the form. Arneson stated that they would look at the impervious surface for each individual property. Kaleita stated that they had been trying to comply and figure this out but they didn't know a year ago. Kaleita summarized that a few neighbors feel that the engineering plans are lacking transparency and important information in the disconnection and the amount of impervious surface. Heim stated that they are not going to get enough people to vote in favor of an HOA, but maybe a special assessment district is something that could be workable if costs are distributed over a long period of time.

Consideration of entering into Opioids Class Action Suits

Timestamp: 1:10

[https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadminhttps://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/09/3g_Info from VLCT on opioid settlements.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadminhttps://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/09/3g_Info_from_VLCT_on_opioid_settlements.pdf)

Sander moved to authorize the Town Manager to execute all documents necessary to participate in the settlements with Purdue and the eight (8) Secondary Manufacturers. Filkins seconded.

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

Consideration of accepting the FY26 Grant In Aid

Timestamp: 1:13

https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2025/09/3h_GA1105_RichmondTownof.pdf

Wood moved to accept the FY26 Grant in Aid. Sander seconded.

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

Consideration of setting dates for FY26 Budget meetings

Timestamp: 1:14

Wood moved to set special meetings of the Selectboard for the purpose of working on the FY27 budget on Wednesday, October 22; Monday November 10, and Monday, December 8. Sander seconded.

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

Approval of Minutes, Purchase Orders, and Warrants

150 Timestamp: 1:16
151
152 Filkins stated that LaBounty is extremely well versed in local government and historical
153 Richmond issues and this evening should not deter people from participating in this
154 room. Haskins agreed that it is very difficult as a woman to address an all-male board.
155 Furr & Filkins confirmed that Furr should resign from Chair of Selectboard but still serve
156 on Selectboard.

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158 **Minutes:**

159 *Wood moved to approve the Selectboard Minutes of 9/2/25 as presented. Sander*
160 *seconded.*

161 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Furr, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

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165 **Purchase Orders:**

166 *Wood moved to approve PO#5297 to Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District for*
167 *first quarter taxes in the amount of \$2,254,208.59. Filkins seconded.*

168 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Furr, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

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170 **Warrants:**

171 *Wood moved to approve the warrants from the September 15, 2025 meeting. Sander*
172 *seconded.*

173 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Furr, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

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176 **Next Meeting Agenda**

177 -Elect Selectboard Chair & Vice-Chair

178 -Police Department

179 -Budget Meetings

180 -Fay's Corner Safety Study

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183 **Adjourn**

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185 *Sander moved to adjourn. Wood seconded.*

186 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Furr, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

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189 **Meeting adjourned at: 8:57 PM**

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191 **Chat file from Zoom:**

192 01:39:52 Trevor Brooks: The state allows you to get permits even when they
193 aren't required to for stormwater.

194 01:57:14 Chelsye Brooks: The DRB hasn't used their second meeting in a long
195 time.