

**Town of Richmond
Selectboard Meeting
Minutes of January 20, 2026**

Members Present:

Caitlin Filkins, Bard Hill, Greg Rabideau, David Sander, Adam Wood

Absent: None

Staff Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Duncan Wardwell, Deputy Town Manager; Jim Feinson, Town Treasurer

Others Present: Recorded by MMCTV Erin Wagg, Angela Cote, Brendan, Bruce LaBounty, Cara LaBounty, Chelsye Brooks, Dana Bianchi, Dave T, Doug Thompson, Heather Chadwich, Ian Bender, JAS (NHS&Co), Jean Haskin, Jeff Forward, John Mudair, JP, Kevin Carrubba, Kristen Werner, Margo Muttillaninen, Mary Harrison, Mary Houle, Meagan Buckley, Morgan Wolaver , MSW iPhone, Nick, Noa, Paige Kaleita, Patty Brushett, Polly's iPad, Reid Webster, Roger, Sarah, Sarah Curran, Susanne Parent, Theresa Alberghini DiPalma, Tim Kaleita, Tom Bednar, Tom Safford, Tom Walters, Tracy Rosen, Trevor Brooks

MMCTV Video: <https://youtu.be/P43v-djd1zU?si=vgoiLCSNeqbk5-BC>

Call to Order: 7:03 p.m.

Welcome by: Wood

Public Comment:

Houle stated her concern about certain language in the Town Plan 2026. When the plan states “shall” or “will” the Town is liable to do the items identified in that category. More neutral terms must be used to minimize the chance of a lawsuit. Houle also stated the need to modify language in the Town forest, stating that it will be managed. This must be removed. Houle asked why on page 10 of the Town Plan that it needs to state pregnant people and on page 11 it talks about DEI instead of competency.

Safford asked where to send the repair bill for his truck hitting the speed hump on Cochran Rd. Safford stated that the Town Plan notes that there is not enough time to review the individual parcels for accuracy. What is the process and path for remediation? Are we to trust an arbitrary Zoning designation? It is better to put forward a plan that addresses these issues first, otherwise the Town is voting for a fluid document that can be changed at any time. Safford stated that he strongly opposes proceeding forward with the 2026 Town Plan and requested the Selectboard delay the vote indefinitely to allow for State approval of the maps, proper engineering and environmental studies to take place, and updates made based on feedback from landowners.

47 LaBountyC reviewed that she was able to point out errors in the floodplain maps of the
48 new Town Plan, specifically her property. Her property has gone from High Density in
49 Jonesville in 2018 to Rural Conserved in 2026. LaBountyC stated that Jonesville was all
50 painted green then somebody took paint and splattered yellow spots not even there
51 houses are. Zoning regulations are drafted from those maps. If the Town wants
52 affordable housing, then they need to back off the Town Plan while you fix the maps.

53

54 Farr suggested looking at the maps to see what has been changed to Conservation and
55 what could possibly be kept as rural Agricultural or Forestry or something else. Her land
56 attorney suggested being careful putting all that stuff into Conservation.

57

58 Rabideau stated that he is uncomfortable with the idea of regulating somebody out of
59 economic use of their property. People who have been on a piece of land for 40-50 years,
60 the expectation is they might sell it or subdivide it. There are some inconsistencies that
61 make him want to take another hard look at those maps before they become law.

62

63 Hill observed the natural tension between conserving more land and building more
64 housing.

65

66 Cote suggested that the maps could stop using the Conservation category with just
67 showing the acreage that is currently in the Current Use program with the State. She
68 does not want Conservation attached to her property.

69

70 Rosen asked for a document that shows the changes in the maps. Wood stated that those
71 are the Current Land Use and Future Land Use maps.

72

73 **Additions, Deletions or Modifications to Agenda:** None

74

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

76

77 **Reminder of upcoming Informational Meetings on February 7, 2026 and February**
78 **23, 2026 for items on the March 3, 2026 Town Meeting Australian ballot**

79 Timestamp: 0:27

80

81 Wood reviewed that there will be informational meetings ahead of early voting on
82 February 7 & 23 to get a rundown of the budget and the implications for the tax rates.
83 These meetings will be held in Conf Rm A on the 3rd Floor of the Town Center.
84 February 7 is a Saturday at 10am and February 23 will be at 7pm and then obviously
85 Town Meeting Day on March 3.

86

87

88

89

90 **Reminder of Public Hearing for the 2026 Town Plan public being held on**
91 **Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

92 Timestamp: 0:28

93

94 Wood stated that the people who worked on the Town Plan will be able to explain the
95 methodology. This will be a good starting point to hash out the differences and come up
96 with something to move forward.

97

98

99 **Update on conversation with attorney regarding his attitude in meetings**

100 Timestamp: 0:29

101

102 Arneson reviewed that he and Wood will be meeting with the attorney on Thursday to
103 review the concerns. Hill suggested not using the word attitude as it is conjectural but
104 use the word behavior. Arneson confirmed that they are also in contact with the
105 managing partner firm.

106

107

108 **Consideration of approving an updated agreement with Northstar Fireworks for**
109 **Fourth of July fireworks**

110 Timestamp: 0:31

111 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3d1_Richmo](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3d1_Richmond_Town_of_Letter_12-08-25_03.pdf)
112 [nd_Town_of_Letter_12-08-25_03.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3d1_Richmond_Town_of_Letter_12-08-25_03.pdf)

113

114 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3d2_Richmo](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3d2_Richmond_Town_of_Contract_07-04-26_Rev_2.pdf)
115 [nd_Town_of_Contract_07-04-26_Rev_2.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3d2_Richmond_Town_of_Contract_07-04-26_Rev_2.pdf)

116

117 Arneson reviewed the previous discussions. Arneson stated that he would not send in the
118 agreement until the budget is approved.

119

120 *Filkins moved to approve the agreement with Northstar Fireworks for a fireworks display*
121 *on July 4, 2026 contingent on the passing of the Town Meeting Day budget. Hill*
122 *seconded.*

123 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

124

125

126 **Consideration of setting a date for a Public Hearing to amend the Traffic Ordinance**

127 Timestamp: 0:35

128 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3e1_PAC_HI](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3e1_PAC_HI_P_Reccomendation1-14-2026.pdf)
129 [P_Reccomendation1-14-2026.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3e1_PAC_HI_P_Reccomendation1-14-2026.pdf)

130

131 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3e2_Traffic](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3e2_Traffic_Ordinance_draft_as_of_1-15-25.pdf)
132 [Ordinance_draft_as_of_1-15-25.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3e2_Traffic_Ordinance_draft_as_of_1-15-25.pdf)

133

134 Arneson reviewed that this is for recreational parking and if they want to increase fines in
135 certain areas as illustrated in the packet. Hill suggested an expanded description of why
136 they are pursuing an amendment to the Traffic Ordinance. Arneson reviewed the
137 statutory requirements for notifying people. Filkins suggested another agenda topic to
138 discuss agenda notifications in general. Rabideau suggested adding a sub-header.
139 Arneson reviewed that a warning goes out that summarizes all the changes and is posted
140 in physical locations and on the website.

141

142 *Filkins moved to set a hearing date of Tuesday, February 17, 2026 to consider*
143 *amendments to the Traffic Ordinance in regard to parking fines and fees. Sander*
144 *seconded.*

145 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

146

147

148 **Conversation with MMUUSD Superintendent John Muldoon on the school budget**

149 Timestamp: 0:43

150 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3f1_FY27_S](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3f1_FY27_SCHOOL_Budget_Fact_Sheet_Final.pdf)
151 [CHOOL_Budget_Fact_Sheet_Final.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3f1_FY27_SCHOOL_Budget_Fact_Sheet_Final.pdf)

152

153 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3f2_Dec_8_F](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3f2_Dec_8_FY27_SCHOOL_Budget.pdf)
154 [Y27_SCHOOL_Budget.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3f2_Dec_8_FY27_SCHOOL_Budget.pdf)

155

156 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3f3_Link_to](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3f3_Link_to_more_information_on_SCHOOL_Budget.pdf)
157 [more_information_on_SCHOOL_Budget.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3f3_Link_to_more_information_on_SCHOOL_Budget.pdf)

158

159 Muldoon stated that he wanted to reach out and connect with Selectboards across the five
160 Towns. Muldoon presented the handouts in the packet. Muldoon stated he wanted to
161 make sure everyone had accurate information and a chance to share feedback.

162

163

164 **Update on status of completed consent forms for a special assessment district for the**
165 **Southview Stormwater 3-Acre Permit**

166 **and**

167 **Update on an agreement for engineering for the Southview Stormwater 3-Acre**
168 **Permit**

169 Timestamp: 0:59

170

171 Filkins recused herself as a resident of Southview.

172

173 Arneson stated that they have received 29 of the consent forms needed to create a special
174 assessment district (25 was needed for a majority of 48 homeowners). Wood stated that
175 the Stormwater engineer had serious concerns and reservations about continuing the

176 work. The engineer was concerned about violating the law by submitting an incomplete
177 NOI with partial plans. Wood stated that the engineer did not feel like they trusted him to
178 do the best he can. Wood stated that unless the State gives another extension then they
179 are not going to get the grant funding. Wood confirmed that Arneson and KaleitaP
180 reached out to the State to illustrate delays with establishing a special assessment district
181 but have not heard back. Arneson reviewed that the NOI to the State is not due until next
182 fall but the grant funding is driven by ARPA funding deadlines. The grant money is
183 \$30,000 for engineering and \$19,999 for permitting. Rabideau suggested completing the
184 formation of the special district and authorizing the engineer to move forward at his own
185 pace.

186

187 *Rabideau moved to authorized Town Manager, Josh Arneson, to negotiate an agreement*
188 *to complete the NOI work for the Southview Stormwater 3-Acre Permit based on previous*
189 *representations at the balance of the work not to exceed \$50,000. Sander seconded.*
190 *Roll Call Vote follows discussion.*

191

192 KaleitaP summarized her attempts to keep the State and engineer involved in the grant
193 money deadline extension. Wood summarized that it is not a good idea to throw money
194 away by re-bidding the project with other engineers.

195

196 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Filkins recused. Motion*
197 *approved.*

198

199

200 **Consideration of approval of the Stormwater System Maintenance Agreement with**
201 **Greystone Estates Residents Association for the 3-Acre stormwater permit, possible**
202 **executive session**

203 Timestamp: 1:28

204

205 Filkins recused herself as it was a similar stormwater issue.

206

207 *Hill moved to find that premature public knowledge about the Stormwater System*
208 *Maintenance Agreement with Greystone Estates Residents Association for 3-acre*
209 *stormwater permit would cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage.*
210 *Sander seconded.*

211 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Filkins recused. Motion*
212 *approved.*

213

214 *Hill moved that we enter into executive session to discuss the Stormwater System*
215 *Maintenance Agreement with Greystone Estates Residents Association for 3-acre*
216 *stormwater permit under the provisions of 1 VSA 313(a) (1) (a) of the Vermont Statutes*
217 *and to invite Town Manager Josh Arneson and representatives from GERA Tom Bednar*
218 *and George Young into the executive session. Sander seconded.*

219 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Filkins recused. Motion*
220 *approved.*

221

222 *Hill moved to exit executive session. Rabideau seconded.*

223 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Filkins recused. Motion*
224 *approved.*

225

226

227 **Review of petition to add an article to the Town Meeting ballot**

228 Timestamp: 1:32

229 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3j_Petition_f
230 [or_Article_on_2026_Town_Meeting_Warning.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3j_Petition_f)

231

232 Arneson read the petition provided in the packet. The Selectboard could put this on the
233 Town Meeting warning as an advisory article from the floor. Sander, Filkins, Hill
234 suggested that it is appropriate to move this item on the floor at Town Meeting.

235

236

237 **Discussion of adding an article to the Town Meeting Warning to consider funding**
238 **the Town Center Fund**

239 Timestamp: 1:44

240

241 Rabideau stated that there are incremental steps to improve the energy performance,
242 general health and well-being in this building. Instead of trying to find \$2,000,000 for 60
243 windows they could start to do 5-12 years to get caught up. Rabideau listed the big
244 categories such as the windows, the flood resilience, and the heating ventilating systems.
245 Hill suggested modifying the article to consider incremental projects. Wood stated that a
246 penny or two puts a big dent in a lot of easy pieces to stomach from the tax perspective.
247 Arneson reviewed the Town Center Reserve fund. Filkins stated that it is a missed
248 opportunity if they do not put this on the ballot this year. Arneson confirmed they do not
249 need a motion tonight. Wood reviewed the wording for the ballot as “shall the voters of
250 the Town of Richmond approve funding the Town Center Reserve Fund by adding one
251 cent to the municipal tax rate in the fiscal year 2027”

252

253

254 **Review of the Town Meeting warning**

255 Timestamp: 1:54

256 https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/31_DRAFT
257 [TOWN_REPORT_2025_WARNING_FINAL_DRAFT_AS_OF_1-13-26.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/31_DRAFT)

258

259 Arneson reviewed the Town Meeting warning changes and edits. Arneson confirmed
260 these would be posted for the January 21 Selectboard meeting.

261

262

263 **Consideration of approving a Finance Director Job Description**

264 Timestamp: 1:56

265 [https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3m_Finance](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3m_Finance_Director_job_description_updated_1-14-26_DRAFT.pdf)
266 [Director job description updated 1-14-26 DRAFT.pdf](https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/Meetings/2026/01/3m_Finance_Director_job_description_updated_1-14-26_DRAFT.pdf)

267

268 Arneson reviewed the job description and compensation study. Arneson confirmed he
269 would add details about NEMRC software essential duties. Filkins summarized that this
270 legal version could create a job description to recruit someone on the key qualifications.
271 Arneson reviewed edits for the job description.

272

273

274 **Update on research to explore replacing the two current Electrical Vehicle Supply**
275 **Equipment stations with two Level 3 stations**

276 Timestamp: 2:14

277

278 Arneson reviewed the price tag and grants for a company like ChargePoint to provide a
279 20% match. Many comments on the feasibility of chargers at the Town Center, Village,
280 or by the Interstate. Arneson will bring this back to the Selectboard for an update.

281

282

283 **Approval of Minutes, Purchase Orders, and Warrants**

284 Timestamp: 2:18

285

286 **Minutes:**

287

288 *Sander moved to approve the minutes of January 5, 2026. Hill seconded*
289 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

290

291 *Sander moved to approve the minutes of January 6, 2026. Hill seconded*
292 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

293

294 *Sander moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 2026. Hill seconded*
295 *Roll Call Vote: Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Filkins abstains. Motion*
296 *approved.*

297

298 **Purchase Orders:** None

299

300 **Warrants:**

301

302 *Sander moved to approve the warrants from the January 20, 2026 meeting. Hill*
303 *seconded.*
304 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

305

306

307 **Next Meeting Agenda**

308 -Alerts and notification warnings

309 -Southview engineering

310 -Partial Policing policy

311

312

313 **Executive Session - Discussion of personnel matter**

314

315 *Filkins moved to find that premature public knowledge about a personnel matter would*
316 *cause the Town or person to suffer a substantial disadvantage. Sander seconded.*

317 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

318

319 *Filkins moved that we enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter under*
320 *the provisions of 1 VSA 313 (a) (3) of the Vermont Statutes and to invite Town Manager*
321 *Josh Arneson into the executive session. Rabideau seconded.*

322 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Hill, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Motion approved.*

323

324 Hill recused himself from the Session

325

326 *Rabideau moved to exit executive session. Sander seconded.*

327 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Hill recused. Motion*
328 *approved.*

329

330

331 **Adjourn**

332

333 *Sander moved to adjourn. Filkins seconded.*

334 *Roll Call Vote: Filkins, Rabideau, Sander, Wood in favor. Hill recused. Motion*
335 *approved.*

336

337 **Meeting adjourned at: 10:17 PM**

338

339 **Chat file from Zoom:**

340 00:25:31 Ian Bender: In case anyone feels like they have been fleeced. The town
341 plan steering committee has been literally begging for public input on this issue for the
342 last year.

343 00:28:36 Jean Haskin: Would be good discussion for town meeting.

344 00:30:36 Chelsye Brooks: I encourage everyone to review the maps and
345 remember these are not zoning maps. There is methodology behind the mapping you can
346 review online. Also, review the FLU narrative section that addresses Rural Conservation
347 and where you can see it does not exclude development. See you all tomorrow!

348 00:31:18 JAS: They inform future zoning.

349 01:12:31 Chelsye Brooks: Who was emailed at the state level?

350 01:16:59 Meagan Buckley: Are there any other firms who could complete a
351 design ?

352 01:25:35 Nick: Should there or is there a need for a drop dead timeline for NOI?

353 01:28:28 Meagan Buckley: Reacted to "Are there any other ..." with 🙏

354 01:29:49 Nick: Reacted to "Should there or is t..." with 🙏

355 01:30:47 Nick: Thanks to everyone for their outreach and discussion with Andres
356 to continue moving forward.

357 01:33:16 Chelsye Brooks: Is the public going to see this agreement before it's
358 voted upon?

359 01:34:50 Nick: thanks you for that explanation

360 01:36:10 Nick: If the agreement is voted upon I heard someone state that it might
361 not be voted on at this meeting. Where would the public vote on if in not this meeting?

362 01:56:13 MMCTV Erin Wagg: Stuff that the selectboard votes on needs to be
363 "warned" so a future agenda would have the topic

364 01:57:41 Nick: Reacted to "If the agreement is ..." with 🙏

365 02:03:07 Ian Bender: Not very inclusive.

366 02:05:22 Jean Haskin: I am not in favor of this being decided at town meeting

367 02:15:59 Jean Haskin: What about storm windows instead of replacement?

368 02:18:27 Chelsye Brooks: The town center capital fund hasn't been funded in
369 recent years has it? Or at least it was not projected to be funded? Something like that.
370

371 I guess what I'm asking... is the town center funding in the budget right now?

372 02:34:44 Jean Haskin: Is the finance director a new position?

373 02:35:44 Jim Feinson: No. We have a Finance Director and have for years.
374 Connie is retiring this year so we need to find her replacement.

375 02:36:35 Jim Feinson: From Jim Feinson (Town Treasurer).

376 02:54:51 Chelsye Brooks: For our warnings in Seven Days we should submit
377 better titles.

378 02:55:41 Chelsye Brooks: Presently ours are pretty basic and just say town of
379 Richmond meeting, but not what the meeting is about.